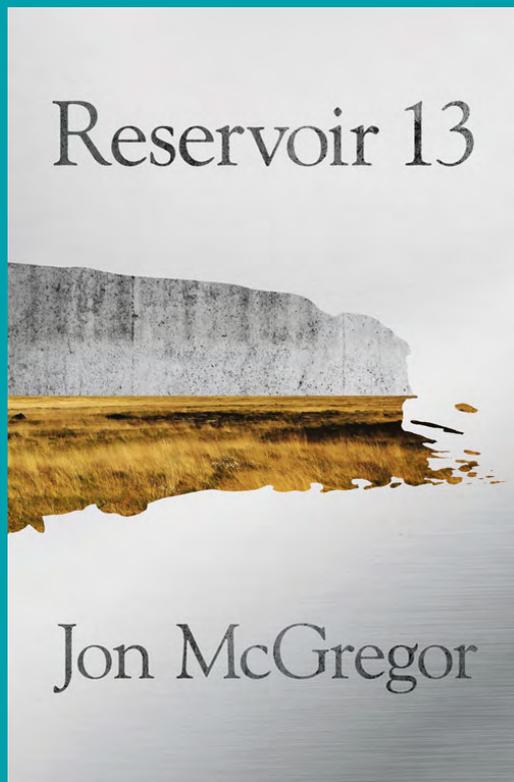


Reader's Guide



Other novels by Jon McGregor
If Nobody Speaks of Remarkable Things (2002)
So Many Ways to Begin (2006)
Even the Dogs (2010)

Reservoir 13 Jon McGregor

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About the author

Jon McGregor is the author of four novels and a story collection. He is the winner of the IMPAC Dublin Literature Prize, Betty Trask Prize, and Somerset Maugham Award, and was longlisted for the Man Booker Prize in 2002 for *If Nobody Speaks of Remarkable Things*, and in 2006 for *So Many Ways To Begin*. He is Professor of Creative Writing at the University of Nottingham, where he edits *The Letters Page*, a literary journal in letters. He was born in Bermuda in 1976, grew up in Norfolk, and now lives in Nottingham.

About the book

A teenage girl on holiday has gone missing in the hills at the heart of England. The villagers are called up to join the search, fanning out across the moors as the police set up roadblocks and a crowd of news reporters descends on their usually quiet home. Meanwhile, there is work that must still be done: cows milked, fences repaired, stone cut, pints poured, beds made, sermons written, a pantomime rehearsed. The search for the missing girl goes on, but so does everyday life. As it must. As the seasons unfold there are those who leave the village and those who are pulled back; those who come together or break apart. There are births and deaths; secrets kept and exposed; livelihoods made and lost; small kindnesses and unanticipated betrayals.

What the judges thought

A 'penetrative', 'nuanced', 'skilful' novel not only about the disappearance of a girl but about 'the functioning and dysfunctioning of a community', and how the land impacts that community too. It is, the judges concluded, 'a rare praise poem to humanity'.

Discussion points

Have you read McGregor's other books? How did this compare?

Would you describe this as a crime novel? A mystery? Or does the story resist a traditional genre?

What is the role of the missing girl, Rebecca? Is she the central character or simply a device?

Which of the villagers did you identify with most? With whom do your sympathies lie?

McGregor describes the natural world in beautiful detail – did you enjoy these descriptions or did they slow the narrative?

Useful links

www.jonmcgregor.com

www.irishtimes.com/culture/books/reservoir-13-review-a-humane-and-tender-masterpiece-1.3023466

www.theguardian.com/books/2017/apr/07/jon-mcgregor-reservoir-13-novel-interview