



The Burning Soul

John Connolly

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There are some truths so terrible that they should not be spoken aloud. Here is one of those truths: after three hours, the abduction of a child is routinely treated as a homicide.

When a girl disappears from a small Maine town, her neighbor—a recluse named Randall Haight—starts receiving anonymous letters that contain tormenting references to a different teenage girl, murdered long ago. For many years, Randall has kept a secret: when he was fourteen, he was convicted of killing that girl. Now, his former life has returned to haunt him, and he hires private detective Charlie Parker to make it go away. But in a town built on blood and shadowed by old ghosts, where too many of the living are hiding secrets, the past cannot be dismissed so easily. As Parker unravels a twisted, violent history involving a doomed mobster and his enemies, the police, and the FBI, his search returns again and again to Randall Haight. Because Randall is still telling lies...

The Burning Soul Details

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From Reader Review The Burning Soul for online ebook

Jaksen says

Yikes, another good one from John Connolly.

In this one Charlie Parker is hired to help prove a convicted child-killer (who killed when he himself was a child, served jail time and was given a new identity on release) has nothing to do with the disappearance of a fourteen-year old girl. It's tasty. It's full of creepy characters and great dialogue and description; this story has it all. We've got Charlie, haunted by the terrible things in his past; Louis and Angel as his two sometimes-sidekicks; a tiny town on the edge of nowhere in northern ME; then throw in some mobsters with connections to Whitey Bulger, et al, out of Boston; and of course, the icky-to-the-point-of-ghastliness Randall Haight, the man at the center who maybe...

Well, did he kidnap and kill another child? Or didn't he? Or is he just getting blamed for whatever happened because he's so convenient a suspect? I'm not telling!

I love the Charlie Parker books. I space them out and read other things in between. If I had my druthers, I'd read them all in a weekend, but I want to *savor* them...

This one is worth savoring.

Phrynnne says

I enjoyed this book, the tenth in the Charlie Parker series but maybe not quite as much as I have the others. Charlie is a little lost in this one and I much prefer him when he is at the top of his game. I also like to see Louis and Angel playing a major role rather than the cameo appearance they make in this one. Nevertheless no one can deny John Connolly knows how to write a thriller with a good serve of supernatural on the side. I am certainly looking forward to reading number 11:)

John Doez says

John Connolly did it again! Everything you could expect in a Charlie Parker story is in "The Burning Soul": Angel and Louis, the Fulci brothers, some wandering spirits, the landscape and so on. Above all "The Burning Soul" has a sound plot, with all his twist and turns you always want to know what is really happening

Inti Ruiz cruz says

«Uno tiene que ser cauto con las mentiras que dice. Tiene que ser cauto por si alguien las oye, y los dioses del inframundo se burlan de uno convirtiéndolas en verdades»

Muy buena historia de la serie Charlie Parker, con repuntes fantasmagóricos como sólo Connolly puede lograr, no obstante con cierta sensación de ser un libro de tránsito hacia el verdadero clímax de la o las siguientes entregas en la saga.

Historia sin resquicios, falta un poco de la acción tremebunda y asfixiante a la que nos tiene acostumbrado el autor, pero nunca dejando de ser un título muy recomendable.

Brian says

John Connolly? Charlie Parker? No need to say more, except clear my calendar, I'm reading nonstop to the end. Another outstanding thriller. Can't wait to hoist a beer with John on tour.

Thanasis Papageorgiou says

Ἡ χειρὸς τοῦ Πάρκερ ἀρκεῖ. Ελπίζω νὰ ἀνεβᾷ νει στὰ ἐπιμὲνα, ἀν καὶ δὲν ἔχω ἀκοῖσει τὰ καλῶτερα...

Petra Miocic says

<https://procitajto.com/2016/05/11/dus...>

Ne tako davno, jedan je sporedan književni lik, govoreći o svom rodnom, malom mjestu u američkoj saveznoj državi na krajnjem jugu rekao kako u tako malom mjestu svi znaju sve jedni o drugima. „Zato i živimo tu, jeftinije je od kabljske“, završio je svoje lokalpatriotsko izlaganje i saveznog agenta novopridošlog iz glavnog grada spomenute države ostavio u žudu razjapljene vilice. I svatko s iskustvom života u malom mjestu u tu se izjavu osvjedočio; svi znaju sve jedni o drugima, nikakve tajne ne mogu dugo ostati skrivene. Upravo suprotno, najčešće izliježu iz mraka prošlosti upravo u trenutku kad se njihov nositelj opusti i prepusti novom početku.

