



The Forgotten Hours

Katrin Schumann

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In this evocative debut novel, Katrin Schumann weaves a riveting story of past and present—and how love can lead us astray.

At twenty-four, Katie Gregory feels like life is looking up: she's snagged a great job in New York City and is falling for a captivating artist—and memories of her traumatic past are finally fading. Katie's life fell apart almost a decade earlier, during an idyllic summer at her family's cabin on Eagle Lake when her best friend accused her father of sexual assault. Throughout his trial and imprisonment, Katie insisted on his innocence, dodging reporters and clinging to memories of the man she adores.

Now he's getting out. Yet when Katie returns to the shuttered lakeside cabin, details of that fateful night resurface: the chill of the lake, the heat of first love, the terrible sting of jealousy. And as old memories collide with new realities, they call into question everything she thinks she knows about family, friends, and, ultimately, herself. Now, Katie's choices will be put to the test with life-altering consequences.

The Forgotten Hours Details

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From Reader Review The Forgotten Hours for online ebook

Monique says

Thought-provoking

Wow. This book was a really good read. Reading from Katie's POV really puts you in the middle of the story and makes you feel what she's feeling. I liked reading how bit by bit her willful ignorance melts away and how she's forced to confront the truth. It couldn't have been easy thinking that either her father was a rapist or that her best friend lied about it. When she started to really see the truth you were hyperventilating with her. Not wanting to see the truth that her father was a drunk who had multiple affairs and slept with his underage daughter's best friend. Even I wasn't sure what I believed to be the truth.

Linda Zagon says

Katrin Schumann, Author of "The Forgotten Hours" has written an emotional, intense, suspenseful, and captivating novel. The Genres for this Novel are Fiction and Women's Fiction. The timeline for this story starts in 2007 and the present and goes back to the past when it pertains to the characters or events in the story. The author describes her characters are complex and complicated. This is a story of coming of age, of friendships, of loss, and betrayal. It also is a story of family, disappointment, memories, forgetting, love and hope.

Katie Gregory, now twenty-four years old, with a successful job, a considerate boyfriend who is an Artist, often thinks back in time to an earlier time when she would be with her best friend Lulu at Eagle Lake having fun. Life seemed to be less complicated, and there were boys, fun, and parties. Unfortunately, Katie now waits for her father to be released from prison, where he has been for six years, accused by her best friend of an unspeakable crime. Katie has to go back to the lake and fix up the cabin for her Dad to live in. She dreads the trip, because of many memories, and some things she has forgotten.

Katie needs to make sense of everything that has happened. When she has asked for information from her parents, she has been put off. What exactly happened? Katie must go back to the past if there is any hope for the future. The omissions of information and Katie's ignorance encourage her to look again at the pieces of the puzzle. What information will Katie find? I would recommend this novel to readers who enjoy a suspenseful and emotional novel.

Shirley Wine says

An okay read

I bought this book from the blurb.

It was touted as a book of the year, and held the promise of so much, and in parts it did deliver, but overall it wasn't anywhere near as satisfying as I expected.

I found Katie, the main character, tiresome and incredibly juvenile with her constant introspection and total self absorption.

As a teen this seemed reasonable, if tedious, but for a woman in her twenties, too damn naive to be believable, the deliberate way she hides her head in sand is not credible, especially as she goes to university and gains a degree and yet fails to gain any sense of self - she is still so naively trusting as to be convinced of her father's innocence and this really stretched my credibility.

I kept thinking, hell at Katie's age I was a mother who had buried a child - and here's a university educated woman who deliberately shuns learning the truth of her father's trial and conviction -

The other characters, Katie's mother, her brother who could all have contributed so much to the story were mere cardboard cutouts without any real substance and yet they could have added so much more richness to the story.

The only character that came alive on the page was Lulu, she was painted with such vivid strokes that showed up all the characters.

This book holds the threads to be so much more but for me it fell sadly flat and left me disappointed.

At times I wanted to shake Katie and tell her to grow the hell up, and to kick her mother in the shins and wake her up out of her apathy, she was certainly sadly lacking as a parent to shield her children from the narcissistic tendencies of a man who was little more than a charismatic Peter Pan, a man who never wanted to grow up and be a father to his children.

Melike says

I just have a lot of mixed feelings about this book and need to sort them out.

RedRedtheycallmeRed says

2.5 STARS

It took too long for things to get moving. The book is so focused on Katie, and she's such a frustrating character! It would have been better for the story to be set further in the past, it just didn't seem believable that Katie was so sheltered and naive about everything that happened. As it was, the chapters set at the lake house felt like they could have been from the 70's.

Katie's a woman in her mid-20's, a college graduate, and yet she comes across as someone unable (maybe just unwilling?) to think like an adult. She never heard anything about the trial? She never looked anything up online? She never once thought to not blindly trust in her father? She was exhausting!

