



Her One Mistake

Heidi Perks

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What should have been a fun-filled, carefree day takes a tragic turn for the worse for one mother when her best friend's child goes missing in this suspenseful, compulsively readable, and darkly twisted psychological thriller.

It all started at the school fair...

Charlotte was supposed to be looking after the children, and she swears she was. She only took her eyes off of them for one second. But when her three kids are all safe and sound at the school fair, and Alice, her best friend Harriet's daughter, is nowhere to be found, Charlotte panics. Frantically searching everywhere, Charlotte knows she must find the courage to tell Harriet that her beloved only child is missing. And admit that she has only herself to blame.

Harriet, devastated by this unthinkable, unbearable loss, can no longer bring herself to speak to Charlotte again, much less trust her. Now more isolated than ever and struggling to keep her marriage afloat, Harriet believes nothing and no one. But as the police bear down on both women trying to piece together the puzzle of what happened to this little girl, dark secrets begin to surface—and Harriet discovers that confiding in Charlotte again may be the only thing that will reunite her with her daughter....

This breathless and fast-paced debut—perfect for fans of *Big Little Lies* and *The Couple Next Door*—takes you on a chilling journey that will keep you guessing until the very last page.

Her One Mistake Details

Date : Published January 8th 2019 by Gallery Books (first published June 1st 2018)

ISBN : 9781501194221

Author : Heidi Perks

Format : Hardcover 320 pages

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

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From Reader Review Her One Mistake for online ebook

Carrie says

Her One Mistake by Heidi Perks is a gripping thriller that covers every parents worse nightmare, a child gone in the blink of an eye. The author has given this a bit of a twist though with it being a friend taking care of the little girl when she goes missing.

Harriet had never been separated from her four year old daughter Alice since she had been born. Other mothers use babysitters, friends or family quite often to get even a small break but Harriet was a stay at home mother who hadn't trusted anyone with her precious daughter until now.

Charlotte is Harriet's best friend and about as opposite as can be. With three children of her own Charlotte volunteers to take Alice with them to the school fair so Harriet can take a class that afternoon. With four kids in tow Charlotte heads to the fair where the children begin to play but when her own children return from a ride without Alice Charlotte is devastated when there is no sign of the child.

Her One Mistake is one of those books that really was thought provoking. We are a society of placing blame on victims and as much as anyone disagrees with Charlotte's actions in the beginning of this she is still a victim having to live with what happened. And then there's Harriet who your heart can't help but break for as the emotional side of the book begins to stand out. But of course as with any good thriller there are plenty of twists and turns to keep a reader guessing until the last page. Definitely one that kept me on the edge of my seat and would recommend.

I received an advance copy from the publisher via NetGalley.

For more reviews please visit <https://carriesbookreviews.com/>

Linda says

All it takes is the slightest breeze to change the trajectory of one's life. Moments acted upon and those missed opportunities viewed longingly from over the shoulder.

Charlotte seems to hover over chaos day in and day out. She's been separated from her husband, Tom, for two years. She's used to tuning out the wild stampede of her three children who demand her attention almost every hour of the day. Charlotte has become adept at running to the front door through landmines of disregarded toys.

No one would ever have thought that quiet, shy Harriet would befriend an erupting volcano like Charlotte. Harriet is so different from Charlotte's other friends and those friends have difficulty with including Harriet in their group. Harriet is a withdrawn mother of four year old Alice. She keeps her daughter safely tucked in her home with strict supervision. Charlotte always extends playdates which Harriet talks her way out of.

But today Harriet is asking a special favor of Charlotte. Harriet wishes to attend a bookkeeping class held at a local hotel for the day. Charlotte is delighted to have little Alice included in their trip to the school's fair. Harriet hugs her daughter goodbye. As readers, we feel the heaviness of something yet to come.

Charlotte watches as the little band of children enter the Jungle Run. She checks her phone as she waits for them to return. Her own brood comes running out the Exit, but there's no sign of Alice. In a panic, Charlotte crawls inside herself. No Alice. She runs wildly through the crowd calling for Alice. No response. The police are called and the search begins.....

Can you even imagine approaching your friend and telling her that her child is missing under your watch? The guilt must be mind-boggling. Harriet refuses any attempts by Charlotte. Charlotte is devastated.

But as readers, we will notice the thin light under the door of secrets. Something is not right here.

