

The book was found

Girl Last Seen



Synopsis

Two missing girls. Thirteen years apart. Olivia Shaw has been missing since last Tuesday. She was last seen outside the entrance of her elementary school in Hunts Point wearing a white spring jacket, blue jeans, and pink boots. I force myself to look at the face in the photo, into her slightly smudged features, and I can't bring myself to move. Olivia Shaw could be my mirror image, rewound to 13 years ago. If you have any knowledge of Olivia Shaw's whereabouts or any relevant information, please contact... I've spent a long time peering into the faces of girls on missing posters, wondering which one replaced me in that basement. But they were never quite the right age, with the right look, in the right circumstances. Until Olivia Shaw, missing for one week tomorrow. Whoever stole me was never found. But since I was taken, there hasn't been another girl. And now there is.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 8 hours 5 and 11 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Hachette Audio

Audible.com Release Date: June 20, 2017

Language: English

ASIN: B072QDYRC5

Best Sellers Rank: #38 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Mysteries & Thrillers > Suspense
#111 in Books > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Thrillers & Suspense > Psychological Thrillers
#338 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fiction & Literature

Customer Reviews

This book was good and worth the read. I guessed the ending about halfway through, but it still held my attention. I didn't love the main character, but that was part of the reason that I kept reading. The main character's POV could have been expanded on a bit. Overall it was enjoyable.

The description for this book is chilling. This is a dark psychological thriller with plenty of suspense, and I believe this will be one of the most talked about books this year. Nina Laurin has an excellent writing style and descriptive imagery that grabs you from the prologue and never lets go. She taps into the main characters thoughts and shares them as an internal narration throughout the book.

The character development is extensive and very well done. I believe this is Laurin's debut thriller, and I look forward to more reading more novels from her. The first big plot twist that I didn't see coming comes about 10% into the book. Definitely an "oh boy" moment. As the book progresses, Lainey (Laine) gets pulled deep into the investigation of the current abduction. The detective on the current case was involved in Laine's abduction a decade before. She is naturally apprehensive about getting involved in the new case, and the detective also voices his concerns against it. Laurin does an excellent job portraying Laine's internal struggles with her past, and her many coping mechanisms to deal with her past and the present situation. A series of plot twists ensue that will keep you guessing, because nothing is as it seems. Laine scrambles to keep up and desperately tries to stay in front of the dangers around every corner. She soon comes to the startling realization that she's all alone again, and her desperation and determination intensifies. Before long her past and present worlds collide and crash down around her, and she must scramble to figure out a way to resolve things before it's too late. The conclusion is shocking and explosive. I hope this book will be adapted into a movie, but of course there is no way the movie could match the caliber of the novel. I would recommend this book to fans of suspense and psychological thrillers. I received this as a free ARC from Grand Central Publishing on NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

This book opens with the escape of Ella Santos from her captor, who's held the 13 year old for three years. We next meet her a decade later, where she lives in anonymity under a pseudonym (Lainey) assigned to her many years earlier. We soon learn Ella was the child of a fairly disinterested mother and it took a while for anyone to actually notice that she'd gone missing after her mother was imprisoned. It made it hard therefore, for investigators to understand when and where she was taken. And given her family background and how little the 13 year old could share on her release about her masked captor, investigators perhaps looked less fervently than they might have otherwise done. It's now ten years later and newly-missing Olivia is from a wealthy family and a world away from the child Ella was. There are similarities though (although for me drawing the link was a bit of a stretch other than the physical similarities between Olivia and Ella) so Lainey's spidey senses are tingling. There were a few surprises in this book and they weren't necessarily just the whodunnit kind. They actually helps link the two cases so it becomes obvious they're somehow connected. We don't learn a lot more about Lainey's own kidnapping and time spent with her captor, but she finally confronts her past and it's something she needs to do and not to mention

heightening the intrigue for we readers. I actually liked that Laurin wasn't tempted to have Lainey turn her life around completely and the young woman is obviously still struggling with her history. She works two jobs to make ends meet but is dependent on an array of pharmaceuticals to get her through the day. Her addiction only increases as she deals with the anxiety of police scrutiny and media attention. Similarly Olivia's parents and detective Sean Ortiz are complex enough that we're not sure we can completely trust them. It adds to the suspense, along with the unexpected revelations thrown in along the way.

I absolutely could not put this book down! The suspense was agonizing and pulse-poundingly delicious all at the same time. I had to make myself slow down and really absorb every page, instead of skimming through the lines, quickly, so I could turn the next page. I was SO anxious to see what would happen next! If you love thrillers, as much as I do, this book should DEFINITELY be on your TBR list. I was expecting a lot out of this story, and I got ten times the amount of enjoyment over what I was looking for. What a REALLY GREAT READ!!!*I received a complimentary ARC of this book from NetGalley and Grand Central Publishing/Hachette Book Group in order to read and provide a voluntary, unbiased and honest review, should I choose to do so.

Read this for book club. Saw it didn't have many reads yet, and was author's first novel, but reviews were really good, so started reading with a tinge of skepticism and a good dose of hope that I'd like it. Immediately drawn in. A little bit of a lag towards end of first third (or just because I got busy and was hard to have enough time to get back to it, but rest of book I wanted to keep reading... especially last third. First-time author wrote a nice, dark psycho-thriller that has enough going on, you're not sure where it's going. I seldom give 1 or 5's to anything, esp books and movies, unless in totally blown away or disgusted by my waste of time I put into viewing or reading it. . so if you think a 4 means it's not worth your time... it's really a 4.5. ;)

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