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The Girl On The Train

"SO THRILLING AND TENSE AND WILDLY UNPREDICTABLE
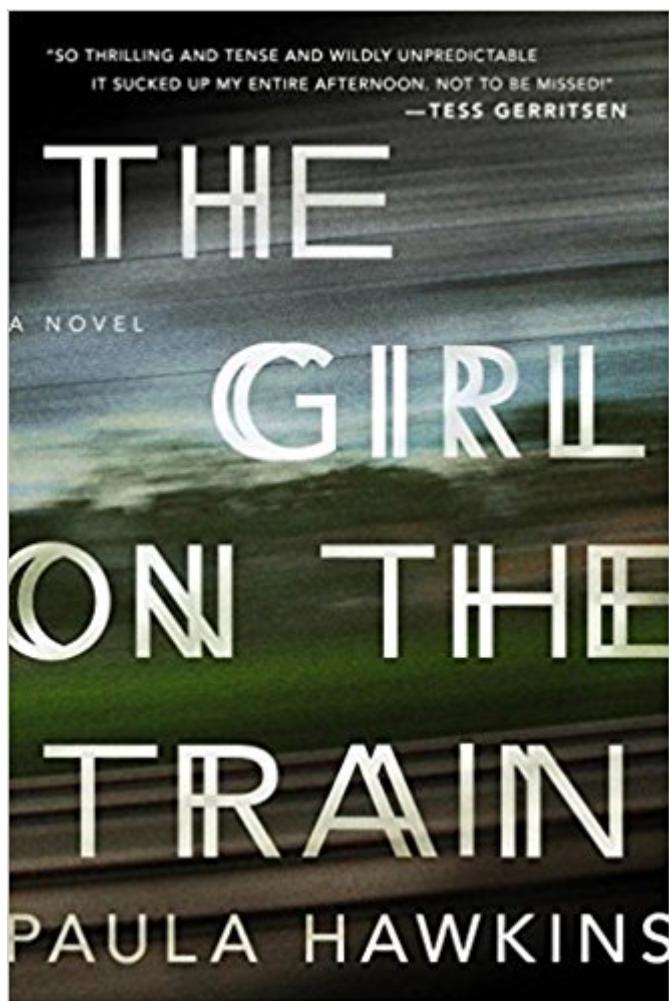IT SUCKED UP MY ENTIRE AFTERNOON. NOT TO BE MISSED!"
—TESS GERRITSEN

A NOVEL

THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN

PAULA HAWKINS

Synopsis

The #1Â New York TimesÂ Bestseller, USA Today Book of the Year, now a major motion picture. Â The debut psychological thriller that will forever change the way you look at other people's lives. Â â œNothing is more addicting thanÂ The Girl on the Train.â •â "Vanity Fair â œThe Girl on the TrainÂ has more fun with unreliable narration than any chiller sinceÂ Gone Girl. . . . [It] is liable to draw a large, bedazzled readership.â •â "The New York Times Â â œMarries movie noir with novelistic trickery. . . hang on tight. You'll be surprised by what horrors lurk around the bend.â •â "USA Today Â â œLike its train, the story blasts through the stagnation of these lives in suburban London and the reader cannot help but turn pages.â •â "The Boston Globe â œGone GirlÂ fans will devour this psychological thriller.â •â "PeopleÂ Â Â EVERY DAY THE SAME Rachel takes the same commuter train every morning and night. Every day she rattles down the track, flashes past a stretch of cozy suburban homes, and stops at the signal that allows her to daily watch the same couple breakfasting on their deck. Sheâ ™s even started to feel like she knows them. Jess and Jason, she calls them. Their lifeâ "as she sees itâ "is perfect. Not unlike the life she recently lost. UNTIL TODAY And then she sees something shocking. Itâ ™s only a minute until the train moves on, but itâ ™s enough. Now everythingâ ™s changed. Unable to keep it to herself, Rachel goes to the police. But is she really as unreliable as they say? Soon she is deeply entangled not only in the investigation but in the lives of everyone involved. Has she done more harm than good? Â Â Â Â From the Trade Paperback edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

