



The Kennedy Half-Dollar

Mahree Moyle

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After high school graduation, Seely is forced to move out on her own. She reluctantly decides to move to Hawaii and stay with her sister until she can find a place of her own. She is offered a job with a well-known nightclub in Waikiki serving cocktails. There, she is introduced to the dark side of life.

One evening on her shift, she hears ominous words directed at Mark, the assistant manager. When she turns to see who said these words-no one is there. Then the next morning tragedy strikes. Mark is found in a cane field shot to death. Seely suspects the Hawaiian Mafia is involved, but has no solid proof.

When the Mafia starts coming after her, believing Seely knows of the murder, she finds herself plunged into a nightmare. Why are they targeting her? Could she have seen or heard something that she was unaware of? Seely knows her life is in grave danger and decides to leave Hawaii, hoping to escape their clutches-except they are informed of her moves. After many years of trying to figure out her connection with Mark's murder, Seely faces the truth.

From the glistening sands of Hawaii to the white mountains of Alaska, The Kennedy Half-Dollar delivers an eclectic and unconventional true crime memoir of nonstop action and suspense-with background music to set the mood.

Excerpt from a chapter:

The door opened. "Get in, Seel." Brone stood by the car with the usual barbarous look in his eyes.

She climbed into the confined chasm, wondering if these were her last moments alive.

She opened her eyes to Brone carrying her into a ramshackle apartment building.

Why is he carrying me? Did I pass out? They had to have drugged me when I got in the car. But how? I don't remember anything. Where are they taking me? Maybe I'm dead already.

Seely came in and out of consciousness. She opened her eyes again, and found herself on a scaffold-like platform in a dingy room, only seeing silhouettes around her. Someone held her arm and was putting a needle in it. She could hear and see only at times but she couldn't move.

"You saw him, didn't you, Seel?" She could hear voices and saw bodies moving around but couldn't put it all together.

"You saw him the other morning." She couldn't talk, but they continued to ask her questions.

Who did I see? What's in the needle? Her mind was fogged.

The room swayed like ripples of water. "He's one of us. Did you know that? He's one of us, Seel." The sound was juddered as if coming through a fan.

The Kennedy Half-Dollar Details

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From Reader Review The Kennedy Half-Dollar for online ebook

Larissa says

This was a good book. My first true crime memoirs. I can't believe that all that happened to one person. This was full of suspense. I would have given 5stars but I had more questions at the end. What happened to Fausto, why did she not go to the police when things were being done to her, why was she always being found by the dregs?

Booksniffer Tours says

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Ingrid Hall says

The Kennedy Half-Dollar is a true life crime memoir. The author has changed the names of the the characters involved however she is represented by the main character, Seely. Straight after graduating, Seely "feels" like she has to move out of home (although the reasons behind this are never made fully clear) and reluctantly moves to Hawaii to stay with her sister. She eventually gets a job as a cocktail waitress in a well known nightclub in Waikiki and it is then that the assistant manager, Mark is shot dead and the mafia start coming after Seely.

This is a thought provoking book which has kept me entertained from beginning to end. This review though, is one of the most difficult and challenging that I have ever had to write because while the author writes in a style that is easily accessible, there is an emotional distance about it which is to put it mildly infuriating, and which makes Seely come across as an unhelpfully complex and at times puzzling character. I am however painfully aware that this book is based on real life events and that it is impossible to cram a lifetime into two hundred and fifty three pages without losing some of the subtleties and nuance of events as they occurred. I am also aware that the whole process of writing it must have been cathartic for the author, and I will therefore try to be diplomatic in what I say as I don't want to add to any distress that she has already suffered, however I would be remiss if I didn't state that I struggled with certain "plausibility" elements within the book.

The book is sold on the whole mafia murder angle. There are some quite shocking revelations in the build up about Seely being taken by the mafia night after night and being repeatedly drugged and gang raped. Now, I don't want to in any way detract from the seriousness of the situation, or cause any offense to the author or anyone else who has suffered in this way, however I found myself scratching my head and repeatedly asking why? Because up until this point Seely, for all she is young and impressionable, is dating a police officer and comes across as being quite sensible and together. So surely after she had been attacked the first time, she would have told "Fausto" OR she would have returned home to her parents...OR sought help from her sisters or roommates (whose role in the entire book is surprisingly vague) I would have at very least thought that even if she felt there was no one in the world that she could turn to, she would have quit her job in the nightclub and got the hell out of there. Regardless, I think that it is a shame that it wasn't made clear in the

writing as to why she repeatedly put herself in that situation? Why she didn't seek help? Why she just flitted on with her life?

