



The Perfect Girl

Gilly Macmillan

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To everyone who knows her now, Zoe Maisey - child genius, musical sensation - is perfect. Yet several years ago, Zoe caused the death of three teenagers. She served her time. And now she's free.

Her story begins with her giving the performance of her life.

By midnight, her mother is dead.

The Perfect Girl is an intricate exploration into the mind of a teenager burdened by brilliance. It's a story about the wrongs in our past not letting go and how hard we must fight for second chances.

The Perfect Girl Details

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From Reader Review The Perfect Girl for online ebook

Susanne Strong says

4 Stars..

Zoe Maisey and her mother have built a new life for themselves. Even Zoe's name is different. Everything changed within the blink of an eye. Zoe was involved in something horrific, something she paid a big price for and now, Zoe and her mother Maria have a second chance at life and a new family. The only thing that has remained a constant is Zoe's piano playing. She and her new step brother Lucas have a concert tonight. At the end of it, tragedy strikes yet again and Zoe's mother Maria ends up dead. Was it an accident or was it murder?

In her second chance life, Zoe has had to put the past away and pretend it never happened. How long can Zoe pretend, hide and keep secrets before she begins to shut down and loses herself? Maria expects her daughter to be perfect and Maria herself acts as the perfect wife to her new husband Chris and that facade is bound to burst - in a big way.

This novel alternates between the past and the present and is told from alternating viewpoints - in this way, we find out the truth - the story of what happened to Zoe and what happens to her mother as well. I found this novel to be more of a slow burning character study of Zoe, her aunt Tessa and Tessa's husband Richard v. a mystery novel. The author, Gilly MacMillan did a great job in developing the characters and drawing us into their lives. As a whole however, the ending was a bit of a letdown and some parts of this novel seemed a bit far-fetched. "The Perfect Girl" was an enjoyable read though I liked Ms. MacMillan's "What She Knew" a bit more.

This was a Traveling Sister Read. It included Brenda, Kaceey, Jennifer, Berit, Marialyce and Nikki. Glad we read this one together sisters!

Published on Goodreads, Amazon and Twitter on 1.7.18.

Berit??? says

4 Second chance stars ?????

The perfect daughter... The perfect mother... The perfect second chance family... but what is it that we say?

if something seems too good to be true, it probably is...

This book sucked me in from the very beginning.... it was a very fast-paced, page turning read, because I just needed to know what was going to happen with this family....

The structure of this book was brilliant... told from alternating points of view... alternating between events

before and after the murder.... this book was like an onion, with those layers slowly being peeled off(But I don't like onions and I liked this book quite a bit)....

Zoe the main female protagonist in this book evoked so much sympathy from me.... Zoe made a mistake, a pretty big mistake.... her dad can't handle it, so he leaves mom to pick up the pieces.... mom's way of coping with it is to pretend it never happened, and turn Zoe into the *perfect girl*.... so now Zoe and Maria have the perfect second chance family, filled with all kinds of secrets....

Can't give you much more than that, because I'd give it all away....

As you can tell this book started with a definite BANG, but unfortunately it ended with a bit of a poof.... not to say I was not completely satisfied with the ending, it just was a little lackluster.... there was also a plotline in this book, that I'm not entirely sure of the purpose of, but I did enjoy that part of the book, so it wasn't for nothing....

I absolutely recommend this to all psychological thriller lovers.... it is a quick read, with an interesting structure, and unquestionably keeps you guessing....

This was a Traveling Sister read.... always so fun reading books like this with the girls, all of us trying to figure out what is really going on, it can be amusing at times....

You can find all the Traveling Sisters reviews at Norma and Brenda's fabulous blog...
<https://twogirlslostinacouleereading....>

You can also find all my partner in crime and my reviews including reviews of the audio narration at...

<https://audiokilledthebookmark.com/>

Dale Harcombe says

Four a half stars.

After reading her earlier book Burnt Paper Sky, I was thrilled to bits to win an ARC from The Reading Room and the publisher. Originally titled Butterfly in the Dark it has undergone a change of name and is now The Perfect Girl. Perfect the book is not, but it is an absolutely compelling read about Zoe, a teenage musical prodigy and her family. In her other life, Zoe was convicted of having caused the death of their teenagers. Now she is back trying to resurrect the career that stalled and appeared over with her conviction and time spent in The Unit. With concert with Lucas, her stepbrother this is the first performance of her Second Chance Life. But plans have a way of being thwarted.

