Sarah Musk

An extremely, interesting book written in the form of an absorbing narrative. Jon McGregor has written a very original book about the effects of a missing girl on a village community.

I really enjoyed this book. The story about the aftermath of a missing girl on a small, close-knit community is told in the form of a narrative.

It starts with the disappearance and the search for her, the media descending on the village and the parents staying on for months in the rented house hoping she would return. As the years pass by, the parents always shadowy figures, still return to the community but appear as increasingly distant figures as the memory starts to fade about Rebecca the missing girl.

The book relates how life goes on - people divorce, have problems, the teenagers who knew Rebecca grow up and go to University. Some clues do emerge that there may have been more to her disappearance and there are a few missed clues. People sometimes mention her but she gradually becomes a ghost of a memory.

I found I couldn't put the book down because I was caught up in the rhythm of the narrative of the villager's lives. There are no paragraphs within the text - only breaks between sections and this gives the impression of time marching by with a list of characters participating in the timeline.
Jon McGregor has written an extremely interesting book - some people may find it unsatisfying - but I love his style and his original approach to a tragic event in the history of a village.

Kate

I have never read one of his books and I’m so glad I got the opportunity to. I was at first expecting a crime novel but it’s not, it’s a beautiful and somewhat oddly emotional fiction. Yes it begins with a girl going missing but then the talent comes from zooming over the years on how it effects the village. Lives have to go on but what happened is always there, lingering and we see how often under the radar to others this one event goes on to hit and shape a village. A brilliant book.

Alan Brown

Chapter by chapter, season following season and years going by in country life. Initially disturbed by the disappearance of a 13 year old girl the repetitive tapestry creates a comfortable scar over the event.

The book is enhanced by the detailed descriptions of the countryside changes and the events that impinge on human life from birth and beyond.

The first chapter masquerades as that of a thriller but this book is far from that. It is reminder that all life goes on.

A book that is gently descriptive but a complete surprise.

Angela Rhodes

Start’s off like a murder mystery, but becomes something else,

England, midwinter and a teenage girl on holiday with her parents has gone missing in the hills and as usual people have "seen her" walking on a street, or down buy a farm. The local villagers send out search parties, the media turn up but still Rebecca, Becky or Bx is still missing. As Winter turns to Spring and Spring turns to Summer, we get to see how the local villagers live, move on with their lives, but still look for the missing girl.

The story is set over thirteen years and with not a lot of dialogue, over three hundred pages long, it can seem at times to get a bit of a heavy trudge BUT, it is so well written, you want to keep turning the pages, you become
**entrapped by the villagers lives.**

**Alfred Nobile**

This a book that starts off with a crime or a supposed crime. But it is not a crime novel. Rebecca is 13 when she goes missing and she is never found. The initial story starts with the disappearance affecting everyone, her classmates, who may or may not know more than they care to admit. Everyone is concerned and searching for her. But as time passes and Rebecca becomes the missing girl, the story becomes more of the village. The comings and goings, the deaths, divorces and the missing girl is gone but not forgotten.

*This is the first book I've read written by Jon. I found his writing sparse and to the point.* You forget Rebecca but every so often you are reminded that she is the missing girl. *He keeps you interested in his characters and what happens to them. A very well written book,* deserving 4 stars. Thanks to Lovereading for the ARC.

**Ann Quintilla**

The cycle of life.

This book is a narrative about the relentless cycle of life that keeps turning regardless of events that threaten to disturb it.

A teenage girl on holiday disappears. Her father wanders the moors and villagers search for her. Her mother thanks the villagers for their efforts. Around that search life continues. Friendships are formed and broken. A young boy feels guilty. Misunderstandings threaten to disturb relationships. Wild life thrives despite predators. Acts of violence occur both in the community and in wildlife. The seasons continue almost relentlessly and nothing can stop it. Within this constant cycle of life is the memory of the girl who disappeared. That memory keeps on intruding.