Heidi Perks creates a tension-filled storyline that doesn't give you time to breathe from the very onset. She packs it with emotions that the reader can readily relate to. Her characters will set your teeth on edge. If you're in a bit of a reading lull about now, *Her One Mistake* will definitely have you soaring through the pages. A ripping good one.

Stephanie says

4.5 Stars

Her One Mistake by Heidi Perks is a gripping, psychological thriller that had me quickly turning pages to discover the fate of little Alice after she disappeared the day of the school fair when she was in the care of Charlotte, her mom Harriet's best friend.

A child suddenly gone missing without a trace is every parent's worst nightmare. As a mother, my heart completely broke for Harriet because I know that I'd be completely inconsolable and terrified just like Harriet is if one of my kids suddenly disappeared and no one saw what happened. Honestly, how do you pick up the pieces of your life until you get your child back in your arms?

I also felt empathy for Charlotte after Alice goes missing. This is the first time Harriet had allowed Alice out of her sight to be cared for by anyone else, yet she simply disappears the second Charlotte looks away, so the unimaginable guilt Charlotte has to live with tears her apart but even worse, the incident shatters and destroys her relationship with Harriet. After all, how do you tell your best friend that you lost her daughter after you'd promised, **no, sworn**, that nothing would go wrong while her daughter was in her care?

Perks has written a novel that is exactly paced, compelling, and the dual narratives told by Charlotte and Harriet give excellent perspectives of the storylines, which are told in alternating times of "Before" and "Now". The writing style is unique and really adds to the story. You can feel the devastation, heartbreak, tension, unease, and suspense just drip off the pages.

Of course, there is so much more to the book than I can reveal without spoiling it for you, so I won't! After all, I want you to read the book! But what does the title mean by "her one mistake" because it's definitely a question with many different answers in this emotionally charged, pulse-pounding thriller! This is my first time reading a novel by Perks, but I thoroughly enjoyed it and look forward to reading more of her novels!

****Thank you, Gallery Books and Heidi Perks for an ARC copy of *Her Own Mistake*, which I won in a Goodreads giveaway. All opinions are my own.****

JuJu (Julie) says

One sentence summary

Her One Mistake is a heartbreak and terrifying look into a mother's life after her daughter disappears.

My thoughts

How do you continue to function after your child has disappeared? And what do you say to your best friend, who was watching her at the time? Is it worse to lose your own child or someone else's child?

This novel follows the lives and friendship of two women as they are torn apart over the disappearance of a child. It will make you want to cry and scream at the same time, but you won't want to stop reading!

Charlotte is watching her best friend's daughter Alice, when she disappears. The devastating incident has shattered their relationship...and will change the course of their lives.

I can't imagine being in either woman's place and I'm not sure which woman I felt more sympathy for. As a mother myself, the thought of losing a child is unimaginable, so my heart instantly went out to the mother—Harriet. At the same time, I can't imagine the guilt Charlotte feels knowing she's responsible for her best friend's anguish. I felt no sympathy for the father—Brian. He was controlling and over-the-top with the doting behavior of his wife, which drove me crazy.

It took a little bit for the book to hook me, but once it did...WOW! Heidi Perks is a new author for me and I loved her writing style...I highly recommend this one! She is now on my list of favorite authors.

My Rating: 4.5 ??'s

Thank you to NetGalley / Gallery Books / Heidi Perks for this digital ARC, in exchange for my honest review!

#NetGalley #HerOneMistake

Book Blurb

What should have been a fun-filled, carefree day takes a tragic turn for the worse for one mother when her best friend's child goes missing in this suspenseful, compulsively readable, and darkly twisted psychological thriller.

It all started at the school fair...

Charlotte was supposed to be looking after the children, and she swears she was. She only took her eyes off of them for one second. But when her three kids are all safe and sound at the school fair, and Alice, her best friend Harriet's daughter, is nowhere to be found, Charlotte panics. Frantically searching everywhere, Charlotte knows she must find the courage to tell Harriet that her beloved only child is missing. And admit that she has only herself to blame.

Harriet, devastated by this unthinkable, unbearable loss, can no longer bring herself to speak to Charlotte again, much less trust her. Now more isolated than ever and struggling to keep her marriage afloat, Harriet believes nothing and no one. But as the police bear down on both women trying to piece together the puzzle

of what happened to this little girl, dark secrets begin to surface—and Harriet discovers that confiding in Charlotte again may be the only thing that will reunite her with her daughter....