The story is told from several points of view of those involved in events that lead to the death of Zoe's mother. Rather than feeling like it is chopping the story up as can happen when not handled well, this technique makes for interesting reading. Been told in different voices and in short chapters makes it easy to read and I felt like I was getting a fuller perspective of the situation rather than just sticking with the one character's thoughts and viewpoint. There are a few people who have secrets they don't want revealed. Who is responsible for the death of Zoe's mother?

This novel certainly presents some heavy issues to think about. There are a couple of things that concerned

me a little but to divulge would give away too much of the story. This is a book people will read, recommend and want to talk about. I found it engrossing and a quick read that I kept wanting to get back to. Thanks to The Reading Room and the publisher for my copy to read and review.

Taryn says

Zoe Guerin is a musical prodigy with a genius IQ. Her dreams of success were shattered the night she was involved in a tragic accident that resulted in the death of three classmates. Zoe was convicted in their deaths and spent eighteen months in jail. At seventeen she has served her time and her mother Maria plans the perfect comeback--a piano recital. They live in a new community now and no one knows about Zoe's past. The plans for redemption come to a halt when the father of one of Zoe's victims storms in and confronts her in front of the entire crowd. Zoe and her mother flee the scene and wait for Zoe's stepfather Chris to return home. Chris was never told of Zoe's past run-in with the law and the unexpected reveal threatens to destroy their second chance at life. Chris is angry about all the lies and Maria sees her life slipping away again. The family never has a chance to heal, because Maria is found dead six hours later. Who killed Zoe's mother and why? Was Zoe actually guilty of killing her three classmates or was she betrayed by an imperfect legal system?

The best lies are those that are the closest to the truth.

I really liked What She Knew, so I was thrilled when I won this one! The Perfect Girl didn't even feel like the same author to me, so **I don't think a reader's opinion of Macmillan's previous novel is any indicator of whether they will like this one or not.** On a very basic level, it reminded me of my experience reading Jodi Picoult's My Sister's Keeper and my issues with perspectives and the character's voices.

Guilt is a good way to leverage people. ... I learned it because my guilt about what I've done makes me bend the shape of myself to fit what other people want every day of my life.

The Characters (Bolded characters have their own chapters):

Zoe: The perfect girl. :)

Maria: Zoe's mother

Chris: Stepfather

Lucas: Stepbrother

Philip: Zoe's father

Tessa: Zoe's aunt

Sam: Zoe's former solicitor. In a relationship with Tessa.

Richard: Tessa's alcoholic husband.

The events in the book occur over twenty-four hours, with occasional flashbacks to Zoe's past legal trouble. Zoe is stubborn, driven, and emotionally cold. She has a dark sense of humor that makes it difficult for her to connect with people. We don't get to know Zoe's mother very well, but she expends a ton of energy

trying to meet her new husband's impossible standards. The Guerin women lost everything after the accident and they don't want to lose their second chance at life. Zoe's aunt Tessa has her own issues with perfection. Tessa and Sam's affair exists in a perfect bubble. They rarely talk about any real issues. While Tessa looks forward to her time with Sam, she is reluctant to leave her husband. She still remembers when her marriage was "perfect" and still hopes that their relationship will improve someday.

My dislikes:

- **The characters were flat and I could only tell them apart by context.** The men's voices didn't sound authentic to me. Even the grief over the mother's death didn't even feel authentic. I didn't care what happened to most of the characters.
- **It was too long and Part One dragged.** *Part One: Sunday and Monday* is 225 pages, which is half the book. Most of the Monday chapters actually reflect back on Zoe's past. During Sam and Tessa's chapters, it felt like I was on the phone with someone analyzing their family members and telling me about their family drama. I didn't feel like I was actually experiencing anything and I think that's why Part One felt slow. Even Zoe's reflections felt that way and she was the one with direct experience. **Part Two: Monday was more interesting because it focuses on the events of Monday and what happened to Zoe's mother, but it was already too late for me.**
- **There were too many perspectives, especially from those who are essentially spectators of the central story.** I think I would have liked the story more if it stuck with the "Second Chance Family." I could have done without the Tessa/Richard/Sam storyline, but that was actually the part that affected me the most. Sam's last chapter was haunting.
- **The family's movements through the house during a very short period of time seemed unnatural.** The concert is at 7pm and Zoe's mom dies six hours later. On that dramatic Sunday night, they kept casually separating and reuniting in different areas of the home. The odd calmness of the characters mixed with a frantic energy of their movements drove me crazy!
- After the incident at the church, Lucas sends Zoe and her mom a script he wrote. He won't tell them what it's about, but he insists that it's urgent that they read it. It ends up being about his life before his father met Zoe's mother. **I wasn't a big fan of PDF problems and wi-fi connectivity issues to drag out the suspense.** Zoe casually mentioned the tech issues over multiple chapters (she is definitely not in a hurry to read it), which just highlighted the calculated stalling. After Act I, we don't get another glimpse of the script for 217 pages.
- Tessa's husband Richard is an alcoholic who sleeps all the time. **Richard goes through a sudden and unrealistic change in the middle of the book.**

