



# A Crime in the Neighborhood: A Novel

*By Suzanne Berne*

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A New York Times Notable Book. Set in the Washington, D.C., suburbs during the summer of the Watergate break-ins, Berne's assured, skillful first novel is about what can happen when a child's accusation is the only lead in a case of sexual assault and murder. A BOOK -OF-THE-MONTH CLUB and QUALITY PAPERBACK BOOK CLUB selection.

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## A Crime in the Neighborhood: A Novel By Suzanne Berne Bibliography

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## Editorial Review

### Amazon.com Review

A murdered boy, a runaway husband, a family spinning out of control--Suzanne Berne's *A Crime in the Neighborhood* is no ordinary coming-of-age novel. The narrator of this dark tale of 1970s suburbia is 10-year-old Marsha, who lives with her mother and older twin siblings in a suburb of Washington, D.C. In the spring of 1972, a young boy is molested, murdered, and then dumped behind a shopping mall. That the child was not particularly likeable is just one of Berne's deviations from the expected, as clear-eyed Marsha recalls the boy's many character flaws, even as she relates the details of an undeniably horrifying crime. Though murder is the most visible crime in Marsha's neighborhood, it is by no means the only one; when Marsha's father and aunt run off together, their enormous betrayal sends Marsha's mother into a tailspin and Marsha into a strange dalliance with Mr. Green, the neighbor next door.

*A Crime in the Neighborhood* is a deft and provocative first novel that turns many of the coming-of-age conventions on their heads. There is nothing sepia-tinted about Marsha's recollections of her childhood--the lives of 10-year-olds are mired in the mistakes of adults and the cruelties of other children. The pitiless eye Marsha brings to bear on the friends, family, and acquaintances of her youth makes *A Crime in the Neighborhood* an unusual and worthwhile read.

### From School Library Journal

YA. In the summer of 1972, a suburban neighborhood of Washington, DC, is rocked by the molestation and murder of a 12-year-old boy. Marsha Eberhardt, then 10, begins to gather clues and information. Told by the adult Marsha, the story uncannily depicts the reasoning and thought processes of a vulnerable and confused girl. As the nation sifts through the Watergate disillusionment and Spring Hill tries to deal with the gruesome murder, Marsha is trying to accept the fact that her father has deserted the family for her mother's youngest sister. Struck by the observational powers of Sherlock Holmes, Marsha decides she will begin recording facts, observations, and clues about her family and neighborhood. When a new neighbor moves in, Marsha begins to record his every movement in her "Evidence" notebook. Anyone who has suffered through a family breakup, or knows someone who has, will relate to the youngster's thoughts and decisions. Dealing with an anger she cannot articulate, the girl becomes caught in a lie she cannot stop herself from telling. The adult Marsha considers the "what if" possibilities that may have prevented an incident that haunts her life, but the child was inexorably caught in the lies that took on a life of their own. A compelling book that will easily capture the imagination of YAs. ?Carol DeAngelo, formerly at Fairfax County Public Library, VA  
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### From Library Journal

During the summer of 1973, as the Watergate story breaks, headlines are made in a D.C. suburb when a 12-year-old boy is molested and murdered behind an area strip mall. Not as widely reported is the divorce of ten-year-old Marsha's parents. Narrated by Marsha, this first novel maintains a nicely edgy quality as the family breaks up: Marsha's father moves out, her teenage siblings dabble in smoking and shoplifting, and her mother deals with the stresses of single parenthood in the relatively unliberated Seventies. When the boy's murder remains unsolved, and the neighborhood loses its sense of security and innocence, Marsha copes by keeping a minutely detailed journal whose obsessive details threaten to mire the story. But Berne pulls through, managing to hold the reader's interest to the end of this thoughtful first work. Recommended for public libraries. ?Reba Leiding, Rensselaer Polytechnic Inst. Lib., Troy, N.Y.  
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## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **William Grimm:**

The reserve untitled A Crime in the Neighborhood: A Novel is the book that recommended to you to learn. You can see the quality of the book content that will be shown to anyone. The language that creator use to explained their ideas are easily to understand. The article writer was did a lot of analysis when write the book, so the information that they share to you personally is absolutely accurate. You also might get the e-book of A Crime in the Neighborhood: A Novel from the publisher to make you far more enjoy free time.

#### **Jack Godina:**

Would you one of the book lovers? If so, do you ever feeling doubt if you are in the book store? Make an effort to pick one book that you find out the inside because don't evaluate book by its protect may doesn't work here is difficult job because you are frightened that the inside maybe not while fantastic as in the outside seem likes. Maybe you answer may be A Crime in the Neighborhood: A Novel why because the great cover that make you consider concerning the content will not disappoint you actually. The inside or content will be fantastic as the outside or even cover. Your reading sixth sense will directly direct you to pick up this book.

#### **Jennifer Day:**

Is it a person who having spare time and then spend it whole day by watching television programs or just laying on the bed? Do you need something totally new? This A Crime in the Neighborhood: A Novel can be the answer, oh how comes? It's a book you know. You are and so out of date, spending your spare time by reading in this fresh era is common not a nerd activity. So what these publications have than the others?

#### **David Reed:**

A lot of people said that they feel bored when they reading a publication. They are directly felt it when they get a half regions of the book. You can choose the actual book A Crime in the Neighborhood: A Novel to make your current reading is interesting. Your own personal skill of reading proficiency is developing when you such as reading. Try to choose easy book to make you enjoy to read it and mingle the sensation about book and looking at especially. It is to be initial opinion for you to like to open a book and learn it. Beside that the book A Crime in the Neighborhood: A Novel can to be your brand new friend when you're experience alone and confuse with the information must you're doing of the time.

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