This breathless and fast-paced debut—perfect for fans of *Big Little Lies* and *The Couple Next Door*—takes you on a chilling journey that will keep you guessing until the very last page.

Jonetta says

Charlotte Reynolds is taking her three young children to the school fair and has agreed to let her friend Harriet Hodder's 4-year old daughter, Alice, accompany them. This is the first time Harriet has left her daughter with anyone so this was a major event for the both of them. While the children were playing on an inflatable ride, Charlotte was keeping an eye on them from a short distance, briefly checking her phone messages and Facebook page. At some point she notices that Alice isn't with her two oldest children anymore and has to eventually face the reality that the child is missing. It's awful enough to lose track of your own child so imagine the anguish of losing someone else's in your care.

This story clicked for me from the start, even though it's more of a slowly developing one. It transitions between the present and the day Alice went missing using Charlotte's and Harriet's narratives. I loved this technique as it allowed me to really get to know both of these characters from their own points of view and each other's. I felt the anguish of both women, while different for both, it was still palatable. It was difficult to not sort of judge Charlotte but what happened to her in the aftermath was reflective of our current societal environment with social media used as an outlet for others to weigh in anonymously. The damage wreaked is immeasurable no matter if the parties are innocent or don't deserve to be judged.

Then this story takes a jaw-dropping turn that I never, ever saw coming. It shifts to a whole new set of suspense factors. Rarely am I caught this far off guard and I literally couldn't stop listening. There were multiple narrators used and they were just excellent, completely inhabiting their characters' personalities. I'm so happy I chose the audio format as I loved being told this story by experienced storytellers. I'm also glad I took a chance on a new-to-me author who has now increased her fan base and I'll be checking out her backlist. 4.5 stars

(I received an advance copy from the publisher in exchange for an unbiased review)

Posted on Blue Mood Café

MissBecka says

Thank you NetGalley and Simon & Schuster Canada for granting my wish.

This was a well woven story with lots of intrigue.

I was a bit let down by the ending.

I had hoped for *more* with how well the rest of the book came together.

marilyn says

Charlotte was more than happy to watch her friend Harriet's four year old daughter, the first time that Harriet had ever been away from her daughter more than a few hours. Charlotte, her three children, and Harriet's daughter Alice, had a fun day at a school fair to enjoy. But soon after arriving at the fair, Alice is missing and life changes forever for Charlotte and Harriet.

Charlotte is criticized for losing sight of a child that is not hers and even for using her phone to post on Facebook around the time Alice went missing. Harriet had never been away from her child before, afraid that something could happen to her and her husband Brian can't believe she left her child with someone. The only friend that Harriet has is Charlotte and now that friendship is irreparably damaged.

There are so many twists and turns in this story and I certainly didn't have it figured out until the story allowed us to know what happened. Harriet's husband is obviously a manipulative, sick person who calls her "love" but really harbors unhealthy feelings toward her. Charlotte has lots of friends and plenty of money but enjoyed spending time with Harriet, who doesn't fit in with the rest of Charlotte's friends, because she feels like she can tell Harriet her thoughts and feelings without Harriet judging her or taking her ex-husband's side of things. Strangely, Harriet shares very little of real importance about her life, which allows the friendship between the women to be off-balance, without Charlotte realizing it, until this fact is pointed out by law enforcement during questioning, after the disappearance of Alice.

The story is told in alternate times of Before and Now and from the point of view of Harriet and Charlotte. This is a very enjoyable, psychological thriller, that kept surprises coming throughout the book, until the end. It really says a lot about how blame, including unfounded blame, can destroy a person's sense of well being and how friendships can be ruined by lies and omissions.

Thank you to Gallery, Threshold, Pocket Books and NetGalley for this Advance Read Copy.

Tina says

I really enjoyed this book that had a little bit of a different twist than other psychological-thrillers.

Harriet and Charlotte are best friends who bond over their children. Harriet is a bit of a recluse and married mother of a three year old child named Alice. Charlotte is a busy, newly single mom of three who's a bit of a scatter brain. Charlotte encourages Harriet to do something for herself as she is always with Alice. Harriet decides to take a course in bookkeeping to better her family but has never left Alice in the care of anyone other than herself. She decides now is the time she can leave Alice with her best friend Charlotte for the day. Charlotte decides to take her three children and Alice to the school fair. It is here that Alice suddenly goes missing. She practically vanishes into thin air. No one has seen anything. So the story goes from there. What happened to Alice? Was Charlotte at fault? What will Harriet and her husband do? Who took the girl?

