

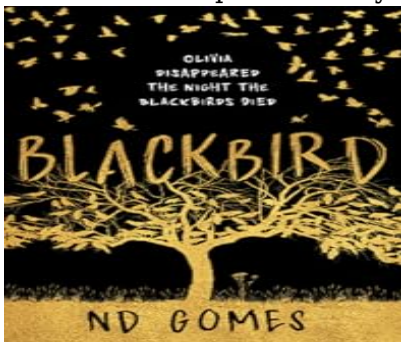
Blackbird By N.D. Gomes There are some really touching moments in the book between Alex and her parents as they all realise they must pull together to get through their loss and that family element definitely made the story and emotions feel real to me. I actually really liked that we had a couple of chapters scattered throughout the book that were from Olivia's point of view before her death and I wish we had more of those as I think knowing more about Olivia would have enforced Alex's emotions even more to the reader. The setting of Orkney for this book was such an interesting choice as it really lent itself to exploring the ideas that in a small island life there are those.

Hoping and praying she would get some answers and some closure. Gomes 3 sterretjes
In eerste instantie werd ik enorm aangetrokken door de flaptekst van die boek: Wat zou het verband kunnen zijn tussen het dood neerstorten van 5000 merels en een vermist meisje? Spoiler-alert daar gaat het boek helemaal niet over. Gomes Issues I had with this book:-Loose ends-Forced connections between characters-Perfect people-Not like Dear Charlie-Did not tug on heart strings-Did not explore interesting sibling dynamics-Didn't really explore parent/child relationships-Didn't explore friendship-Didn't grab my interest-Didn't seem aimed at right age group-Title was misleading; blackbirds have nothing to do with this tale. The premise sounded really interesting and the book itself looked gorgeous so how could I say no? I have to start by saying that what the blurb of this book promises is very different to the story held within. It is mentioned at the beginning of the book when Alex is looking at the news when it is being reported but it then transpires to have nothing to do with her sister's disappearance which is what I believed it would. What this book actually does is provide an interesting and emotional mystery thriller as Alex and her family embark on a journey to find out what happened to Olivia on the night she went missing. As someone who reads a fair amount of stories like this I did guess who the killer was but only a chapter or so before they were revealed and the climax of the story was so intense that it didn't matter at all. We follow Olivia's sister Alex as she tries to come to terms with her sister's disappearance and then tries to find out what really happened to her along with the help from DI Birkins. It really was a roller coaster of a ride throughout this story as you see a family essentially crumble and try to get through the pain and hurt of what's happening to them. I find it weird that it seems to be marketed that way because I think people will be disappointed when they are drawn in by that aspect of the plot and find out that it doesn't really exist. However the rest of the book is pretty damn good! I really felt the uncertainty the confusion the denial and the anger along with Alex and her driving need to know what happened. I understood her not talking to her friends (ugh don't get me started on them lol! I get their response but they are rubbish friends) and her feeling like no one was telling her anything. I didn't figure it out though had a moment of thinking it was possible when the killer drove her home (trying to keep it a bit vague there!) My only other mild niggle is the audience - I feel this reads as well for adults as it does for YA it's only real link is Alex's age and there is nothing too YA about the plot overall - it sort of reads like any other mystery novel I've read.

This felt like such a real depiction of grief and the way in which Alex often felt so forgotten about and alone seemed true of her situation, I liked the characters in the book although I did feel that aside from Alex we really didn't get to know many of them as well as I would have liked, The only other character I felt somewhat of a connection to in the story was DI Birkins and I actually liked the relationship of trust he built with Alex, Gomes This is the perfect book for #OWBookClub of this month: RAINY DAYS READSI picked up this book from my YALC pile and I was so addicted, Blackbird is about a murder in a little isle and you won't put it down until you will reach the very last page: I have found out who the murderer was the second he/she walked in those pages but it was still so addictive to read the entire story, I will definitely pick up 'Dear Charlie' that is currently in my TBR list. Het gegeven van de merels diende duidelijk alleen als een lokkertje. BUT MOSTLY My biggest issue with this book was how PREDICTABLE this was, 5 stars Blackbird was a book I had heard very little about until I was lucky enough to pick up a proof during YALC back in July: The thing that most intrigued me from the synopsis was this idea that 5000 blackbirds had dropped dead

