

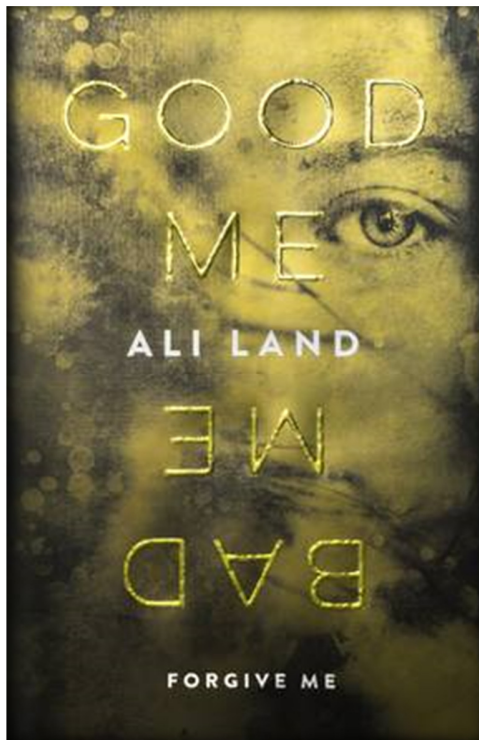


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your next book

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LoveReading Reader reviews of **Good Me, Bad Me** by Ali Land

Below are the complete reviews, written by LoveReading members.



Phyllippa Smithson

Hitchcock has been called the 'Master of suspense' but in the written format, that title goes to Ali Land – a remarkable psychological suspense author.

The story focuses on the aftermath of 15 year old Annie finally escaping her home to reveal the truth of her childhood to the Police - that her Mum is a serial killer, made worse by the fact that her victims are 4, 5, 6 year olds.

Ahead of the trial Annie is living with foster carer, Mike and his wife and daughter Phoebe. Despite the trauma of her 15 year life, things are no more easy now she has escaped. Her Mum invades her thinking

and at times, Annie (now called Millie to protect her from the mass attention) feels at times that she is being controlled now as much as she did when they lived together. And then there is Phoebe, ruthless in her bullying of Millie both at home and school where her popularity triggers others to join her in the constant attack.

As Millie counts down the days to the trial where she will need to be witness, her confidence in her decision to report her Mum ever diminishes. Does she herself have something to hide that she may reveal when under duress? What really was her role in the death of the children – was she at all complicit? Can she ignore the voices in her head and avoid her Mum winning even at the very last?

One of those books which you want to rush to get to the answer yet never want to finish. Remarkable writing which generates an incredible sense of willing

Annie to get through her ordeal and find out that the future can be a positive one.

Phew!

Heather Byrne

One of the best thrillers I've read in a long time. A difficult subject well executed and totally gripping. This should be the biggest seller next year.

Hugely gripping from beginning to end. 'Good Me Bad Me' is the tale of 'Milly', her life as it is now and the demons lurking in her past. This debut novel is a real page turner and I had difficulty putting it down. The characters are fully rounded, very believable and a little bit scary.

If you like thrillers this is the book for you. One of the best I've read in a long time.

Laura Delve

An incredibly intense, psychological read that has you reeling at so many parts of the book. There is no time to stop and pause whilst reading this; you just have to read on.

'Good Me Bad Me' was one of those books that instantly caught my eye. I was so, so keen to read this and it was even better than I could have anticipated.

Annie has a new name, a new family and a shiny new her. Annie's mother is a serial killer. She knows what she is doing is wrong and the only way to make her stop is to hand her into the police. But Annie is her mother's daughter and blood is thicker than water.

This book doesn't half keep you in suspense! The constant drip feeding of information from the author, never enough information to feed your burning curiosity, constantly leaving you needing to know more, forcing you to read on.

This book gets inside your head! It is an incredibly intense, psychological read that had me reeling at so many parts of the book. There is no time to stop and pause whilst reading this, it compels you to read on.

