

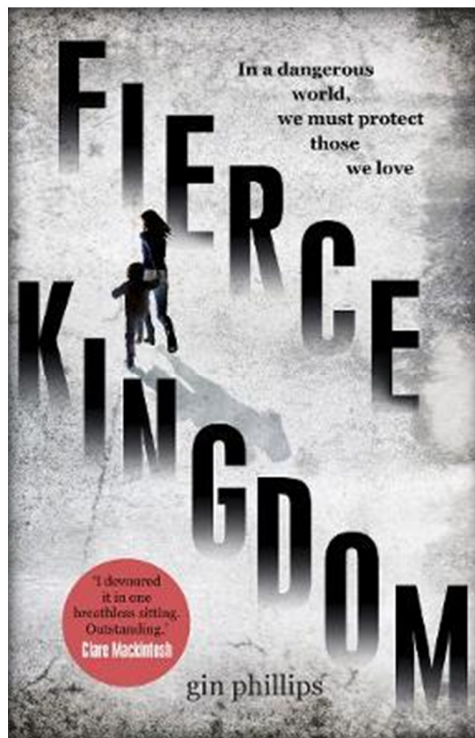


Helping you choose
your next book



LoveReading Reader reviews of **Fierce Kingdom** by Gin Phillips

Below are the complete reviews, written by LoveReading members.



Michelle Hodson

Wonderful original plot. Believable characters. This story hooked me and dragged me along for the ride. Highly recommended.

So a mother and young son take a trip to the zoo and are having a lovely time until it's time to leave and then all hell breaks loose. Joan's only priority is to protect her 4 year old son and keep him safe at all cost. There are shots. There are bodies. There are shooters, but who are they and how many and it would seem they are hunting anything that moves. Human or animal. I found the story entirely plausible. This could happen!

The characters are so well drawn you feel entirely invested in their safety. The relationships which evolve between the characters is entirely natural and believable and the love between mother and son is a joy. I highly recommend this book. It is a truly original story bringing out the best and the worse in humankind.

Trilby Humphryes

This book is equally traumatising, captivating & ridiculously tense... It makes you question how you might react in the face of death and how far you might go in order to protect those you love.

Wow, what a gut wrenching read!

Fierce Kingdom by Gin Phillips, begins in the dying embers of a early autumn

afternoon, with Joan and Lincoln enjoying each other's company, passing the time till dinner with Paul, Father & Husband.

Minutes whizz by and suddenly they find themselves rushing to the Zoo entrance moments before closing time only to find disaster unfolding all around with an armed shooter taking pot shots at animals and people alike, indiscriminately taking lives. Joan's first reaction is to retreat into the safety of the zoo that she and her son know so well. The rest of the action plays out over the following 3 hours until the book reaches its dramatic conclusion.

This book is equally traumatising and captivating, ridiculously tense and incredibly saddening. It makes you question how you might react in the face of death and how far you might go in order to protect the ones you love. An amazing fast paced, exciting read. Highly recommended.

Sarah Harper

With tense, edge-of-the-seat action from the get-go, my heart was in my mouth the whole time. This packs a real punch.

A perfect afternoon at the zoo morphs into every parent's worst nightmare. Gunmen on an apparently indiscriminate killing spree trap Joan and her young son Lincoln in the zoo and she experiences the sheer terror of coming face to face with a life threatening situation in which each and every decision she makes is critical. She knows the zoo, but not at night. Where can she hide? How can she keep an energetic four-year-old quiet and still? Should she risk moving to find him food or hope that she can avoid his tears brought on by hunger? The sheer terror she is going through as she runs to escape death is palpable. There are other survivors, retired teacher Margaret, teenager Kailynn and a crying newborn but Joan must decide whether helping them could blow her cover and put both Lincoln's and her own life at risk. Can she afford to play the Good Samaritan or are the stakes just too high. Should she help the others or are her basal instincts for self-preservation just too strong? Every decision she makes could be her last.

Spanning just a few hours, this book is short but packs a real punch. Tense, edge-of-the-seat action grips readers from the get-go and it doesn't let up until the closing scene. My heart was in my mouth the whole time and it really made me question just what lengths I would go to to protect my own son. Thought provoking and action packed, a great read.

Sabine Little

The book leaves the reader contemplating parenthood – not necessarily the dangers that might await their child, but more aware of how fleeting these moments truly are.

This is a fairly quick read - the plot covers no more than four hours, and the reader manages to follow it pretty much in real time. Joan is presented as smart, strong, and maternal - and a woman pushed into a scenario many might fear, but few experience: what if...strangers put your child in danger? Lincoln's age is beautifully picked: too small to be independent, but big enough to engage in conversations, to form a genuine character. Anybody who has had lengthy conversations with four-year-olds will recognise Lincoln.

