

LoveReading Reader reviews of Claire DeWitt and the Bohemian Highway by Sara Gran Part of the 'Claire DeWitt Mystery' Series

Below are the complete reviews, written by LoveReading members.

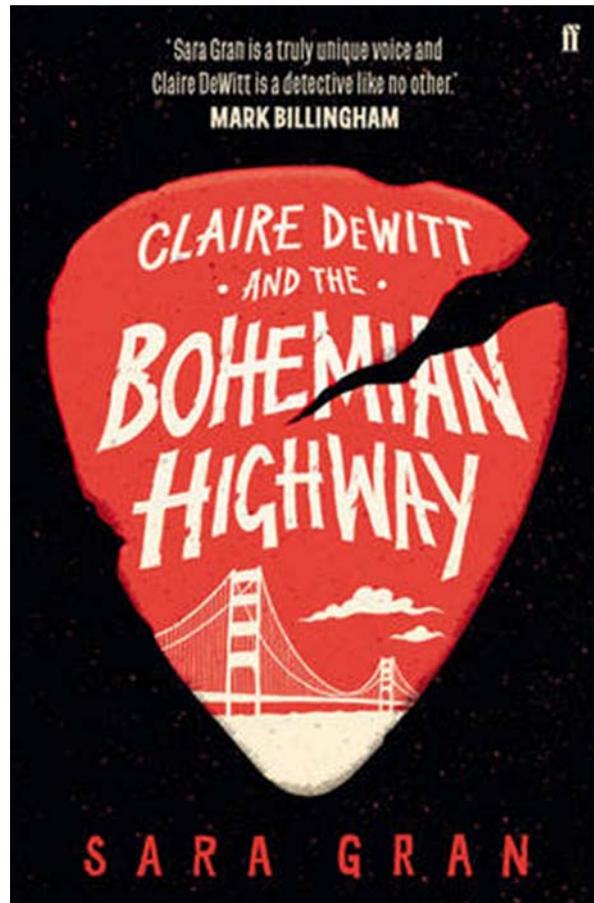
Cath Humphris

This is one of the best soft-boiled detective novels I've read. Claire DeWitt, quirky, damaged, maverick Private Eye makes me look at the world from a new angle. I loved the idea of a 'new age' approach to crime solving.

There's enough of the traditional who/why dunnit here to see that Sara Gran knows her genre, but has created a new twist. The creation of Jacques Sillette and his seminal masterpiece, Detection is brilliant. Claire DeWitt is a detective who is not randomly making it up as she goes along, she is following a philosophy that is little known, but credible in that her guru created a school of off-beat detection that seems to have worked.

This is a well written and intelligently thought through novel. The parallel stories of murder and missing person come together neatly, without being obvious. It was an increasingly intriguing investigation with an unexpected ending. Thank you Sara Gran, and well done.

I set this novel alongside those of Chandler, Hammett, Millar and Macdonald without hesitation, and recommend it to any fan of the PI genre who wonders how Marlowe, Spade, Sands and the rest of them would have coped with the twenty-first century.



Carolyn Huckfield

If you had expected a traditional who done it detective novel you will be disappointed. The stories based around Claire Dewitt's detective work is so much more than that . We see a different side of both San Francisco and New York to the ones that can usually seen in movies and holiday brochures. The USA can be brutal and violent place but Sara Gran makes it feel very real. Claire is a tough, drug taking private detective and her latest case involves her past lover who has been murdered in a robbery gone wrong but is it that simple? Paul and Lydia appeared to have had a perfect marriage but his feelings for Claire turn out to have been even deeper and when Claire sets out to find his murderer she reveals a sad tale of missed opportunities. Paul, Claire and Lydia seem to have taken the wrong decisions and life choices along the way. The case is the hardest one Claire has taken on as it hurts her deeply to learn about what happened to Paul but she still pursues it to its inevitable conclusion. Along the way we also learn about some of Claire's other investigations as well as her interest in eastern medicines and beliefs.

This is an intelligent novel that keeps your attention all the time. It also tests you with the way it moves along, weaving different strands throughout the story. Sara Gran also writes screen plays and it is easy to see how well this novel would work if it was made into a film.