An Best Book of the Month, January 2015: Intersecting, overlapping, not-quite-what-they-seem lives. Jealousies and betrayals and wounded hearts. A haunting unease that clutches and wonâ ™t let go. All this and more helps propel Paula Hawkinsâ ™s addictive debut into a new stratum of the psychological thriller genre. At times, I couldnâ ™t help but think: Hitchcockian. From the opening line, the reader knows what theyâ ™re in for: â œSheâ ™s buried beneath a silver birch tree, down towards the old train tracksâ |â • But Hawkins teases out the mystery with a veteranâ ™s finesse. The â œgirl on the trainâ • is Rachel, who commutes into London and back each day, rolling past the backyard of a happy-looking couple she names Jess and Jason. Then one day Rachel sees â œJessâ • kissing another man. The day after that, Jess goes missing. The story is told from three characterâ ™s not-to-be-trusted perspectives: Rachel, who mourns the loss of her former life with the help of canned gin and tonics; Megan (aka Jess); and Anna, Rachelâ ™s ex-husbandâ ™s wife, who happens to be Jess/Meganâ ™s neighbor. Rachelâ ™s voyeuristic yearning for the seemingly idyllic life of Jess and Jason lures her closer and closer to the investigation into Jess/Meganâ ™s disappearance, and closer to a deeper understanding of who she really is. And who she isnâ ™t. This is a book to be devoured. -Neal Thompson

â œThe Girl on the TrainÂ has more fun with unreliable narration than any chiller sinceÂ Gone Girl. . . .Â The Girl on the TrainÂ is liable to draw a large, bedazzled readership too. . . .Â The Girl on the TrainÂ is full of back-stabbing, none of it literal.â •â ”Janet Maslin,Â The New York Timesâ œThe Girl on the TrainÂ marries movie noir with novelistic trickery. . . hang on tight. You'll be surprised by what horrors lurk around the bend.â •â ”USA Todayâ œLike its train, the story blasts through the stagnation of these lives in suburban London and the reader cannot help but turn pages. . . . The welcome echoes ofRear WindowÂ throughout the story and its propulsive narrative makeÂ The Girl on the TrainÂ an absorbing read.â •â ”The Boston Globeâ œ[The Girl on the Train] pulls off a thriller's toughest trick: carefully assembling everything we think we know, until it reveals the one thing we didn't see coming."â ”Entertainment WeeklyÂ â œGone GirlÂ fans will devour this psychological thriller. . . . Hawkinsâ ™s debut ends with a twist that no oneâ ”least of all its victimsâ ”could have seen coming.â •â ”PeopleÂ â œGiven the number of titles that are declared to be 'the next' of a bestseller . . . book fans have every right to be wary. But Paula Hawkinsâ ™ novelÂ The Girl on the TrainÂ just might have earned the title of 'the nextÂ Gone Girl.â •â ”Christian Science MonitorÂ â œHawkinsâ ™s taut story roars along at the pace of, well, a high-speed train. â |Hawkins delivers a smart, searing thriller that offers readers a 360-degree view of lust, love, marriage and divorce.â •â ”Good Housekeepingâ œThereâ ™s nothing like a possible murder to

take the humdrum out of your daily commute.â •â "Cosmopolitan"Paula Hawkins has come up with an ingenious slant on the currently fashionable amnesia thriller. . . . Hawkins juggles perspectives and timescales with great skill, and considerable suspense builds up along with empathy for an unusual central character."â "TheÂ Guardianâ œPaula Hawkins deftly imbues her debut psychological thriller with inventive twists and a shocking denouement. Â â | Hawkins delivers an original debut that keeps the exciting momentum ofÂ The Girl on the TrainÂ going until the last page.â •â "Denver Postâ œThe Girl on the Train,Â Hawkinsâ ™s first thriller, is well-written and ingeniously constructed.â •Â â "Â The Washington PostÂ â œThe novel is at its best in the moment of maximum confusion, when neither the reader nor the narrators know what is occurringâ • â "Â The Financial Timesâ œThis fresh take on Hitchcockâ ™sÂ Rear WindowÂ is getting raves and will likely be one of the biggest debuts of the year.â •â "Omaha World-Heraldâ œHawkinsâ ™s tale of love, regret, violence and forgetting is an engrossing psychological thriller with plenty of surprises. . . . The novel gets harder and harder to put down as the story screeches toward its unexpected ending.â •â "Minneapolis Star Tribuneâ œA gripping, down-the-rabbit-hole thriller.â •â "Entertainment Weekly HotlistÂ â œThe Thriller So Engrossing, You'll Pray for Snow: Send in the blizzards, because nothing as mundane as work, school or walking the dog should distract you from this debut thriller. A natural fit for fans of Gone Girl-style unreliable narrators and twisty, fast-moving plots,Â The Girl on the TrainÂ will have you racing through the pages."â "Oprah.comâ œIt's difficult to say too much more about the plot ofÂ The Girl on the Train; like all thrillers, it's best for readers to dive in spoiler-free. This is a debut novelâ "Hawkins is a journalist by trainingâ "but it doesn't read like the work of someone new to suspense. The novel is perfectly paced, from its arresting beginning to its twist ending; it's not an easy book to put down. . . . . What really makesÂ The Girl on the TrainÂ such a gripping novel is Hawkins' remarkable understanding of the limits of human knowledge, and the degree to which memory and imagination can become confused.â •â "NPR.orgÂ â œ[L]ikeÂ Gone Girl, Hawkins's book is a highly addictive novel about a lonely divorcee who gets caught up in the disappearance of a woman whom she had been surreptitiously watching. And beyond the Gone Girl comparisons, this book has legs of its own.â •â "GQ.comâ œPaula Hawkinsâ ™ thriller is a shocking ride.â •Â â "US WeeklyÂ â œAn ex-wife indulges her voyeuristic tendencies in Paula Hawkinsâ ™s film-readyÂ The Girl on the Train.Â In the post-Gone GirlÂ era, crimes of love arenâ ™t determined by body counts or broken hearts, but by who controls the story line.â • â "VogueÂ Â Â â œThe Girl on the TrainÂ [is] a harrowing new suspense novelâ |a complex and thoroughly chilling psychological thrillerâ |Â The Girl on the TrainÂ is one of those books where you canâ ™t wait â " yet almost canâ ™t bear â " to turn

