



[Day's End]

By Garry Disher

First published in 2022

Genre and Subject

Domestic fiction *Australian fiction*
Country life -- Australia -- fiction
Thriller-- fiction

Synopsis

Hirsch's rural beat is wide. Daybreak to day's end, dirt roads and dust. Every problem that besets small towns and isolated properties, from unlicensed driving to arson. In the time of the virus, Hirsch is seeing stresses heightened and social divisions cracking wide open. His own tolerance under strain; people getting close to the edge. Today he's driving an international visitor around -- Janne Van Sant, whose backpacker son went missing while the borders were closed. They're checking out his last photo site, his last employer. A feeling that the stories don't quite add up. Then a call comes in -- a roadside fire. Nothing much--a suitcase soaked in diesel and set alight--but two noteworthy facts emerge. Janne knows more than Hirsch about forensic evidence. And the body in the suitcase is not her son's.

Author Biography

Garry Disher has published over 50 highly praised, prize-winning and widely translated books in a range of genres: crime thrillers, literary/general novels, short-story collections, YA/children's fiction, and writers' handbooks. His growing international reputation has seen him tour Germany and the United States, where his crime and YA novels have appeared on best-books-of-the-year lists and won various awards. His latest titles include a literary novel, *Her*, the ninth Wyatt thriller, *Kill Shot*, the stand-alone crime novel, *The Way it is Now*, and *Day's End*, the fourth in his best-selling and prize-winning Hirsch series.

Discussion Starters

What was your favourite part of the book?

What was your least favourite?

Did you race to the end, or was it more of a slow burn?

What did you think of the writing? What **passages** strike you as insightful, even profound? Perhaps a bit of dialog that's funny or poignant or that encapsulates a character? Maybe there's a particular comment that states the book's thematic concerns?

How did you **experience** the book? Were you engaged immediately, or did it take you a while to "get into it"? How did you feel reading it—amused, sad, disturbed, confused, bored...?

Describe the main **characters**—personality traits, motivations, and inner qualities.

- Why do characters do what they do?
- Are their actions justified?
- Describe the dynamics between characters (in a marriage, family, or friendship).
- How has the past shaped their lives?
- Do you admire or disapprove of them?
- Do they remind you of people you know?

Are the main characters **dynamic**—changing or maturing by the end of the book? Do they learn about themselves, how the world works and their role in it?

What surprised you most about the book?

How did your opinion of the book change as you read it?

Has this novel **changed you**—broadened your perspective? Have you learned something new or been exposed to different ideas about people or a certain part of the world? Do you think you'll remember it in a few months or years?

If you could ask the **author** a question, what would you ask?

Did this book remind you of any other books?

Would you ever consider re-reading it? Why or why not?

Are there lingering questions from the book you're still thinking about?

Did the book strike you as original?

Is the **ending** satisfying? If so, why? If not, why not...and how would you change it?

If you liked this book, you may also like...

- *Chris Hammer*
- *Margaret Hickey*