This was a very well written book. I enjoyed Heidi Perks style of writing. She kept me on my toes and wondering throughout the story. This was an emotional and suspenseful family drama that I would highly recommend for any psychological thriller fan.

Thank-you to NetGalley and Simon and Schuster Canada for granting me the opportunity to read this

Jenny says

I grew up always knowing that my mother would sacrifice her life, if necessary, for mine. She would step in front of the bus or lay down on a set of railroad tracks for me. She taught me that there is no greater bond and love you can have than that of a mother and child.

Now imagine your worst nightmare as a parent, your child goes missing.

Heidi Perks psychological thriller, *Her One Mistake*, is a chillingly, fast-paced mystery that will have you wondering where you missed that sign or clue several times throughout the book.

Four year old Alice is the only child of young mother, Harriet, and her husband Brian. She has never been out of her mothers sight since the day she was born. Harriet decides to let her best friend, Charlotte, take Alice to the school fair along with Charlotte's three children for a day of fun. What should have been a day filled with laughter, bellies full of too much sugar and children falling asleep on the way home, turns into Harriet's worst nightmares as Alice goes missing during Charlotte's watch.

The story is told alternately from Harriett and Charlotte's point of view as well as before and after the event. We learn that not everything is as it seems on the surface with twists and turns at every corner. *Her One Mistake* is gripping, suspenseful, thought-provoking, entertaining, disturbing and an engrossing read that at the end will leave you wondering what she thought her one mistake was.

I received an advance copy of this book from Netgalley. #NetGalley #HerOneMistake

Kendall says

Her One Mistake by Heidi Perks is an emotional thriller that will definitely take you on a ride.

Of course what I do love about thrillers is that it's always darkness that will unfold at the seams once you begin the story. Heidi lays the groundwork nicely for her readers and has a nice little twist in this one that will keep you reading.

Harriet has never been separated from her four year old daughter Alice since she gave birth to her. One day Harriet's best friend Charlotte offers to take Alice to the fair along with her three other children. Charlotte takes all four children to the fair and they begin to play. The children decide to go on a ride... and shortly after Charlotte sees her own children return but there is no sign of Alice. Charlotte is devastated as you can imagine that she lost her best friend's daughter. Talk about guilt... WOW.

I think I felt for Charlotte the most because she had to deal with the aftermath of being shunned by the entire town and the stigma associated with loosing someone else's daughter.

Of course... nothing is what is appears to be in this story. Harriet is devastated trying to find her daughter... also is dealing with the blaming of her husband Brian.

The story was pretty slow to build for me and was pretty bored on and off throughout the entire story. But, a twist happens about 50 percent in and I wasn't expecting that.

But, the story STILL was dragging for me. And.. the ending seemed to be rushed to me... I'm not sure where

the author was going at the final end? Honestly in the last chapter... I was holding on to a final grasp of a twist... and it just ended?

I wouldn't categorize this as a dark thriller... at all? Maybe... more of a domestic emotional story.

Overall, this was a decent story and was entertained. I look forward to seeing what Perks comes up with next :).

3.5 stars rounded down on this one.

Huge thank you to Netgalley and Gallery Publishing for the advanced arc in exchange for my honest review.

Published to GR: 10/30/18

Publication date: 1/8/19

Book of Secrets says

HER ONE MISTAKE is a fast-paced and nerve-racking domestic thriller, centering around the disappearance of a four-year old girl.

Harriet is a nervous mother who has never let her daughter Alice out of her sight. Hesitantly, she agrees to let her friend Charlotte take Alice (along with Charlotte's three children) to a school fair. In the blink of an eye, a day of fun turns tragic when Alice goes missing.

Can you imagine the horror of losing your friend's child? Charlotte is mortified, and Harriet is devastated. Could a friendship survive such a thing?

The search for Alice is a complex, twisty puzzle that had me hooked! I could easily empathize with Harriet and Charlotte, and definitely shared their tension. There's not much I can say about the plot without the risk of spoilers, so I'll just say that HER ONE MISTAKE was an exciting, suspenseful, and thought-provoking read. Enjoyed!

