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Our Little Secret: The Most Gripping Debut Psychological Thriller You'll Read This Year



Synopsis

‘Immensely talented new author.’ John Marrs, author of *The One and When You Disappeared* ‘Unique and utterly compelling. This twisty psychological thriller will chill you to the bones.’ Gemma Metcalfe author of *TRUST ME* ‘A stellar and original concept, brilliantly executed. The final chapters had my heart in my throat!’ O’Rourke Sullivan is certainly one to watch. Phoebe Morgan, author of *THE DOLL HOUSE* ‘A deserted train station: A man waits. A woman watches. Chris is ready to join his wife. He’s planned this moment for nearly a year. The date. The time. The train. But he hadn’t factored in Sarah. So when Sarah walks on to the platform and sees a man swaying at the edge she assumes he’s just had too much to drink. What she doesn’t expect is to stop a suicide. As Sarah becomes obsessed with discovering the secrets that Chris is clearly hiding, he becomes obsessed with stopping her, protecting her. But there are some secrets that are meant to stay buried.’ Perfect for fans of Clare Mackintosh, BA Paris and Holly Seddon. Praise for *Our Little Secret* ‘Darren O’Rourke Sullivan keeps the reader on the edge of their seat in this dark, clever look at what drives people to the edge and how quickly a life can change.’ Phoebe Morgan author of *THE DOLL HOUSE* ‘This is one of the best books I have ever read. It was nail-biting and had me on edge from start to finish!’ a must buy! Greta Halliday ‘An absolutely phenomenal debut.’ Rebecca Pugh ‘One of the best books of its genre.’ Julia Beales ‘The only thing unbelievable about this thriller is that it’s the authors debut.’ Jennifer Kelly ‘Gripping from the moment you start reading it.’ Emily Charlton ‘Incredibly well-written debut.’ Susan Anne Burton ‘One of the best novels I’ve read in a long time.’ Paul Lane

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

While I sensed what was going on not long into the book it was still a good read.

I thought I would never get to the end of this book. I skipped pages after pages and it still seemed to take forever. I found the characters very boring and not really worth spending my time. Chris was certainly a boring character. He came off to me as having no redeeming qualities whatsoever as a human. He was boring and his obsession and depression were not even entertaining in the least. The endless pages and pages of him just walking around, depressed, were, for me, very cumbersome. I guessed at the very beginning what had happened to Chris's wife, Julia, and I was correct. I only skipped through to see if it did get better. Which it did I am glad to say at around 81% of the book being read. Much, much too long of a wait for a reader to get intrigued with this book. I think this would make a great short story with about 75% of the boring stuff cut out. Thanks to HQ Digital and Net Galley for providing me with a free e-galley in exchange for an honest, unbiased review.

I was very disappointed by this book- it seemed so promising at first, then slowly deteriorated. The plotline immediately drew me in, but as it went on became more and more repetitive and the characters, (Sarah and Steve) more and more unrealistic, bizarre almost in their obsessive love and concern for the main character Chris despite his loathing of them. None of the characters had depth despite the abundant background information given. On top of everything, the ending became obvious about 2/3rds of the way through so the suspense was gone and the rest of the book anticlimactic. Not the worst book I ever read, but personally do not recommend it.

This book requires a bit of patience and understanding. It's a slow burn. The characters both

confused and frustrated me at times. Despite the relatively slow pace through most of it, I had a hard time putting it down. 4.5 out of 5. Sarah is unlike any character I've ever met and I just wanted to shake her sometimes... others I wanted to help her, protect her... not unlike her little sister. Chris has a plan. He's going to jump under the train. Under, so the driver doesn't have to see him. He will jump under the train that doesn't stop, the train that doesn't carry passengers. He will jump at a time where the station is deserted, so no one will be scarred for life after seeing his final moments and the gore that follows. He will jump on a certain day, one that's important to him and his wife. It's all come down to this. It's time to join his wife. Until Sarah appears, a stranger that ruins everything. Having left the home of her cheating ex for what she hopes is the last time, she's early to the station. Without money to grab a drink and sit at a bar or cafe, she just plans to wait for her train. This means she's there to witness Chris sway on the platform. At first she's alarmed to be alone with a man she assumes is drunk and maybe unstable, but she sees something good in him. When he eventually notices her, he tries to get her to leave... but something makes her stay. She ruins everything. After she realizes that she definitely stopped this mysterious man from ending his own life, Sarah becomes a woman obsessed. He will try again, won't he? She can't have that. She feels connected to him somehow. She cannot get him out of her head. She has to find him, has to help him. Chris doesn't want to be found. He doesn't want to be seen with anyone. The murderer that took his wife from him warned him that he'd be around... watching and waiting. Don't tell, or I'll kill again, someone else important to you. Keep our little secret, or more will die. He lives in fear, slowly becoming more paranoid and pushing everyone away, lying to everyone. But Sarah won't leave him be. I received an ARC of this book from Net Galley and HarperCollinsUK/HQ Digital, thank you! My opinion is honest and unbiased.

I revealed the plot in less than the first 10% of the book. When I choose a book, I commit myself to finish it so I gave it two stars because it was well written. It needed more of a twist at the end.

A mesmerizing psychological drama entering into the mind and thoughts of a man that has experienced the sight of his wife being murdered. We are introduced to Chris a year after the death of his wife at a train station while he is waiting to kill himself by jumping in front of the next train to run through the depot. Chris's thoughts are about the man that he witnessed murdering his wife. The man told him that if he went to the police he would kill Chris' next of kin and his closest friend. Chris himself has all the guilt built in from not going to his wife's aid at the time of the killing and that he must forestall the murderer's plans by killing himself. Unfortunately it is true that the best laid

plans of man and mice oft go astray. And it is fate that brings Sarah to the station at the late hour coinciding with Chris's plans. She sees Chris looking sad, obviously contemplating suicide and attempts to talk him out of it. This action stops the attempted suicide and opens the new sequence of events. Sarah begins a campaign to find Chris and help him handle the pain that he is obviously experiencing. Chris, on his part, works against Sarah and looks to protect her from the murderer that killed his wife. The strength of the book is the extremely precise description of the mind sets and thoughts of the characters. It is one of the best novels I've read in a long time that exposes the psychology motivating the protagonists. A very well done story by Mr. O'Sullivan indeed.

Impressive first novel, cannot wait for next one. I was engrossed from beginning to end, although starts slow do not give up by the time you get to fourth chapter you have to find out what is happening, and I can assure you, you will not be disappointed . Although I recognised where story was going, I still found it had a unexpected, shocking and heartstopping finale.

I LOVED this book! I couldn't put it down from start to finish. An excellent well written read! I read a copy from NetGalley

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