The murder itself and aftermath is then brushed over very quickly and the bulk of the book is a chronicle of the rest of Seely's life. Which while incredibly interesting and at times tragic and gut wrenching wasn't really what I had been led to believe I would be reading by the blurb.

The mafia makes very brief appearances over the years to warn Seely off (Once when Seely is living in Alaska and then much, much later) However, their appearances are so fleeting, that again I kept asking myself what is the point? There are some flashbacks right at the end of the book in which Seely, and Fausto's involvement in the whole murder become clear, however I was left feeling a little cheated, because while I have without doubt enjoyed reading the book, I was expecting the book to be heavily focused upon the murder and aftermath and this could have been a truly gripping and explosive true life crime memoir if the author had stayed within the scope of the work instead of wandering off into a cathartic, interesting, but at times utterly irrelevant exploration of her entire adult life.

Linda Marie Marsh says

What an incredible book...a well-written story of the journey from young adulthood to being the mother of adolescents- the 33 year span between the two. Seely leaves home immediately following graduation for a life in Hawaii. She inadvertently gets involved with the scummy side of life and spends years escaping and avoiding, trying to bury that whole part of her life. She travels the world looking for...what...she doesn't know. Her interactions with people and places encompass the bulk of the book....

One aspect i loved is the stream-of-consciousness style of writing that was used in parts....the author is talking to herself as well as the reader. I also am absolutely in awe of the way she utilized the titles of 70's songs as headers- directly related to what was coming up next in her saga. 'Bungle In the Jungle'....'Stayin' Alive'....'Dream On'...'Aqualung'....to name a few.

There is something for everyone here...i dare a reader to say that they just couldn't relate.

Marge Begley says

Yikes - what a disappointment. After reading reviews and the beginning of this book, I thought I must read this book. Since my library did not have it, I even bought it which I rarely do. My philosophy has always been why would one buy a book with libraries supplying most of our reading needs for free. Sorry Mahree Moyle. You had a hard life but you are not a writer. Maybe if you had a ghost writer to assist you, the story would have had some heft to it. It's not that what happened to you didn't make a good story. I felt that it was written so amateurish or by someone who felt they had an intriguing story but couldn't put all the pieces together to make it readable. Call me a snob but if I am going to spend time reading a book, please, please, supply me with good writing. It doesn't even have to be great writing but it helps if the story is not disjointed and flows smoothly.

I gave it 1 star but really it should only be .5 Stars (to make me feel less of a fool for spending my money on it).

Henk-Jan van der Klis says

A coming of age, crime memoir full of suspension. Meet Seely who moved to Hawaii after her high school graduation. She's drawn into the darker side of life, after getting a job in a well-known nightclub in Waikiki. After the first murder, Mark her assistant manager, was found shot to death, there are suspicions rising. What's the role of Seely, and is there really such a thing as the Mafia? How strong are they? And will Seely's Kennedy era half-dollar coin protect her like a modern-age talisman? Seely somehow manages to get away from Hawaii and escape her threats and sexually and mentally tortures. But the might Mafia is reaching out, wherever she moves. Towards the final you'll be surprised. The Kennedy Half-Dollar is non-stop action and suspense. Every chapter starts with a song title. I couldn't quite figure out often what the actual relationship with the chapter's content was. It was meant as soundtrack / background music to set the mood to The Kennedy Half-Dollar.

Erin says

I received this book through Goodreads First Reads.

It is pretty incredible what this person went through, all the challenges that she faced, I was amazed by the story. However, it did seem to bounce around a lot with some paragraphs jumping from one new location and situation to another without any breaks. Sometimes I felt it tended to get a little confusing, almost rushed. Aside from that I thought it was interesting.

J M says

I received The Kennedy Half-Dollar from the Goodreads First Reads giveaway. This was an amazing book, fast moving and emotional story that will hold your interest from the first chapter to the the last. I found it difficult to put down as I wanted to know what would happen next. Ms. Moyle has done an excellent job describing the events, bringing you into the story as she takes you through the many twists and turns in this real life story as well as giving life lesson take aways. A must read for everyone.

