



Something You Are

Hanna Jameson

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Nic Caruana is paid to kill people. Once, he was destined for a white-collar job in a middle-class area. But like many kids, he made a fatal mistake. Now, he inhabits the bleak, dark city that runs like a seam beneath London. His latest job is to track down the daughter of an arms dealer, using any weapon necessary to get to the truth. But Nic has fallen in love with his dangerous employer's wife. When the missing girl turns up dead, this grief-stricken mother starts playing twisted games with Nic...and this time he has nothing in his armoury to protect himself. Taut, spare, and brilliantly plotted, *Something You Are* is the first in a series of menacing urban crime novels from a young female writer of exceptional talent.

Something You Are Details

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From Reader Review Something You Are for online ebook

Dini Van heumen-hoekman says

Knap thrillerdebuut van een jonge vrouwelijke auteur.
Rauw en hard.
Ben erg benieuwd naar het volgende deel.
Alleen jammer van wat taalfoutjes in de Nederlandse uitgave.

YRachel says

Zum Inhalt:

Nic Caruana ist 17 Jahre alt, als er aus Notwehr heraus das erste Mal einen Menschen getötet hat, seitdem sind 10 Jahre vergangen und er verdient mittlerweile sein Geld damit Menschen aufzuspüren bzw. sie nicht mehr aufspürbar zu machen. Dann wird er von einer zwielichtigen Gestalt aus London darum gebeten, seine Tochter wieder aufzuspüren. Nic ahnt bereits vorher, dass es sich hierbei um keinen leichten Fall handeln wird. Wenig später wird die brutal zugerichtete Tochter tot aufgefunden und Nic hat nun einen Auftrag, er soll ihren Mörder finden.

Erster Satz:

Sie waren zu dritt, standen an der Ecke zwischen Hauptstraße und unserem Haus.

Meine Meinung:

Der Debütroman von Hanna Jameson hat es in sich. Sie berichtet die gesamte Geschichte aus der Perspektive von Nic Caruana. Da dieser sich seinen Lebensunterhalt durch Einschüchterung und ggf. auch mal Mord verdient, wird man als Leser nicht geschont.

Obwohl Nic in einer eher düsteren Welt lebt und er seinen Lebensunterhalt auch mit düsteren Geschäften sichert, erfährt man auch einiges aus seiner Vergangenheit und seiner Familie. Das hat das Lesen des Buches für mich sehr interessant gemacht, da man hier aus seiner Perspektive erfährt, wie er zu dem geworden ist, was nun heute ist. Er fühlt sich seinen Eltern gegenüber schuldig, da er trotz eines intakten Elternhauses nichts aus sich gemacht hat und auch seiner drogenabhängigen Schwester nicht helfen kann. Nur sein Bruder scheint alles richtig gemacht zu haben und daher kann er ihm kaum unter die Augen treten. Die anderen Charaktere sind unterschiedlich gut charakterisiert. Da sie alle aus der Sicht von Nic dargestellt werden, sind diese sehr subjektiv eingefärbt, jedoch hat man es bei fast allen Charakteren mit Leuten zu tun, die man am liebsten niemals treffen würde. Einige von ihnen scheinen ein gutes Doppelleben führen zu können, jedoch ist mit keinem von ihnen zu scherzen.

Jameson hat eine sehr eindringliche Art wie sie die Dinge beschreibt. Beim Lesen hatte ich teilweise das Gefühl, dass es mir direkt unter die Haut ging und die grausigen Details konnte ich mir (manchmal zu) gut vorstellen. Dabei lässt einen die Geschichte jedoch alles andere als kalt. Während des Lesens wollte ich unbedingt wissen, wer dieses arme Mädchen umgebracht hat und man erfährt mehr und mehr aus der Szene. Nach und nach findet man zusammen mit Nic immer mehr Puzzleteil um sich ein genaues Bild machen zu können.

