

Name/Reviewer username: Anonymous

School: Valencia High

Grade: Senior

Book title: The Hounds and the Fury

Author: Rita Mae Brown

Rate 1-5 (1-lowest to 5-highest) - 3.7

The Hounds and the Fury by Rita Mae Brown, is a slower paced mystery story that includes many details about fox hunting and hound dogs as well as character drama. The main characters include Jane Arnold, Garvey Stokes, Crawford Howard and Iffy Demetrios along with others. They all are intricately tied into the mystery, which takes place in rural Virginia. The mystery surrounds the loss of a sum of money and some murders, clues to which are found by Jane Arnold using the hounds and her fox hunting knowledge.

The book is interesting, full of homey details of the countryside and subtle character drama. There is more insight into the setting and character dynamics than to the murder mystery but is still intriguing that way. It heavily details the animals the characters keep such as their horses and hound dogs, and at times the foxes. At times the mystery feels overlooked and lacks urgency but is replaced with the characters and their fox hunting club activities. Iffy Demetrios is the most likeable character by her humour (being on the dryer side), along with her stronger ties to the mystery. She's not a fox hunter either, which makes her refreshing as a character. The book is not about a strong mystery or drama based story but more about traditional values and an almost non-fictional feel. The country narrative is cozy and interesting enough to keep you reading. All the characters are extremely well written, their strong personalities give a realistic setting to the mystery. If the reader is looking for a more action-based mystery or thriller, this book will not hit the mark, the book is calmer and more engaging in its setting overall.