

The Bird Yard

Reviews

There are not many books I would literally burn the midnight oil for, but *The Bird Yard* by J. Wallis Martin is most certainly one. **Fiona Wilson, *The Observer*, 16.04.99**

The Bird Yard is [J. Wallis Martin's] second book and is for my money even better than her first. *A Likeness in Stone*, which received outstanding reviews and is being dramatised by the BBC. Immaculately crafted, chilling and almost compulsively readable, it starts with two missing boys, and a suspect – Roly Barnes – who raises finches in the aviary attached to his squalid home. But suspicion is not proof, and meanwhile another young boy has been drawn into Roly's sinister world, a boy with little else in his life, who refuses to listen to warnings. A gripping tale, with totally credible characterisations, its strength lies in the author's ability to create a sense of evil by suggestion, which is all the scarier for being done with a light touch. **Pat Makin, Cambridge Evening News, 1998.**

'Wallis Martin cleverly portrays the innocent obstinacy of vulnerable young boys, propelled towards a fate they can neither imagine nor believe'. ***Sunday Telegraph***

'Intense, this novel gives readers an instant jolt with its stark depiction of evil lurking in the decaying back alleys and crumbling infrastructure of Manchester, England.... Wallis Martin has worked a keen note of malevolence into her novel and created a gripping story that has firm psychological underpinnings' ***Publishers Weekly***

In the end, J. Wallis Martin has produced a remarkably mature novel which reminds us that we must love one another or die. **Val McDermid, *Manchester Evening News*, 27.06.98.**