Spomenutu knjigu zacijelo nije pročitao, a niti istraživanje o malim mjestima proveo, Randall Height, glavni sporedan lik romana Duša u plamenu irskog pisca Johna Connollyja, inače desete u nizu Connollyjevih priča iz serijala o uznemirujućem mračnom privatnom istražitelju Charlieju Parkeru. Kako mu je posvetio cijeli serijal, logično je zaključiti kako je Parker glavni lik i ovog romana. Iako je tu ulogu preuzeo pomalo nevoljko jer Height ipak nije onoliko bezlišan koliko biste to od dosadnog računovođe usamljeničkog stila života očekivali. U nekom prošlom životu, kada se zvao William Lagenheimer sudjelovao je u ubojstvu trinaestogodišnje djevojčice. Po odsluženju kazne sustav mu je ponudio drugu šansu stvorivši za njega novi identitet pod njegovim okriljem, u malom i mirnom mjestu Pastora's Bay živi i radi niz godina. No kako u malom mjestu ništa ne može zauvijek ostati skriveno, i njegovu je tajnu netko otkrio i sada se sadistički naslađuje mučeničkom Heighta. Već bi i sama ta situacija bila dovoljno mučna, ali baš u tom trenu nestaje jedna od mještanki, trinaestogodišnja djevojčica i Height se opravdano boji kako će ga, jednom kad se te igre zasiti, njegov mučitelj izmrcvarenog predati policiji kao glavnog sumnjivca za taj nestanak, a možda i ubojstvo.

Isto bi, najradije, u?inio i Parker, u ovom slu?aju angažiran od strane Heightove odvjetnice. Premda mu je društvo pruža, ?ovjek ?ije su žena i k?i brutalno otrgnute od života, ne može prona?i razlog za oprost jednom djecoubojici. ?ak niti kad je taj u trenutku po?injena ubojstva i sam bio dijete. Pretpostavlja, ipak, da se iza anonimnih prijatelja krije kudikamo gora osoba te se i sam uvla?i u zamršeno klupko o?aja, ljudske zlobe, nesre?e i duboke duševne poreme?enosti, klupko ?ije ?e ga ras?voravanje umalo stajati života.

Charlie Parker je glavni lik ovog romana. Ne, zapravo, Charlie Parker je glavni pripovjeda? ovog romana, jedini od likova kojem je Connolly dopustio da progovori vlastitim glasom i svoje vi?enje raspleta doga?aja s ?itateljem podijeli u izravnom dijalogu, pisanom u prvom licu. Ostali likovi nisu bili te sre?e ili samo nisu dugogodišnjim druženjem zaslužili Connollyjevo povjerenje te je o njihovim aktivnostima i ulogama kroz 428 stranica gusto ispisanog teksta autor ?itatelja izvjestio posrednim putem, pripovijedaju?i o njima u standardnom, tre?em licu. I ve? tu se pokazuje Connollyjeva maestralna pripovjeda?ka vještina jer se nije, mijenjaju?i lica i perspektive, niti okliznuo na mjestima na kojima bi manje vješti ozbiljno udarili o tlo. Vrhunski opsjenar Connolly u hipu zamjenjuje možebitnu ?itateljevu zate?enost prvom promjenom perspektive uljuljkavanjem u mra?nu i uznemiruju?u, izuzetno atmosferi?nu pri?u ?ija ?e jezovitost, posredstvom plejade do u tan?ine ocrtanih likova, nesumnjivo potpuno preuzeti ?itatelja u trenucima druženja s knjigom. Ako ne i duže.