So much focus on Katie meant that other interesting characters got shortchanged: namely Lulu, Katie's mom and Katie's brother. I would have liked some chapters from their POV.

I'm a little disappointed in the ending, I thought what happened with Katie's dad was kind of taking the easy

way out.

Pamela Scott says

<https://thebookloversboudoir.wordpress...>

This is my first time reading the author. I thought *The Forgotten Hours* was great, pretty dark at times but a great read. I was hooked from start to finish. I really felt for Katie, struggling to hold her life together, so blindly believing her father's innocence. The book moves back and forth between now with Katie preparing for her father's release and the fateful night ten years ago when her world blew apart. Katie discovers there are things about the past and her, now divorced parent's life she never knew and her world starts to come apart again. The final few chapters of the book really rattle along as Katie edges closer to the truth about what happened that night between Lulu and her father as she lay asleep on the couch.

Sherri Thacker says

This book started off a little slow and I nearly gave up but at 25% it got a little better. I'm giving this 3 stars. Just ok for me. Didn't love it but didn't dislike it either.

Obsidian says

Please note that I got this via Amazon's Kindle First Reads.

I really loved the premise of the "*Forgotten Hours*" (a teenage girl loses her best friend and father after a rape accusation and trial). This type of plot feels very timely. That said, I thought that the story being told in third person point of view actually pushed me away as a reader. I think if it was told in the first person point of view I would have felt more entwined with Katie and her choices. Also, if it had been first person point of view, I would have given more leeway on the secondary characters (Zen, Lulu, her father, mother, brother, etc) being written so shallowly. However, writing in third person point of view, I think she could have tapped into everyone's emotions a lot more and the backstory. I needed to get into Lulu's and her father's head more.

"*The Forgotten Hours*" goes back and forth following the events that broke up Katie Gregory's family more than 6 years ago. Katie's best friend from childhood accuses her father of rape, after two years of investigation/trial, he is found guilty. This ends up causing her family to fracture. Now that he is getting out of jail, Katie is focused on getting her family back to the way it was. There are complications however with her father wanting her to return to their family's cabin, and make it ready for him. This leads Katie down a path to figure out what really happened, and was it her fault.

Katie is really the center of this story. I wish that Schumann had her come to some realizations a lot sooner. She has had to draw herself in due to what happened to her family, and I get that. However, her relationship with Zen had her being ambivalent about it for reasons dealing with her father. It's pretty obvious that Katie sees herself as her father's daughter and him being sent to jail for something she doesn't believe he did has broken some part of herself. I just wish that we had seen more interactions between her and her brother

David. That character is written as being more aware of things than Katie ever did. I just wish that they had more honest conversations. The same with Katie and her mother. Back to Katie, we get more insight on what occurred 8 years ago (when Katie and Lulu were 17) and how Katie worshiped Lulu until a boy comes between them. The book flips back and forth between present day and the past.

I think Lulu was written well, but I wanted more there. Her story made me sad and I think it got passed over a little too quickly. The question that Katie has is why would Lulu lie about her father. However, we are given hints here and there what was going on with Lulu and I wish that had been the story.

Katie's father, John Gregory, is charismatic. There is a pull to him when we have the story in the before time period. He is the guy that everyone is drawn to, wants to make happy. Even Katie contrasts him with her mother and she finds her lacking due to her withdrawal from their family.

Katie is haunted by her teen crush and I just thought that whole thing with him was a waste (the present time period). The before time period, once again, Schumann types into something when she goes back to first loves, summer days and night, and the smell of the sun and the lake on your skin.

The writing was good, though sometimes a bit overworked. I have to say that I loved all of the sections dealing with Katie and Lulu showing them growing up together and their summers together. Schumann taps into being a young girl and how hard it is sometimes to be best friends with someone. We also get Lulu's longing to be part of Katie's family and how Lulu's life is so different from Katie's.

When we switch back to the present time frame, I just see Katie as a pale shadow still being jerked around by Lulu. You would think that she would be separate from her at this point. We know that the two had no contact after the rape accusation besides a nasty email that Katie sent. But you have Katie wondering why Lulu never reached out to her. I just rolled my eyes a bit at that.

The setting of the book bounces between New York, upper state New York, and London. I have to say that Schumann writes of New York, and summers on the lake very well. The parts in London were very thin to me. We/Katie get info dumped about some things and I just wish it was done differently.

The ending was bittersweet. I wish it had ended differently because I honestly don't think that the Gregory family ever really comes to term with things. Ostriches, the lot of them.

PinkAmy loves books, cats and naps says

I'd rather reread a good book than slog through a boring one.

Amazon Prime First Read books aren't what they once were. Most in recent months have been DNF, one or two stars. None of the December options interested me. We were allowed to choose two books for January, but I could only find one.

