



From Netgalley and Goodreads: Advance Reader Reviews for *Reef Road*

“Deborah Goodrich Royce’s *Reef Road*, which reads a bit like a cross between Truman Capote and Joan Didion, concerns a young girl’s unsolved stabbing death and its connection to the narrator/writer, whose mother was a close friend of the victim. Intersecting with that story line is an account of another young mother’s bizarre story of how her husband and two young children have gone missing, and the puzzle for the reader for roughly half the novel is to try to figure out how the two narrative lines are connected. Eventually the link is spelled out, though, as the novel starts taking on the aspects of an increasingly over-the-top thriller. Distinguishing Royce’s novel, though, is an arresting narrative voice with occasional asides to the reader – think John Fowles’ *The French Lieutenant’s Woman*, which is in fact cited – as well as a compelling look at Argentina’s “Dirty War.” There are also some nicely turned sentences along the way, for instance when a character notices another character’s head snapping to the left, ‘looking for her car or her bicycle or her fucking broomstick, whatever the hell mode of transportation she’d used to get here tonight.’” — **Paul W, Reviewer**

“An enthusiastic 5-stars and all thumbs up for *Reef Road*, my pick for best book of 2022. Fans of mystery and true crime will devour this brilliantly compelling page-turner that braids two competing narratives and resolves in a masterfully unpredictable, culturally relevant denouement. It explores the generational ramifications of a real-life 1948 child murder from the perspective of a writer who grew up in its wake and touches on everything from life pre-and post COVID-19, Argentinian history, sex, infidelity, secrecy, motherhood, domestic abuse, and bulimia. Each sentence is deliciously precise, drawing in the reader with a combination of journalistic finesse and skillful narrative. Pre-order this book and prepare to love it and recommend it to all the literary enthusiasts in your life! Goodrich Royce has had two previous hits with *Finding Mrs. Ford* and *Ruby Falls*, but *Reef Road* is her masterpiece. NOT to be missed!” — **Melissa S, Reviewer**

“Deborah Goodrich Royce has done a brilliant job of bringing to life a past true crime with this exceptional novel. An elderly writer is coming to terms with and seeking atonement for the murder of young girl who was a girlfriend of her mother’s. Her mother’s life was forever changed which in turn changed the raising of her own child. There are many twists and turns in the story that involve the daughter of the man responsible for the murder some seventy years ago. The story is divided by the lives of The Writer and The Wife and capture moments of grief, obsession, intimacy, truth, lies and trauma. A five (5) star read.” — **Ron B, Reviewer**

“Palm Beach, Florida is a place in the sun for the uber wealthy, but it harbors a dark side. When a severed hand washes up in the beach, two women, one obsessed with finding out who killed her mother’s best friend, the other, frantic with worry after her husband absconds with their children, are forced together by the first Covid shutdown. Determined to uncover their truths, they both risk everything for the answers. Royce captures all the heat, humidity, natural beauty and relentless violence that make up South Florida.” — **Rosemary S, Librarian**