*The pace of the book is a constant rhythm that cannot be hurried.*

*It is a great read and unlike any other book I have read. Highly recommended.*

**Julie Bertschin**

‘Reservoir 13’ examines the events following a child’s disappearance in a small
village on the moors, focussing on the shroud of doubt and mystery that hangs over the village, how life goes on, seasons change and local's lives play out. It is a pastoral piece, detailing the changes to the flora and fauna of the landscape as the years pass, along with snippets of the villager's lives as the time passes. Suspicions as to who may be involved in the child's disappearance and the circumstances surrounding the event carry forth, playing on the minds of everyone in the area, affecting behaviours and putting fear into the community. Many years pass, sightings of the girl are recorded, the police investigation is never closed, yet no real answers are ever found. The story is like a series of snapshots taken over the years, illustrating the nuances of change as well as the continuity of village life and how the memory of such a shocking event never leaves a place, it is always associated with the terrible sadness caused by the loss of a child and the aura of speculation surrounding what really happened.

Reading this story leaves you feeling in limbo, just as the villagers must feel, always searching for closure.

Marjorie Lacy

I had not heard of Jon McGregor when I began reading, I had assumed it was a debut novel. How wrong I was, two pages in, I did a google search to find out who he was. He won the Booker Prize at the age of 22!

The quality of this writing was fantastic, not a wasted word. As a person who watches the seasons and wildlife around me, this book was made for me. I loved the way at moments of stress and tension among the humans, we found out what the badgers and foxes were doing in the woods.

I am so happy to have found this author, I have a list of his other books to buy!! One of the beauties of reviewing books is the unexpected thrill of discovering brilliant writers - thank you.

Helen Lowry

I haven’t read any Jon McGregor books previously. Unfortunately, I found this book somewhat disappointing.

It’s the middle of winter and Rebecca Shaw has gone missing. This book is not really about finding out what happened to Rebecca, but more how it affects the lives of all the villagers in the place where she vanished from. The event itself is more of a starting point but never truly the focus.
Each chapter presents the start of a New Year. Initially everyone rallies to try and find the girl, but with each passing year, although she is never forgotten, their lives and events take over. A lot of the characters, and there are quite a few, seem to speak with the same voice. None of them are fully developed as characters.

The other point I will make is that the book does not have an end. Rebecca is never found, neither is her body. So, if you want a book with an ending, this is not for you. I was expecting more of a crime novel, being a fan of such books, but this isn’t the case.

Jocelyn F Garvey  
**A beautifully written novel of ordinary life transformed by a tragedy.**

A teenage girl has gone missing from one of the holiday apartments. The police and the whole village are out searching the moors, the reservoirs and every nook and cranny. She is not found.

Where is she? Is the village or one of the villagers responsible? Has someone abducted her?

This has a profound effect on the village and all the inhabitants. Somehow life must go on. As weeks go into months and months to years we watch the profound effect this has on all who live there.

The children grow up. Relationships change, seasons come and go but there is always this cloud hovering over the village.

This is told in an unusual way, narrated, always as a watcher never a participant.

We are always waiting for a body or a sighting to release the village from this overshadowing memory.

Val Rowe  
**Sheer genius! Another outstanding novel by this unique writer.**

When the teenage daughter of the Hunter family goes missing whilst they are holidaying in a village in middle England, the villagers become involved in the search. The sleepy village is transformed when the police set up roadblocks and the media descends. Meanwhile life in the village goes on, focused as always on...
farming, relationships and everyday activities. Time passes. Situations change. But the search for 'the girl' continues.

This is Jon McGregor’s fifth novel and each one has been an absolute delight. One of my favourite contemporary authors, his ability to create such striking and exceptional writing holds no bounds. Each of his novels has its own distinctive theme and style and seems to be written with complete ease.

Until 'Reservoir 13', my preferred choice would have been his first novel 'If Nobody Speaks of Remarkable Things', but in my opinion this one deserves equal rating. I absolutely loved it.