Insgesamt empfand ich diesen Krimi als wirklich guten Debütroman von Hanna Jameson und ich hoffe, dass man bald mehr von ihr zu lesen bekommt.

Jasper says

Originally posted at <http://thebookplank.blogspot.com/2014...>

Hanna Jameson wrote *Something You Are* when she was only 17! 17! I actually didn't know this before I read the story and normally I would have had some major reservations when reading books written by young authors. However when you read *Something You Are* you won't be able to tell that Hanna Jameson wrote this at this young an age, it feels like a very grown up story and her writing style is that of an almost veteran author, so as far as this debut goes, it's a rock solid start. What is even more impressive is that Hanna Jameson was shortlisted for The Crime Writers Association "John Creasey" (Best Debut) award! Unfortunately Hanna Jameson didn't win, but she does show that she means business.

Something You Are opens with a scene of the past that centers around the main protagonist Nic Caruana, and from this point on Hanna Jameson managed to set the mood just straight and pretty dark, gritty underground feeling. It seems that the rays of sun just can't penetrate the dark air that Hanna Jameson creates. Soon after this fast and violent introduction to *Something You Are*, you see Nic Caruana in the present time, he has grown up but hasn't lost any hairs of his "wild side". Nic now is a hitman, paid to clean up jobs and he is being called into action by Pat Dyer, an notorious arms dealer, who is in great need of Nic's services. Pat Dyer's 16-year-old daughter has gone missing. The introduction in the present day dark and bleak London was done in a perfect way and really gave Nic's character a very dangerous shroud, Nic lives together with a roommate who also doesn't shy away from pulling either his gun or his knife, though their relation remains to be guessed at best, only several communications with post-it notes, it is pretty interesting to say the least and I hope to see how this will unfold, will we see more of this other hitman?

The promise of the story might seem a bit straightforward and you might think oh no not another crime investigation taking place in London, well if you think that, you're wrong. Yes several elements can be seen in other books as well but Hanna Jameson shows just how to lift her story above many others. The story of *Something You Are* really starts to take a turn for the better as soon as Nic finds out that Pat Dyer's daughter has been murdered, the grieving father and mother both want retribution and Nic's expertise makes him best suited for this. However with more distance between Nic and Pat but decreasing distance between Nic and Pat's wife, relations start to shift and change and Nic finds himself in a much more thicker web than he had heretofore dared to guess. The best thing of it all is, is that Hanna Jameson really managed to write up this personal struggle between Nic and his clients, you can just see that Nic has a pretty hard time coming to terms with it all. Added to this is that the story doesn't only revolve around the daughter of Pat but there are numerous side tracks that show more the dark underground London that Hanna Jameson is introducing us to. These side tracks help to both give a nice pacing and much more dynamic to the world and Nic's contacts include drug dealers and other thugs a like.

The ending of *Something You Are* gives some very interesting plot changes and further establishes Nic as a guy you just do not want to have working against you. But. Yes there is a but. Nic isn't all just mister tough-guy, he also has a bit of a softer side, which more comes to show by the relation with his parents and his sister. In the beginning when you read about Nic's sister it seems that he hates her, but it soon comes to show that he does care deeply for her well being and does his best to support her in any way he can. This further

made Nic's character that much more fleshed out and much more complex and even more deadly because how far will you go for you loved ones??

Something You Are is a great first book in a darker than dark London. Normally you see the grim side in Urban Fantasy but Hanna Jameson neatly translated a very dark a grim setting into this exciting new crime series "London Underground". She introduces you to a deadly protagonist that plays the role as the antihero in a perfect manner. In Something You Are, Hanna Jameson sets down the baselines and ground rules of her playing field, one of which I will be eager to see explored in the second book in the series Girl Seven. This is a very strong debut and I reckon this is by far the last we have heard of this new voice in crime fiction.

Dana Stabenow says

Gritty, at times all too realistic London noir. Think of Nic Caruana as Harvey Keitel's The Wolf in Pulp Fiction, only with more blood, if you can imagine that. Nic is hired first to find the missing daughter of a local mobster and his model wife, and in short order her murderers. He does.

