

LoveReading Reader reviews of The Spider In The Corner Of The Room by Nikki Owen

Below are the complete reviews, written by LoveReading members.

Shaun O'Keefe

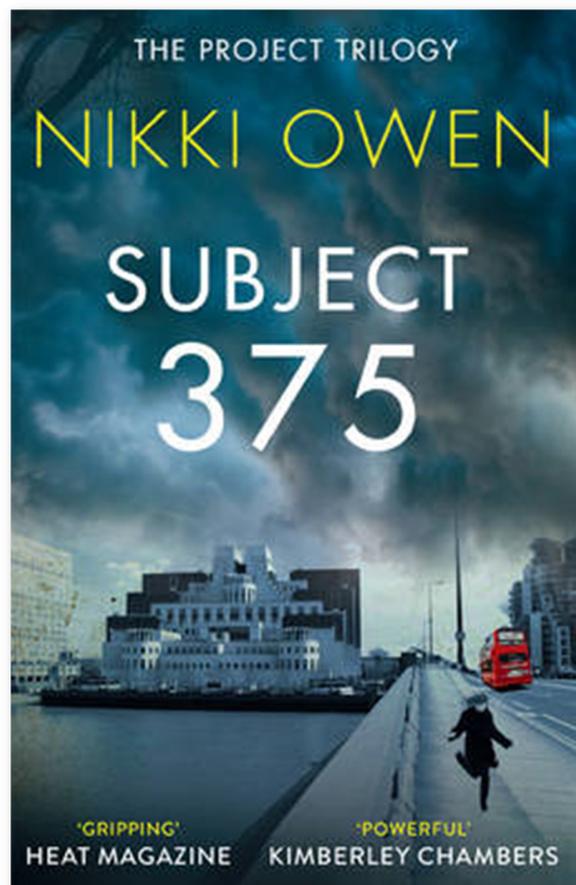
Psychological thriller meets conspiracy in Nikki Owen's gripping debut. A thought-provoking, gripping and at times, terrifying read, 'Subject 376' is compulsive reading at its very best.

I've never read a book like 'Subject 375' before but I really enjoyed it. Described as 'a gripping, high-concept psychological conspiracy thriller', it's a book that tackles multiple genres and does so with success.

Dr. Maria Martinez finds herself arrested for the murder of a Catholic priest and finds herself drawn into a web of international intrigue, fighting not only to clear her name but to remain alive. Maria has

Asperger's which is something I don't know much about but I took the portrayal from Nikki to be a believable, and very well-researched one. It adds an edge to the book, and makes for a thought-provoking character in Martinez.

It's assumed early on, by me even before picking up the book, that Maria might be innocent so the conspiracy came from how she ended up there, who was responsible and, being a psychological thriller, I was wary of every character that Maria met on her journey to find answers. As the twists started to come I was left speechless and after the halfway point, had to finish in one sitting. It's



actually quite terrifying to imagine this happening to somebody in real life but it also makes for incredibly compulsive reading.

As the first in a trilogy I was left wanting more and will be keeping an eye out for the follow-up to 'Subject 375'. I recommend the book for people who like me, are finding the psychological thriller genre is becoming a bit samey, and are looking for something that is a little bit different.

www.bookaddictshaun.co.uk

Lisa Hall

A brilliant novel of intrigue and deceit, with the twists and turns of the best conspiracy theories, I absolutely loved 'Subject 375'.

This novel hooked me from the first page - a brilliant novel of intrigue and deceit, I (along with the main character) didn't know who was to be trusted and who was the enemy. I found the timeline a little confusing at first, but as the story unfolds everything became quite clear. With a twisty-turny plot and deceit round every corner, Nikki Owen has created a great story line, with excellent strong characters - she captures the Aspergers side of Maria's character perfectly and although at times Maria did make me laugh with her literal responses, I felt so emotionally attached to her that I couldn't help but feel for her and her situation. 'Subject 375' would make a fantastic movie, and I can't wait for the next in the trilogy.

<http://reading-room-with-a-view.blogspot.co.uk>

Sophia Ufton

Wow, that was a story and half. This thriller is amazing, some unsuspecting twists and turns that you never thought possible! Cannot wait for the next instalment of this trilogy!

This is the story of Maria, who as the book starts is being interviewed by a man, she was a plastic surgeon, but has been convicted of murdering a Catholic priest. She has just arrived at her new home at Goldmouth prison and is already finding life different, as she suffers with Asperger's! This story will delve deep into Maria's life as she fights to stay calm, clear her name and most importantly stay alive!!