on the same night this girl had disappeared. My mind was racing with ideas of how these two events could be connected and what mysteries lay in store for me. BUT (and this is a big but) the story inside had little to nothing to do with the mystery of the dead birds, That being said this book is still an absolutely great read I just think the synopsis was a little misleading: There are lots of different twists and turns along the way and the plot certainly kept me interested: There were lots of characters involved in this whodunit style thriller and I had fun ruling out suspects and making my own decisions: There were scenes in this book where Alex's grief was clear for the reader to see and sometimes I felt quite choked up and had to take a break, For me like Olivia who cannot wait to escape and flee into the big world and others like Alex who are perfectly content and safe in their bubble. I also really liked that it meant we saw glimpses of tradition with celebrations such as the solstice. Overall this was a good mystery book with plenty of tension and emotion; I was just disappointed that it wasn't the book I had been lead to believe it would be. Comes for my advanced copy in exchange of a fair and honest review, Comes Addictive! Easy and fast to read and captivating from the first page. This book is part mystery thriller part emotional contemporary YA about family and loss and grief. It was such a raw emotional book and I was there with my girl Alex all throughout this book wordt er daarna met geen woord meer over die merels gerept. Maar uiteindelijk vond ik niet dat dit boek dit lokkertje nodig had want het blijft heel goed overeind zonder, De rauwe emoties die hier beschreven worden voelen heel echt aan en totaal niet gekunsteld: Het centrale mysterie (niet de merels dus) is heel goed opgebouwd en - voor mij althans - niet voorspelbaar. I am fifteen years old and I don't know where my sister is, The same day Olivia McCarthy went missing from a small coastal village in Orkney: Now Her younger sister Alex is on a mission to find out just what happened to Olivia: But does she really want to know all the answers? BlackbirdOriginally posted to I Should Read ThatI received a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review, First things first if you're expecting a supernatural link between the blackbirds falling from the sky and the missing Olivia forget about it now. Nothing in this book is supernatural nothing in this book is fantasy. The story is compelling enough without the 5000 blackbirds included in the copy or the story at all! I would have made the choice to completely remove it to be honest: Now that the negative stuff is out of the way I really enjoyed this book, The story is told from the perspective of Alex Olivia's younger sister. We learn what happens to Olivia through Alex's eyes feeling her conflicting wide-ranging emotions all the way through. Alex worships her sister despite the fact that they're two very different people. Alex is content with her life in Orkney a remote set of islands off the coast of northernmost Scotland: Olivia on the other hand is finishing up her time on the island and ready to move to London in a few months, Alex isn't just dealing with her sister's mysterious disappearance - she's struggling with the fact that Olivia will probably never visit Orkney again, I really liked Alex as a character as frustrating as she could be. But you know what she's a teenage girl dealing with one of the worst possible situations a person can find themselves in: Her relationship with Detective Birkin who is assigned to Olivia's case is unusual and believable, As Alex's family struggles to stay together she finds other ways to project her feelings, We get two or three chapters from Olivia's perspective that keep the story interesting -it's like we get a peak behind the curtains to see what's really going on, It is a study of grief and how tragic events can push us apart or bring us together, I really enjoyed this book although it was a little slow in parts: I enjoyed the fact that the emphasis was not on the investigation surrounding Olivia's disappearance but on how it affected Olivia's loved ones. Alex is a reliable but difficult narrator who is so believably human. Comes Let me begin by saying that I loved the beginning of this book. I even purchased Dear Charlie off the back of how much I was enjoying it, But by around the three quarters mark I'd kind of lost interest: I skipped a chapter here and there and wasn't very enthralled by the ending, Having said that though the journey itself was interesting and I liked the characterisation: A tragic story because IT WAS THE DRIVING POINT OF THE STORY, none of them were developed enough for their emotional struggles/situations to drive the story: So the moment I worked out who killed Olivia (within the first few chapters) I lost interesting, HERE'S what I assumed:Alex was going to run around and be irrational with a killer on the loose. She was going to enter into a kind of strange relationship with