Joseph J Clark says

I had a good time with Something You Are, Hanna Jameson's hard-nosed debut crime novel. But I also feel a little bit conflicted about it.

I don't read a lot of crime, and usually when I do, the best I tend to think is "That was fine". I think what it come down to is that I'm the /worst/ when it comes to names, so whenever I stumble into an intricate plot with multiple characters, I tend to lose track very quickly. Happens in films, too. I guess I just have the attention span of a walnut - and so when I read crime I tend to feel a bit behind the pace.

That all applies to Something You Are. It was fine. I got a bit lost because I'm an idiot (I don't even think it's a very complex plot, but I remember losing track a little regardless). I didn't walk away with any great opinion about its plot or story, I wasn't particularly moved or affected overall. I think I wanted a little bit more from it. Maybe I was just a bit jealous, as I am with any debut author younger than me (so, all of them these days), of the talent on display and didn't want to concede too much. That's small and petty and stupid, but human. And sometimes these little barriers count for things without us really realising.

That's not to say that this isn't a well-written and interesting story - one of these reviews uses the word "accomplished" and I totally agree.

Jameson creates a really strong sense of place, and that for me was its stand-out feature. I slipped into another world: the writing is immersive, grounded, punchy. The characters are dark, moody and unpredictable - delightfully noirish. There's a good edge to the writing, with flourishes of violence and hard drinking and hard truths scattered throughout. No-one gets it easy in Jameson's world - and I really liked that.

I should also say that I read this maybe two years ago, and it's still stayed with me in a way that most books don't. And that's definitely a credit to the writing.

This is a three-and-a half star review really, but I've rounded down to three (sorry, Hanna). I reckon a bigger crime fan would get more out of it than I did, but by the same token I still enjoyed the read and am looking

forward to picking up the rest of the series.

Sandy Hall says

I had known beforehand that the author wrote this when she was 17 (!! I probably would have been awestruck throughout the entire book! As it was, I liked it, but didn't love it. The background between the main character and his roommate wasn't fleshed out enough for me (when/how did they meet? What's the roommate's back story?) and a lot of the connections felt like the reader should have just KNOWN (The Underground is - what?) despite this being the first in the series, overall it was a tightly written read with well done characters and plenty of twists - tho the obsession with Chloe got a bit boring. I had to order a hardback version from Amazon as they didn't stock it on kindle, this seems to be a trend with UK authors, it's very hit or miss. What is the problem?

Trudi says

The first time I killed someone I wasn't paid for it.
~Something You Are, Hanna Jameson

Meet Nic Caruana. Actually, you better hope you never meet Nic Caruana because if you do it likely means you are in for a world a hurt: perhaps some disfigurement...creative mutilation...and only if you're really lucky, a quick death.

Nic is your average English bloke just trying to make a living on the mean streets of London's underbelly. He's not a psychopath, but he is a murderer for hire. He's done some very bad things that he doesn't really feel all that bad about. He can be brutal, detached, ruthless. But he remains *human* and interesting and sympathetic. He is estranged from his normal, suburban parents, his junkie sister, and a war hero brother flying helicopters in Afghanistan.

Nic was a good kid until something very bad happened to him. Now he isn't good any more.

To all my crime loving GR friends out there, this is a fresh new voice in the genre to make your toes curl. It's noir that's black as night, with pages that bleed violence so in your face you can hear the bones cracking. The dialogue is sharp as razor blades, not only moving the plot forward at an adrenalized rush, but constructing flesh and blood characters right out of the ether one word at a time.

And are you ready for this? In a genre that's predominantly male territory, *Something You Are* was written by a slip of a girl who drafted Nic's story when she was just **17 years old**. Now she's an old maid at 23, but she's got at least two more London Underground books drafted and I can only hope we see them sooner rather than later.

