



## The Girlfriend

*Michelle Frances*

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## **The Girlfriend** Michelle Frances

*A chilling domestic thriller, The Girlfriend brilliantly renders the relationships between a fiercely protective mother, a charming son, and the young woman who will stop at nothing to come between them.*

Laura Cavendish can't wait to meet the woman who's won her son's affection. Despite a successful career in television and a long, prosperous marriage, Laura's world revolves around kind, talented Daniel. She pictures his new girlfriend, Cherry, becoming a close friend and confidante . . . one day, even a daughter-in-law.

But although Cherry is beautiful and amiable, Laura can't warm to her. There's something about the possessive way she touches Daniel, the little lies Laura detects. Cherry seems to resent Laura, driving a wedge between mother and son—until one day Daniel is injured in a terrible accident. Six months later, with Daniel still in a coma and facing death, Laura makes a fateful decision—and carries out an astonishing deceit.

A handsome doctor for a husband, with a trust fund and a family villa in St. Tropez—it was all supposed to be Cherry's. Now, instead of living with Daniel in his impeccable home, she's jobless and broke. And then Cherry discovers Laura's stunning deception. But Cherry is too clever, too ambitious to let her get away with it. She'd already transformed herself into Daniel's dream woman. Now she'll become Laura's worst nightmare.

Author Michelle Frances masterfully weaves both women's perspectives into this gripping, artfully plotted psychological thriller, propelling the reader through one dark twist after another toward a shocking, unforgettable finale.

## **Praise for *The Girlfriend***

“One of the best books I’ve read in a long, long time. I loved *The Girlfriend!*” —Lisa Jackson, *New York Times* bestselling author

“*The Girlfriend* is a taut psychological thriller, the evil chillingly drawn. Every character is layered and beautifully twisted. Makes me consider running background checks on any potential spouses my children bring home!” —Karen Rose, *New York Times* bestselling author

“A juicy thriller and utterly compulsive reading.” —Jenny Blackhurst, author of *How I Lost You*

“An original and chilling portrayal of twisted relationships.” —Debbie Howells, author of *The Bones of You*

## **The Girlfriend Details**

Date : Published January 30th 2018 by Kensington (first published May 4th 2017)

ISBN :

Author : Michelle Frances

Format : Kindle Edition 432 pages

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

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**Download and Read Free Online The Girlfriend Michelle Frances**

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## From Reader Review The Girlfriend for online ebook

**Berit???** says

**4.25 slow burning stars????25**

What do you get when the ultimate helicopter mom and the ultimate gold digger go head to head? You get a pretty spectacular book!

Laura is a true mama bear who cannot let go... her obsession with her only son borders on odd...Cherry grew up thinking she deserved so much more... and she will stop at nothing to get what she feels she deserves.... so who will be left standing at the end... **the mom or the girlfriend?**

The beginning of this book was a definite slow burn.... watching these two equally unlikable women manipulate each other and Daniel... was quite entertaining.... as a mother who has sons I tried to empathize with Laura.... but the woman just went WAY. TOO. fAR! I actually had more sympathy for Cherry during this book, there were times I truly felt she loved Daniel, maybe?

About halfway through, this book takes a crazy turn.... and the speed absolutely picks up.... I couldn't wait to find out what woman did what next, it was crazy! Poor Daniel, he was basically screwed no matter what happened.... he should've locked them in a room and let them battle it out and then take off to Saint-Tropez....

This book is proof positive that you can like a book and not like the characters.... because even though Laura and Cherry were terribly unlikable they were extremely well developed.... by the end of this book I felt as though if I had run into either of these women walking down the street I would know who they were... then head quickly in the other direction!

Highly recommend! A crazy ride with a fresh approach and fabulously developed characters....

\*\*\* thank you to the publisher and Net Galley for a copy of this book \*\*\*

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**Kaceey - Traveling Sister says**

**3.5\***

It all starts with one little white lie - it can't hurt anyone. Come on! No one will ever know. The problem is, just like potato chips, can you stop at just one. And exactly how many lies *are* needed to get what you really want!

