



The Sleeper

Emily Barr

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Lara Finch is living a lie.

Everyone thinks she has a happy life in Cornwall, married to the devoted Sam, but in fact she is desperately bored. When she is offered a new job that involves commuting to London by sleeper train, she meets Guy and starts an illicit affair.

When Lara vanishes from the night train without leaving a trace, only her friend Iris disbelieves the official version of events, and sets out to find her.

For Iris, it is the start of a voyage that will take her further than she's ever travelled and on to a trail of old crimes and dark secrets.

For Lara, it is the end of a journey that started a long time ago. A journey she must finish, before it destroys her...

The Sleeper Details

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From Reader Review The Sleeper for online ebook

Mark Edwards says

One of the most absorbing and atmospheric thrillers I've ever read. Absolutely brilliant. I guessed the ending but that didn't spoil it at all. Very highly recommended.

Sue says

I have mixed feelings about The Sleeper.

All the time whilst reading I couldn't make up my mind if I really liked Lara or not, parts of her I did but other sides to her character, I wasn't so keen on, but then that's quite like real life I suppose. I was intrigued to find out what was in her past and how this was going to impact on her life. Iris was an interesting character and surprisingly I quite liked Lara's sister who, I felt, came good in the end and was given a bit of a rough deal early on. I found their personal conflicts interesting and thought these were portrayed very well.

The plot wasn't quite as pacy as I thought it would be and the ending seemed to suddenly happen. I did flick back to make sure I hadn't missed anything and there are a couple of points I'm still not entirely clear about but that may just be me.

Susan Buchanan says

A solid 4.5 stars from me.

Λ?να Θωμ?ρεη says

?λο το βιβλ?ο αν μπορο?σα να το σχολι?σω θα το ?κανα κ?πως ?τσι:

Μπλα μπλα μπλα φ?νος μπλα μπλα μπλα εξαφ?νιση μπλα μπλα μπλα μπλα ναρκωτικ? μπλα μπλα μπλα μπλα γεροντικ? ερωτολαγνε?α μπλα μπλα μπλα μπλα απ?πειρα φ?νου μπλα μπλα μπλα επ?λυση υπ?θεσης μπλα μπλα τ?λος.

Το μ?νο ?σως σημε?ο που μπορε?, κ?πως να ευχαριστ?θηκα ?ταν στο κομμ?τι της ?ιρις αλλ? και π?λι ?πως λ?ει και ο σοφ?ς λα?ς μας ... το πολ? το μπλα μπλα το βαρι?ται και ο παππ?ς...

?σο για την μοναδικ? επιλογ? για τους Φανς της Φλιν αυτο? που βγ?καν σε αυτ? το συμπ?ρασμα, ? δεν ?χουν διαβ?σει Φλιν ? μιλ?με για μια απλ? συνωνυμ?α...

2 αστ?ρια σταρ?τα και ξεκ?θαρα...

María says

3 de 5 estrellas ?????? (me ha gustado)

Al principio me pareció tan tan bueno que pensé que iba a acabar siendo un súper favorito, una historia que sin pensarlo iba a calarme pero.... cuando llegas a la segunda parte pierde emoción y hasta cierto sentido y en la tercera parte te das cuenta de que va a decepcionarte. Le doy tres estrellas única y exclusivamente por su primera parte, interesante, intensa y escrita fenomenalmente. Dime Emily Barr, las otras partes de tu novela, no las escribiste tú, verdad?? No tengo otra explicación

Απελπιστικ? προβλ?ψιμο και τοσο συνηθισμ?νο απ? ?να σημε?ο και μετ? που αναρωτι?σαι -δεν βαρ?θηκαν να γρ?φουν στο ?διο μοτ?βο-αν ειναι παγ?δα και θα γ?νει η περιζ?τητη ανατροπ? απ? σελ?δα σε σελ?δα.

Αναρωτι?μαι το λ?γο που οδ?γησε στην επισ?μανση που υπ?ρχει στο εξ?φυλλο πως το συγκεκριμ?νο βιβλ?ο θα το αγαπ?σουν οι λ?τρεις της Gillian Flynn. ΚΑΜΙΑ ΣΧΕΣΗ Σκ?τη παραπλ?νηση.

