



Into the Water

Paula Hawkins

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In the last days before her death, Nel called her sister. Jules didn't pick up the phone, ignoring her plea for help. Now Nel is dead. They say she jumped. And Jules has been dragged back to the one place she hoped she had escaped for good, to care for the teenage girl her sister left behind. But Jules is afraid. So afraid. Of her long-buried memories, of the old Mill House, of knowing that Nel would never have jumped. And most of all she's afraid of the water, and the place they call the Drowning Pool . . .

Into the Water Details

Date : Published May 2nd 2017 by Riverhead Books

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Author : Paula Hawkins

Format : Hardcover 386 pages

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

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From Reader Review Into the Water for online ebook

Liz says

This is not an easy book to get into. Lots of diverse characters and you are left trying to suss out who's who and what is happening and why so many people don't seem to like Nel and are glad she's dead. But the book does grab you. You only see glimpses, back and forth, but they are fascinating, shimmering glimpses, like trying to determine what's underneath the water. Hawkins excels at keeping the reader off balance. There are twists throughout.

I liked the premise. Nel is the latest death in the drowning pool. Girls and women have either been put to death or killed themselves here for centuries. Her death appears a suicide, as did the girl's before her; her daughter's best friend. So the police are trying to ascertain what actually happened. They keep catching everyone in lies, so they keep investigating. Everyone blames someone else, everyone is pointing fingers. And there's plenty of blame to go around. The book really picks up steam in the second half and the ending is perfect. I did not see that coming!

Not as good as Girl on the Train, which was phenomenal, but enticing in its own right.

Melissa ♥ Dog/Wolf Lover ♥ Martin says

Ummmmmm.....

I wouldn't recommend listening to a book for the first time on audio with 6,695 POV's!

I may read the physical book and see if I like it. I just can't like this book at this time. It switched so many times between dates and people that I wanted to throw the book! Well, audio on the tablet across the room!

I would never have gotten the audio if the summary would have said there are 1500 people in the book!
Sigh!

The group of narrators were good though.

Now that I think about it, I might not re/read it. I don't feel like reading about rapists and a bastard that drowns a cat. Seems everyone and things get drowned or something. I guess The Drowning Pool is a good name for the river, lake, water. Whatever!

My friends seem to all be half n half. There are 2 stars, 3 stars and 4 stars. So, I guess it's whatever you like it

don't like ?

Happy Reading!

Mel ❤?

karen says

congratulations, 2017 goodreads choice winner in best mystery & thriller!!

~~**oooh, goodreads choice awards semifinalist for best mystery! what will happen?**~~

review posted at los angeles review of books!! here:

<https://lareviewofbooks.org/article/a...>

reviewing this for L.A. review of books - and they sent me a finished book instead of an ARC! these britches! i have become too big for them!

Julie says

Into the Water by Paula Hawkins is a 2017 Riverhead Books publication.

‘No one wanted to think about the fact that the water in that river was infected with the blood and bile of persecuted women, unhappy women; they drank in every day.’

The river has a history of claiming women, but no one would have thought they'd fish Nel Abbott out of its depths. When Nel's body is recovered, her estranged sister, Jules, returns home to identify her sister's remains, and to take care of her niece, Lena.

As Jules struggles with her emotions, and tries to reach out to a very angry and troubled, Lena, she searches for clues about her sister's death. Was it an accident, a suicide or murder?

Irrevocably connected to Nel's death, is the death of Lena's best friend, a suicide victim, also claimed by the river, which has left the community on edge.

Are the two deaths connected? If so, how?

I was warned, repeatedly, this book was not, I repeat, NOT at all like TGOTT. Okay. That is very, very good to know, and if you are planning on reading this book, you will be glad you were forewarned.

I was prepared before I read the first paragraph, but, despite all those dire predictions, I really did want to keep an open mind.

If anyone was capable of maintaining a reasonable perspective, I figured it might be me, because while the world went gaga over 'The Girl on the Train', I was cooling my heels waiting for a copy of the book at the library. When I finally got my hands on a copy, I was perplexed.