When Cherry meets David, maybe one tiny lie slipped out. Just enough to gain his attention. Oh, and maybe one more just to hold that attention. When she meets David's mother, well you see where this is going!

*The heart wants...what the heart wants...*

Laura loves her son David, more than anything in this world. She will do whatever it takes to protect him from everything and more importantly from anyone! If that means telling a small lie...well then...

I actually ended up having a love - hate relationship with this book. There were certain parts that I found too unbelievable and left me rolling my eyes. Yet I did find it engaging and my curiosity was kept piqued wanting to see how this was going to play out! I'm glad I stayed with it to the end as I came out on the positive side! Hope you do too!!

Thank you to NetGalley, Kensington Books and Michelle Frances for an ARC to review in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Liz says**

Take one overbearing mother and add in a young woman on the prowl for a rich husband. That sets the stage for the beginning of *The Girlfriend*. Laura lives for her only son. Her husband has golf and his own affair, so she is basically alone and unloved. But I couldn't understand her making her son her "sun", her be all and end all, around which her whole world revolved. I mean, the son is 24 and starting his doctoral internship. I didn't find her sympathetic at all. But neither was Cherry, the girlfriend. Growing up poor, she has vowed to find a rich husband. It almost doesn't matter whom. I loved that I disliked both of these women so that as each tries to screw the other over, it's just fun to watch.

The book has a slow burn and initially, the tension builds slowly. Then, you get a real twist half way through and the speed picks up. I felt like a pinball being ricocheted, as the deceit and lies pick up. And as it goes on, the book gets darker and more twisted. It's a wild ride that never lets up. Highly recommend!

My thanks to netgalley and Kensington Books for an advance copy of this novel.

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### **Jennifer ~ TarHeelReader says**

#### **4 inventive and suspenseful stars to *The Girlfriend*! ?? ?? ?? ??**

Michelle Frances told quite the original tale. Laura is a mother who feels like she has it all. Until one day, her son, Daniel, with whom she is over-involved, brings home Cherry, a girl who Laura firmly believes is all wrong for Daniel. As Laura and Daniel's relationship grows apart, Cherry relishes having Daniel all to herself.

Both Laura and Cherry are unlikable characters and jealous over each other's relationship with Daniel. This actually kept me fully immersed in the story, as I had to see who would be the victor in the competition to "win" Daniel. My stomach somersaulted. My breathing was tight in my chest. The suspense was that good.

Overall, Michelle Frances wrote a spot-on, thrilling, edge-of-your-seat, debut. I loved it!

Thank you to Michelle Frances, Kensington Publishing, and Edelweiss for the complimentary copy.

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### **Sarah Joint says**

*It can be hard for a mother to let her son go... to relinquish her place as the woman in their life. It's hard to imagine no longer being the first person they go to for comfort, for congratulations, for support. But what happens when that is made even more difficult by a bad feeling in regards to the woman your son has fallen in love with? There's just something wrong with her... something a bit dark, something calculated and manipulative. How do you deal with that?*

I would certainly recommend this one if you want a domestic drama with some thriller aspects that's very juicy. The rivalries in this one are intense, and there's no limit to what these two women will do to both keep and protect the same man. It's not a short book, but I flew through it in just a few sittings. It's very gripping. While I thought the main character Laura would be hard to identify with because of her immense wealth and success in life, I felt for her so much. Even when her actions seem tinged with insanity and desperation, you feel for her. Cherry is the opposite of Laura. Her calculated actions are intended only to benefit herself, hardly ever worrying about anyone else. She's a fascinating character, but not one who I would want to meet.

Daniel is in every sense of the word, a catch. He's training to be a doctor, and he's compassionate and caring. Though he was lucky enough to be born into money, he hasn't let that affect his ambition and drive to make something of himself. When he meets Cherry, he's smitten. Though she was never afforded the same opportunities as he was, she too seems driven and ambitious... but is that just a cover for the gold-digger who lies underneath?

This is a crazy book who manages to go off the rails but still make it possible to suspend your disbelief a bit and enjoy the ride. I'm so glad I finally got the chance to read it, having had it on my to read list for some time.