How does one explain the theme and seemingly simplistic style and do it justice? It just works so beautifully. The gentle unfolding of events and characters is extraordinary.

A novel I will read again and again...... and treasure.

Samantha Lewis

I was slightly disappointed with this book. I found that it lacked in pace and I was bored. It is very unusual for me to not enjoy a book but wanted to offer readers an honest review.

At first glance of the blurb I was quite excited about the arrival of the book but once started found the book to be non-eventful and quite difficult to get in to. I understand that many people have found this book beautiful in its writing and simplicity. However I found that it lacked in pace and I was bored. It is very unusual for me to not enjoy a story but unfortunately this was not the book for me. I did wanted to offer readers an honest review and without giving too much away found the description of 'normal' life quite dull.

Teresa O'Halloran

I loved this book. The writing is almost poet it is so beautiful, and you will not want to put it down for a whole myriad of reasons.

A teenage girl goes missing from a quiet country village in England. The whole village turns out to support the family of the missing girl and help to search for her, but as time goes by and she has yet to be found, life must go on. Cows must be milked, fields must be ploughed, and the villagers fall in and out of love with their surroundings and each other.
I really enjoyed reading this book, but it wasn’t the story I was expecting. As a huge fan of thrillers and mysteries, I was expecting this to be the usual crime novel, where the young girl goes missing and the handsome copper rides into the village to get the perpetrator of this heinous crime. But this was not that type of book. This was a beautifully written account of what happened to the village and villagers in the aftermath of the girl’s disappearance and how it changed things forever.

I can’t say too much about the book without giving the ending away so I’ll just say that while this may not have been the book I was expecting, it was nonetheless a beautiful novel, that was such a pleasure to read, and reading it was like reading a fabulous and beautiful poem that will remain in your heart for forever.

https://hungryforbooks2read.blogspot.ie

Carol Peace

A fabulous insight into village life.

A teenage holiday maker goes missing from a village surrounded by hills and reservoirs, the whole village is affected and as time goes on without her being found the search goes on as does the village life. This book narrates the everyday workings of village life and how even after so many years the ‘crime’ is still affecting the people who live there, it does go into minute detail of the comings and goings of not only the people but the animals and the seasons. There is no ‘end’ to the book and for me it could have been a lot shorter.

This just wasn’t for me although I did appreciate the way it was written Jon McGregor certainly has a way with words.

Michelle Hodson

A teenage girl goes missing but life goes on. Seasons change and village life follows. This novel explores the relentless march of time that even a tragedy cannot halt.

New Year’s Eve and a teenage girl on holiday with her parents goes missing on the moors. A massive search by Police and villagers turns up nothing. And so the story proceeds. Each chapter begins on New Year’s Eve and so another year unfolds as the story of all the villagers unfolds. Each year runs through the seasons and the work that must be done, along with yearly events in the village
such as the Well Dressing and the pantomime. Children grow and go off to university. People become ill and people die. The style in which the book is written is to bring home the fact that something horrendous can happen but still life carries on.

Katie Hoare

‘Reservoir 13’ is a very descriptive story, narrated from a person looking onto the story, of a teenage girl who has gone way on holiday, and transports you to the area. She then goes missing, and the reader is taken through the search for her aided by the local community and the media coverage that ensues afterwards.

The descriptions of how the community live in a rural community, which includes moors, how the crime effects them then and years later, including how the seasons change. This book is more about the heart and soul of those who are left behind. The way the story is written makes the reader feel that it is a very brooding story, kept at a distance to the events that unfold.

Edel Waugh

When a teenage girl goes missing while on holiday no one could envisage the way it would impact a community. The story is told by an unknown narrator who tells us the story in a detached way which leaves the reader feeling slightly creeped out. The story is tragic of a missing girl who just vanishes but the years after her disappearance where a community never forgets and how it affected them spoke volumes. Sometimes heart-breaking, there was often moments when my mind wandered off thinking of the situation that characters were in, it is definitely a thought provoking read and one which stays with you long after you finish the book.