The book was good, really good. But, I've read many books that were at the very least on par with 'TGOTT'. I couldn't figure out what it was about THAT book that had bowled everyone over. The best part of its success, for me, was that it seemed to spawn a renewed interest in the psychological thriller category, and gave the genre a fresh perspective and long overdue makeover. This past year, alone, there were a slew of wildly entertaining debut thrillers, but I had to be careful not to overindulge for fear of burning myself out. Too much of good thing and all that.

But, I regress. My point is, TGOTT was above average, and was a catalyst for many other wonderful books brought to press, but it was not THAT great, in my opinion, so my expectations were not unreasonably high to start off with, but I was still curious to see how the author responded to all that hype with the publication of her second novel.

At first, it did seem as though all those dire predictions were coming true. The first part of the book was pretty messy, and almost mind numbingly boring. There are entirely too many characters, all with their own first person perspective, which was a very bad idea.

The setting, with old legends, and superstitions, passed down about the river, did help to create a gloomy and edgy atmosphere, but it wasn't enough to promote any sense of urgency or impending doom. In fact, most seasoned mystery/thriller readers will probably have no trouble piecing together the string of events without even breaking a sweat.

By the time I finally nailed down all the characters and what role they played, the book did begin to gel and the plot finally started to thicken and I finally started to sink my teeth into it a little.

The second half of the book finally begins to bring everything together and the story does have some merits. It's not a pretty delivery by any means, but it is worth sticking around for, just to see how it all comes together, or to see if justice is served at long last, or if the river will win out in the end.

Sometimes when a book achieves a pinnacle of success, it's almost impossible for an author to replicate it. The insurmountable pressure to match that success must be unnerving, to say the least. Also, we all know publishers can add pressure too, by pushing for more too quickly, in hopes of cashing in on that momentum. Sometimes the desire to milk the cash cow, takes precedence over the artistic license of the author, who is pressured to turn something over before they are comfortable with it. I can't say that is what happened here, but the book did feel like it had been rushed into publication without the full spit and polish. Whoever allowed it to be published with all those POV's should be ashamed.

I really do not enjoy, or like, to judge too harshly, but, as much as I had hoped the naysayers were wrong, I must agree this book has some serious flaws. But, I do wonder if we would have been so unforgiving if this were an unknown author, who had not just risen to superstar status practically overnight?

2.5 stars

Elyse says

Twisted, suspenseful, spooky & eerie--mysterious to the very end--(wasn't even expecting I like this book much- so nice surprise) I found the book free in "The Little Library"...box-give-a-way-exchange in front of a neighbors house.....

....gorgeous descriptions and visuals created of scenery --an enthralling textured large cast of characters, (lots of thinking about these people), and an ending that stopped me cold.

Taunting exquisite prose. I might have liked this more than "The Girl On The Train"....
It was more multi-layered.

4.5 rating!

Kristin (KC) - Traveling Sister says

***3.5 stars* (rounded down after more consideration)**

It's almost inevitable that this book will be compared to *The Girl on the Train*, which is a pretty flattering testament to the magnitude of a book's success.

Into the Water, however, stands on its own and easily separates itself from its notable predecessor. This story is unique and its large cast of characters are bold and distinguishable. The only commonalities I found are ones I went into this book anticipating: phenomenal writing and a wide spread of mystery.

The tone was a chilling blend of eery, dark, and haunting—held steadily to the end, creating a world that was easy to get lost in.

However, even with these treasured factors at play, I didn't end up *loving* this one as much as I'd imagined. As compelling as the foundation was, after a while, the plot began feeling like it consisted only of build-up and explanations without much else unfolding.

The story is told through the alternating perspectives of over ten different characters. It was certainly a *lot* to take in and keep track of, but it also upped the intrigue and gave the structure a quick, choppy sort of flow.

In keeping up with the “girls gone missing/crazy/dead” theme that seems to be all-the-rage-and-staying-that-way-dammit, this plot surrounds the mystery of a series of girls (past and present) whose lifeless bodies have turned up in the infamous “Drowning Pool”.

Every character is questionable, which is typical and fun, but there are instances when *blame* can seem to spread too evenly between suspects, as was the case here for me. It makes the focus on each character too equal and sort of dulls the opportunity for surprise.

I wasn't shocked by the turn out, or maybe I wasn't all that impressed. Despite being granted the less-

pronounced, swift conclusion I prefer, I didn't feel that gut-punch of a twist-well-done. It felt more matter-of-fact and slid past me without sparking much of a rise in my emotions. (Although it did raise a couple questions, one in particular I'm still trying to figure out...)