I already knew that life was unfair, and that structures society puts in place to protect you don't always work ... What happened to me marked me permanently, turned me into somebody who could be pushed and pulled around, like a toy for other people to play with, somebody without a voice, and without the right to a normal life.

Unless.

Unless I'm brave enough to take control.

My Likes:

- The gradual glimpse into Maria's marriage and all the subtle hints that something wasn't right.
- The parts about injustice in the justice system, though I think it could have gone much further with that angle.
- I thought it was interesting to read about a couple struggling with fertility issues, where the man is the one desperate for a child.
- I liked where Zoe ended up at the end, even though I'm not sure how I feel about how she got there!

"It's not wrong if it ends up being right."

Everyone has problems and perfect is an impossible standard to live up to. I disagree with the blurb that states readers of The Girl on a Train will love this book. **This book felt much more like a young adult novel, though it is not categorized that way. While this novel did not resonate with me, I think it will be entertaining for many.** If you are interested in teens in the juvenile detention system, you might be interested in The Walls Around Us.

I don't think I have nine lives, but I hope I have three.

I received this book for free from the LibraryThing Early Reviewer program in exchange for an honest review. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review. This title will be released on September 6, 2016.

Kaceey - Traveling Sister says

Young teenage Zoe makes one extremely bad decision and the repercussions haunt her family for years. Now she and her mom have ventured to a new town in hopes of a fresh start.

Everyone deserves a second chance, right?

When still another tragedy strikes, Zoe understandably believes her world is crashing around her yet again.

This book started off fairly slow for me. It's also told from several POV and timelines that occasionally I needed a program to follow. But once I fell into the rhythm, I breezed through the pages. Gilly Macmillan has a knack for drawing you in where you feel like a fly on the wall, watching the family drama play out before your eyes. Very well done! I ended this one heavy-hearted but with a smile on my face. I would highly recommend!

A Traveling Sister read with Brenda, Susanne, Berit , Jennifer, Marialyce and Nikki!

Linda says

A Tale of Two Cities.....

Perhaps it's me. I am torn by this dichotomy that has been presented. I read *What She Knew* by this talented author. It was filled with pure compassion, deeply carved characters, and the beautiful lilt of language. I just finished *The Perfect Girl* and felt like I was reading a newspaper rendition. No evidence of this masterful writer.

The Perfect Girl begins with a seventeen year old genius of a musical prodigy, Zoe Maisey. A few years back, she was involved in an automobile accident in which three other teens were killed. Zoe was at the wheel. Alcohol was flowing rapidly in the bloodstream. Zoe's parents, Maria and Richard, divorced because of the strain on their marriage. Maria, the controller, remarries a mega controller, Chris, but keeps "the secret" in check. (How in the world do you keep that one under your hat?)

Each chapter is presented in the voice of the many characters involved. Heavy baggage is carried into each scene like a laundry list of imperfections. Macmillan seems to cover everything from crime, to adultery, to abuse, to medical conditions, to teenage angst and more. The weight of it all bogs down the storyline and causes reader fatigue. Her research is probably impeccable, but it is exactly that. No character elicited warmth of any kind save for Baby Grace.

Yes, I get it. The tautness of suspense and a psychological thriller were suppose to be at the core of this apple. Even with bite after bite, I tasted neither one. Most assuredly, there are others out there that rated this one highly. And just as there are a multitude of apple variations, there are as many different seekers of literature and what constitutes satisfaction.

And so, Ms. Macmillan, I look forward to your next offering. I crave more from the tree of *What She Knew* and the fruit of what made that one so special and bite-worthy.

Julie says

The Perfect Girl by Gilly Macmillan is a 2016 Little, Brown Book Group publication.