I really don't want to say any more than that, just know that this is a thriller to be reckoned with in 2017.

You can follow Laura on twitter: @midnightstar3

Debbie Patrick

New name, new family, shiny new me.

Annie's mother is a serial killer. The only way she can make it stop is handing her in to the police.

She now has a new name Milly.

A fresh start with a new family. Now she can be whoever she wants to be.

But Milly's mother is a serial killer

And blood is thicker than water...

A new author this is her first novel. Sometimes the first book can be very hit and miss but this isn't. This is ALL hit.

Excellent book. Didn't want to put it down, read it in a few days as was so engrossed in it.

If this is her first book I'm looking forward to her next one. Will keep my eyes open for her next novel and will recommend this one.

A brilliant start to a new career for this new novelist.

Robin Little

The book is a tense psychological thriller telling the story of a mass murderer from the perspective of her 15 year old daughter. 'Good Me, Bad Me' gives a great insight into the conflicting emotions.

The book gives an insight into the conflicting emotions of a child towards her evil mother and the way her feelings are twisted and contorted. Annie is sent to live with a foster family and her name is changed to Milly. As Milly she struggles to fit in with a conventional but dysfunctional foster family who try to support her through the trial of her mother.

Milly has to testify at the trial and deal with the difficult emotions of her close relationship to her mother and the agony inflicted on her. The story explores the anguish and pain that the situation inflicts on Milly and the way she tries to cope. The book gives a great insight into the outlook of a teenager who has experienced a very disturbing upbringing.

Teresa O'Halloran

An amazing psychological thriller that will come between you and

your night's sleep! Could such evil really exist?

This was an amazing book. I know people say it all the time, but I could not put it down, I was riveted.

Milly has moved in with Mike, Saskia and their daughter Pheobe. She is their new foster child. Milly was taken into care because her mother is a serial killer. A killer of children. Nine to be precise. Milly went to the police and told them what her mother does to children. What her mother did to her.

Milly really wants to fit in with her new family, she wants Saskia to be her new mother, and Mike her new father. She never had a sister. She would like Pheobe to be her sister, but Pheobe has other ideas.

With the impending trial coming up, and Pheobe's bullying, Milly is under a lot of stress. Will Milly be able to take to the stand and tell the truth about her mother?

This is a debut novel from author Ali Land, and she can really write. The words just seem to flow, and we really get under the skin of Milly and try to imagine what she has been through. There are lots of twists and turns, but I really did not see the ending coming! A really gripping psychological thriller that will leave your head spinning.

<https://hungryforbooks2read.blogspot.ie>

Lorraine Blencoe

The world seen through the eyes of a teenager damaged forever by simply loving her mother.

When we see the sensationalised images of serial killers in the media, we often see representatives of the families of the victims. Most of us give no thought to the families of the perpetrators. Becoming a serial killer doesn't happen overnight, so what Ali Land has managed to do with the years of abuse suffered by the fifteen-year old daughter of her serial killer mother is just breath-taking.

This is the story of how life changes in an instant for the girl when she goes to the police to turn her mother in for the murder of nine small children, within their home, in which she was made to feel complicit. The rigours of the criminal trial are handled really well and the scenes are emotionally draining sometimes.

Don't think it's a dour story. It's a fast paced, tense and taught psychological thriller and a book that quickly involves the reader.

Only afterwards does the impact of it become, well, read it and find out ...

www.lorraineblenceoe.com

Laura Prior

A good psychological thriller, with a gripping and intriguing story line - an author to look out for.

This is Ali Land's debut novel and I think it's safe to say it is going to be a hit and I already look forward to her future books.

'Good Me, Bad Me' is about a deeply psychologically damaged girl Annie, whose mother is a child serial killer. Annie spent her childhood witnessing her mother's horrendous actions and was the only one that could stop her by handing her into the police.