Ako to nije Charlie, tko je onda glavni lik Duše u plamenu? To je mjesto, Pastor's Bay. Nije ucrtano ni na jednoj karti, a opet svaka država svijeta obiluje njegovim blizancima. Pastor's Bay svojim stanovnicima naizgled nudi uto?ište, nudi im mjesto u kojem ?e mo?i nastaviti, ili nanovo zapo?eti svoje narušene živote, lažno im se prikazuje kao onaj nedostaju?i komadi? slagalice njihova identiteta, onaj ?ijim ?e pravilnim postavljanjem sve brige biti izbrisane. Za ljude koji znaju odgovore na pitanja tko i što, Pastor's Bay je odgovor na pitanje gdje, svršetak potrage za mjestom u ?ijim ?e granicama razrušeni životi napokon dobiti smisao.

Osim što ne?e. Jer, kako ume?u?i elemente nadnaravnog i poigravaju?i se s ?itateljevom koncentracijom i mo?i rasu?ivanja, suptilno ukazuje autor, uto?ište se nalazi u nama samima. Nalazi se u onom najskrovitijem zakutku ljudskog tijela, onom za koji niti nismo sigurni da postoji, ali itekako osje?amo kada se taj kutak na?e ugrožen. Ne možemo li se povu?i u njega i prona?i mir, niti jedno mjesto na svijetu ne?e nas spasiti od nas samih. A kako bismo se spasili ili pak pobjegli od sebe, moramo znati od ?ega bježimo. Život, kao i identitet, razlomljen na pola dovodi osobu u stanje psihi?ke podvojenosti i ono što je društvo namijenilo kao drugu priliku za život, pretvara u brzu cestu do pakla. Onog osobnog, s kojim se takvi svaki dan bore iznutra i onog vanjskog, kakav nastane kada mnogo takvih izgubljenih pojedinaca odlu?i stvoriti društvo uto?enika.

Iako ?ete za Dušom u plamenu prvesntveno posegnuti kao za napetim i atmosferi?nim trilerom (i on vas u tome ne?e razo?arati), dobit ?ete i mnogo više. Dobit ?ete izvrsno psihološki isprofilirane likove, socijalnu dramu, prikaz jedne druge Amerike koju se ?esto odmi?e u stranu kako ne bi okaljala onu pravu, službenu sliku. Naposljetku, dobit ?ete priliku zaviriti u mnoge duše i promatrati razli?ite stupnjeve duševne rastrojenosti. Dobit ?ete priliku o svemu dobro razmisliti i zapitati se je li ta, toliko uzdizana, druga šansa, milostivi ustupak ili nova osu?uju?a presuda.

Angela says

I hate to give this only two stars, but to me, this was a worst story in the Charlie Parker series to date, and I LOVE this series to bits. Somehow, Connolly missed the mark on this one. WAAAYYY too much going on as usual, and I found myself skimming all the extra background characters, three pages describing the current

weather, or wretched state of a bad neighborhood, as opposed to gritting my teeth and getting through it as in previous novels, because at least in those novels, much of that information ended up being somewhat important to the story. This was just tiresome, unnecessary narrative, and a bit of literary showing off, to be a bit harsh. He really could have cut out half the novel and you still would have known what was going on. Finally, in the end, the person responsible for the abduction that is the focal point of the novel came so far out of left field it was like... wtf?? I'm not sure if Connolly was going for a shocker ending, or if it was a lazy gotcha! but it really, really didn't work, and made all that extraneous information that much more annoying.

Louis and Angel were completely wasted, the Fulci brothers appeared only as a silly cameo waving at the literary camera (hi mom!) and even Charlie wasn't himself at all and no defining personality to speak of in this. He could have been any generic PI guest starring in any crime novel and I found myself missing the Charlie of the earlier, and far superior novels. The writing was also strangely and uncharacteristically formal, and all the cops, FBI agents and everyone else Charlie talked to were all the same smart-asses, and it became hard to tell them apart. Very disappointing, but I did finish it in about a week, so I guess it's still readable.

I am also greatly hoping the next one will be much better, because I'm not ready to give up on these guys just yet. *crossing fingers*

Ben Jackson says

John Connolly is a man who knows how to craft a sentence. His vivid prose makes the outside world disappear within seconds of passing one's eyes over the first words, and the world passes by unnoticed and unobserved until the reading stops - either with a shudder and the terror contained within the pages, or with great reluctance as the final pages are turned and the book closed.