the page. It's a stunning novel of dread." —"New York Daily News "The Girl on the Train by Paula Hawkins is a psychologically gripping debut that delivers." —"The Missourian "The Girl on the Train is the kind of slippery, thrilling read that only comes around every few years (see Gone Girl)." —

—"BookPage "Hawkins, a former journalist, is a witty, sharp writer with a gift for creating complex female characters." —"Cleveland Plain Dealer "The Girl on the Train is as tautly constructed as Gone Girl or A.S.A. Harrison's The Silent Wife, and has something more: a main character who is all screwed up but sympathetic nonetheless. Broken, but dear. . . . No matter how well it's written, a suspense novel can fall apart in the last pages, with an overly contrived or unbelievable ending. Here, The Girl on the Train shines, with its mystery resolved by a left-field plot twist that works, followed, surprisingly, by what you might call a happy ending." —"Newsday "I'm calling it now: The Girl on the Train is the next Gone Girl. Paula Hawkins's highly anticipated debut novel is a dark, gripping thriller with the shocking ending you crave in a noir-ish mystery." —"Bustle "Rachel takes the same train into London every day, daydreaming about the lives of the occupants in the homes she passes. But when she sees something unsettling from her window one morning, it sets in motion a chilling series of events that make her question whom she can really trust." —"Woman's Day "Hawkins's debut novel is a tangle of unreliable narrators, but what will have readers talking is her deft handling of twists and turns and her eerily fine-tuned narrative. This is one creepy, dark thriller. . . . The book is smartly paced and delightfully complex. Just when it seems Hawkins is leading us one way, Rachel, Anna, or Megan change the game. Nothing can be taken for granted in The Girl on the Train, not even the account of the girl herself." —"Las Vegas Weekly "Psychologically astute debut . . . The surprise-packed narratives hurtle toward a stunning climax, horrifying as a train wreck and just as riveting." —"Publishers Weekly (starred review) "[A] chilling, assured debut. . . . Even the most astute readers will be in for a shock as Hawkins slowly unspools the facts, exposing the harsh realities of love and obsession's inescapable links to violence." —"Kirkus (starred review) "intricate, multilayered psychological suspense debut, from a staggered timeline and three distinct female narrators. Rachel, who is unabashed in her darker instincts, anchors the narrative. Readers will fear, pity, sympathize and root for her, though she's not always understandable or trustworthy. . . . En route to a terrorizing and twisted conclusion, all three women—and the men with whom they share their lives—are forced to dismantle their delusions about others and themselves, their choices and their respective relationships." —"Shelf

Awareness"This month we're gearing up for Paula Hawkins's mysteryÂ The Girl on the Train. Its three narrators keep readers guessing as they try to suss out who's behind one character's shocking disappearance. Can you figure out who did it before they do?"â ”Martha Stewart Livingâ œWhat a thriller!â •â ”People Style WatchÂ â œHawkins keeps the tension ratcheted high in this thoroughly engrossing tale of intersecting strangers and intimate betrayals. Kept me guessing until the very end.â •â ”Lisa Gardner, #1Â New York Timesâ "bestselling author of the Detective D. D. Warren seriesâ œI simply could not put it down.â •â ”Tess Gerritsen,Â New York Timesâ "bestselling author of the Rizzoli and Isles seriesâ œGripping, enthrallingâ ”a top-notch thriller and a compulsive read.â •â ”S. J. Watson,New York Timesâ "bestselling author ofÂ Before I Go to Sleepâ œBe ready to be spellbound, ready to become as Â obsessed. . . .Â The Girl on the TrainÂ is the kind of book youâ ™ll want to press into the hands of everyone you know, just so they Â can share your obsession and you can relive it.â •â ”Laura Kasischke, author ofÂ The RaisingÂ â œWhat a group of characters, what a situation, what a book! Itâ ™s Alfred Hitchcock for a new generation and a new era.â •â ”Terry Hayes, author ofÂ I Am Pilgrimâ œArtfully crafted and utterly riveting.Â The Girl on the Trainâ ™s clever structure and expert pacing will keep you perched on the edge of your seat, but itâ ™s Hawkinsâ ™s deft, empathetic characterization that will leave you pondering this harrowing, thought-provoking story about the power of memory and the danger of envy.â •â ”Kimberly McCreight,Â New York Timesâ "bestselling author ofÂ Reconstructing AmeliaÂ From the Trade Paperback edition.

THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN is a dark, haunting and depressing psychological thriller, but it's incredibly effective thanks to the writing skills of author Paula Hawkins. Rachel is a divorced woman who would do anything for a drink, and like a lot of folks consumed by a love affair with the bottle, one might call her a victim of circumstances. Her husband Tom had an affair that resulted in a pregnancy. He divorced Rachel, married the "other woman" and now all three (husband, wife and child) are happily ensconced in the house that was once Rachel's.The train that Rachel rides to London each day takes her past her old neighborhood. From the window of the train she observes not only her old garden that backs up to the tracks, but also the daily activities of another couple who reside down the street from her previous home. In her imagination she has given the couple names and has created a fairy tale love life for them. Real life, however, cannot live up to her fantasy and the couple does not have the picture perfect relationship that Rachel has concocted. When a murder occurs, Rachel becomes entangled in the investigation because of what she has witnessed on her daily commute.This rather bleak story with intersecting timelines is told from the

viewpoint of three different women Rachel, Anne and Megan. All the women are unreliable narrators with something to hide. In fact, most of the characters in this novel, including the men, lack veracity, and are a self-serving and unsympathetic group with plenty of skeletons in their closets.Lest I continue and divulge too much of the plot, let me just say that the twists and turns in the story are many and readers will be easily drawn in, making it easy to devour this book in one afternoon.

I couldn't wait for this book to come out. It was such a disappointment. This was probably the darkest book I've ever read. Just when I thought It couldn't get any darker, it did. There were only five main characters. Not only were they all dysfunctional but it was hard to keep them straight. When the story was being told from each respective character's point of view, the writing tones were all the same and sometimes it was hard to determine who was actually doing the talking. But, I didn't give it up and finished it to its dark ending. There was absolutely no uplifting parts to tis book.

Rachel is a woman who considers herself worthless. She feels that women are only valued for two things: their looks and their role as a mother. She is barren and rather plain looking. Unbeknownst to her landlady she has lost her job but continues to ride the commuter train twice a day. Unfortunately she must pass the home of her ex-husband Tom and his new wife Anna. They've recently had a child which is something Rachel was unable to produce when she was married to him. He's moved his new family into the home that he and Rachel once shared. Tom posted a picture of himself and his newborn on Facebook with the caption that he's never been happier.Rachel, in her despondency, has taken to drinking to a point where she has blackouts and forgets that she drunk calls her husband many times a night, even shows up at his home. Because of a signal malfunction she often finds her rail car stopped on the tracks next to her former home. She starts to notice another couple who live a few doors down. She refers to them as the golden couple and manufactures a narrative about their lives as she observes them each day. They gradually become important to her.When Megan (of the Golden Couple) disappears Rachel finds herself an integral character in the police investigation. She was seen stalking the neighborhood the night of the disappearance. She has wounds on her body that can't be explained. Megan and Anna look enough alike that the police feel there may be mistaken identity involved.The book is told in three voices: Rachel, Megan and Anna. The fact that Rachel has a history of drunken blackouts and has a hard time separating fact from fiction makes her overtly suspect, even to herself. Megan has plenty of secrets of her own and Anna - is she the perfect second wife she appears to be?I understand that the option of this book has been picked up by DreamWorks. I can't think of a better

Hitchcock style mystery of voyeuristic observation since Rear Window.

. . . restraint writing this book. For the reader this book is like a present with 336 layers of wrapping paper that are slowly removed to get to the gift within. I am not saying this is a lovely story. It is not. It is ugly and scary, but it is written so beautifully that I enjoyed every word. I was so enthralled with the writing that it took me awhile to realize that it is narrated by several people. It was a smack myself in my doofuss head moment, but it didn't bother me at all to start the book again paying attention to who was speaking.Even if you do figure out who the bad person is early it doesn't matter because it's the story and how it unfolds that is important. This book is full of pathetic, flawed people, but I felt hope at the end.I am not sure I will see the movie. I like suspenseful books, but I don't like scary movies even when I know what happens.

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