Disclosure: I received a copy of this book from the publisher through Edelweiss in exchange for an honest review.

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Norma * Traveling Sister says

Riveting, thought-provoking & affecting!

This was quite the emotional psychological thriller that immediately drew me in and had me totally glued to those pages for the entirety of reading this book. The storyline is one that I seem to be always drawn to and where this book deals with every parent's worst nightmare, a missing child there is a nice twist to this one that definitely made this a different reading experience for me. The angst and devastation that you feel for

these characters along with the pacing and short chapters made this an extremely palpable, fast and unputdownable read.

HER ONE MISTAKE by HEIDI PERKS is a compelling, chilling, suspenseful, and a compulsive read that was an easy book to escape into that didn't have too much darkness to it. The intensity level of this book gradually builds as the story progresses and there is also this subtle undertone of unease that makes you question what you are reading.

HEIDI PERKS delivers a character-driven, intriguing and well-written read here with complex and realistic characters, a uniquely written premise and an enthralling storyline. The story is told from dual perspectives between Charlotte and Harriet in an alternating timeline of "Now" and "Before" the disappearance of Alice with excerpts from Harriet's diary. I thoroughly enjoyed the format of this story and both perspectives and timelines equally. I'm a total sucker when an author chooses to add in different writing devices to spice up the story so the diary excerpts definitely added a little extra excitement to the story for me.

Norma's Stats:

Cover: Worrisome, suspenseful and a fitting representation to storyline. Although I thought maybe the stuffed animal should have been a different character as was mentioned in the book a few times.

Hmmm.....maybe I missed something?

Title: Appealing, suspenseful, intriguing and absolutely love how the title plays so fittingly into storyline.

Writing/Prose: Well-written, engaging, captivating, and fluid. I thoroughly enjoyed this author's writing style!

Plot: Unique, thought-provoking, suspenseful, gripping, perfectly-paced, absorbing, enjoyable and extremely entertaining. I found this storyline to be quite refreshing!

Ending: An absolutely perfect and plausible resolution that I was extremely satisfied with.

Overall: An excellent read that had me totally entertained and engrossed from start to finish! Would highly recommend!

Thank you so much to Simon & Schuster Canada and Heidi Perks for gifting me a physical advance uncorrected proof to read. I thoroughly enjoyed the reading experience!

Review can also be found on our blog:

<https://twosisterslostinacoulee.com/2...>

Luvtoread says

Every Mom's Nightmare!

Charlotte and Harriet are moms and friends. Charlotte lives a comfortable life with three children and Harriet's life is not so comfortable and she only has one child named Alice and she never lets her little four year old out of her sight (never). There is a school fair that all the children are looking forward to but Harriet has somewhere she must be on that day, so she asks Charlotte to take Alice to the fair, who is only happy to oblige though Harriet seems very nervous about leaving Alice but Harriet trusts Charlotte and thinks she is a wonderful mother.

The children are very happy and excited to try everything and three of them go on the huge jungle bounce but only two come out. Where is Alice? Where did she go? How will she face Harriet?

This is only the beginning of a heartbreakng mystery that has so many twists and turns and tests of friendship among other friends and mothers and has Charlotte doubting herself as a mother especially when the police continue to question her about how she could lose Alice and not one of her three children.fair

This was a very entertaining book and I recommend it to anyone who enjoys a good psychological mystery.

I want to thank Netgally and the publisher for this arc and will read more by this author. I have given this book 4 mysterious ???? stars!!

Mary Jackson _TheMaryReader says

All I'm going to say is WoW. You must read this one! You are not going to figure this one out. Parks is a new author to watch out for!

Karen says

Every parent's nightmare, a child disappears. Dark secrets are exposed as an investigation into her disappearance ramps up.

This compulsive read is written from two perspectives, one of mother, Harriet and the other, Charlotte, Harriet's only friend who's inattention allows the successful abduction of young Alice. The writer humanizes these two women and I sympathized as each try to maintain some semblance of normal life despite desperate circumstances, their volatile emotions and judgement by peers, journalists, strangers.

I continuously searched for clues as an armchair detective. Harriet's husband was my first suspect - an extremely unlikeable guy with a dark side and controlling nature who liked to play mind games. But this was too obvious and the author is just trying to throw me a curveball, right? Other puzzle pieces materialized and compelled me to push to the end. Thanks to Gallery Books for the ARC in exchange for my honest review.