This may be the second-best of all of the Charlie Parker novels. The characters and the story are so vivid, and ring so true that I was absolutely convinced they were real people having real conversations. Parker is faced with protecting Randall Haight, a man who in his youth participated in the killing of a young girl but has served his time and been given a new identity by the courts - particularly difficult, given the violent death of Parker's own daughter, whose lingering essence never gives him a true respite from grief and longing.

Everywhere in the small Maine town in which this story unfolds is menace. Threats, real and imagined, living and dead, creep in from the margins, daring the reader to turn the page. The town and its isolation are oppressive, and when young Anna Kore goes missing, Haight is sure to see his life unravel if his secret past is revealed.

True to form, Connolly mixes in wit, compassion, intricate and vivid descriptions of locales (there is a scene describing a small bar which is worthy of Hitchcock in the quality of its visuals) and familiar faces. Angel and Louis play a critical role - and despite Angel's heathenish criticisms of the brilliant Arvo Part - are as welcome as old friends.

The horror unfolds menacingly throughout, and culminates in a shocking ending which will leave you looking your neighbors up and down, wondering what transpires in their secret hearts.

Brandon says

I was lamenting to a friend on Friday how annoyed I was coming into the long weekend knowing that the new John Connolly book wouldn't be out until Tuesday. It annoyed me that it was given two separate release dates, one for Australia, England and Ireland (September 1st) and another for North America (September 6th). I wanted it now! I definitely wanted to take advantage of all this free time I expected to have this weekend. So you can imagine my surprise and glee when I walked into the local bookstore on Friday night and saw it sitting on the shelf for sale.

As I've said before, Connolly's Parker was the character that sucked me into mystery/detective fiction in the first place. After I had read *Every Dead Thing* about two and a half years ago, I knew this was going to become my genre of choice. When I had read that this novel closely resembled *The Unquiet*, I was a little nervous. It was by far, the book I had been most disappointed in. I opened that review stating I was getting "burned out" on the character! If not for the books that succeeded that entry, I may not have stayed with the series.

That being said, after I put this book down this evening – I was very pleased with what I had read. No, it's not the best Parker book (that honor still belongs to *The Reapers*, in my opinion) but it was still a great entry into the series. Parker himself doesn't progress within this novel as Connolly concentrated mainly on the case and less on Charlie's personal life, which is a little refreshing. Also, Louis and Angel, while used in small doses, are pretty entertaining. While I could always use more of them, it should be about quality, not quantity as that old saying goes. Parker is still dealing with his personal demons as well as the existence of spirits that revolve around his life but it's far less central. I'm all for this but I'm thinking that perhaps Connolly is preparing something major for the next one. Here's hoping!

As much as I liked this book, I really can't give it anything above 4 stars as that would be putting it in the same league as *The Reapers* – which it most certainly is not. However, don't let that take anything away from the overall quality of this novel. I very much missed Parker and I'm happy to have had a new book to sink my teeth into. Connolly is my favorite author working today and I can't wait for the next one!

Melissa says

I don't think earlier Charlie Parker books were better because I was a less discerning reader back when I read them. I think that the newer books are just not as good. Everything about Parker's life feels so obligatory these days. There's the requisite visit from his ex-wife and daughter, never to be repeated, complete with Rachel's admonition that he spend more time with his daughter, which he never does. Angel & Louis show up; I was actually kind of hoping that they would sit this one out because I was afraid of my crushing disappointment. Although they're not as much of an afterthought as they were in *The Whisperers*, their presence still feels flat & tacked on. Louis apparently has a new beard, but he only speaks four times in the entire book, so who cares about his facial hair? Why aren't my favorite gay assassins getting the play they deserve?

Worst of all, there's just way too much going on here. This is a pretty common lament of mine these days. I can't understand why writers want to hit up so many different subjects in one novel - here we have the kidnapped girl, the guy who killed a girl when he was a kid, her ghost who's haunting him, the police chief who may or may not be a pedophile, an FBI guy, some mobster from Boston, his two henchman . . . the list

goes on. It makes me tired just to write all that. I would've been perfectly happy without the whole Mob angle, and I think with more space to expound on the killer and the kidnapped girl, the book would've been stronger as a whole. The girl's captor is a complete surprise, and I can't decide if that's a way for Connolly to make us examine our assumptions about small town denizens, or if it's just being lazy.