*I received a copy of this book from Net Galley and Kensington Books, thank you! My review is honest and unbiased.*

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### **BIBLIOMANIAC MJ says**

Addictive to the point that whilst on a two hour flight, I found myself wishing my flight was longer just so I could spend some more quality time with this gem.

I have mentioned before that I am very stingy with my 5 star ratings, only saving them for my absolute favourites and this one definitely fits into that category! When it grips you to the point that you can't help thinking about it and talking about it to all who will listen, then you know it's oh SO gooooooooood!

I couldn't get enough of reading this masterpiece, yet at the same time I wanted to savour it, not wanting my entertainment to sadly come to an end. Oh, the dilemma! My curiosity would always get the better of me as I just had to find out how this would come to its conclusion.

Daniel is the ultimate catch - promising career as a doctor, wealthy upbringing yet still caring, considerate

and down to earth.

Cherry is from the wrong side of the tracks and has made it her life's mission to right that misfortune, no matter what she has to do in order to get there .

When she meets Daniel, they quickly fall in love and Cherry's dreams are within reach. Until she meets Laura, Daniel's mom.

Laura has a very close ( almost too close) relationship with her son and she soon starts to question Cherry's motives for being with him.

And this my goodread friends is where we are enthralled with a highly captivating, explosive fireworks display with one jaw dropping bang after the next, as evidence of what happens when you put a protective mama bear up against someone whose got nothing to loose and everything to gain. It is here we witness the shocking lies, scheming and manipulation by both women that had me dying to know how this would play out.

Exciting, clever, fresh, chilling, disturbing, nail biting...I could go on and on.

Congratulations to Michelle Frances on this fantastic read. I will definitely be on the lookout for more of the same from this great author!

Needless to say this one is **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED!!!**

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### **Kendall says**

The Girlfriend was highly highly addictive. It's clever, unique, and fast paced!

What I liked about this psychological thriller is it's something that I haven't seen before. I feel like I've read quite a few thrillers over the last few months that have the SAME storyline. So, Michelle I commend you on creating an addictive and sassy thriller!

This little baby kept me on my TOES... like I'm talking almost falling off the edge anticipation to find out what happens between these two manipulative women.

We meet Daniel who is from a very wealthy family. Daniel meets Cherry who isn't exactly from his side of the tracks. Cherry has grown up poor and has strived to do better in life with more opportunities.

Daniel and Cherry fall in love quickly and things go well at the start. We meet Laura who almost (in my opinion) has a strange/dynamic relationship with her son Daniel... borderline obsessive type mother. Laura... of course wants to LOVE her son's girlfriend and she starts to have a funny feeling that Cherry isn't who she appears to be.

Watch out my GR friends... here comes the TRAINWRECK of two women that are nasty, manipulative, and down right dirrrrrtyyyyyy. Who is going to survive?!!

I definitely recommend this! My only minor issue with this book was the ending. I felt that the author could

have beefed up the ending just a little bit. I felt a tinsy winsy bit disappointed. BUT, overall this was a fantastic read!

I am looking forward to seeing what Michelle comes out with next.

4 stars!!

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### **Marialyce says**

4.5 freakishly scary stars

Can money buy happiness?

Laura has what seems to be everything, money, a gorgeous home, a wealthy husband, and a wonderfully loving and handsome son, Daniel. They live in a gorgeous home and even have a villa in the south of France. Life, it seems, is wonderful.

Then Daniel meets Cherry, a young real estate agent, and things start to click between them. Cherry has never had much. She grew up poor and is ever so embarrassed by her roots. She wants more, a lot more, and sees Daniel as a possible a way into the lifestyle she feels she so deserves. She feels herself falling for him and the fact that he is rich only adds to his allure.

However, tragedy strikes and a lie is told. As the repercussions of that lie happen, we see the ways in which the characters react and how it changes the direction of their lives.

Ms Frances has written a wonderfully engrossing psychological thriller which propels the reader into the minds and hearts of her characters. This was one of those hard to put down stories that often keep one up burning the midnight oil. However, the ending did seem slightly rushed but overall this was quite the exciting read.

