The Red Dragon by Thomas Harris
Reviewed by Devnita

★ ★ ★ ★

Book 1 in the Hannibal Lecter Series

Give a summary without spoilers!
We watch the events unfold from the perspective of a retired FBI criminal profiler, Will Graham. He comes out of retirement to catch a particularly gruesome killer nickname "The Tooth Fairy." Graham must delve deep into the mind of the killer to understand his motives and patterns. As Graham dives deeper into the case, he forms an uneasy alliance with the infamous Dr. Hannibal Lecter, a brilliant psychiatrist and incarcerated cannibalistic serial killer. The lever of forensic detail was very surprising to me.

What drew you to this book?
I love mystery and I love dramatic irony(I was a big fan of Iago from Othello). I like when characters frustrate me because they're obviously making mistakes and I love reading about those consequences. I watched the show before reading the book and each decision the FBI people make just pushes them further into trouble. The book is even worse in some cases, it's like a train wreck you can't look away from.

Did it remind you of something that you've previously read?
I already talked about me watching the show but Hannibal did have me hooked immediately. I say it reminded me a bit of other psychological thrillers I've watched, like "Silence of the Lambs" or "Gone Girl." There's just something about delving into the minds of complex characters and unraveling twisted plots that I always love.

To whom would you recommend this book?
People who like mystery and can handle heavy topics. It's a great psychological thriller that keeps you guessing till the very end. The way Harris weaves in psychological elements with a realistic FBI setting adds a whole new layer of intrigue that kept me turning pages late into the night. Plus, if you're into crime-solving and trying to piece together clues alongside the characters, you'd definitely like this book.

Overall, did you like it and would you recommend it to others?
I'd say give it a shot if you're into criminal mysteries. While I did enjoy parts of it, I have to admit, there were moments where it felt like it was dragging a bit. So, I'd suggest potential readers to be sure they're really into the plot before diving in. But hey, if you're up for a slow burn that has some good twists, then give the book a try.