I will warn off more sensitive readers: this book features a lot of graphic violence and is set firmly in London's unforgiving, unsentimental crime scene of amoral people breaking all kinds of laws along with a shitload of bones. But goddammit, it's pretty damn fine storytelling. A punch to the kidneys, an uppercut to the chin, and I think I'll have an Irish whiskey and a fag now, thanks very much.

This review can also be found at [Busty Book Bimbo](#).

Michaela says

This book was hit and miss for me. Nic, in my opinion, needed to be a bit more . . . consistent. I mean, read the book. It says, Evil, is it something you do or something you are? Nic isn't evil and I wanted him to be. At times, I saw signs of serious anger management issues but at other times he was capable of controlling himself. I kept wishing he'd either be a total nutter or be the bad boy with a heart. As it is, he fell somewhere in between, as if he hadn't quite made up his mind which he is.

The plot also had a bit too much going on. What with the murder of Emma, leading to Nic's 'relationship' with Clare, his interactions with Pat, Edie (who I didn't see the point of) and Matt and Kyle (who I thought were a bit cliched). The best parts, I thought, were Nic's relationship with his family and with his friend Mark. His family are dysfunctional and that had a ring of truth about it. Mark was just cool.

Ellen Dunne says

Kurzzusammenfassung:

Die Geschichte von "Privatdetektiv" (sprich Auftragskiller) Nic Caruana, der als Teenager unabsichtlich einen Mord begangen hat, und nun durch die Untiefen der Londoner Gangsterszene wadet, hat Hanna Jameson schon mit 17 erdacht – mit 22 hat sie nun ihren ersten Roman vorgelegt. In ihm erhält Einzel- und Grenzgänger Nic den Auftrag, die Mörder der 16jährigen Tochter des Waffenhändlers Pat und dessen enigmatischer Frau Clare ausfindig zu machen. Dabei verliebt er sich nicht nur obsessiv in Clare, sondern hinterlässt auch eine Schneise der Gewalt – und am Ende bleibt die Frage, wofür das Ganze.

Meine Meinung:

Bemerkenswert. Würde ich sagen, müsste ich meine Meinung über Hanna Jamesons Erstling in einem Wort zusammenfassen. Denn der Roman der Britin kommt so noir, so brutal, so blutig und fluchfreudig daher, er könnte auch von einem männlichen Autor Mitte Dreißig geschrieben worden sein. Die Welt, durch die sich Nic auf der Suche nach den Mördern der 16jährigen schlägt, ist gefühllos, mitleidlos und hält zwischen all der Trübnis nur kleine Funken von Wärme für den Endzwanziger bereit, meist in Form seiner schrägen Wohngemeinschaft mit dem folterlustigen Russlandimmigranten Mark oder der noch unklaren Affäre mit der drogenabhängigen Daisy . Natürlich ist auch seine Familie kein Rückhalt, sondern Quelle von Schmerz und Traumata. Und die ungesunde Affäre mit der manipulativen Clare führt Nic nur noch mehr ins Gefühlschaos. Wenn er denn welche hätte.

Klingt alles nach einem Buch, das man nicht lesen muss? Tut es auf jeden Fall trotzdem! Ich hatte mich in wenigen Tagen durchgefressen, denn die Geschichte hat – vom etwas schwerfälligen Ende mal abgesehen – richtig viel Tempo, und die vielen außergewöhnlichen Charaktere sind zwar nicht liebenswert, doch interessant und faszinierend. Dass es eine Fortsetzung geben wird, davon kann man ausgehen, und ich werde garantiert wieder einen Blick reinwerfen, denn ich bin gespannt, wie sich nicht nur Nic Caruana, sondern auch Hanna Jameson als Autorin entwickeln wird.

Fazit:

Hart, abgründig, schräg, teilweise ultra-brutal – und hypnotisch geschrieben. Ein außergewöhnlicher Noir-Krimi für alle, die mal was anderes suchen als das übliche Ermittler-Einerlei.