After having read 'What she Knew', I have been on the lookout for more books by Gilly Macmillan. This one popped up on my digital library service a few weeks ago and without hesitation, I placed a hold on it. While this is a dark and twisted little tale, it is not on the same caliber as "What She Knew". When something like that happens, disappointment can leave me feeling let down, however, after giving it some thought, I think this novel stands on its own merits and is perhaps chillier than I initially gave it credit for.

Zoe, a musical prodigy with a promising future ahead of her, commits a huge crime, makes an irrevocable mistake that leads to unspeakable tragedy. If you were on the receiving end of this situation, you might find yourself incapable of warming up to Zoe, unable to trust her, or her motives. On the other hand, she has paid for her crimes and so perhaps she should make the most of her life from here on out, if she can.

So, when Zoe's mother meets a widower with a son, the second chance at a happy family presents itself. But, when Zoe's past comes calling the family quickly disintegrates and once more Zoe's chances for a normal,

happy family evaporates.

But, the situation is much darker than it appears on the surface, and in the wake of a second tragedy, Zoe sees her chance to create a new opportunity for herself....

The story is told from the first person perspectives of Tessa, Zoe's aunt and her husband, Richard, whose marriage is teetering on the edge, as well as Zoe, her stepbrother, Lucas, and Sam, Zoe's attorney.

The story has a sinister feel to it all throughout, and presents a number of moral dilemmas for the reader to wade through.

Every single character, except the baby, was hard to like on some level, as each of them were dishonest, manipulative, and secretive. However, there were a few characters who shook off the cobwebs and pulled themselves up, determined to face the future in a more positive way, while others will have to cope with choices that are morally ambiguous, leaving it up to the reader to ruminate on the way everything turned out, and decide if things will really work the way we hope it does for all concerned.

The characterizations, as well as the switch from past to present and the actions and rationalizations the characters provide to excuse what they did, could put some readers off, but then again, I will lay you odds this book, like all other current psychological thrillers, has been marketed as 'for fans of 'Gone Girl' and 'The Girl on a Train.' So, if you know going in that each character is flawed, some more so than others, and are not always easy to like or cheer for, you'll be fine.

This book could also be called, 'The Secret Life of Teenagers', since, despite what we want to think, they are indeed quite capable of devising cunning plots and telling smooth, nearly undetectable lies, hiding secrets, and covering up their crimes and misdemeanors. But, will they be found out in the end?

At the end of the day, what it all boils down to is whether or not you can wrap your head around the events that transpire over a relatively short period of time and if you agree with the actions and choices the characters made, and the motives behind them.

I thought his story was constructed very well, the suspense was solid, although not tense enough to prompt nail biting, but the twists were terrific and made me wonder if maybe a little poetic justice was worth it in the end. You tell me.

So, overall, I enjoyed this book for the most part, although it is not the strongest outing for this author.

3.5 stars

Marialyce says

3.5 stars

"When all the details fit in perfectly, something is probably wrong with the story."

Meet Zoe Maisey, a genius, a child piano prodigy, seventeen years old, and convicted of drinking and driving which resulted in the deaths of three classmates. Her life was going to be perfect, all planned out for her, but then fate stepped in and all that changed in the blink of an eye.

Meet Maria, Zoe's mom determined to carve out a life for Zoe, after Zoe's dad leaves them bereft. Maria moves them, after Zoe spends some time in a jail like facility, to a new town trying to escape the past and give Zoe that chance once again to be perfect. Maria has remarried a man named Chris who also has a

seventeen year old son who plays piano. They also have a new baby and life seems to be back on its road to perfection. Then on the night of a concert all that was once hidden rears its ugly head and by evenings end, Maria is dead.

This was a well done psychological thriller that had me guessing who was the one who murdered Maria. Could history have repeated itself and could Zoe have been the perpetrator? Or maybe, it was Chris who only learned of Zoe's past on the night of the concert. Perhaps it was Zoe's stepbrother who seems to have developed feelings for Zoe. Suffice to say, that this perfect family was surely not perfect at all. "Have no fear of perfection" says Salvatore Dali, "for you'll never reach it." This family didn't even come close.

Thank you to my dear Traveling Sisters who read this book with me. It is always such a pleasure to share our thoughts and ideas with one another.

Crumb says

The Perfect Girl was a *perfect* psychological thriller and it was *perfect* for this time of year. I think it started off a little slowly but gradually built up speed and it kept me turning the pages all the way through. This novel definitely had more of a somber and a macabre tone throughout but I think it fit the book to a "T."