Μ?χρι σχεδ?v τη μ?ση του βιβλ?ου ολα κυλο?v ?μορφα. Υπ?ρχει π?θος,?νταση,δρ?ση,σχετικ? γρ?γορη πλοκ?. Απ? εκε? και μετ? ?σοι ειναι λ?τρεις του αστυνομικο? μυθιστορ?ματος και ως εκ το?του ?χουν διαβ?σει πολλα, αρχ?ζουν και φοβο?vνται πως ?ρχεται η απογο?τευση.

?χουν καταλ?βει την υπ?λοιπη εξ?λιξη, ?χουν ανακαλ?ψει το δολοφ?νο (καθ?λου δ?σκολο) και περιμ?νουν μ?ταια συνεχ?ζοντας να διαβ?ζουν πως θα αποδειχτο?v παρ?λογοι και απαιτητικο? ως αναγν?στες. Πως θα ?ρθει επιτ?λους η μεγ?λη ?κπληξη. Πως δεν θα ειναι τοσο απελπιστικ? αναμεν?μενα ολα.

?μως η συγγραφ?ας δεν καταβ?λλει ο?τε ελ?χιστη προσπ?θεια να διαψε?σει ?λους τους φ?βους μας και απλ? και ?μορφα συνεχ?ζει ως το τ?λος να γρ?φει το χρονικ? εν?ς προαναγγελθ?ντος φ?νου απ? ?ναν αθ?ο και εξαιρετικ? τ?λειο δολοφ?νο και που φυσικ? μια απλ? γνωστ? (ο?τε καν φ?λη) της ηθικ?ς αυτουργο? με περισση αυτοθυσ?α ,θ?ρρος και αλλ? τ?τοια απαρα?τητα σε μια ηρω?δα, λ?νει το μυστ?ριο και ανακαλ?πτει τον ?νοχο,που παρεμπιπτ?ντως ειναι υπερ?νω υπουρ?ας....

Απ? κει και π?ρα ολα συμβα?νουν ανεξ?γητα απλ?ς γιατ? πρ?πει να συμβο?ν και τ?λος καλ? ολα καλ?

Λατρε?ω το αστυνομικ? μυθιστ?ρημα και ?χω διαβ?σει αρκετ? εξαιρετικ? βιβλ?α μυστηρ?ου και εγκλημ?των.

η "νυχτεριν? Ριβι?ρα" δεν αν?κει σε αυτ?!

Lorraine says

SPOILERS

Every now and then I veer from my usual path which leads straight to the shelf with the literary prize winners/nominees. Occasionally something catches my eye; a shiny, flashing attention-grabber makes me consider broadening my horizons and trying something new. In this instance, it was a graphic email from Audible announcing a huge discount on certain reader-voted top titles.

I selected 'The Sleeper' from a list of 50 best-sellers. The title was simple, the plot summary intriguing, the narrator one of my favourites. The author, it transpires, had written a dozen books, both travelogues and novels. I thought she must be worth a try. I listened. To all 13 h-o-u-r-s.

I gave it two stars for two reasons: firstly, because the author wrote a whole book, something I have not managed to do myself and which is much harder than people think, and because she found a publisher despite writing like a high school English student. Secondly, because the language and grammar were generally very good (although everyone in it spoke with exactly the same mix of cardboard and plummy voice). Although I was listening, I imagine the spelling was top-notch.

The three stars I failed to award this book would have been for plot, character and overall literary accomplishment. All of these elements were completely absent from 'The Sleeper'.

So why did I stick with this to the bitter (contrived, ridiculous, far-fetched) end? I think it was a sort of masochism, and because it was interesting to see just how many more imaginary friends, lottery winners, evil sisters-turned-angels, godfathers-turned-murderers, mean domineering fathers, or wimpy cardboard husbands one could squeeze into a single novel, not to mention the benevolence that we were asked to bestow upon a scheming, lying, escaped drug dealer! Oh, I forgot the handsome, single policeman and the poor dead best friend... and the miraculous rescue from an underwater Thai beach prison by local fishermen. Need I say more?

I'm making a bee-line for the Bookers (Man or not), Whitbread/Costas, Orange/Womens, etc. immediately.

Yvonne says

I was 3/4 done with this book by the time the first day ended & had to stop to sleep. Would have finish this at one go.

I love it that it was gripping & made me wanna get to the end fast. Because I've been to Thailand many times & thus able to picture the scenarios so that made reading this book doubly enjoyable. + I'm from Singapore thus a book with 2 familiar countries is refreshing & somewhat real.

The description & presence of character of Lxxx in earlier chapters created awareness that this would be a character to watch... Somehow... I had wish it's be harder to guess though.

Overall still a good 4.5*!