the detective. She'd run into trouble either by trying to apprehend killer or reveal his identity, I'm disappointed mostly because of how much I enjoyed Dear Charlie. D Gomes books but will certainly be going in with more trepidation, I bought this book as soon as I spotted it basically squealing with excitement BECAUSE ERMAGOD IT'S THE DEAR CHARLIE AUTHOR, Gomes This was an uncorrected proof I picked up for free at YALC and I'd heard nothing about it previously. I was intrigued by the blurb (and the gorgeous cover I am a book magpie! ☹) but was too sure what to expect as the blurb is pretty short, And it turns out that is basically my main criticism of the book. I really enjoyed this book from the concept to the way it Gomes handled the characters loss to the way it had been written overall, My complaint is the cover and the blurb on the back mention blackbirds falling from the sky, While the blurb also talks about the actual plot and mentions it as a suspense book it does somewhat imply the plot is linked to the blackbirds. Which? It is not :(I would have liked to have seen that! All you get is the main character watching the news report and a couple of brief follow up mentions. Personally I'd take it off the cover and blurb the murder mystery is more than strong enough to stand on its own: I especially liked that they all forgot her birthday except the detective too, I also got a good feel of life in a small isolated community through the story as well: I think that plays an important part in the story and it was nice to see it come across: i just felt too detached from the characters and i didn't like them very much. Gomes ND Gomes is originally from Scotland but spent ten years living in America working as an educator in the public school districts: She loves to read a variety of YA and adult fiction in all genres and is always on the lookout for a new book recommendation: ND Gomes has an enthusiasm for books travel photography yoga vegetarian cooking and spending time with her family friends and chocolate Labrador: Her YA debut DEAR CHARLIE and second novel BLACKBIRD is published by HarperCollins imprint HQ in the UK. ND Gomes is represented by Silvia Molteni at Peters Fraser and Dunlop



. Thoroughly enjoyed it. N.D. N.D Gomes writing is so captivating. N.D. Behalve in het begin.

Told with an enchanting heart. A pretty decent read to be honest. 3.5 stars isn't too bad. N.D.I called everything. Every twist. Every 'surprising' moment. The big reveal. The minor reveals. I called it all from a mile away. The mystery/who-dun-it element was not done well at all.Which was incredibly disappointing.

3.This book really sparked a lot of emotion in me. Thanks to HQ and N. D. N.D. N.D. Gomes Wow this book actually broke me and my heart. On 31st December 2015 two things happen. Firstly 5000 blackbirds dropped dead. And then Olivia McCarthy disappears. But this book is only about one of those things. Duidelijke misleiding dus.Het verhaal is boeiend spannend en emotioneel.Dus uiteindelijk vond ik Blackbird een goed boeiend boek. Alleen nogal ontgoocheld door de misleiding. N.D. Gomes My name is Alex. Or if she will ever come back. On New Year's Eve 5000 blackbirds dropped dead. This review is spoiler-free. her emotions are raw and real her grief is striking.This is not a thriller it's not really a mystery. N.D. I fell in love with YA all over again.The protagonist the victim the detective the killer. I knew exactly what was going to happen.Her parents were going to eventually come around.There were going to be flashbacks to perfect sister-sister time.Last minute she'd discover who the killer was.She'd use her STRENGTH AND FORTITUDE to overcome the

killer. The detective would sort his issues. I won't reveal what was correct. But I will. IT WAS ALL CORRECT. There was just too little going on with this novel. SO this was a let down. I'll still read more of N. I might wait for a library for the next Gomes book. 2 stars because it wasn't baaaaaad. N.D. The loss is really well portrayed. Not necessarily a bad thing though! N.D. Gomes 25/5. N.D. She has an M.Ed. in Education and is working towards an MLitt. in Scottish Literature and Creative Writing