Many thanks to Michelle Frances, Kensington Books, and NetGalley for providing an ARC of this novel.

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### **Dash fan says**

5?+ Review

I absolutely loved the girlfriend. It was fast paced, exciting, very clever, and a chilling in places.

Daniel is from a very wealthy family. He meets the charming Cherry in an Estate Agents whilst looking for a place to buy.

Cherry is from a poorer family in Croydon. She dreams of living the wealthy lifestyle and strives to achieve bigger things

Then along comes wealthy Daniel. They have instant chemistry and things between them move very quickly.

Laura is Daniels Mother. She is in a loveless marriage, she is very unhappy as her husband is having a long term affair with he's work, the golf course & he's mistress!

Laura lost a little girl. She then fell pregnant with Daniel and vowed she would protect him and never let him out of her sight. But in doing so she appears to smother Daniel and in turn pushes her husband away due to their unbreakable bond.

When Laura finds out about Cherry she is hurt at first but then seems excited as she could be like the daughter she lost.

Laura doesn't even entertain that they are from different walks of lives.

Cherry quickly makes it obvious to the reader she has a problem with it. She has taken a disliking to their strong bond and asserts her place by simple actions. As we all know actions can speak louder than words!

Laura decides to throw Cherry an olive branch and invites her to their home in South of France. Cherry has no chance in going so she lies to her boss saying her grandmother is sick.

As the days goes on you see Cherry more determined to spend as little time with Laura as possible. Putting Daniel in awkward positions. He clearly adores he's mother but he has a new women in he's life and Cherry is about to spray her mark.

The day comes for Cherry to leave... But she spins off another lie saying her boss has told her to use all her holidays.

Laura is increasingly suspisuspicious and decides to do some snooping. It's here she discovers an open return ticket.

Cherry had no intentions of returning.

Cherry comes home and realises her things have been touched, and so the sinister and clever mind games start to unfold.... All at Lauras expense.

Cherry is very clever, she's so determined to have the richer lifestyle she will stop at nothing.

She gleefully admits to the reader getting into debt to purchase a painting for Daniel, Only for her to destroy it and pin the blame on Laura.

She's calculating and extremely clever.

I felt sorry for Laura in the beginning as she was really trying with Cherry. She never seemed to let her background interfere with getting to know her.

Cherry on the other hand, scared me... She was manipulative, calculating, cold and had me scared!!

Daniel was the victim as all he did was fall in love. At times I wanted to shake him, tell him to open he's eyes and see what was happening. He was so blinded by lust and love.

I don't want to give anymore away as I feel I've set the scene fairly well.

I urge you to read The Girlfriend to see what happens next. This is just the start and things get more chilling as the story develops.

I loved every minute of this book. I was reading till the early hours. It kept me on tender hooks and was 100% believable.

Women can and will go to extreme lengths to protect what's theirs especially when it comes to their children.

Which is what makes this book so great and very scary.

Great character development, very real characters and situations.  
Loved the sinister twists and clever plotting from both women.

I highly recommend this book, it's a different take on a thriller. In some ways I feel this makes it even more chilling as it's more likely to happen.

I received this book from the Publisher in exchange for a honest and fair review via Netgalley.

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### **Susanne Strong says**

3 Stars.

Laura loves her life: she has an amazing relationship with her son Daniel and she has an uber successful job. In an instant it comes crashing down and Laura doesn't see it coming. It happens because of a girl Daniel has become smitten with: Cherry. She is a gorgeous gal who works in real estate, who is from the wrong side of the tracks. Laura is positive that she is after Daniel's money and Daniel doesn't see it. Immediately thereafter cracks start to emerge in Laura and Daniel's relationship and Cherry is pleased. Very pleased. Cherry wants Daniel all to herself you see and she will do whatever she has to do to get him, Laura be damned.

“The Girlfriend” by Michelle Frances is a slow burning psychological family thriller that unfortunately for me just didn't quite take off. In addition, it left me wanting more as it felt fairly predictable. That said, the author however, did a stellar job at making both Laura and Cherry extremely well developed and manipulative, though quite unlikeable. I found “The Girlfriend” to be a quick easy read (I tore through it) and would recommend it to people looking for an slow burning family suspense.