Cristina says

Un 2,5 para un libro que me ha costado pese a tener una premisa interesante.

El problema ha sido una protagonista a la que no he tragado demasiado y que ha llevado a una historia que, llegado un punto, me ha dejado de interesar.

Una pena, le tenía ganas

Leslie says

4.45 stars

Whew, this one was all over the map & had me from the get-go!! Wonderful domestic yet far-reaching thriller with characters that will keep you guessing!!!

Tracy Fenton says

Mystery, illicit romance, dark secrets, murder, feisty females, sibling rivalry and a twisting storyline made The Sleeper a very good book.

Karen says

I loved this book! I could not put it down.

I thought it reminded me a bit of Gone Girl, since it had surprisingly twists scattered over the book. I also really like that even though there is a mystery to be solved, you also get a lot of interesting small side stories of the main characters. I highly recommend reading this book!

Katy Noyes says

One of those books that starts one way and finishes another, a bit like From Dusk til Dawn, but without the vampires.

A woman, Lara, bored with her quiet life in Cornwall and marriage to the lovely but dull Sam, takes a job that requires weekly commutes on an overnight sleeper train to London. She meets new friends, succeeds at her job, meets someone she can't help being attracted to.

It starts as Hitchcockian suspense, I held high hopes - I love his train thrillers. And it does keep you intrigued. Lara is mostly likeable, certainly sympathetic, though we know there's a secret or two hidden that have led her to settle for dull but sweet Sam and to having such a poisonous relationship with Olivia, her sister.

I really liked the way, just as things were happening and you wanted to follow Lara, you couldn't. A minor

character suddenly takes over the narrative, and ultimately a great portion of the sympathy and story. This was cleverly done.

It was the ending really that, not disappointing, just didn't seem to be as knockout as the start promised. A 'bad guy' there is, but his role seemed a bit stereotypical, and underused, it all seems over too quickly.

Thrillers aren't a genre I read many of. And so I don't have the experience to say how this one measures up against them. I know I enjoyed it, wanted to keep reading and found elements of it very clever and intense, but it could have ended with a bit more of a kick.

Joanne Robertson says

This is another book that has been hanging around on my TBR pile for ages but when I saw it was one of the Kindle Monthly Deals this month, I thought I had better bump it up and get it read! I've always been a big fan of Emily Barr's travel related, psychological suspense books so I was keen to delve into this mystery set mainly on-board a sleeper train. Having spent some time on sleeper trains before, I already had a touch of apprehension due to past experiences!

Lara is married to Sam. From the outside they look like the golden couple but after failing to add to their family, Lara has got bored with their life and goes back to London to work Monday to Friday to get away from her dull marriage and to seek excitement in the bright lights of the capital. But she finds that illicit thrill and companionship in an unexpected place—the sleeper train she takes to and from Paddington station every Friday and Sunday night. I found it very difficult to relate to Lara at first. She seemed spoilt and rather petulant and her relationships with her husband and family members seemed to reinforce that idea. There was obviously something hidden away in her past that had led to her restrained behaviour but I couldn't for the life of me work out what it would be!

This is literally a book of two very different halves. In the first half the emphasis is on Lara and the build up to the event on the train mentioned in the blurb. Iris is only included in the storyline very briefly at first, a friend who has not known Lara for long but their friendship seems to fill a need within both women, even though its superficial nature starts to become obvious to the reader as it goes along. The second half of the book bumps up the tension and follows Iris as she looks for clues into her friend's disappearance, refusing to believe the official version of events. I quite liked how the character of Iris developed in this section of the book, even though I found it a little far-fetched that such a weak connection between the two women would lead to such an extreme reaction from Iris. But I was enjoying the story so much that I was happy to suspend belief at that and some of the plot twists that took place during the search for Lara.

This definitely entertained me on a cold, snowy afternoon stuck by the fire drinking lots of cups of tea, curled up wishing I was in the warmer climates mentioned in *The Sleeper!* Emily Barr wove a wicked tale of obsession and deception that I found hard to put down, enjoying the brainache she induced as I tried to figure out where it was going. A recommended read!

Sara Cantador says

3'5/5

La verdad es que ha resultado ser una lectura muy buena, intrigante y que, aunque no tiene grandes dosis de acción, sabe mantener al lector en tensión y constantemente pendiente de los movimientos de los personajes. Mi pega ha sido que al final todo se resuelve muy rápido (en comparación al problema que tenían), pero por lo demás, muy recomendada.
