



# The Drowning Game

*L.S. Hawker*

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## The Drowning Game L.S. Hawker

*They said she was armed.*

*They said she was dangerous.*

*They were right.*

Petty Moshen spent eighteen years of her life as a prisoner in her own home, training with military precision for everything, ready for anything. She can disarm, dismember, and kill—and now, for the first time ever, she is free.

Her paranoid father is dead, his extreme dominance and rules a thing of the past, but his influence remains as strong as ever. When his final will reveals a future more terrible than her captive past, Petty knows she must escape—by whatever means necessary.

But when Petty learns the truth behind her father's madness—and her own family—the reality is worse than anything she could have imagined. On the road and in over her head, Petty's fight for her life has just begun.

*Fans of female-powered thrillers will love debut author LS Hawker and her suspenseful tale of a young woman on the run for her future...and from the nightmares of her past.*

## The Drowning Game Details

Date : Published September 22nd 2015 by Witness Impulse

ISBN :

Author : L.S. Hawker

Format : Kindle Edition 352 pages

Genre : Thriller, Mystery, Fiction, Mystery Thriller, Suspense

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# From Reader Review The Drowning Game for online ebook

## Kimberly says

I am going to tell everyone something here. This book deserves 100 stars, I try not to just give 5 stars out unless I am sure that everything in my opinion really is top notch. The writing style, the emotives that the author brings out in me the reader, the plot, the ending, the characters, setting matters to me too and how it is conveyed, I dont like a lot of atmosphere, so I look for books that are not overly descriptive in nature, ect. This book was FANTASTICALLY MAGNIFIQUE!  
Its everything I want in a book.

I was totally sucked in from page one, you can not escape it. This is one of those books that when you stop where you are on a chapter, you lay the book down, you cant get it out of your head, you must pick it up again. I couldn't stop thinking about what was going to happen next. I was totally biting my nails.

This is movie quality. The author is highly intelligent and it comes through in the reading, she knows a lot of stuff about a lot of stuff! Well done LS Hawker. I very much recommend this book to anyone. What an excellent thriller!

This book was a first read, I won it on Goodreads in exchange for my honest opinion.

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## Kelly MacIver says

I received a review copy from Edelweiss for honest review. Fantastic fast pace. There was just enough discomfort to add to the suspense, without being overwhelming. I always appreciate not knowing where the plot will lead next, and this was very much true for The Drowning Game. As it unfolded there were definite signs that not everything was as it seemed, but I was kept guessing as to how it all would end. I read this over the course of two days and couldn't put it down. Trying not to get specific so as not to introduce spoilers.

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## Cindy O says

With this being the author's first book, I give it 4 stars. I was definitely hooked from the first few sentences in the book. There were a couple of things that I wished were settled at the end.

1) Why not leave Petty with the truth written and hidden somewhere like a safety deposit and give her the key in case he died. That would have been more helpful instead of that crazy will. Is putting the life insurance in a trust fund in her best interest? That drives me crazy, but I suppose there wouldn't be a story to write.

2) Why did he lock her in her bedroom at night? With the locks on the outside of the door???? Seems she would have been safer with the locks on the inside .

Maybe, the door locks were a red herring. All in all, a fast paced read.

I look forward to reading more from this author.

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## **Autumn Is Azathoth The Haunted Reading Room says**

REVIEW: THE DROWNING GAME by LS Hawker

An exceptional debut novel, THE DROWNING GAME is an incredibly visceral story not for the emotionally faint-hearted. I engaged so closely with the young narrator, Petty, that reading was difficult. Kudos to the author on that, because she made me feel as if I lived the events. Whenever Petty howled, I wanted to howl also. When she yearned for freedom and plotted escape, so did I. Days later, I still can't shake the emotions elicited by this novel.

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### **Lee says**

An exceptional debut novel from L.S Hawker although I found it a little slow to begin with. Once it got going I found it hard to put down. There is so much going on here, twists, turns, secrets, deception and the suspense will keep you enthralled till the end. Just when you think you have an idea what is going on you find out you are wrong, a brilliant story that I thoroughly enjoyed.

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### **Lauren says**

Well, mark me down as yet another that blew through this amazing story in one sitting. This chilling story draws you in and does not disappoint. Every twist and turn gives you another piece of the puzzle, except that with every new piece you realize that you must be working on a puzzle of The Beatles' White Album because you really haven't actually put anything together yet. The story is mystifying and captivating, with characters that do not disappoint. Hawker's writing is brilliant and vivid with a story that packs a punch.

Now, I don't have a Kindle or eReader or anything, so I was just staring at my desktop for several hours. I can't say that I recommend doing that to your eyes, but I definitely can't say that it wasn't worth it.

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### **Ozsaur says**

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The thing that aggravated me the most was the ending. If the writer had just dropped a few lines about the will being cooked up by the lawyer and the other guy, and that the tape had been tampered with, the ending would have been very satisfying.