Edel Waugh - <http://edelwaugh.blogspot.ie>

*Clare DeWitt is not your stereotypical private eye. This laid back lady is successful at what she does but she is on a downwards spiral after the death of her long time friend Paul. Claire takes up the case to find out who killed her dear friend while her heart is breaking for the loss of him. This is where she really begins on a path of self destruction and you really begin to feel for her. Clare is really suffering and it feels like she is almost trying to end her own life at times. **This story is hard to put down so takes hardly any time to read. It is the story of a death and a journey and a very satisfying ending. This is a series set in San Francisco that I will definitely be following from now on.***

Ruth Paterson

This novel is the second in a series of modern day detective novels with a strong female lead in Claire DeWitt, PI. The action moves between San Fransisco in the present day and Brooklyn during the early days of Claire's fascination with being a detective. The book begins with an enticing epigraph, a quote from a book called D etection by Jacques Silette. His work is quoted and refered to throughout the novel. Early on I looked him up to discover he is a fictional character, a creation of the author. Claire regularly refers to past cases by interesting names such as "The case of the End of the World". The inclusion of these references to past work and Silette, is a clever device that enticed me to read on to find out more.

Claire herself is not a likeable character. She is to be admired for her strength of character and drive to solve at least one crime at a time.

Unfortunately she is also a drug addict and has many unsavoury friends and associates. I found that she remained quite a mysterious character, her appearance is never described. I therefore found it hard to picture her. **Whilst this character lends itself to the type of crime and drama that ensues, I am afraid the whole novel was too gritty for my taste.** There was too much swearing and gratuitous drug taking for me to enjoy the book. I like to escape when I read and even if characters are unsavoury I often find I can empathise with them. With Claire and all her acquaintances I did not, but perhaps that is the intention. I may have to read another novel in the series to see if I can warm to her.

William Alexander

Sara Gran's Claire DeWitt and the Bohemian Highway makes the detective genre feel new again. It's the second instalment in the Claire DeWitt series. Claire DeWitt follows the teachings of Jacques Silette, the author of Detection to help her understand what's at the heart of mysteries. Claire follows leads based on her instincts, she confuses people she's interrogating by forcing them to confess what they "feel" as opposed to what they saw and she goes about stealing drugs to get high from her close friends and one-night stands. She's an unusual character and it's impossible not to get drawn into her orbit. She has an eclectic mix of friends, from punk-junky squatters to peaceful monks. She's inhibited by feelings of isolation and loneliness yet you can't help but feel everybody around her cares deeply. This is one of the great things about Gran's writing. You can empathise with Claire and relate to her feelings of social inadequacy. At the time same her style of thinking is so off-centre that it holds a certain appeal to the reader. She's confrontational, she uses people and her whole being is focused on uncovering the truth. Gran illustrates how hard that is to find in this day, it's Claire's focus on discovering the truth that draws the reader in. As uncouth and frustrating she can be, you can't help but root for her. **Gran's style of writing is simple, she lets her great imagination unfold the story, with a multitude of twists and light hearted moments that help to keep the story flowing smoothly.** When Claire's ex-boyfriend is found murdered she sets out to uncover the murderer. Her search takes her through an unexpected journey which reveals more about the human character than the mystery she is trying to solve.

Suzanne Marsh - www.ireadnovels.wordpress.com

Claire Dewitt reminds me of miss Marple solving crimes, the only difference is that Claire Dewitt takes cocaine.

Claire, Tracey and Kelly are not cops they are private eyes. They started solving cases in their own neighbourhood, their reputation spread, then they started taking cases around the city. Claire dated musician Paul Casablancas .After Claire had been seeing

Paul for about half a year she went off to Peru to work on a case. Claire knew she could have phoned, written or emailed Paul. On Claire's return Lydia, Claire's best friend, phones her to say do you mind that I am dating Paul. Paul and Lydia get married.

Madeline Huong phones Claire to say sorry but there has been a murder - Paul Casablancas has been shot. When Claire arrives at the scene, Huong says the wife say's a bunch of stuff is missing. Claire goes into Paul's house and makes notes of what Guitars are missing. Emily Paul's sister thinks that Lydia shot him but Claire didn't think so. Claire cares about who killed Paul she cares about who did the robbery. No case is left unsolved by Claire Dewitt.

Debbie Patrick

I usually enjoy crime novels & I tried very hard to find something that I liked with this book but have to say that I couldn't.

I understand this is not the first book in the series & perhaps it may have made a difference if I had read the other book but I will not be going out to find a copy to read & neither will I bother reading any sequels & unfortunately, it has put me off reading any other books by this author.