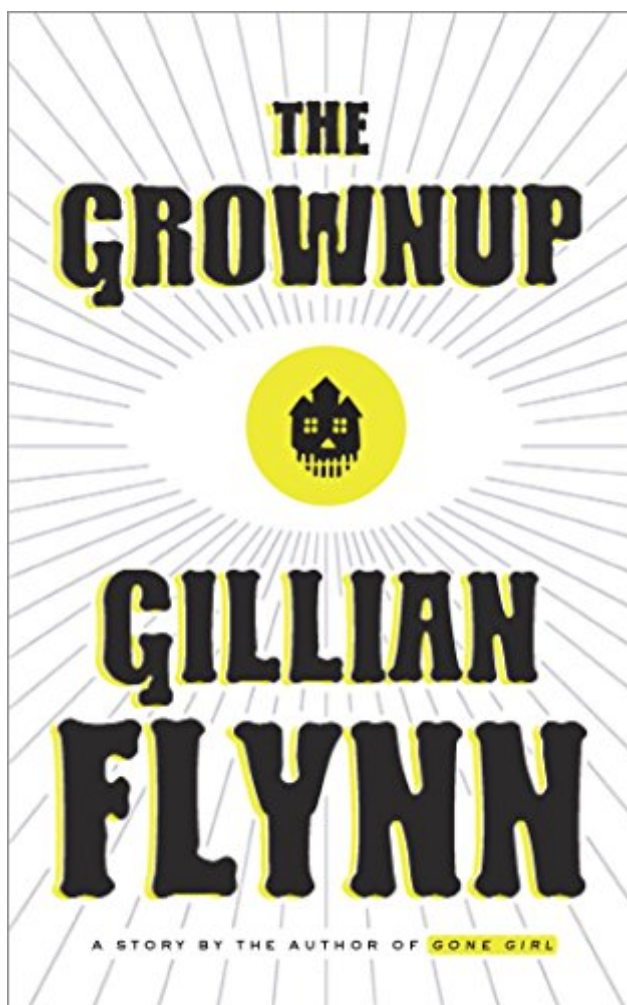


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The Grownup: A Story By The Author Of Gone Girl (Kindle Single)



Synopsis

Gillian Flynn's Edgar Award-winning homage to the classic ghost story, published for the first time as a standalone. A canny young woman is struggling to survive by perpetrating various levels of mostly harmless fraud. On a rainy April morning, she is reading auras at Spiritual Palms when Susan Burke walks in. A keen observer of human behavior, our unnamed narrator immediately diagnoses beautiful, rich Susan as an unhappy woman eager to give her lovely life a drama injection. However, when the "psychic" visits the eerie Victorian home that has been the source of Susan's terror and grief, she realizes she may not have to pretend to believe in ghosts anymore. Miles, Susan's teenage stepson, doesn't help matters with his disturbing manner and grisly imagination. The three are soon locked in a chilling battle to discover where the evil truly lurks and what, if anything, can be done to escape it. "The Grownup," which originally appeared as "What Do You Do?" in George R. R. Martin's Rogues anthology, proves once again that Gillian Flynn is one of the world's most original and skilled voices in fiction.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This short story is OK and reveals the great and varied artistry of Flynn's writing. It is incomplete in that there are a lot of suggestions for the way things could have gone. There are many parts that could have been developed into longer segments which would morph into a better ending. However, at the end she has sort of a dedication saying "for.... who asked me to write a story." So, OK, she was having fun. I am sure it took her longer to write the piece than it took for me to read it; I appreciate the effort. Magicians do not reveal the details behind their secrets. Flynn revealed things about the methods of a fortuneteller/psychic/card reader. Might there be a complaint from the association of con(people) [politically correct] in the offing?

The author gets you pumped up only to let you down and leave you hanging. It's like she quit writing after the first chapter.

I sadly have to admit I was disappointed with this story. And buyer beware: it IS indeed a story. I read the whole thing in about 1/2 hour. The beginning was great; I was invested in the main character, liked where the story was going, really curious about what would happen next, and then I looked down at my Kindle and it said my reading was 64% completed! There wasn't a major climax to the story... the ending felt extremely rushed and I was left shaking my head in dissatisfaction. Gillian Flynn is such an amazing writer and I was bummed to see such a strong opening turn into a hurried ending without any middle plot. Hope to see a full novel in her future!

I'm not a big fan of short stories, never have been. So, if you're thinking I'll be taking this guy's views here with a grain of salt, check out the overall ratings of this book-lette. 3.6! And there is probably a halo effect bumping that score up a bit, i.e., "Gone Girl" fans might tend to look upon anything from her a tad less critically than if a different author's name had been appended and consequently inflate ratings somewhat. I don't think "The Grown-up" is bad, I just think there was nothing at all interesting about it. So here we are, three years after *The Book* (bow your heads) and we get this 64 page un-horror story. A young woman with a checkered past and rather questionable credentials is hired to "clean" a home pervaded by Evil Spirits, personified by the suspicious behavior of the 15 year old stepson. There are hints of blood, murder, murder-to-come, and there are even some paragraphs here and there that reminded me of things in *The Book* - but I expected a lot better. If I am still here when the the next full length novel from GF comes out, I will check it out a great deal more than I had originally anticipated because as my dear old pappy used to say, "Fool me once....."

I found this enjoyable to read and finished it in one sitting, but as other reviewers have noted, it sets things up and leaves you hanging at the end. It reads more like a chapter from a book than a short story. If this is the case, Flynn's publishers have hit on a great money making gimmick- sell the first chapter as a short story, then sell the completed novel again to everyone who read it. Disappointing.

I feel cheated with only 60 pages in the book. Not worth the money especially since I also purchased the audio. I didn't even have an ending- very disappointed. I love Gilliam Flynn and read most of her other books but this just put a bad taste in my mouth so I probably won't spend my money on any future books.

A nasty, boring, terrible book... Yuk.

I was Gillian Flynn's biggest fan, prior to this book. Had devoured everything she had written. Then... this book. It reads like a high schooler's short story. The writing is blah, too detailed and developed in the front of the book, too rushed and all over the place in the back of the book. As an anthology piece, it would have been fine. But republishing it as a stand alone book... It should have been rewritten and fleshed out a little. It wouldn't have needed much. Five or ten thousand words could have transformed this book. As it was, it was a lazy piece that should never have followed up her impressive body of work. This is a post-on-your-website-for-free type of work, or a dedicate-time-and-make-it-a-full-length-novel. I am disappointed, to say the least.

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