But no, that ludicrous will was left to stand as something Pe

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### **Tea Time with Marce says**

From my blog

4 1/2 stars

I saw this book mentioned during a book meme, I was intrigued and downloaded it. Sometimes the best books are the one's you know nothing about outside of the summary. I want to just say read it, there is something for all, especially the thriller, mystery fans but I think this is perfect for the YA fans that want to get into thrillers. I was captivated and didn't want to go to sleep nights and even bought it to work, which I never do, I just couldn't get enough and had to know what was going to happen.

Petty is a 21 year old GI Jane. Her father has passed and left a will for Petty, this information was a shock to Petty's system. She finally felt free to explore the world and the will had her to continue to be locked up, she would not have it. The will bought up other questions that made her say she needs to research her history, what is really going on. She has been isolated creating a social awkwardness and the kids and town think she is weird but they are also scared of her. She plans her escape and it involves another young adult, Dekker.

Dekker is more than happy to assist Petty, he has a crush on her but in an intriguing advocate way but he quickly ends up in a life or death escape plan without his blessing. This is one of the best characters partnered together for me, it just worked, they were exactly what the other needed. This story is fast paced with twists and secrets being revealed along the way.

Petty has been taught to observe, orient, decide and act, the OODA. She is also a NYCPD tv addict and quotes the TV oath when she is scared. Petty is a character to love and I would love to read more on her but the story ended perfectly, I love my stand alone's and the debut author LS Hawker did it brilliantly. I am excited to read such an intense brilliant thriller. There is no guessing with this one, your guess will be wrong, you are shocked with the secrets and twists and get to the end saying wow, how did the story turn. You are cheering for Petty hoping she finds the family she deserves and before she is captured to continue living a locked up life.

I recommend this one to all my blogging friends, so good. I really hope to see this one around the blogosphere, It will be on my Top 10 list for 2016 I'm sure.

And..... so exciting and laughable. I have chose this as my book club read, they will receive it at next months meeting to read for April's meeting, YES, finally will get them to read something I love but I think they can handle.

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### **Jennifer says**

The Drowning Game is a standalone suspense/thriller written by debut author LS Hawker. I absolutely love kickass heroines, and the main character Petty has been training since the age of three to kick some serious ass. This girl is a one-woman militia in the making, but not because she necessarily wants to be...she truly doesn't know that life can be any different. Petty's upbringing brings "strange and dysfunctional" to a **whole** other level!

In addition to all her inherent badassery, Petty is also fragile, uncertain, questioning, lonely, understandably paranoid, and a hopeless dreamer. I loved her character! The contrast between her core innocence and deadly capabilities made her an interesting character to follow. The first half of this novel was on point as Petty's isolated world was built, the villains and side characters were introduced, and the thriller/suspense/mystery element started to come to life. There did come a point later on in the story when things began to feel a bit

one-dimensional in my opinion, but the stress of the events kept me turning the pages without regret.

Overall, I liked *The Drowning Game* and I **loved** that all my questions were addressed by the end. Ms. Hawker definitely has a lot of imagination and I am excited to see what else this first-time author has up her sleeve. If you enjoy the genres noted for this novel, then consider checking it out!

**My favorite quote:**

*"I learned early not to praise the beauty I saw around me. Dad liked to show me how the pretty surface of things in this world always hid ugliness. For instance, the Star of Bethlehem flowers that grow like crazy by the side of the road are poisonous. And those oak trees. In the summertime they're robed in hundreds of succulent, transparent-green leaves that clap politely in the breezes like spectators at a golf match. In the fall they turn Creamsicle orange with brilliant red edges. But when the bitter winter winds strip the leaves away, you see what the trees are really made of: sinister, granite-hard bark, angry-looking and full of vengeance..."*

**01/11/2016:**

Wow, that was a wild ride!  
Toss up between 3.5 and 4 stars.  
Review to come...

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**Nazanin says**

**3.5 Badass Stars**

Every community has a weird family and for Saw Pole, the Moshens do the job. Petty (21-year-old) and her father live with each other. they live a secluded life, especially Petty. She has no friends, no contact at all with outside world. Even her father home-schooled her and every night he locked her in her room. until Petty found her dead dad in his room.

*"I was going to cry, and I couldn't decide whether I was sad that Dad was gone or elated that I was finally going to be free. Free to live the normal life I'd always dreamed of."*

But her father in his will announced that he has bought a million-dollar life insurance but there are two conditions. In order to get the money, she must marry his friend and if he wasn't single, she must join the Dominican Sisters and live and serve with them for twenty years!

*"This was worse than drowning. Worse than having no mother. Worse than living with a silent crazy father. I wouldn't be free after all. I wouldn't have the normal life I'd planned."*

But everything has a reason, right?! Now that the bubble her father had made for her to live is gone, she realizes there are secrets that she has to unravel them so she can live freely!

The story told in dual POV, 1st person. it's a standalone story. At some point it was an enjoyable read for me so I hope you like it as well!

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## **Peggy says**

In such a short time this book was completed... and I want more...lol. I feel like maybe this could be a series, mini series, or something. It's really that good! Page turner! Intriguing! Well written! Realistic feel! Sucks you in!! Yep all that in one book!