Celia Cohen

A well written psychological thriller.

A disturbing book, it gave me nightmares. I can't say I enjoyed it but it was compulsive reading and I had to read to the end to find out the truth of what was happening. Very well written too.

Debbie Patrick

Plastic surgeon Dr Maria Martinez has Aspergers. She is alone and in a London prison convicted of murder....

This book jumps about a bit between Maria being in prison and her strange therapy sessions.

She is accused of murder that she can't remember but it appears she isn't sure what is real in her life and what isn't.

And neither is the reader. Is she innocent of the murder or has she been set up by MI5 and the people involved in the Callidus group?

As this is the first book in the series it leaves you not 100% sure what the final outcome will be.

Phylippa Smithson

If you like haunting thrillers, this one is for you. Totally compelling and credible.

Maria is a Spanish Plastic Surgeon with autism, who understands that the chance of a secondment to a London hospital is based on her abilities. Other to her move, what subsequently occurs is that we revert to the current timeframe in which Maria is starting her prison sentence for the apparent murder of a Priest with whom she befriended. As the story unfolds, we learn it might not have been her medical abilities but other happenings (which she is initially unaware) which has secured her transfer.

Whilst she defends her innocence, she agrees to attending counselling not least to help her help herself in the fight to survive her new life as a prisoner, where her lack of social skills due to her autism attracts negative attention from fellow prisoners and staff alike.

Rather than helping her to adapt, the counselling becomes a trigger for memories so vivid she begins to feel like she is living a double, real-time life.

Which is the real one? Maria, the murderer serving her sentence, or Maria, the apparently innocent victim playing a game of espionage cat and mouse?

Whichever is the truth, she must fight to survive because there are others who do not want to see her live to serve her sentence or live if she is freed further to her appeal.

What a book!

Cath Sell

This thriller features the intriguing Dr. Maria Martinez - in prison and fighting (literally at times) to clear her name and keep alive...neither is for certain.

This thriller's protagonist, Dr. Maria Martinez, is unusual on a number of fronts: a female plastic surgeon from Salamanca, Spain who has Asperger's Syndrome, which informs her and this book totally. An edgy character who had me rooting for her to succeed. How to measure success? Survival in the first instance and then clearing her name (her conviction? - murdering a priest).

There are a number of additional characters in this book who are not to be taken at face value or are they? Difficult for the reader to pick up on all the nuances and hints even more so for Maria. A complex set of events that requires a genius to clarify. In Maria we have that genius.

The action takes place in prison, in therapy, in the courtroom and in flashback - as a reader you need to keep on your toes but you will be amply rewarded for that investment in the book!

I'm already looking forward to the next book in this trilogy.

Edel Waugh

*This is a story about a highly intelligent female doctor called Maria Martinez who is charged with the murder of a priest. Maria has no memory of this event but she has severe doubts about how credible her own memory is as she has lost chunks of time in her memory and has hazy memories of other events that she knows nothing about. In prison now, her Asperger's symptoms are heightened making her imprisonment and awareness of what's going on even worse. It's difficult to know who to trust when you have no idea what is real and who is telling you the truth. **If you love conspiracy theories then you will really enjoy this first book in this trilogy.***

<http://www.edelwaugh.blogspot.com>

Melanie Kane

*I found myself engrossed in this novel by page two, the intrigue I felt, the anticipation of what was to come had me gripped. It was fast paced from the very beginning and really ignited my curiosity. The main character Maria evoked deep feelings within me, rage for how she was being deceived, mistreated, lied to and empathy for a fellow woman. **The plot of this novel was extremely well written with great narrative and detail. A powerful account of lies, deceit, murder, espionage and cruelty all which made for a very provocative read.** I thoroughly enjoyed this novel and would highly recommend to anyone who enjoys a good suspense.*

Janet Gilliard

*This is the first novel by this author. **The style is a little awkward but the story is interesting.** A conspiracy type thriller with the main character having Aspergers. I finished it but not the best novel I have read.*

Rachel Bridgeman

Too convoluted and clever for its' own good, this debut thriller tried to do so much in the space of the book that many elements were left dangling.

