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Girl in the Rearview Mirror

By Kelsey Rae Dimberg

Girl In The Box

The young nanny for a prominent political family gets drawn into a web of deadly lies—including her own—in this stunning debut thriller with the menacing twists of Megan Abbott and the exquisite suspense of Laura Lippman.
Girl In The Fig

"An exciting, intoxicating debut, it will hold you until its startling final pages."

â€“Megan Abbott, bestselling author of Dare Me and Give Me Your Hand
They are Phoenix’s First Family: handsome Philip Martin, son of the sitting Senator, an ex-football player who carries himself with an easy grace and appears destined to step into his father’s seat when the time is right; his wife Marina, the stylish and elegant director of Phoenix’s fine arts museum; and their four-year-old daughter Amabel, beautiful and precocious and beloved.
Finn Hunt is working a dull office job to pay off her college debt when she meets Philip and charms Amabel. She eagerly agrees to nanny, thinking she’s lucked into the job of a lifetime. Though the glamour of the Martins’ lifestyle undeniably dazzles Finn, her real pleasure comes from being part of the family: sharing quick jokes with Philip in the kitchen before he leaves for work; staying late when Marina needs a last-minute sitter; and spending long days with Amabel, who is often treated more like a photo op than a child.
But behind every façade lurks a less attractive truth. When a young woman approaches Finn, claiming a connection with Philip and asking Finn to pass on a message, Finn becomes caught up in a web of deceit with the senate seat at its center. And Finn isn’t exactly innocent herself: she too has a background she has kept hidden, and under the hot Phoenix sun, everything is about to be laid bare. . .
Girl In The Train

Decent story but the characters were duds. Despite the fact there was some backstory provided, I still didn't quite get the main character, Finn. It's a shame the characters were the problem here rather than the plot. Usually it's the other way around.

Finn Hunt is the nanny for 4 year old Amabel, the daughter of Philip and Marina Martin. Philip's father is a senator in Arizona, and the hope is one day Philip will be able to slide in and take his seat once his father decides to step down. Despite being the hired help, Finn feels like she is a part of the family and gets caught up in their wealthy and glamorous world. She soon finds herself in the middle of something that could bring down this political first family. She also needs to worry about her own past suddenly resurfacing.

I just don't know what it was about Finn but she just didn't work for me. I never fully understood her motivations even though you get a glimpse into her background. She just fell flat as a character and to be honest the other people in the story didn't do much for me either.

So why did I keep reading if I had problems with the characters? Well, the plot was actually pretty decent and had enough to hook me in and want to stick with the story. Something happens maybe halfway into the story that I didn't see coming at all and that's always a plus when an author catches me off guard. And the ending isn't bad either. It's disappointing that the author managed to come up with a fairly good idea for a story but had a bit of a failure when it came to solid, well-developed characters.

I won a free digital copy of this book from Bookshout and the publisher. I was under no obligation to post a review and all views expressed are my honest opinion. ...more

This was slow starting out but when it got good it got really good. I did not like the ending at all. I must say the good parts were good parts. (Ha HA Like that). But I like Finn the detective is what I like to call her. She had her nose in everything.

I will be looking for Dimberg's next book.

I gave this book 3.5 stars. Pick up a copy and let me know what you think about it.
I will be looking for Dimberg's next book.
I gave this book 3.5 stars. Pick up a copy and let me know what you think about it.
The Mary Reader received this book from the publisher for review. A favorable review was not required and all views expressed are our own. ...more
“Girl in the Rearview Mirror” was a very divisive thriller for me. I think that my interest level in this book was high when I first began, but I grew less and less interested as I continued to read. The book follows the story of Finn (female), who becomes entangled with many mysteries surrounding the political family she works for. Finn is shady, all on her own, from the secrets she hides and the stories she tells the readers. However, I felt that the intrigue paid off to almost non-existent suspense and insignificant plot reveals. I give credit where credit’s due. This is a good first debut novel, but it just did not blow me out of the water.

There are so many different reveals and plot twists, that it will be hard to review this book without giving much away. To do so, I will list what I liked and disliked about this book, because I’d rather not spoil any details.

Likes:
1. The dialogue was fantastic. It was very realistic and natural. The characters had their own distinct style of speaking.
2. There is a fantastic twist halfway through about the granddaughter of the Senator, the child of the two main characters, Philip and Marina. Goodness gracious, I didn’t see that coming. That certainly knocked my socks off in the best way.
3. I’ve always liked an unsettling final chapter.

Dislikes:
1. The rearview mirror motif was ever-present and extremely overdone.
2. I really disliked the writing style, because there was too much detail. I enjoyed mostly all of the scenes; however, the dialogue was very omniscient. Finn spoke about how characters felt and how they experienced moments that she was not there for. There was one scene where she spoke about the past political campaigns and knew far too much detail, that made her all-knowing rather than the typical first-person narrative. It didn’t make sense to me.
3. The final reveals of all the characters' motivations felt very limiting and could have been explored further. The ending felt very rushed. The climax was just plain anticlimactic.
4. Sadly, this book just did not grip me, the way we hope for with suspense thrillers. I did not feel I was on the edge of my seat. I was not desperate to pick the book back up again.