Pablo says

Salí un tanto decepcionado de la lectura de "El ángel oscuro" pero qué le voy a hacer: echaba de menos al detective Parker. Y esta entrega (yo las leo en desorden según caen en mis manos) me ha encantado. La escritura de Connolly me atrapa y hace unas disecciones de personajes secundarios que no se pueden aguantar; y el tono negro, muy negro...En "Cuervos" sigue presente ese punto sobrenatural de la serie que a veces me chirría (vamos, que también hay fantasmas), pero en esta ocasión no es que sobre, sino que provoca hasta escalofríos.

Ryan says

Now THIS is my type of book and after two only okay outings from Connolly this is a return to form for me.

Connolly has created a rich dark work that I love to inhabit while finding it uncomfortable to do so.

Connolly clearly knows what he's doing with the series and each book seems to build on the ones that came before it. Rather than following a single formula that soon gets old.

Angel and Louis not being major players is always upsetting, hopefully they will make larger appearances in subsequent books.

Γι?ργος Δ?μτσιος says

Στη δ?κατη περιπ?τει? του, ο Τσ?ρλι Π?ρκερ θα χρειαστε? να ταξιδ?ψει στο Π?στορ'ς Μπει, μια μικρ? π?λη του Μ?ιν. Αυτ? τη φορ? θα χρειαστε? να λειτουργ?σει ξεκ?θαρα ως ιδιωτικ?ς ντεντ?κτιβ –και το υπογραμμ?ζω αυτ? μιας και στο παρελθ?ν οι περισσ?τερες απ? τις περιπ?τει?ς του μπορε? να απαιτο?σαν και π?λι κ?ποια ?ρευνα, αλλ? συν?θως τα πρ?γματα ?ταν κ?πως πιο περ?πλοκα και πολυσ?νθετα. Εδ?, αντιθ?τως, η δικηγ?ρος με την οπο?α ?χει συνεργαστε? στο παρελθ?ν (και που πλ?ον βλ?πουμε ?τι ε?ναι και κ?πως τσιμπημ?νη μαζ? του) θα του ζητ?σει να αναλ?βει τη διεξαγωγ? μιας ?ρευνας, με σκοπ? να προστατ?ψει ?ναν πελ?τη της. Υπ?ρχει μεγ?λος κ?νδυνος να αποκαλυφθo?ν παλι? του μυστικ? τα οπο?α μπορο?ν να τον καταστρ?ψουν ολοσχερ?ς. Ο Π?ρκερ πρ?πει να το αποτρ?ψει.

Εστ?ασα αρκετ? στην κεντρικ? δομ? της πλοκ?ς, κυρ?ως για να δε?ξω ?τι ο Κ?νολι σε αυτ? το σημει?ο της πορε?ας του Τσ?ρλι Π?ρκερ ?χει γε?ρει αρκετ? προς το αστυνομικ? μυθιστ?ρημα. Ναι, υπ?ρχει και π?λι «κ?τι» που ξεκ?θαρα δεν θα το δε?τε σε καθαρ?αιμα αστυνομικ?, αλλ? θεωρ? ?τι δεν πα?ζει ?μεσο ρ?λο στην εξ?λιξη της ιστορ?ας, παρ? μ?νο κρατ?ει ζωνταν? και το ?λλο κομμ?τι των βιβλ?ων του Π?ρκερ, το μεταφυσικ?.

Σε αυτό το σημείο θεωρώ ότι είναι ιδανική στιγμή για μια προσωπική παραδοχή: Δηλώνω λοιπόν ότι ο Κόνολι είναι ο συγγραφέας που με έχει κάνει να αναρωτώμαι τα λεγόμενα μου περισσότερες φορές από τον καθένα! Ήχοι διόφορα τ'τοια, πώς ας πούμε το π'σο επιθυμούσα να συμμετέχουν στα βιβλία του ο Λοις και ο Ίντζελ, αναγκάζοντας να ανακαλώσω μ'λιν να βιβλίο μετ'!

