

Winged Creatures: A Novel

By Roy Freirich

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Shots ring out in a local fast food restaurant. Teenager Anne Hagen and her best friend Jimmy hide under a table, watching a suicidal gunman randomly murder her father and others. *Winged Creatures* tells the stories of the survivors. . .

Struggling to understand her father's death, Anne develops a religious hysteria. Jimmy becomes mute, protecting a secret that he and Anne share until it nearly destroys him and his already fractured family. Grazed by a bullet, driving instructor Charlie becomes obsessed with pressing his luck at a casino. By dangerous degrees, restaurant cashier Carla loses her ability to care for herself and her infant son. Dr. Laraby, an ER physician who failed to revive the shooting victims, turns to his wife as someone to "save," while psychologist Ron Abler tries to counsel the witnesses, but meets suspicion and resistance.

Winged Creatures intimately depicts the inner lives of five people driven by secret torments and dangerous compulsions, in flight from their own memories and dreams, as they struggle to regain their trust in the ordinary world.
ROY FREIRICH is a screenwriter and songwriter living in Malibu, California. *Winged Creatures* is his first novel.

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Winged Creatures: A Novel By Roy Freirich Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly
Freirich's novel offers a sprawling cast of characters, each giving their own personal accounts after going through a life-altering event. However, Dion Graham fails to make good use of the palette here, whispering and mumbling his way through the entire story. Graham's characters are unbelievable and forced, sounding unrealistic and unfamiliar. His reading becomes farcical and fake as his theatrical vocal antics lose the seriousness of Freirich's story. Instead of a narrator, Graham sounds like an actor trying too hard in an early audition, emphasizing every word in an attempt to create a mysterious and captivating atmosphere. Sadly, the story itself is wonderful, but Graham is mismatched. Simultaneous release with the St. Martin's Griffin paperback (Reviews, Nov. 12).
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Review

“This well-crafted debut packs a wallop.”--*Booklist*

“The survivors of a gun massacre struggle with the aftermath in Freirich's stark, impressive debut. While emotionally charged, the narrative isn't weighed down with sentiment as the characters search for, but don't necessarily find, closure.”--*Publisher’s Weekly*

“A riveting debut novel about the aftermath of a mass shooting in a fast food restaurant. The author achieves the amazing feat of following an utterly disparate cast of dramatis personae through the vicissitudes of their lives as they are irrevocably scarred and changed forever. A sure-fire page-turner and, without question, has great movie written all over it, vividly reminiscent of Atom Egoyan's great *The Sweet Hereafter*." --Rex Pickett, author of *Sideways*

“When a life is shattered, what is left is to hold onto? Roy Freirich’s group portrait of the aftermath of a random shooting delves into areas of the psyche rarely explored with such precision and delicacy. A relentlessly suspenseful and mesmerizing novel from a brilliantly original writer. *Winged Creatures* is an astounding debut.”--David Angsten, author of *Dark Gold*

“A searing emotional drama of an American random shooting and the profoundly moving struggles of the survivors to regain their wholeness.”
--R.H. Weber, author of *Homeland*

“Songwriter and screenwriter Freirich’s debut novel offers an intriguing look at unique yet interrelated patterns of trauma and recovery.” --*Kirkus*

From the Back Cover

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

William Jewell:

Nowadays reading books become more and more than want or need but also turn into a life style. This reading behavior give you lot of advantages. Advantages you got of course the knowledge the actual information inside the book this improve your knowledge and information. The knowledge you get based on what kind of guide you read, if you want have more knowledge just go with knowledge books but if you want truly feel happy read one along with theme for entertaining like comic or novel. Often the Winged Creatures: A Novel is kind of guide which is giving the reader unstable experience.

Michael Watkins:

Reading a book to get new life style in this yr; every people loves to read a book. When you go through a book you can get a lots of benefit. When you read publications, you can improve your knowledge, simply because book has a lot of information in it. The information that you will get depend on what forms of book that you have read. If you need to get information about your review, you can read education books, but if you act like you want to entertain yourself read a fiction books, these kinds of us novel, comics, and also soon. The Winged Creatures: A Novel will give you a new experience in reading a book.

Lynn Gallagher:

Many people spending their moment by playing outside using friends, fun activity with family or just watching TV all day long. You can have new activity to enjoy your whole day by looking at a book. Ugh, ya think reading a book can really hard because you have to use the book everywhere? It alright you can have the e-book, delivering everywhere you want in your Touch screen phone. Like Winged Creatures: A Novel which is keeping the e-book version. So , try out this book? Let's see.

Ryan Walker:

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