Annie takes on the new identity of Milly and sent to live with a foster family, her foster dad Mike is a psychologist who is to help her through her mother's court case. Although she wasn't expecting Mike's daughter Phoebe who from the off is on a mission to make Milly's life hell and to push her out of the house.

You see Milly's struggle as the court case nears and the author drip feeds through the disturbing thoughts going on in the web that is Milly's mind in a real clever way that slowly builds/reveals the background and what really happened. It is such a disturbing subject matter that the author touches on with subtle hints without being too graphic.

This was a gripping book that I struggled to put it down, but in parts can be a bit of a slow burner and sometimes has you wanting more revealed sooner. It is a very dark story which takes you on lots of twists and turns along the way.

Would definitely recommend.

Trilby Humphryes

'Good Me, Bad Me' - after overcoming the initial horror of the plot, I whipped through this grotesquely addictive book. A must for lovers of 'Girl on a Train' or 'Gone Girl'.

Wow what a book! Having read the first page and realising what the book was about, I put it to one side deciding that the subject matter might be too gruelling for me to continue with, but within an hour I was drawn back to it and

devoured it chapter by chapter.

It is a psychological thriller which evokes disgust, horror, sympathy and sadness in the reader towards Milly, the main character, a teen girl who finally has been granted safety after years of abuse at the hands of her mother. The plot revolves around Milly's mother's trial, but the underlying question of the novel is whether the apple ever falls far from the tree?

Despite the disturbing storyline, the book is an easy, page turner of a reader. Highly recommended.

Nicola Kingswell

After Annie shops her serial killer mother to the police, she is placed into foster care with her psychologist and given a new identity. She starts a new school as 'Milly' and is bullied by the other girls, especially Phoebe the daughter of her foster family. Milly is also haunted by her mother, the children she killed and her own guilt at grassing up her mum. As the trial looms, Milly's behaviour becomes more erratic accumulating in a tragic event.

This is a unique story told purely from Milly's point of view. There are some flashbacks to the time of the killings and Annie's reasoning behind her decision to report her mum to the police. Milly's obsession with her art teacher and her unconventional friendship with Morgan lead to you feeling her vulnerability and loss of childhood. However, there is a much darker edge to the story and as much as you sympathise with Milly, her thoughts and actions are equally scary.

*I enjoyed the unusual story line, the psychological chills and the twists. The ending did feel somewhat predictable. My biggest bugbear was the writing style. The language was very Yoda-esque and the use of full. Stops. After. Words. In. A. Sentence. Irritating. **Could have been great but wasn't quite which is a shame.***

Carol Attridge

Four sittings is all it took to read this book! Gripping!

A difficult subject, I wasn't sure what to expect, but I wasn't disappointed.

So well written, the story is told from the daughters perspective. Mostly by what's going on in her head. That's enough said, I don't want to spoil it.

If you love suspense, complex relationships, the mind and how it works you will love it. Just carve out some space because you won't want to put it down!!

Sally Doel

First of all, thank you to LoveReading for giving me the chance to review this book. It was a brilliant read in my opinion...

Milly, or Annie as she was previously known, is a 15 year old who has been newly-placed with a foster family. Her mother, it turns out is a psychopathic child-killer and this book charts the story of the effect it has had on Milly and her memories and experiences of living in the dark world of her mother's awful crimes. Her foster father is a psychologist who is obviously trying to support her through to her mother's trial. Her foster mother obviously has her own demons and her foster sister instigates a wave of bullying against Milly.

It is a very dark and gripping book, which is thoroughly addictive.

Milly is a fascinating character and whilst she has an awful story to tell, it is an absorbing and shocking tale and thoroughly enjoyable if you like a deep psychological novel with great characterisation.

I loved it and just wish I could read it all again afresh!