This book alternated between Sunday night after the concert and Monday morning. Personally, I found that a little confusing, but I stuck with it and I am glad I did. That is the reason I gave this book a 3.5 rating rounded up to 4.

This book is also told from the perspectives of each individual throughout the book. When a book is written in this way, I always find myself enjoying one perspective over another. In this book, I enjoyed Zoe's perspective the most.

I would highly recommend this book to fans of Gillian Flynn or Alex Marwood. As aforementioned above, the pacing was a little slow at first, but it really picked up around the halfway mark. This was my first introduction to this author and I would absolutely read another book by her!

Brenda says

I found this book compelling. I needed to know what Zoe, a 14 year old musical prodigy, had done. What mistake had she made that completely changed her life and who she was. How did she get a "Second Chance Family," but then have that go awry as well?

There is a limited number of characters, and the book is a study of these characters and their behavior. How does a teenager (we all know they are prone to poor judgment at times) recover from a disaster? How do sisters relate as adults? How does a wife tolerate an alcoholic or abusive husband? This is Zoe's world: her mum, her dad, her stepfather, stepbrother, baby sister, aunt and uncle, her solicitor, her counselor.

It is an interesting book. I wouldn't classify it as a thriller or a mystery. It's not filled with tension. But I couldn't put it down. I came to care about the characters, even if I didn't actually like some of them much. There is some moral ambiguity in the ending.

Nikki says

This was my first Gilly Macmillan read. I struggled with an exact rating on this one, so I'm landing somewhere around a 3.75 to 4 stars. And here's why:

Wow. The beginning of this book was great. It sucked me in quickly, and I could not put it down. The chapters are very short, and they alternate between different characters' perspectives. The Perfect Girl is a psychological thriller that tells the story of Zoe Maisey and her Second Chance Family. The events of the book take place within a 24+ hour period, intermingled with flashbacks and references to the past. We learn about Zoe's life and her previous involvement in a tragic accident, while reading and learning about another tragic accident that has taken place during this 24 hour window. Hats off to the author for creating this interesting scenario and packing so much into such a short timeframe. I was very impressed with her ability to do this!

That being said, here is where my rating started to falter. While I felt the beginning started off strong and intense, I felt the book started to lose momentum towards the later half/end. There are several important characters (Zoe, Maria, Tessa, Lucas, etc.) in this book, and their stories and perspectives on the events are crucial. However, there are secondary characters that I felt received more mention or focus than deemed necessary. And, to me, it took away from the storyline a bit. Also, while I praise the author for creating an intriguing story within such a small timeframe, it also seemed to hinder the story a bit. I felt maybe it drug on a little too long, when it could have been wrapped up earlier. Nevertheless, it kept my attention, and it kept me reading and reading and reading and WANTING to know how it was going to end. So for that, it's almost a four star rating.

When I finished the book, what I kept thinking about most was the title: The Perfect Girl. I do not want to say too much and will let everyone form their own thoughts and opinions, but the title fascinated me. Who is The Perfect Girl in this story? Who wants to be The Perfect Girl? Is there such a thing? What an interesting title that can be left open to interpretation. I will leave you to ponder on that and draw your own conclusions! :) Enjoy!

This was another fun Traveling Sisters read with Brenda, Kaceey, Berit, Jennifer, Marialyce, and Susanne. Thanks for great comments and conversations, Sisters!

Jennifer ~ TarHeelReader says

4 close, but not quite so perfect stars to The Perfect Girl ?? ?? ?? ??

It only took me a couple pages to get hooked on The Perfect Girl. The structure of the book added to the swift pacing where different points of view were told at two different times - both before and after a murder. The short chapters added to the quick tempo. Lots of surprises, interesting characters, and a bird's eye view into this family, all added up to a great book on the whole.

But you know there's "but" in here somewhere, don't you? ? There were a couple loose ends with characters that left me questioning whether some parts of the book were edited out (it is a longer read at over 400

pages), and it felt a little unsettling. For example, a side character discovered a medical condition that was discussed quite a bit, but I'm not sure what it added to the story? Also, the ending. The book could have gone out with fireworks ?, just like it started; but instead, it just fizzled out. If it had ended better, it would have easily been five stars.

Overall, this was a quick read with excellent pacing, and I would definitely be interested in reading other books by Gilly Macmillan.