Thank you to NetGalley, Kensington Books and Michelle Frances for a complimentary copy in exchange for an honest review.

Published on NetGalley, Goodreads and Amazon on 2.11.18.

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### **Carrie says**

Cherry has never known what it was like to have money coming from the poor side of town where her single mother worked for years in a supermarket with no hope of anything better. Cherry was determined that was not going to be how she spent her life and spent a few months making appointments for real estate showings only to learn the business and snag a job at a nice firm. In her new job she meets Daniel while showing him an apartment up for rent.

Daniel is from a very wealthy family and while he will never need for anything in his life with his trust fund on hand he has still gone to medical school and wants to become a doctor. When Daniel walked into the real estate office he never imagined meeting the woman of his dreams but as soon as he saw Cherry he knew he wanted to ask her out. Things move quickly between the pair and soon Daniel brings Cherry home to meet his parents.

Laura is Daniel's mother and she has spent her life making sure her son has the best of everything in the world. After suffering the loss of one child Laura vowed to always protect Daniel with everything she had and that he would never want for anything. When Laura first hears of Daniel's new love she's quite excited for the prospect of a daughter in law but things quickly seem to just not quite be right with Cherry putting Laura on edge.

The Girlfriend by Michelle Frances is being sold as a psychological thriller but I'm almost hesitant to call it as such but possibly more of a suspenseful drama. Either way or what you choose to list it under this was easily one read that immediately hooked me in and didn't want to let go keeping the pages turning until the very end.

Laura and Cherry both have their flaws and make their mistakes along the way leaving them both characters that are easy to dislike at any point. On the flip side though each woman in Daniel's life had moments that I would also feel sorry for them and begin to root them on leaving me with a tug of war on how to even want this one to turn out. The manipulation and lies ooze from each page but underneath it all is a feeling that this story could very well really happen which made it all the more intense. In the end I'd definitely recommend picking up a copy of The Girlfriend and giving this one a read.

I received an advance copy from the publisher via NetGalley.

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

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### **sue says**

Oh I so count myself lucky I got on with my Mother-in-law and that I am grounded.

This is a book you will start and be prepared you won't want to drag yourself away from. I stayed with it until I finished it the early hours of this morning.

### **Relationships**

Yes, they are the hardest to keep, the hardest to keep steady but throw in an unsteady person, jealousy and then things crack.

Daniel and Cherry. The Girlfriend.

Daniel was raised in a well to do family his aim was to become a Doctor.

Cherry never had those kind of roots but she wants to become an Estate Agent.

They meet, they fall in love.

Things go well...

At the start.

Laura, the Mother-in-law likes Cherry.....

Then believes that Cherry is only with her one and only son for his money.

So now the dynamics change.

Both become vindictive, controlling and darn right nasty women.

Here comes a train wreck.  
But who is going to survive?

Things happen to both women. I took some glee from some consequences as both females were so unlikeable you just couldn't help yourself.

There are some really good, nail biting, on the edge of your seat mind blowing tummy churning moments in this read. I was absolutely hooked!

Hold on to your seat belt.

This is a debut.  
Yes, the authors very first book.  
If this is anything to go by, I cannot wait for future books from her.

What a journey!

Thank you Pan Macmillan via Netgalley for my copy

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### **Theresa Alan says**

This novel, set in Kensington, England, pits the two women that love twenty-three-year-old medical student Daniel against each other: His mother Laura and his new girlfriend Cherry. Daniel never wanted for anything growing up. Cherry, on the other hand, lived in poverty and is desperate for a way out, even if it means lying a bit on her resume and pushing her mother out of her life as much as possible.

Both Cherry and Laura initially hope to have a great relationship with one another, but misunderstandings and awkwardness give way to simmering tension that just gets worse and worse. I could see things from both women's perspective, but I found myself siding with the mother more. As their lies become more convoluted, they manage to destroy each other bit by bit—damaging the other woman's career and other relationships, which leads to a wonderfully suspenseful ending.