Joan Hill

Milly Barnes is not who she says she is. She is a witness in hiding and in the care of an able psychologist and his family until the trial of her murderous mother, a child serial killer, posing as a caring, concerned nurse. Her name has been changed to protect her identity, but she is tormented with doubt, regret, secrets and an unstoppable love for her mother. She gave her mother up to the police because it was the only way to stop her terrifying cruel spree. She is isolated by her past but she yearns for a family and friends of her own, afraid of her heritage.

The debut novel 'Good Me, Bad Me' is narrated by Milly and is a terrific psychological suspense story. Ali Land is an exciting new author with extraordinary talent for this genre. Her storytelling is compelling, tense and chilling and her characterisation is deft, with an eye for a sympathetic voice.

My heart went out to tortured Milly and I was unable to predict the direction of the novel at all, as there were so many red herrings and twisty turns in the story. *I read late into the night and continued as soon as I was awake. My only disappointment was the ending, I just wanted to keep on reading and have a definitive end to Milly's story.*

I would like to thank Lovereading and publisher Michael Joseph for my copy of this novel, sent out to me in return for an honest review.

Catherine Jenkins

This book is without a doubt one of the darkest and most chillingly acute psychological portraits I have ever read. It is not afraid to take you into the mind of a teenager who has experienced unspeakable things - and not afraid to go ahead and speak about those unspeakable things, either. Its depiction of the everyday goings-on at an elite girls' school cleverly adds another layer of darkness rather than offering light relief, as the machinations dreamt up and put into practice by bullies parallel the power games deployed by the female serial killer at the core of this novel about families, foster families, and false families - a shocking comparison, but one which makes compelling sense within these pages. The dustjacket states that you will want to talk to someone about this book. That is completely true.

Debbie Patrick

'New name, new family, shiny new me'.

Annie's mother is a serial killer. The only way she can make it stop is handing her in to the police.

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But Milly's mother is a serial killer

And blood is thicker than water...

Sarah Foyle

Well, this is quite something. Land's debut is explosive, compelling, and intelligent, and is set to be one of the psychological thrillers of 2017.

Annie's mother is a serial killer, torturing and murdering nine children in her care. Annie knows this, because it was her who turned her mother into the police, telling them almost everything what was happening in their house. When she is given a new name, Milly, and sent to live with a foster family, she tries to move on and prepare for testifying against her mother at the trial, but there are some things that you just can't outrun, and blood maybe one of them...

Ali Land has written a fantastic debut novel. Milly is, by turns, vulnerable, sympathetic, insinuating, manipulating, and terrifying; both younger than her

age, and far older and more experienced than a teenager should ever have to be. The violence and horrendous nature of her mother's actions are hinted at, rather than fully revealed, which only adds to the creeping sense of horror that pervades the narrative. If you like psychological thrillers that are intelligent and beautifully-written, you'll love this.

Prepare to be seeing a lot about this in the next few months - its set to be a huge hit.

You can follow Sarah on Twitter: @bibliomouse

Jillian McFrederick

Millie tells us her story, how she has come to be fostered by her psychiatrist and his family, how she told the authorities about her abusive, child abducting, murdering mother, who has forced her to participate in torture and abuse that is never described but frequently alluded to. The trial is approaching and she is being counselled in preparation for the trauma of reliving the horror she has witnessed as an innocent bystander

She comes across to us, the reader, as a sincere victim, who has been exposed to much more than any young teenager should. She seems misunderstood and underestimated by her foster family, and demonstrates a level of manipulation that eventually begins to ring alarm bells though we are not quite sure why.....until the end, which I won't spoil for you, but which warranted a swift second reading to make sure I had read correctly!

*Well written, from the girl's perspective, we need to keep in mind her upbringing and her parental role model to understand who she is and why she is that way. **Enthralling and engaging, I defy anyone not to finish it.***

This fresh voice, from a prospectively interesting though menacing character could easily be developed thru further novels.....I look forward to reading them.

You can follow Jillian on Twitter: @jmcfrederick