Ian Bone,

THE SONG
OF AN INNOCENT
Bystander
INTRODUCTION

• Title: The song of an innocent bystander
• Author: Ian Bone
• Genre: crime and thriller, contemporary fiction, psychological fiction
• Why I chose the novel: I found it intriguing for reading for its type of writing and the short summary of the contents
Structure

- Basic facts
- Information of the author
- Character analysis
- The contents – brief summary of the story
- My evaluation
- Recommendations for audience
Publication: New York, 2003

• Criminal story including some typical contemporary social ideas (corruption) and psychological elements

• Interesting for its structure - type of writing – at some parts in 1. person, in others in 3.

• Mode of telling isn't straightforward and linear; events described in present with flashbacks
• Written as a reminiscent of Robert Cormier's provocative probing of corruption
• Rewarded with good responses, received great critics
• Shortlisted for the South Australian Festival Awards for Literature and the Council Book of the Year Awards
• Nominated for inclusion on the American Library Association's Best Books for Young Adults list
• Adapted by a major Australian film director into a feature film
Ian Bone

- Australian writer, author and novelist
- Born in 1956 in Geelong, Victoria
- Authored over 25 books
- Numerous awards
- Works on children's TV programs
- Creates online
- Educational programs
CHARACTER ANALYSIS

- Freda Opperman – the victim
- Wiliam – the journalist
- John Wayne O'Grady – the perpetrator
Freda Opperman

- 19-year old girl, presented as a 9, 13, 14, 16, and 19-year old girl
- Kept in the siege at the age of 9
- Events from past have significant effect on her
- Confuse adult, struggling to make sense of herself, people around and the past
- Sensitive
• Gets messed with the criminal – the perpetrator
• Hides a secret
• Fighting to find her place in the world
• Split between the person she wants to be / everyone else wants her to be / the person the gunman taught her to be
William

- Young journalist, working for students newspaper
- Gets information about the truth of happening in that siege 10 years ago
- Fighting against his own demons and trying to get a sense of Freda’s demons in hopes of curing his own issues
- Determined to reveal the truth
John Wayne O'Grady

- Angry, desperate, tends to revenge to the burger restaurant's manager
- Has some grudges against world
- Wants to be heard
- Weak, with ideas of being something more
- Feels strong in relationship with Freda (she respects him, he's an important individual to her)
Freda Opperman is 9 when she and her family go to eat out in a burger restaurant.

Walks back into the store to get a sticker.

Unaware of a man standing on the top of tables holding a gun.

Being trapped as a hostage for 36 hours with 13 people, 2 of them are murdered then.

Comes out as a brave survivor.
• She is considered innocent, but in reality she knows she's hiding something
• A secret is written on a napkin by the restaurant's manager Theo Constantine (died), which she hides
• For 10 years tries to live with it and suppress the horror of events
• At the age of 19 she's forced to confront the traumatic events as she begins to receive strange phonecalls referred to it
• William somehow knows of her unspoken secrets
EVALUATION

• The book is not light and easy to understand
• It uncovers gradually; you're given the basic facts at the start, but the interpretation of them keeps shifting till pieces of the past are revealed
• Effective type of narrative – more intimacy
• Ability to compare the situation with current terroristic events
RECOMMENDATION

• To people intrigued by its psychological aspect (good insight into character's behavior, personalities)

• People preferring realistic stories better than trivial contents

• People liking mysterious stories with gradually revelation

Sources:


http://en.pons.eu/, 27.5.2013