\*Received for an honest review\*

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## **Once Upon a Twilight says**

The Drowning Game can be easily explained as genius. We follow a girl, Petty, through an INSANE journey of uncovering the truth about her past and who she is. Has she been kidnapped and held captive her whole life or just protected from danger?

I can honestly say I have never been taken aback by SO MANY shocking twists and turns in a book. LS Hawker keeps you hooked and wide-eyed. Petty was so easy to like, as was Dekker. We get both of their point of views! Secondary characters are as creepy as they should be. The setting and plot is vivid and amazing!

Petty is the star here though. She is a total bada\*\* and I want to be her. The pairing of Petty and Dekker is the best. She carries him, she outruns him, she protects him! There are a lot of sexist remarks from said secondary creepy characters but Petty defies them all. Female empowerment for the win!

Pick this book up. Pick it up pronto I promise you won't regret it!!

<http://www.onceuponatwilight.com/2015...>

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## **Nycki Heisler says**

I opened this up on my Kindle app to read the first chapter before bed, and the next thing I knew it was 3:30 am and I had read the whole thing! It was such a page turner, I just couldn't find a good place to stop. The characters are fascinating and complex, as the ideas of what constitutes family, how family affects us, and how they try to protect and control us are all examined while you're on a thrilling ride across the heartland in search of answers to the mysteries that keep unfolding!

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## **Sonja says**

Het verhaal begint met een confrontatie tussen Petty Moshen en de politie, die de dood van haar vader onderzoekt. Ze is bijna volledig buiten de normale maatschappij opgegroeid, is een kei in zelfverdediging en kan met wapens omgaan alsof het speelgoed is. Als ze angstig is reciteert ze de eed aan de Grondwet, en ze

heeft door haar geïsoleerd leven totaal geen idee hoe ze met mensen moet omgaan. Terwijl ze worstelt met haar nieuwe vrijheid, wordt ze op de hoogte gebracht van haar vaders testament en ontdekt ze al snel dat ze misschien niet zo 'vrij' is als ze dacht. Want haar vader heeft alles in een trust gestoken, en de voorwaarden die hij eraan verbonden heeft, zijn ronduit schokkend.

Petty weigert aan deze voorwaarden te voldoen, en besluit op zoek te gaan naar haar verleden. En ze ontdekt dingen die ze liever niet had willen weten!

De ongemakkelijke relatie die zich ontwikkelt tussen Petty en Dekker, een plaatselijke jongen die alleen roddel over dit vreemde (maar verbluffend mooie) meisje heeft gehoord, vormt het hart en de authenticiteit van het verhaal. Hij leert haar navigeren door de alledaagse wereld die zij zo verwarrend vindt en zij roept bij hem een moed en onbaatzuchtigheid op, waarvan hij niet wist dat hij ze bezat.

Het verhaal beweegt in een snel tempo met vele wendingen die de lezer laten raden wat echt is, wat leugens zijn en wie wel of niet te vertrouwen is. Ik houd van een goed mysterie en dit boek stelde absoluut niet teleur. Een prachtig debuut van deze auteur. Haar volgende boeken komen heel zeker op mijn TBR-lijstje.

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## ? Kimberly says

The tale opens when we meet Petty Moshen at home with her Dad. From the onset, we realize Petty's life is a tad strange. When her father dies in his sleep, we begin a journey as Petty tries to outwit her dominant, controlling and paranoid father.

I loved trying to figure out whether or not Petty's Dad was crazy or if he had reason. We learn Petty slept with dead bolts on the outside of her bedroom door and that her father trained her with military precision. For her it is pure instinct to walk into a room, look for exits and trust no one. When the terms of her Dad's will make it clear, he plans to control her life even in death she devises an escape...only she cannot drive. Dekker, a delivery boy for the local grocer becomes her unwitting accomplice.

Petty is such a unique character. Her life has been sheltered. Most of her knowledge comes from her Dad and television. Her favorite shows are crime shows like CSI and Criminal Minds. She felt authentic and I loved seeing her process information.

Twists, turns, and shocking reveals kept me listening. We are given both the perspective of Petty and Dekker as we travel in search of answers to questions that arise. Who is Petty? Why was her Dad paranoid? Where is her mother? Hawker kept me guessing, had me on edge, and I found myself fully engaged with these characters.

The synopsis is vague and personally I think it enhanced the story. Avoid spoilers! This was a clever well-paced tale that unfolds perfectly. We learn information along with the characters and there was never a dull moment. Hawker managed a unique storyline with climatic scenes all while creating a realistic feel. The imagery in some scenes gave moments a 3D feel. For example a sudden storm had me holding my breathe.

Unique, quirky and suspenseful The Drowning Game was the perfect audio listen. Both Amanda Dolan and Paul Woodson did an excellent job in capturing the character's personalities and setting the tone of their story. This tale came to live on audio, from the villains to the friends they met along the way. It's the type of



listen where you find yourself stopping to just listen.

Audio provided by publisher. This review was originally posted on Caffeinated Book Reviewer

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