All of that said, I had a hard time putting this one down and soared through it in roughly a day or so. It was a decent, worthwhile read, and I can't say I wouldn't recommend, as long as you're not expecting another TGOTT!

Emily May says

I'm going straight down the middle with a 3-star rating but, in truth, my thoughts are all over with this book. I think the only way I can make sense of it is to break it down into points.

1) This book is very different from *The Girl on the Train*.

That ad that keeps flashing up saying "If you liked *The Girl on the Train*, you'll love *Into the Water*" is bullshit. *Into the Water* doesn't focus in-depth on any character, but rather moves between the perspectives of many members of a British town. While both books contain themes of memory and the limitations on its reliability, the mysteries feel very different.

2) The cast of characters is big. Arguably, too big.

I'm torn as to whether I think this is a negative or not. I know many readers will be turned off by the many, many points of view circulating in this book. There is Lena, daughter of the deceased Nel, and Nel's sister Jules; there's both of the detectives - Sean Townsend and Erin Morgan - as well as Sean's wife, Helen, and his father, Patrick. There's the teacher from Lena's school - Mark Henderson - and the local "psychic", Nickie Sage. There's Louise Whittaker, whose daughter died, and also her son, Josh. I may have even forgotten some.

On the one hand, this allows for a distant style of narration that never makes it easy to warm to any of the characters. Seeing as - on top of this - most of the characters were pretty despicable, I didn't spend much of my reading time *liking* anyone. However, in a weird way I didn't hate it. The moving between so many characters, each with their own stories and secrets, **reminded me of the TV show *Broadchurch***, which I actually really enjoyed. I like all the interlocking stories and histories going on within this town and how every character has some reason to seem guilty.

3) It's not as suspenseful as *The Girl on the Train*.

Or, at least, it wasn't for me. It's more on the domestic side of "domestic thriller". I felt less tension and excitement pulling me through. It was more of an examination of various ties between people in a small town, and how everyone was in some way linked to the woman found dead.

4) Let me emphasize once more-- everyone is unlikeable.

Some people commented on my review of *The Girl on the Train* saying how they just hated everyone in the book. If you felt that way, I highly recommend skipping this one because the characters are even worse. I personally quite like to read about shitty people, and I found Rachel from TGOTT to be an interesting and sympathetic character despite everything, so it was not a huge issue for me. But, seriously, there are some truly fucked up, awful people in this book.

5) The ending was a little anticlimactic.

I think this whole book was quieter, on the whole, than it's predecessor. The people sucked, it's true, and yet the stories were less dramatic; the climax less punchy. I never felt like I was hit with a reveal; there was no "oh my god" moment, or even much of an emotional change. The book drew gently to a close.

All this being said, I can't deny that **I enjoyed it**. I wouldn't rush to call this a "pageturner" and yet my interest in this town's many overlapping secrets kept me turning the pages anyway. I know that Hawkins's future books will be on my list.

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Maureen says

* Thank you to www.shotsmag.co.uk for my ARC for which I have given an honest review*

Nel Abbot was found dead in the river, just a few short months after the death of her daughter's best friend Katie in similar circumstances. Nel had lived in Mill House by the river her entire life, and most of her memories pretty much revolved around this dark and forbidding body of water, particularly 'The Drowning Pool'. It's a place of secrets, mysteries and witchcraft. Nel was completely obsessed with stories of 'troublesome' women who had lost their lives in the 'Drowning Pool' including a 14 year old girl pronounced as a witch during the Witchfinder Trials in the seventeenth century.

Nel leaves behind a daughter, (15 year old Lena) who appears to harbour secrets of her own, and she's just one of many in this small town of Beckford. It's a small town with big secrets.

The tragedy brings Nel's sister Jules back to the place she swore she'd never return to. She's Lena's only family now, but they've never met and relations between the two are somewhat strained to say the least.

The narrative is told from many viewpoints, with each chapter being devoted to a different character. I particularly enjoyed the way this worked, as it gave each character plenty of depth. The fact that they were bite sized chapters too, was an added bonus.

