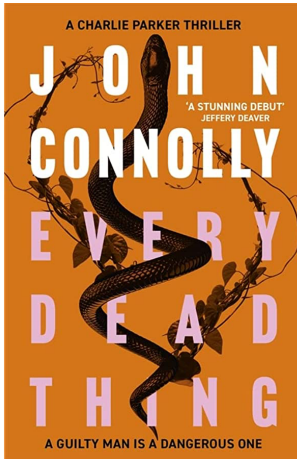


Every Dead Thing

By John Connolly



Former NYPD detective Charlie "Bird" Parker is on the verge of madness. Tortured by the unsolved slayings of his wife and young daughter, he is a man consumed by guilt, regret, and the desire for revenge. When his former partner asks him to help track down a missing girl, Parker finds himself drawn into a world beyond his imagining: a world where thirty-year-old killings remain shrouded in fear and lies, and the ghosts of the dead torment the living. A world haunted by the murderer responsible for the deaths in his family—a serial killer who uses the human body to create works of art and takes pieces as his prize. But the search will take Parker on a journey that awakens buried instincts: instincts for survival, for vengeance, for love, and, ultimately, for killing.

Aided by a beautiful psychologist, a Cajun Seer, and a pair of bickering career criminals, Parker becomes the bait in a trap set in the humid bayous of Louisiana, which threatens the lives of everyone in its reach. Driven by visions of the dead and voices from beyond, Parker must seek a final, brutal confrontation with an evil beyond all notions of humanity, who has set out to create a hell on earth: the serial killer known only as the Traveling Man.

Discussion Questions

1. How does the author paint Parker and his acquaintances as the 'good guys' despite some of their actions and behaviours?

2. The story takes place in several locations – how well do you feel the author has depicted the stark contrast between the East Coast and Louisiana Bayou for example?

3. Do you feel that Parker's guilt around his family is warranted, and did your opinion change by the end of the book?

4. What do you feel Parker's visions of his wife and daughter represent throughout the story?

5. Are the 'supernatural' themes in this story intended to depict Parker's spiralling sanity, or do you think there could be otherworldly forces in play?

6. Do you think this book has aged well since it was published?

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