I enjoyed this book, which will be RELEASED JANUARY 30, 2018. Thanks so much to NetGalley for the opportunity to review this novel.

For more of my reviews, please visit: <http://www.theresaalan.net/blog>

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### **Sandy \*The world could end while I was reading and I would never notice\* says**

EXCERPT: "You're deluded. Just let go, let go of him." He looked at her with a new distance, as if he didn't know her. "Stop making excuses for your obsessive behavior. You've driven him away- you- and you've only got yourself to blame. "

THE BLURB: A girl. A boy. His mother. And the lie she'll wish she'd never told.

The Girlfriend by Michelle Frances is a gripping and chilling debut psychological thriller, based on the fall-out following an unforgiveable lie. It looks at the potentially charged relationship between girlfriend, boyfriend and his mother, which most women can identify with, and locates it in an extreme but believable setting.

Laura has it all. A successful career, a long marriage to a rich husband, and a twenty-three year-old son, Daniel, who is kind, handsome, and talented. Then Daniel meets Cherry. Cherry is young, beautiful and smart but she hasn't had the same opportunities as Daniel. And she wants Laura's life.

Cherry comes to the family wide-eyed and wants to be welcomed with open arms, but Laura suspects she's not all that she seems.

When tragedy strikes, an unforgiveable lie is told. It is an act of desperation, but the fall-out will change their lives forever.

**MY THOUGHTS:** The Girlfriend by Michelle Frances is a good, but not great read. It is a little slow in places, and I was not particularly enthusiastic about the ending. The level of suspense varies, and I found that some situations that ought to have been suspenseful just weren't. The opening chapter, a scene from later in the book, didn't work for me. I imagine it was designed to increase the reader's anticipation, but it did nothing to increase mine. This is one book where the story should have just started at the beginning and continued to slowly build up the tension until the final denouement.

But, having said that, the characters are well portrayed. I particularly enjoyed the relationship between Laura and Izzie, Laura's best friend. The close bonds between the two women, friends of old, is well depicted. As were the scenes where Laura and Cherry first meet. Cherry's social awkwardness just oozed from the page, and while Laura is doing everything to make Cherry feel welcome, Cherry is almost searching for things to take offense at. And everything escalates from there, with Laura trying to be friends and Cherry pushing her away, both from herself and Laura's adored only son, until Laura catches Cherry out in a lie and decides that there is more (or perhaps less) to her son's girlfriend than meets the eye.

The basic storyline is good, and although The Girlfriend missed the mark with me, only just, I think that it is a good debut novel from new author Michelle Frances, and I will be a definite starter for her next book.

Thank you to Kensington Books via Netgalley for providing a digital copy of The Girlfriend by Michelle Frances for review. All opinions expressed in this review are entirely my own personal opinions.

Please refer to my Goodreads.com profile page or the 'about' page on [sandsbookaday.wordpress.com](http://sandsbookaday.wordpress.com) for an explanation of my rating system. This review and others are also published on my blog [sandsbookaday.wordpress.com](http://sandsbookaday.wordpress.com) page [https://sandsbookaday.wordpress.com/...](https://sandsbookaday.wordpress.com/)

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**Chelsea Humphrey says**

**This review is featured on my Mini Review Monday segment:**

I think this would be better suited as a domestic drama than being pushed as a thriller of any variety. I know that psychological thrillers are hot right now and the title sells books, but readers like me who go in with certain expectations will only feel lukewarm about this story. While it wasn't a bad read by any means, I'm

afraid it wasn't great or anything I haven't read before. There were cliches abundant in this story and the pacing moves slowly and thoroughly with many unlikable characters that I felt hard to sympathize with. I will say that the story did manage to keep my attention and cause me to want to finish reading, so it wasn't a lack of interest here that was an issue. I think those readers looking for a slow burning family saga that leans more on the drama than the emotions will enjoy this novel. I'd like to add that both the US and the UK covers are gorgeous, intriguing, and draw the eye nicely. Recommended to those who maybe are new to the genre and enjoy their suspense fiction with more focus on the characterization than the plot progression.

**Many thanks to the publisher for providing my copy via NetGalley.**

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