PacaLipstick Gramma says

Could I possibly rate this a negative star?

After reading the reviews, I thought it would be really good. **BUZZER . . . NOT . . . WRONG ANSWER.** I kept reading because I thought it would get better. Maybe it was just a slow start. **BUZZER . . . NOT . . . WRONG ANSWER.** According to other reviews, there was suspense?

It is just so poorly written and fraught with errors. It is like reading a story written by a middle schooler who just wrote thoughts as they entered her mind. The story is fragmented, and does not flow smoothly, although, chronologically the author didn't do too bad.

The book is evidently somewhat autobiographical, as the author claims, it is a true crime memoir. I can't believe that the main character (author?) could be so incredibly stupid. I wouldn't even consider it being naive ~ just plain stupid. Her choices in situations and her health were not smart at all. She talked out of both sides of her mouth, saying how positive she was, but then had a "doomsday" attitude about her life. She claims she had no control over all the bad situations she was put in. Baloney. She made the choices. Her choices put her where she was.

And maybe too, if she ever would have explained in the book why she had to leave home after graduating high school, it would have helped in understanding the character a little better.

In the preface of the book the author came off as somewhat arrogant. *This is not a typical crime story, but then I am not a typical person with a typical life and could not have written this in any other way but atypical. I've shared a few eccentricities from my life for fear this story would be viewed as unrealistic if I revealed them all.* What a bunch of hogwash. We all have stories, we just don't write about them. I thought maybe my initial reaction was too knee-jerk, and I misinterpreted. I don't think I did. Her arrogance permeated throughout the book as evidenced by her choices, and that everything will be fine, and she always knew best.

I would not recommend this book to anyone. It was a total waste of my time.

Debbie says

I loved it! What an amazing story told with honesty and intrigue. I was captivated from page one and couldn't put the book down until I finished reading every last page. Ms. Moyle brings the reader into her story with music as well as words. Each song selection draws you into her experience and completes the picture. It is an unbelievable yet completely real and unforgettable story! I highly recommend The Kennedy Half Dollar and encourage everyone to read it!!

Christoph Fischer says

"The Kennedy Half-Dollar" by Mahree Moyle is an intriguing tale of real life drama that is both a gripping thriller and a memoir.

Seele arrives in Hawaii and gets immediately involved with the wrong people: seedie bars, drugs, gambling and crime at first simmer in the background then they become more prominent, until Seelie overhears a conversation about the planned murder of a friend named Mark. Although she does not witness the murder herself, the people behind the killing think she does know something and so begins her life in hiding and in fear.

While the foreword implies an explanation to the murder we actually never find out the exact circumstances, but we do find out how it impacted on Seelie's life. In that regard the book is more a survival story and what a survival it is.

As the author points out, the thought of murder is absurd to most of us, until it happens in our own life, and seeing Seelie's life unravel after Mark's murder is an eye opener to the dangers that lurk underneath the safe surface for all of us.

Written in the first and also in third person the book offers a choice of perspectives that may distract some readers but which I actually found very refreshing and helpful.

The Half-Dollar of the title is a token of luck, given to Seelie by her father before she leaves for Hawaii and which she had meant to give to Mark.

The story is a great reflection on wrong choices, lost opportunities and redemption and a gripping, worthwhile read.

Samantha Julmisse says

Holy Christ on a cracker. My heart is still pounding as I write this review, and I don't know when it will return to its normal beating rate. Never have I read a story quite like this one that didn't enrapture me without the use of the paranormal or a strong focus on romance. Out focus remains on our main character Seely as we follow her life after graduation and what a life she has! My heart pounded so many times during reading this book, I clung to my kindle and turned the pages praying for everything to work out for Seely. In short sight looking at how one thing after another came up it can be said it didn't work out, but in the long run it did and I'm so happy for it because I don't know what I would do if it didn't. Seely is probably one of my favorite characters of all time. She's a free spirit with a heart of gold, and no matter all the crap she's endured since she was pretty much shoved out her house during graduation she's survived it all even when she wanted to give up. I laughed with Seely, I shared in her humor, her thoughts, her excitement, her dread, I shed tears with and for her. I love the fact that she didn't need to cling to a guy to find her happiness. Mind you she did cling to a guy for happiness several times but in the end she did it on her own, and that shows her strength. An exciting plot that held me from beginning to end I rate this book a stunning 5 stars, 6 if it was possible!

