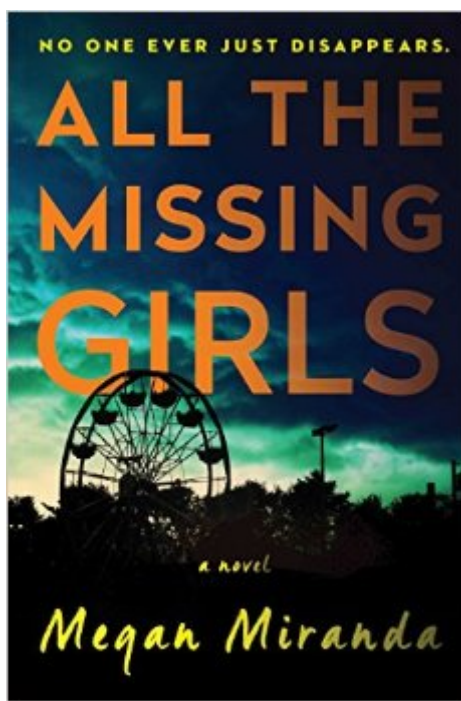


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All The Missing Girls: A Novel



Synopsis

A NATIONAL BESTSELLER A New York Times Book Review • Editors' Choice • Entertainment Weekly • Thriller Round-Up The Wall Street Journal • 5 Killer Books for 2016 Hollywood Reporter • Hot Summer Books | 16 Must Reads • Both [Gillian] Flynn's and Miranda's main characters also reclaim the right of female characters to be more than victim or femme fatale | All the Missing Girls is set to become one of the best books of 2016. • Los Angeles Review of Books • "Extremely interesting" | a novel that will probably be called Hitchcockian. • "The New York Times Book Review • "Are you paying attention? You'll need to be; this thriller will test your brain with its reverse chronological structure, and it's a page-turner to boot. • "Elle Like the spellbinding psychological suspense in The Girl on the Train and Luckiest Girl Alive, Megan Miranda's novel is a nail-biting, breathtaking story about the disappearances of two young women—a decade apart—told in reverse. It's been ten years since Nicolette Farrell left her rural hometown after her best friend, Corinne, disappeared from Cooley Ridge without a trace. Back again to tie up loose ends and care for her ailing father, Nic is soon plunged into a shocking drama that reawakens Corinne's case and breaks open old wounds long since stitched. The decade-old investigation focused on Nic, her brother Daniel, boyfriend Tyler, and Corinne's boyfriend Jackson. Since then, only Nic has left Cooley Ridge. Daniel and his wife, Laura, are expecting a baby; Jackson works at the town bar; and Tyler is dating Annaleise Carter, Nic's younger neighbor and the group's alibi the night Corinne disappeared. Then, within days of Nic's return, Annaleise goes missing. Told backwards—Day 15 to Day 1—from the time Annaleise goes missing, Nic works to unravel the truth about her younger neighbor's disappearance, revealing shocking truths about her friends, her family, and what really happened to Corinne that night ten years ago. Like nothing you've ever read before, All the Missing Girls delivers in all the right ways. With twists and turns that lead down dark alleys and dead ends, you may think you're walking a familiar path, but then Megan Miranda turns it all upside down and inside out and leaves us wondering just how far we would be willing to go to protect those we love.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

All the Missing Girls is a clever twist on the nearly saturated unreliable narrator themed thriller so prevalent these days. Two girls in the same small town in North Carolina have gone missing ten years apart from each other, and everyone in the town is wondering whether the cases are related. I think it does a disservice to All the Missing Girls to have it marketed as the next Gone Girl or Girl on the Train. I found both to be pretty easy to work out the story line and not all that compelling. All the Missing Girls is more clever by far, and the format definitely more engaging. The story begins as Nicolette Farrell returns to Cooley Ridge to help her brother care for her ailing father and assist with the sale of her childhood home. The characters are briefly introduced, the ten-year old disappearance of Corinne (Nicolette's best friend in high school) is described, and Annaleise Carter has just recently gone missing. Then the story flashes forward 15 days and begins to be told backward by day, Day 15, Day 14, etc. As the plot unfolds, I had to pay very close attention due to the format; with the story going backwards, I had to stop several times and get reoriented as to how all the facts fit together. As the days reverse, the disappearance of the second girl, Annaleise Carter, is investigated and explained. All the Missing Girls was gripping, and it held my attention throughout. Unlike many in this genre, the ending was unpredictable, and not obvious by the time I was finishing the book which I really liked. Thanks to Simon & Schuster for sending me this one in exchange for an honest review