I asked for this book to review as a fan of 'The Bridge', the heroine here was compared to Saga Noren, but the comparison begins and ends with the Aspergers' association. I'd disagree with this personally I felt emotionally invested in 'The Bridge' whereas regarding the protagonist of 'Spider..', I honestly did not care by the end of it whether Maria escaped prison/uncovered a conspiracy/murdered the priest she was accused of. It's easy to see why it has been optioned for a TV series but the character developments were thin, the plot loops highly visible and the flash backs/forwards were mixed up and muddled. I found myself re-reading quite a chunk of this book as it felt like I'd missed something. Where it did succeed is in having a fairly original premise, and also portraying the interior dialogue of a mentally disturbed person. I appreciate the opportunity to read this book but don't think I'll personally be looking out for the sequels. It wasn't interesting enough.

You can follow Rachel on Twitter: @RACHELb75

Caroline Mathews

Disappointing, I'm afraid. I think there's a decent story in there somewhere, but it took too long to get going.

To my mind a story needs, essentially, three things: a beginning, a middle and an end.

This book is just over 350 pages long, and it starts ... and then meanders pointlessly and ad infinitum, for over 200 pages, before anything of note (other than endless smoke and mirrors) happens. By the time the action gets going properly, it's well over halfway through - and it then stops. Abruptly. Just at the point when I was teetering on the edge of interest in what happened next.

Had I not been sent this book for a review, I'm afraid to say, it would have lost me way before anything actually started happening - I generally think it's fair to give a book 100 pages before admitting defeat.

In its defence, once it finally gets going, it does get better. Sadly, however, by this point I didn't much care.

I understand it is the first part of a trilogy and I think it could be much improved by having the action compacted into a standalone novel, as I think there is probably a decent storyline lurking somewhere in there.

I read on the back of the pre-publication copy I have that the TV rights have already been optioned, and I can imagine it being more successful as a TV series than a book, to be honest.

Nicola Kingswell

A gripping novel part murder mystery, part conspiracy theory.

Dr Maria Martinez has been convicted of the gruesome murder of a priest. She also has Asperger's Syndrome. She finds herself alone in Goldmouth Prison, unsure of whether she is guilty or not. As Maria wrestles with her own memories of her childhood, her father, the murder, various characters imply that she has been set up and is part of a wider organisation known as 'The Project'. Maria is determined to find out the truth and overturn her conviction. And who is the man with the black eyes who haunts her dreams?

The novel is written from Maria's point of view as she is interviewed by a

psychologist about her conviction and time in prison. I thought Nikki Owen wrote brilliantly as Maria, a clinician on the autism spectrum. The writing style is quite blunt, to the point and not over-emotional. I really liked the writing style. I loved the twists and turns in the story, Maria's self-doubt, and the conspiracy theories. I wasn't sure what to believe, who to believe, and on half a dozen occasions was convinced that the whole story was going to be some crazy dream. It's not. What it is, is an absolute page turner of a thriller. I can't wait to read the next instalments.

Celeste Mc Creesh

Thanks to LoveReading.Co.UK and Harlequin Mire, I received this in exchange for an honest review.....

The story opens with Plastic surgeon Dr Maria Martinez who is in Goldmouth Prison and has been convicted of killing a priest, she has no memory of the murder but she has severe doubts about how credible her own memory is as she has lost chunks of time in her memory and has hazy memories of other events that she knows nothing about and she also has Asperger's. The DNA evidence places Maria at the scene of the crime, yet she claims she's innocent. Then she starts to remember.....A strange room. Strange people. Being watched.

As Maria gets closer to the truth she is drawn into a web of international intrigue and must fight not only to clear her name but to remain alive.

*This book is the first part of a trilogy and it is the debut novel from Nikki Owen. I will admit that I did find it confusing at times in the first half of the book and the story slightly dipped in the middle but from around page 150ish I couldn't read this fast enough to get to the end and see how it would all end. However, by the end of the book I still did not know who to trust. **I feel like there is more to this story for the reader and Maria to uncover and I'm really looking forward to the next instalment of this trilogy.***

Bev Farningham

Maria is a Spanish plastic surgeon in her thirties who has aspergers, now she is in a London prison convicted of murdering a priest.

The story is told in separate parts of her growing up, events prior to her arrest and in 2 parts whilst in prison and her 'treatment'.

Well written but to be honest this story did nothing for me as it the

*author failed to grip me or make me at all interest in the story or the outcome,
having said that different things appeal to different people so do not discount it.*

p.s. should add Maria has to learn who to trust - if anyone

*p.p.s. for me the novel would have been enhanced if the author had got into the
characters more so that they became alive for the reader*