Τσι λοιπόν, να κ'νω κι εδ' δ'ο ομολογώ: Κατ' έναν μυστήριο τρόπο, μου λέπει η προσωπική, οικογενειακή ιστορία του Π'ρκερ, ήταν παλιότερα έχω δηλώσει ότι «επιτ'λους τους φησε παραπ'σω και προχωρ'». Β'βαια, σημαντικό? ρ'λο πα'ζει σε αυτό κ'τι που κ'νει η κορο'λα του στην απαρχ' αυτό? του βιβλίου, σε εκείνη τη μικρή αλλά? κ'ρως ενδιαφ'ρουσα εμφ'νισ' της.

Στη δεύτερη παραδοχή μου, που είναι και πολύ σημαντικότερη, έχω πει ότι προτιμούσα στο σ'νολο της σειράς ο ζυγός να γ'ρνει αρκετ' υπ'ρ της αστυνομικής πλοκής σε σχέση με εκείνη του μεταφυσικού. Να μ'ως που εν' εδ' ο Π'ρκερ αρχ'ζει και σκαλ'ζει μια πολύ? μορφή αστυνομική ιστορία, με ωράα και συστηματική? ρευνα, νι'θω ότι κ'τι μου λέπει ελαφ'ς, και αυτό είναι το μεταφυσικό. Και καλ' είναι εδ' να υπογραμμ'σω ότι 'λο αυτό, με τα «λ'ω και ξελ'ω» δεν το αναφ'ρω σαν αρνητικό, αλλά? με πολύ? μεγάλο θαυμασμό? για τον συγγραφέα, αφο' είναι τ'τοια η μαεστρία του που με? τι καταπι'νεται, μας κ'νει να μας λέπει το 'λλο!

Τσι λοιπόν, σε αυτό το βιβλίο, νιώσω ότι ε'μαστε μισ' κλικ χαμηλότερα από τον μ'σο 'ρο –μιλ'ντας π'ντα για Κόνολι. Ωστ'σο, ήταν το συγκρ'νω ανεξ'ρητα δεν μπορ' παρ' να παραδεχτ' ότι είναι να πολύ? ωράο βιβλίο. Ήχει που το δι'βασα κοντ' δ'ο χρ'νια (ασχ'τως που αυτός ο σχολιασμός δημοσιεύεται τ'ρα), αλλά? εξακολουθ' και θυμ'μαι πολλές λεπτομ'ρεις του σαν να το τέλε'ωσα χθες. Αυτό? νομ'ζω ότι τα λ'ει 'λα. Και δεν χρει'ζεται καν να πω ότι συν'χισα τη σειρά? και παρακ'τω χωρ'ς τον πραγματικό? δισταγμ'!

Lou says

It has been a long time since I have read a book from the Charlie Parker PI series. I used to really love Connolly's books with Parker as the main protagonist I have read the first four on successive release dates then i drifted away while waiting the next title to be released. Over time like, many books that are part of a series by authors, that dark excellence lost it's edge a bit. In this novel you have Charlie revisiting the memories of his Child's death and all that comes with those feelings, another murder has re-earthed as a 14 year old girl goes missing. Writing about missing children is a ground covered well in the past and written about so frequently I feel it's a hard story to write about, you need to really work hard at making it an immersing story that grips the reader. This story had elements in it that wanted you to keep turning but as time progressed it missed that something that I could say really confidently that i definitely liked it which gets four stars. If it wasn't for Connolly nice words he put together in parts of this story I would have struggled to give it four. It is a cerebral story, that is not the best of Charlie Parker's cases I loved so much his first few books Every Dead Thing, Dark Hollow and The Killing Kind. When you read the excerpts you can see how well he can write.

<http://more2read.com/?review=the-burning-soul-charlie-parker-10-by-john-connolly>

"Every fall brought the same realization: this was the best of it until March, perhaps even April. As bad as this was, with sodden leaves, and cold drizzle, and darkness in the mornings and darkness in the evenings, the winter would be so much worse. Oh, there would be moments of beauty, as when the sunlight scattered the first snows with gems, and the world in those early daylight hours would seem cleansed of it's ugliness, purged of it's sins, but then the filth would accrue, and the snow would blacken, and there would be grit in

the soles of her shoes, and on the floor of her car, and traipsed through her house, and she would wish herself to be one of those huddled sleeping creatures that find a warm, dark cave or the hollow of a tree trunk, there to wait out the winter months."

