



A Quiet Belief in Angels

R.J. Ellory

● About The Book

Joseph Vaughan's life has been dogged by tragedy. Growing up in the 1950s, he was at the centre of a series of killings of young girls in his small rural community. The girls were taken, assaulted and left horribly mutilated. Barely a teenager himself, Joseph becomes determined to try to protect his community and classmates from the predations of the killer.

Despite banding together with his friends as 'The Guardians', he was powerless to prevent more murders – and no one was ever caught. Only after a full ten years did the nightmare end when one of his neighbours is found hanging from a rope, with articles from the dead girls around him. Thankfully, the killings finally ceased. But the past won't stay buried – for it seems that the real murderer still lives and is killing again. And the secret of his identity lies in Joseph's own history...

● About The Author

R.J. Ellory originally studied graphics and photography. He started writing more than ten years ago and hasn't stopped since. His novels have been translated into Italian, German and Dutch. He divides his time between his work as a novelist and voluntary programmes in the areas of drug rehabilitation and youth literacy. He is married with one son, and currently resides in England.

● For Discussion

- Why does Joseph write?
- What effect do you think that Joseph's inability to protect has on his life and the choices he makes?
- Why do you think Joseph decides to go to New York? What does he believe will happen?
- As Joseph ages, how do his perceptions change? Does he see more or less as he grows older?
- Does Joseph fit in any better in the city? Do you think he is a country or city boy?
- What is the significance of the feathers?
- Why do you think the author chose this title for the book?