THE FORGOTTEN HOURS seemed like a decent possibility, but I couldn't get into the Katie's narration. I was more interested in Lulu's story, but she was barely a minor character. I skimmed to the end.

Bridgett says

So much waiting, so little pay-off.

I truly wanted to love this book. The powerful #MeToo movement our country has seen surface the past few years had me desperately wanting to root for Lulu...but it was so hard. Her character was fake, belligerent, and a tad narcissistic. I know others will disagree, and that's okay. I just had a hard time feeling anything about her at all.

As for Katie...yuck. She was aggravating. In this day and age, when EVERYTHING is splashed all over the internet, we're really supposed to believe she didn't even know who testified at her father's rape trial? Really? Unless she's an ostrich with her head buried in the sand, it's simply not plausible. I don't mind suspending belief a bit, but come on.

Charlie and David could have added so much texture and insight, but the author instead chose to make them meaningless, secondary characters who added nothing at all to the tapestry of the story.

The main problem for me? The book was just horribly boring and anti-climatic. Nothing happened except page after page of Katie's internal dialogue--long, rambling, tedious passages. The story also jumps back and forth over multiple time periods, but the changes aren't identified in any way at the start of the chapters. Makes for a bit of confusion.

Overall, I give this book 1.5 stars. I had such high hopes, but what a disappointment.

Katie B says

2.5 stars

I appreciate the author's attempt to tell a story with complex characters and tough subject matter, but for me this one missed the mark. The bare bones of a good story were there but the transitions from the past and present timelines felt disjointed at times and lacked a cohesive flow. When I finished the book one thought that crossed my mind was it felt more like a good rough draft of a book but needs some work and polishing to turn it into something more meaningful.

When Katie Gregory was a teenager her best friend accused Katie's father of sexual assault. He was convicted of the crime and after serving time in prison he is set to be released. Old memories pop back up to the surface and coupled with new information, Katie seems to question just about everything in her life.

The premise for the story had potential but the execution for the most part fell flat. I wish I would have felt more for Katie than I did because obviously she was in such a tough spot given that not only was her father accused of a horrific crime, but her best friend was the accuser. But other than a few moments here and there, I just never felt all that invested in the story.

There's a similar type storyline in a book I read awhile back, *The Best Kind of People*, and in my opinion that one is a better read than this one.

This was my free Amazon Kindle First selection for January 2019.

Crystal King says

Riveting. If I had to sum up this debut book in one word, that would be it. What would you do if your father went to jail for statutory rape of your best friend? Who do you side with? What if your choice might be wrong? I admit that I feel a lot of overwhelm from the #metoo news of the world today, and wasn't sure how I was going to feel about this novel, but Schumann pulls you into Katie's world and wraps you in all the emotions from each character in such a way that you literally can't put the book down. There are often many sides to a story and relationships can be incredibly tough and complicated and Schumann deftly shows you all that nuance. I'm going to be thinking about this book for a long time to come.

Thanks, NetGalley and Lake Union for the early peek at this book!

Barbara White says

THE FORGOTTEN HOURS is a stunning novel that moves seamlessly between the aftermath of a trauma that shattered one family and a summer evening that ruined many lives. As current events clash with truths Katie Gregory has kept hidden—from her lover and herself—she's forced to return to memories she'd rather forget. Memories that tug loyalty in conflicting directions and question everything she knows about trust and love. Was her father guilty of the crime for which he was convicted? Who's lying, and how much does Katie remember of that tempestuous night when she was fourteen and fighting with her best friend over a boy? Trying to unravel the answers before the heart-pounding finish kept me up way past bedtime. A must-read for book clubs!

eiva says

“Don't all girls say no at first?”

THE FORGOTTEN HOURS is a novel that shifts between the aftermath of a trauma that ultimately becomes the destruction of Katie Gregory and her family and the summer evening that triggered it all. Six years on and Katie Gregory has kept her father's secret from everyone new in her life, even going as far as changing her last name (although she believes in her father's innocence without question at the start of the book?) only to then be forced to return to memories she'd rather forget when her father's release date is mere weeks away. Memories that overshadow her unwavering loyalty, blurring the lines between reality and fiction and suddenly, without warning, Katie's questioning everything she knows about trust, love and truth that belies it all.

(view spoiler)

Vicki Willis says

This was a new release that was provided to me from Kindle First. It had an alternating timeline between the past and the present which I liked, but it didn't really flow well between the two. I thought the topic was spot on with the things going on in the world, but the story didn't move along well. It was very slow to start, but got better in the middle. The characters, Charlie, David, Jack, seemed flat and didn't seem complete. John, the father, was just creepy in every way - Yuck, even when the reader doesn't know whether he is guilty or innocent. I did finish the book, but didn't think the ending was that great. It was an OK book, but I don't know that I will be recommending it to others.