"I had witnessed the blurring of worlds, watching as elements of what once was, and what was to come, seeped into this life like dark ink through water. I knew of the existence of a form of evil that was beyond human capacities, the wellspring from which all other evil sipped. And I knew that I was marked, although to what end I did not yet understand. So I had kept my distance from my child, for fear of what I might draw upon her."

"I might have begun by arguing that when one encounters enough strangeness, what is strange ultimately becomes familiar. The mind can accommodate itself to almost anything, given time: pain, grief, loss, even the possibility that the dead talk to the living. And I understood, too, that this was all part of a larger pattern, a signpost on a journey whose ultimate destination I could not know. I had resigned myself to what was to come, whatever it might be, and that resignation brought with it a kind of peace. So I slept, and I was grateful for sleep. When I could no longer sleep, then I would know that I was going mad."

Μαρ?α Γεωργοπο?λου says

Εξαιρετικ?!! Δεν περ?μενα κ?τι λιγ?τερο απ? τον John Connolly! ?κρως εθιστικ? σειρ?!!!

Paul Nelson says

The Burning Soul is the tenth in the Charlie Parker series that just continues on in leaps and bounds, converging plot lines maintain the tension and in no way does this series appear tired as some that broach double figures often do.

Parker takes on a new case, Randall Haight is a man with disturbing secrets, secrets that he would prefer remain that way as he lives under a new identity, unfortunately someone knows and his existence is being threatened. Parker has to look deeply at his morality, broaching his own blurred lines of right and wrong as a young girl goes missing and his client could be the suspect the Police are after.

In the second plotline we travel to Boston and the mob, Tommy Morris senses his time is nearly up, reduced to just two loyal enforcers, he runs to stay alive but he's being tracked by the mob, the FBI and all he wants to do is help his estranged sister.

John Connolly certainly writes with compelling prose that switches comfortably between first and third person narratives, fully demanding your complete attention. The supernatural element is low key, the afterlife is touched on as the ghosts of the past resurface to warn of danger or plague the guilty. The usual humor is there extenuated by the appearance of two man mountain body guards and the appearance of the two angels that watch Charlie Parker's back.

All in all another superb addition to the series that while missing the darkness and encompassing evil that usually surrounds Charlie Parker, more than holds its own with a tension fueled and gripping plot.

A 4.5 Rating.

Kristin (MyBookishWays Reviews) says

You may also read my review here: <http://www.mybookishways.com/2011/09/...>

Winter is coming, and a 14 year old girl is missing in the small town of Pastor's Bay. Problem is, this is no ordinary missing child case. Randall Haight has retreated to tiny Pastor's Bay after serving 18 years in prison for the killing of a 14 year old girl when he himself was only a child. He's now an accountant and is trying to create a quiet and private life for himself, or so it seems. When he begins receiving possible blackmail material, he turns to his lawyer for help, who, in turn, calls on Charlie Parker. Charlie, spurred on by his own dark past and also his young daughter's ominous warning, is intrigued and agrees to do what he can. Usually that includes things that may be a little left of the law, but that's part of why I love Charlie Parker.

I adore this series, and will usually drop what I'm reading as soon as I get anything by John Connolly in my hands. Way back when I picked up *Every Dead Thing*, the first book in the Charlie Parker series, I started a love affair with this series, and with a character that seems as real as a fictional character can. Charlie is a deeply wounded man, and constantly carries with him the memory of his first wife and daughter's murders. He carries the blame of that terrible day, even though the evil that took his family was beyond anything he could have imagined. That day drives him in nearly everything he does. Charlie is a white knight with grey methods, and he's managed to earn a reputation as a man who gets things done. His relationship with law enforcement is tenuous at best, and he'll run into more than one problem with them in *The Burning Soul*. The narrative goes from first person (Charlie) to third person, usually two Boston thugs who are somehow linked to the case. Connolly's rendering of small town life is fascinating, and Pastor's Bay is seething with long buried, and sometimes dangerous secrets. You may find yourself wondering what organized crime has to do with the girl's disappearance, but it does, and probably not in any way you can guess. Connolly's writing is never simple and his stories are always complex. However, you'll never find yourself lost or confused, and everything will tie together in time, I promise, and it's always a delight when all the elements of these books come together. The author's prose is as beautiful as always, and creates a sense of melancholy that hangs over the events, punctuated by the ravens that always seem to be watching over the town. The Charlie Parker series has a touch of the supernatural to it, and its seamless integration with noir and mystery makes this one of the most superb series out there today. One of my favorite duos, Louis and Angel, make an appearance in *The Burning Soul* as do the Fulci brothers (albeit very briefly), which is always a joy. I consider myself a fairly jaded mystery/thriller reader, but *The Burning Soul* had some twists that I didn't see coming, and kept me up very, very late finishing the book. *The Burning Soul* is not as "heavy" as previous novels where Charlie is concerned (don't get me wrong, there's still "heavy" here), focusing a little more on the procedural aspect of the case, but that's ok, since it was no less fascinating than the others, and there are some truly haunting and shocking moments. If you haven't discovered this wonderful series, then you're in for a treat! Start with *Every Dead Thing*, and prepare to be hooked.