This was a Traveling Sister read, and I always have a blast with those! Great discussion, as always! ? Please visit Brenda and Norma's blog: <https://twogirlslostinacouleereading....>

Brenda says

Zoe and Lucas were almost ready – the first performance for Zoe since the accident – and her first performance with her step-brother by her side. The nerves were vibrating in them both, both in different ways. But Zoe knew once her fingers touched the keys and Lucas was playing beside her, she would be fine; they would be fine. Zoe's mother Maria had been the instigator of this concert and also Zoe's biggest supporter. But the monumental disturbance in the middle of their recital was the beginning of a terrible ending for them all...

When Maria had met and married Chris, Zoe felt they were given a Second Chance at life. Chris was a self-made millionaire and his son Lucas was a gifted pianist as well. So the family fitted together like they were meant to be. And the recent birth of baby Grace brought Zoe's happiness level high – she loved her baby sister and her Mum doted on her. But the events at the concert brought the first cracks to their lives – Maria and Zoe's past life; Zoe's accident – hadn't been told to Chris and Lucas...

Narrated mainly by Zoe, but also by the intricate and intriguing cast of characters making up *The Perfect Girl*, the chapters are short and sharp; the time frame and perspective is easy to follow. The author, Gilly Macmillan has once again hit on a winner with *The Perfect Girl* (though I love the previous title – *Butterfly in the Dark* - and the reference to Zoe's nickname by Aunt Tess of *Butterfly* as well as the butterfly in the house) in my opinion. I loved *Burnt Paper Sky* when it was released and *The Perfect Girl* is a gripping and intense psychological thriller which I highly recommend.

Shelby *trains flying monkeys* says

But the problem is, a high IQ doesn't necessarily mean that you're clever enough to avoid being a massive teenage cliché. Which is what I was, or what I became. Before my descent into 'teen tragedy,' that is.

Meet Zoe, she was bullied back at her expensive private school. She was the poor kid who got the scholarship to the school because she was a child genius piano player.

Zoe ends up making a mistake and it ends up with three of her classmates dead. She was fourteen at the time

of the accident and I'm not really sure about all the legal stuff with a minor being completely true in this book but at this point the book was reading well so I hung with it.

After the 'scandal' Zoe's parents split up because dad just couldn't live in the same area with his friends judging him for having such a horrible daughter. (Dad needs a ball-punch) so mom (Maria) and Zoe have to start over.

Maria marries Chris and they have another child together. But how they meet is they both have piano prodigies. Zoe of course and Lucas (Chris's son.)

They are now the perfect family.

Until the night of Zoe and Lucas's piano recital. A parent of one of the teenagers that was killed shows up and goes off the deep end about the unfairness of Zoe being allowed to have a life when his child lost theirs. The thing is? Maria didn't tell new husband ANYTHING about Zoe's past.

This is THE SECOND CHANCE FAMILY. They don't talk about that stuff.

The crap hits the fan. Chris the new husband turns out to not be so super awesome after all and that night Maria ends up dead.

The biggest part of the story is the lead up to "who killed Maria" ..told from way too many viewpoints. You have Zoe's voice, Aunt Tessa (who is cheating on her alcoholic husband with Zoe's former lawyer), that cheating lawyer, the alcoholic husband, Lucas..heck if I can remember if that's all.

The whole build-up to the story wasn't bad. Once the who-done-it was solved though I thought "that's it?" Thrillers seem to be getting pretty cookie-cutter and they are one of my favorite genres so stop messing them up people!

It's an okay book but not something I'll remember later when I get trolled on it.

Booksource: Edelweiss in exchange for review.

Since I was a crappy reviewer and completely read this sucker wrong I'll pick a random one that liked it. You can find it here (None of my friends have braved this one yet)

Robin says

2.5 stars

A good thriller is tough to find.

This one centres around Zoe, a teenage piano prodigy, a victim of bullying at her expensive private school - and also a convicted killer. We are told early on that her mother Maria, is killed on the evening after a piano

recital gone wrong.

There's a lot of crap going on in the background. Blended families, affairs, secrets and lies.

For me, this book had a distinct YA feel. Not only because the main character is a teenager, but also the simplicity of it all. I felt the author's hand, I foresaw much of what was going to happen. (view spoiler)

I also didn't believe some of it. (view spoiler) And, I didn't understand other bits. (view spoiler)

After a slow beginning it did pick up, but mainly, this didn't do much for me.

Thank you to Edelweiss and William Morrow Paperbacks for the ARC.