To paraphrase Hannibal Lecter, we covet with our eyes, what we see. The cover of All the Missing Girls is what first caught my eye. An empty ferris wheel, in the dark, rising out of the trees into a cloudy sky. The title hinting at a mystery and likely tragedy. Then the description of two missing girls, disappearing ten years apart, but linked in the way that small town tragedies are often linked; everyone knows everyone and you never really leave. Add to that a unique narrative device of telling the story backwards, from the 15th day after the second disappearance to the 1st, and you

have all the ingredients for a great story. Megan Miranda tells a great story and she does it with interesting, flawed, even tragic characters. Characters who you can't trust, but who you become very invested in. The story is told through the eyes of Nicolette Farrell, who left Cooley Ridge 10 years ago after the disappearance of her friend Corinne. Pulled back to help deal with her ailing father, she is no sooner back than another girl goes missing. Annaleise, the missing girl, happened to be the alibi for Nic and her brother Daniel, as well as their friends Tyler, Jackson and Bailey. All of whom were the focus of the investigation ten years earlier. Miranda brilliant spills out the information, a drab at a time, pulling the narrative forward even as time moves backwards. It's a little bit difficult to wrap your head around the concept. The characters already know what the reader is just finding out because the action is in their past, but your future. Add to that the fact that none of the characters is completely honest, with themselves or with each other. The story moves ahead with one bombshell after the other as layers are peeled back. Along with facts of what happened with the disappearing girls, truths about the characters and who they really are get revealed. All the Missing Girls will haunt you even as it thrills you. There is a bit of a resemblance to Shirley Jackson and The Haunting of Hill House in the way that this small town grips you and pulls you back into its clutches even after you think you've escaped and moved on. This is a great story that will have you turning the pages to get to the satisfying and haunting conclusion. Highly recommended. I was fortunate to receive an advance copy of this book.

When Nicolette Farrell returns home after a decade long departure she's met with an unexpected turn of events. While she's headed back to Cooley Ridge to help aid her ailing father and sell their family home, Nic is surprised when her past dredges up memories of a missing girl from her childhood. Ten years ago the investigation led authorities to Nic, her brother Daniel, her boyfriend Tyler and the missing girl's boyfriend Jackson but no one was ever found guilty. Upon Nic's return home, Tyler's new girlfriend, Annaliese goes missing. The story of All the Missing Girls is told backwards from day fifteen until day one. A gripping thriller that you won't be able to put down. This story intrigued me from the cover to the synopsis. I had yet to see a story told chronologically backwards. So suffice it to say I was sold from page one. I didn't set this book down until I had finished it. I praise Megan Miranda for doing something so different and doing it well. I kept holding my breath as each chapter ended and the story went back to the day before. I will admit that I found it rather difficult to stay on track, I often found myself confused as we were going backward in the story. At times I had to keep asking myself why the main character was or wasn't doing something she should have been, only

to realize that she wasn't because the event hadn't happened yet. There were only slight discrepancies on my end, it's quite possible that anyone else might not have the issues that I had. As I do with any psychological thriller or mystery, I picked out my suspect from the beginning and looked for clues along the way. I'll admit that I was half right and that was just a lucky guess. If you're ready for a mesmerizing tale of missing girls and a unique take on mystery writing, I urge you to give this a chance.

Miranda's writing is absolutely eloquent and I look forward to reading more from her in the future. Thank you to netgalley for this book in exchange for an honest review.

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