In conclusion, I do recommend this book. This wasn’t a favorite of mine, but the writer has great chops. I feel that she will be a great writer, but I just wasn’t that intrigued by the plot and the characters of this one. I fully plan to read books by her in the future. This book reminded me of The Last Mrs. Parrish* and The Other Mother*.

I received this book in exchange for reading and reviewing purposes. Thank you to William Morrow.

Ok, so I have mixed feelings about this book. I liked it as far as thrillers go but at the same time I felt it was lacking on the strong character connection and storyline.

From the summary, I knew that everyone had a secret and no one was innocent. Yet, when all of the cards were laid on the table, the secrets were not that jar dropping. Maybe I am being a bit harsh as this is my favorite genre. Finn's secret was most disappointing. I thought it was going to be something huge. Not to excuse what happened in the past as horrible but I just thought it was going to be dark. This is because of who she was working for. Speaking of the Martin's. They were kind of dull. Philips's father had a stronger commanding presence then his son.

The last third of the story seemed rushed. This is where all of everyone's secrets and the storyline came together but not much details were spent on these events. The ending was fine. Overall, not as strong a showing as I hoped but I am willing to give this author another chance.
Girl In The Window

First of all, I won this ARC book through a Goodread's Giveaway. Thanks to all for making this possible and for me to leave an honest review. Thanks also to William Morrow of HarperCollins Publishers. My first thought while reading this book was "Where have you been hiding this talented author?". I believe this is her debut but it doesn't read like one. This author will definitely be on my radar for up-coming books. This is a dazzlingly, twisty and great psychological novel that had me flipping... First of all, I won this ARC book through a Goodread's Giveaway. Thanks to all for making this possible and for me to leave an honest review. Thanks also to William Morrow of HarperCollins Publishers. My first thought while reading this book was "Where have you been hiding this talented author?". I believe this is her debut but it doesn't read like one. This author will definitely be on my radar for up-coming books. This is a dazzlingly, twisty and great psychological novel that had me flipping to the next nail-biting chapter. It takes place in the heat of Arizona and you could feel the stifling heat because of the prose of the author. From Kelsey Rae Dimberg, "Girl in the Rearview Mirror" is a story about privilege and power, family and obligation, ambition and scandals. Kudos from me to this new and up-coming author. An amazing first!!!...more

FULL REVIEW WILL BE ON JUNE 17.

We meet Finn whose real name is Natalie, but she doesn't tell anyone because she wants to hide her past.

Everyone seemed to have secrets, told lies, were manipulative, and users. Some of the characters were also odd but most were selfish.

The story line dragged at first but increased in intensity and twists and kept me rapidly turning the pages to find out what really was going on, what really was happening, who could be trusted, and who was lying.

If you enjoy person...FULL REVIEW WILL BE ON JUNE 17.

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The story line dragged at first but increased in intensity and twists and kept me rapidly turning the pages to find out what really was going on, what really was happening, who could be trusted, and who was lying.
If you enjoy personal and family drama, seeing how the upper crust lives, and what lengths people go to in order to keep something hidden, GIRL IN THE REARVIEW MIRROR, will be something to add to your reading list. 4/5

This book was given to me as an ARC by the publisher in exchange for an honest review.  ...more
Girl In The Yellow Dress

I won this book on a Goodreads first reads giveaway.

I'm actually really surprised by this book.

It took me a while to actually get into it because I thought the pacing at the beginning was pretty slow. However, I thought the characters were really well developed and it more than made up for the inching plot.

When the plot finally starts picking up steam it doesn't stop until the end.

Definitely don't let the slow start stop you from giving this a chance, the characters grow on you and before you know it everything starts steam rolling downhill without stopping.

I had the pleasure of reading an advance copy of this book. It's my kind of book, the story of a 'good girl,' a nanny for the young granddaughter of a powerful political figure. She's running away from secrets in her past, trying to start over, but she's running smack into danger. It's about class differences. The perils of trying to reinvent yourself. The power of money and politics. A page turner that leaves the reader with lots to think about.
Girl In The Woods

One of the best psychological thrillers I've ever read. Keeps you on your toes right up to the end.

What do I say about this book? I wanted to like it so much. But, I just couldn't. Don't get me wrong. I didn't hate it. I just simply didn't like it. I liked the premise behind the story, but the characters didn't flow. They felt forced and fake. I like my characters to grip me in to the story as much as the story itself. If I can feel that, then I can like a book the way I want to because I have to try too hard to get into the story.

That said, the plot line/premise is a good one. I can tell where the author wanted to go with this one, with the secrets, the twists and turns, but with out that captivating connection with the characters, I didn't get the edge of your seat suspense with this one. I didn't feel like I was watching a movie play out like I like to see with this style of book.

Sadly, I have to give this one 3 stars. But, don't let my opinion deter you from trying this book. What I found lacking, you may find absolutely gripping. Dimberg shows great effort where her talents are concerned. I do look forward to trying more of her books in the future.

*I received a complimentary copy of this book from LibraryThing, William Morrow and was under no obligation to post a review, positive or negative.*