Nick Davies says

Ultimately I was disappointed. Though I was impressed with the fact that this was a full and complex novel with some maturity, written by a seventeen year-old, it just wasn't quite what I was looking for - and hence I ended up not enjoying it massively, as much credit as I wanted to give the author.

The book revolves around a kinda 'fixer' bloke in London, who is employed to find the killers of a teenage girl and allow her father to exact vengeance. This is the central storyline, but alongside this there are numerous strands of fucked-up junkies, fucked-up family relationships, fucked-up gangs, fucked-up jobs on the side, and the fucked-up nature of the central character making his living how he does. The violence is frequent and explicit, as is the sex, and the mindlessness of this ended up making me lose interest in the uniformly unlikeable cast of characters and what all the shagging and killing was all for.

I've read gritty brutal stuff like this before, but have generally only enjoyed it when there's been more humour, more sympathetic treatment of characters, and more hope about it all. This novel seemed to be written to shock the reader, and in doing so it lost the interest of this one.

Sid Nuncius says

I thought this was a very good noir crime novel. The protagonist and first-person narrator is Nic, a freelance underworld enforcer and killer in London who is employed by a crime boss to find his missing daughter. I found it fresh, gripping and well written, and I became very involved with the story.

The story is bleak, very violent in places and very well told. The prose is readable and the characters generally well drawn and believable. I particularly liked the neat sketching in of how Nic came into his "occupation" without a lot of cumbersome back-story to weigh down the plot. Things move at a good pace and I found the London underworld which Jameson depicts to be repellently plausible. I did think that the culmination of the story was a little weaker, but certainly not enough to spoil anything. Do be warned that there is liberal use of what TV warnings call "very strong language" and some truly sickening violence in places, but I thought both were completely justified and absolutely true to the characters Jameson depicts.

If you want likeable characters to identify with or object to swearing and violence then this book won't be for you. Otherwise, I can recommend it as an exciting, involving and in places quite thoughtful crime novel.

Meg P says

When I first started this book I was so excited that I couldn't put it down. Finally, I thought, a strong male character that kicks ass! However, as the book progressed through it's unusual twists and turns, Nic, the 'hired hit' showed his vulnerability. Normally I wouldn't mind, but this time, it irritated me. I was not happy with the character's inability to remain detached and felt that it removed the 'fierceness' of the story.

However, the last two chapters had me tearing through the last pages, with a few WTFs?? said out loud and a couple of gasps at the final twist.

If I could, I'd give it 4.5 stars.

In summary: it won't stop me with purchasing her next book, but it will stop me from putting this in the 'to keep forever' pile.

Jarvo says

When someone gives you a book and says 'read this, it's by an 18 year old girl from my writing group' you might be expecting many things, but it is very unlikely that you will be expecting this. I certainly wasn't. A crime novel of great darkness, with brilliant characters, taut writing, and many moments of sly humour. Like many of the best crime novels and films this begins by introducing a character you think is bad and then says there are levels way, way beyond/below this. To me it read like a less silly version of David Peace, can't wait to read the next book!

Jo says

At the age of 17 Nic had one of those life changing events that can lead a person onto other paths. And so he becomes a 'gun for hire', employed by people who work outside of the law. When Pat's teenage daughter is found raped, shot and beaten (not necessarily in that order), he pays Nic to track down the killer and exact the kind of justice that can put a man behind bars. This was one of the most exciting crime novels I've read in a while and I'm sure some people will happily pick faults but I can't/won't purely for the sheer exhilarating entertainment value. Can't wait for the next book in the series.

Tony Hays says

If you're looking for 21st century noir, then Hanna Jameson has something to give you. Something You Are is a dark commentary on today. Nic Caruana is a modern everyman, the guy we could all become. Young, sharp, headed for the middle class dream, one stumble sent him into the dark world of paid assassins. But, for me, the most stunning part of this book is the question she poses in the title, Something You Are, and the dark, but insightful answer she gives.