Víctor Antón says

Me declaro seguidor incondicional de esta saga por sus personajes. Cualquier serie de libros de "género" corre siempre el peligro de caer en la repetición, que no es el caso, o de lindar historias ya vistas en otros

territorios. Aún así los libros de Connolly ofrecen algo más que una novela negra al uso. Su estilo cuidado, sus personajes bien dibujados a los que uno se queda enganchado y su habilidad para describir paisajes, lugares y espacios; hacen que estas novelas adictivas dejen algo más de poso que otras que comparten género con ellas.

Además está el plus de lo sobrenatural inserto en la trama. Para el que guste de esta ambientación, de personajes atormentados que son visitados por seres no muy corpóreos y con intenciones siempre turbias, este punto extra sumará mucho a la posible adicción a desarrollar cuando caiga en sus manos el primer libro de esta saga.

Algo muy personal me ha molestado: cómo se trata a dos de los personajes: Angel y Louis, como accesorios necesarios para la trama pero sin nada más que aportar más que un par de pasajes con sus característicos diálogos. Es cierto que su personalidad y motivaciones se desarrollan en libros anteriores, pero se les echa de menos en esta trama, que participen como personas y no como herramientas o como gancho del escritor para los seguidores.

Por lo demás una lectura entretenida, bien ambientada y que se lee en un suspiro.

Oscar says

'**Cuervos**' (The Burning Soul), es el undécimo título de la serie del detective Charlie 'Bird' Parker, del escritor irlandés John Connolly. Esta serie es una de las mejores del género negro que se escriben actualmente, tanto por su calidad literaria como por sus argumentos y protagonistas. Connolly rompe las reglas del género negro clásico, introduciendo en sus novelas lo sobrenatural, la presencia del mal. Al detective Charlie Parker le rondan los muertos en su afán de venganza; un atormentado Parker que ha convivir con las terribles muertes de su mujer y su hija.

En cuanto a '**Cuervos**', Connolly comienza directamente describiéndonos la localidad de Pastor's Bay (decir aquí a quien no conozca la serie, que está ambientada en Estado Unidos, aunque Connolly sea irlandés), donde transcurrirá casi toda la novela, con la inquietante imagen de unos cuervos posados en un viejo roble, y transmitiéndonos así, desde el principio, ese ambiente de desolación. En Pastor's Bay, una niña de 14 años ha desaparecido, disparándose todas las alarmas. Al mismo tiempo, uno de los vecinos de esta comarca está recibiendo unas fotografías acusatorias, que le obligarán a desvelar un oscuro secreto de su pasado, antes de verse relacionado con el secuestro. Es aquí donde entra en juego Charlie Parker, que deberá averiguar quién es el acosador. Pero el argumento es más complejo y las tramas se irán cruzando, por lo que Parker requerirá de la ayuda de sus amigos Louis y Angel.

Las novelas de Connolly son estupendas, nunca me defraudan y siempre encuentro satisfacción con su lectura. Tal vez sean novelas que ya no sorprendan, porque ya llevamos once títulos (y una *nouvellette*), pero lo que se ha perdido en sorpresas, se ha ganado en calidad. '**Cuervos**' mantiene la esencia del resto de la serie, y en ella Connolly continúa su particular lucha del bien contra el mal. Sin duda, el detective Charlie Parker se está convirtiendo en todo un clásico del género.