Gayle Slagle says

I found *The Kennedy Half-Dollar* to be a fascinating and absorbing book. The author, Mahree Moyle, relates her life story in a compelling manner that held my interest throughout. Sometimes funny, sometimes scary, sometimes happy, sometimes heartbreaking, Moyle presents her story in a straightforward and honest manner, pulling no punches, never trying to make excuses. The story alternates between a third person narrative which tells the life of Seely (Mahree) and her inner thoughts. Utilizing short, at times choppy sentences, the story is told as one would sit and tell someone her life story. When we tell a story, we usually state the facts without a great deal of metaphors, similes, personification, etc. and this is how Seely tells her story. I especially liked the parts of the book which related Seely's thoughts and feelings; they show the inner working of the mind and how we alternately question and accept our feelings. The book is a great study in the psychology of the mind and our capacity to suppress those events which we cannot consciously accept. This is a story of bravery, resiliency, and accepting one's lot in life with graciousness. I suggest you give it a try; I don't think you will be disappointed.

Marc DiGiacomo says

A true story that needed to be told. Excellent job!

What would you do if faced with a real threat? Would you run and hide? Could you stand your ground and prepare yourself for what just might be lurking around every corner? This isn't your typical true story, it is a first hand account of being continually victimized, both sexually and mentally. The people responsible for harming you keep re-surfacing in the most remote locations. There comes a point when you can't run

anymore. There comes a time when you have to accept the possibility of death because it can happen at any second. The author does an amazing job delivering a book that not only horrifies but inspires too. This is a must read, page-turning novel with a story that is unique and personable. As a law enforcement retiree, I can relate with a lot of what the author is going through and only hope all victims get the justice they deserve whether it's in this life or the afterlife. Bravo!

Jaideep Khanduja says

<http://pebbleinthestillwaters.blogspot...>

Book Review: The Kennedy Half Dollar by Mahree Moyle: A Memoir, Autobiography and More

The Kennedy Half Dollar is more than a lifetime story written by Mahree Moyle. It depicts pain of life, memoir, autobiography, self realization of truth of life, and beyond. Mahree Moyle is a powerful writer, well proven in her debut novel The Kennedy Half Dollar published by iUniverse Inc., Bloomington, United States. Right from the cover to story narration, this book strongly hooks you engrossingly from page one till you reach up to the end of story. While reading this book, you get engaged in the story so as to become a part of it making you feel as if you are witnessing whatever happens in it, right in front of you. That is what happens if the story is written from heart. You not only feel the pain suffered by the main character of this story, but you also witness a heinous crime while travelling through this journey.

The lead character in this novel is Seely who has got some power in her to foresee things that are about to happen in her life and also in the life of people around her. Just after completing her school graduation while living with her parents, at 17, she is told by her father to move to Hawaii to join her sister for a job there and start her career. That's so her journey starts from Los Angeles International airport to land to Aloha Airport in Honolulu. Just before the flight is about to start, a short man rushes in the same flight, hands her over a silver Kennedy Half Dollar sent by her father as a good luck charm.

Seely reaches Hawaii and is welcomed by her sister there. She had to stay with her until she gets settled down there and find out accommodation of her own. Gradually after a couple of small jobs she gets a break in a night club in Waikiki to serve cocktails to customers. This place is full of tourists, and also is a happening place for crime and drug mafia. A couple of years pass during which she starts earning good amount of money and also finds out a small apartment shared with her friends who used to work around the same place. Mark is a smart and handsome assistant manager in her nightclub and of her own age, 19. One night Seely overheard some whispers mentioning Mark in that conversation. Next morning Mark is found brutally murdered and that begins a painful journey ahead for Seely as she had some idea that Mark has been killed by the same four members of Hawaiian Mafia who used to visit her nightclub regularly.

Though Seely had no evidence of this murder and a proof against these mafia men, the culprits on the other hand started believing that Seely is aware of the people who are involved in this murder. That starts a tortuous and dark life for her. Gradually she manages to run away from Hawaii to save her life and the consistent torture she was bearing.

The journey of pain and relief did not end here as Seely was regularly traced by Mafia Men even after she had left Hawaii and moved to various places to earn her living and settle somewhere. The end of the story reveals lot of secrets and surprises for its readers.

Overall The Kennedy Half Dollar is a very interesting crime memoir excellently penned down by Mahree Moyle.