The book leaves the reader contemplating parenthood – not necessarily the dangers that might await their child, but more ready to pick up on little nuggets, more determined to remember vocabulary unique to the family, more aware of how fleeting these moments truly are. It might also make you wish to get to know your local zoo better...just in case you ever need to know which animals' homes you might use for shelter, should you need to...

Dana Captainino

Ultimately this is the story of the lioness protecting her cub - against all odds and finding a strength both physically and mentally that she has never tested before.

This is one of the most gripping, thrilling and downright scary stories I have read in a long time. *The 'action' all takes place across a period of less than four hours but the tension and atmosphere make this seem much much longer.*

It all starts out so innocently with Joan taking her son Lincoln to the zoo. She does this regularly and they are playing as usual deep in their special place -the Dinosaur Pit. Lincoln is making up exotic stories based on Thor and the Nordic gods. Joan is only half listening as she contemplates the minutiae of her life. They are happy and it is time to go - the zoo is about to close for the day.

At first the noises they hear as they make their way to the gate seem unreal and disconnected until Joan slowly realises that they are in grave danger - pursued and hunted by an unknown stalker or stalkers.

Immediately Joan's behaviour changes as she strives desperately to protect her son from the menace around them and get him to safety. Others move in and

out of the picture but ultimately this is the story of the lioness protecting her cub - against all odds and finding a strength both physically and mentally that she has never tested before.

Read this - you won't be disappointed.

Sue Burton

Fantastic first novel and would recommend this book to everyone, once you start reading it you will not want to put it down.

Wow what a great read, was not too sure I would like this as do not like reading about animals etc but there was nothing that would have upset me. A fast paced and brilliant novel. Thoroughly recommend.

Phyllippa Smithson

Could have been a compelling read – the extremes a mother would go to protect her 4 year old son – but wide of the mark with the plot.

Joan and her 4 year old Lincoln, are playing in the forests found within the grounds of their local zoo (the City is not named but it is obviously somewhere in the US). A favourite location for them both. He because he gets the full focus of his Mum to create his stories with his toys as the actors. And she because these are special moments when there is only her and him – no distractions and fully appreciating these moments are not ones she will always have access to her only child.

When she realises the time she fast tracks Lincoln to the exit expecting at worse to have to have the zoo keepers open up the locked gates at the end of their day but what she actually sees are the results of what looks to be a massacre. Bodies lay strewn – dead, injured or just lying still in the hope of not being seen.

The story then focuses on Joan and Lincoln over the 3 hours trying to keep hidden from the gunmen and survive the ordeal.

Phillips does well in building the love a Mum has for her child and the absolute unconditional protection she will offer to protect him from the bad in the world. What I felt to be lacking credibility was the story setting. Just could not buy into the plot which include them hiding in a porcupine enclosure, bumping into one of the gunman and being allowed to walk away, throwing away her phone to distract the stalkers. Just seemed wholly unrealistic and thus deflected from what could have been a very powerful mother-child relationship story.

Angie Rhodes

The bond between a mother and her child is strong from the moment the blue line shows up on a pregnancy test, and it never dies. The bond is so strong, that the mother will do anything to protect that child, animal instinct kicks in and God help anyone who puts it to the test.

A perfect day at the Zoo for Joan and her young son Lincoln, happily playing in the sand, quickly turns into the day from hell.

As the last of the visitors leave, Joan sees something that turns her blood to iced water, something that makes her animal instinct to protect her son kick in.

The next three hours will be the longest three hours of her life, as she and Lincoln must run, and not stop running until they find safety. There are men in the Zoo, they have guns, and they are hunting, anyone who moves!!

How far would you go to protect your child / children?

‘Fierce Kingdom’ makes you ask yourself those questions and the answer is as far as you need to go!

Edel Waugh

The story is set in a zoo over a period of one day where a mother called Joan and her young son are enjoying seeing all the animals and walking around the exhibits, suddenly gunfire is heard and the reason behind it becomes apparent setting in motion a high octane thrilling plot.

*I really liked Joan, she has a lot of guts and her protective instincts as a mother are strong. It was fascinating seeing how Joan was going to cope with what was happening when there was a very real threat to their safety. It was one of those books that gives you Goosebumps while reading it and a sense of uneasiness, I found myself holding my breath during parts, almost like I was there with them. The plot is scary because it feels like it really could happen and the bad guys were not easily understandable making them even scarier, their motives were sketchy. **I loved this! Anyone who wants a book to keep you on the edge of your seat needs to read this. Awesome!***