There was something of a slow start, but not enough to spoil my enjoyment of it, as the hints at witchcraft and mysteries, and where this story was actually going, really kept me gripped. There's a sinister air throughout, with unknown voices and footsteps on creaking floorboards in the dead of night. There are lots of threads to the storyline, lots of frayed edges, but Paula Hawkins pulls them all together to create a fascinating read.

Wendy Darling says

3.5 stars

The good news: THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN was not a fluke.

The not-so-great news: this book's plot and characters are less compelling, and its flaws much more obvious.

Review to come of the audio edition.

Rachel Reads Ravenously says

First things first, I want to point out how very rare it is for me to rate a book 1 star. In fact, in the last 5 years, I have read a total of 1,257 books, and only rated 20 of them with a 1 star. That's 0.015%. So before all of you jump on me, or the trolls come running, know that I just hated this book that much.

I will give this book 1 thing, and 1 thing only: Paula Hawkins is an amazing writer. Her words flow across the page, and it's why I continued to read this book. The writing basically deceived me into thinking this was better than it was.

I'm going to break down what didn't work for me:

-the beginning is extremely confusing, multiple POVs and no context of the character. Made it hard to keep track of things.

-This book could have been MUCH shorter, needs a heavy dose of cuts/editing.

-about 170 pages in and there still WAS NO PLOT. I mean, how can you write 170 pages of a book, and not have a coherent plot in place?

-It was about 250 pages in that I began to get irrationally angry that I was reading this book. It wasn't going anywhere, all the "twists" were obvious. It followed so many cliches.

Basically, to me other than the writing there were no redeeming qualities. I never read Girl on the Train, I only saw the movie, but I can guarantee I won't be reading anything by this author in the future. She sent me into a rage (it's rare, but it does happen).

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Abby (Crime by the Book) says

Find my full review here: <http://crimebythebook.com/blog/2017/4...>

This book was, unfortunately, a disappointment to me. Convoluted plotting, WAY too many characters to keep track of, and an overall lack of suspense made for a less than engaging read. I'm sure many readers will enjoy this one, but if you're looking for a psychological thriller with the addictive pacing & shocking plot twists of THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN, I wouldn't recommend this one.

Mohammed Arabey says

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A Small Town by the River, 10 Characters' Perspectives; of One recent 'Into The Water' Death; that rippled a River of other Past tragic Memories.

**** The Story ****

"????? ?????? ?? ???? ?????? ?????? ???? ?????? ???? ?????? ??????..????? ?????? ?? ??????"
"The River can go back over the past and bring it all up and and spit it out on the banks in full view of everyone, but people can't."

It's simple, they found her in the water... she jumped...

But a hell of past history of persecution against women comes upon this small town... as if the river decided to bring this past and spit it with Nel's body..

From Witch ordeal trials, to blame girls & women of men's infidelity.

With a depressing tangled story about Women, Sisters and friends, Mothers and Daughters, Love and affairs, Memories and Tales..

And .. Forgiveness.

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Paula Hawkins did a great work this time, much better I guess from The Girl on the Train.. here's there's more going on, tangled characters' history.. many possible suspects , even if I predict it by the second half, It kept surprising me with twists, till the very end..

The writing style was still -as I loved in TGOTT- sad and depressing, and the story has heart breaking scenes and strong characters confrontations..

Speaking of characters;

**** The Characters Craze ** ????????**

The 10 Characters perspectives -add to that chapters by the dead character's own written book- was a crazy idea , I was like; *that's 3 more characters than A Game of Thrones, in even half the pages count..*

But it turned out perfect... more than perfect, they may seems all different, even some of them unnecessary at the beginning.. but deeper you get 'Into The Water', the more you realise they're not-that-different characters.. and everyone have an important role in the whole mystery.

Yet, I loved Jules character so much since the beginning, her hard complicated past with her sister, the river..and men.

- I cast her as Bree from Desperate Housewives, I don't know why she reminded me strongly with her... -
Just as Rachel in TGOTT, I felt sad and care much for this character despite her sad depressing feelings and even her faults..

Jules chapters also written very uniquely and smart...all the time her perspective is she's telling what's happening as if she's talking to her dead sister..

That was really heartbreaking...with all the twists happening.

And why I said it's not-so-different-characters? , cause every perspective has its own haunting dead loved/or hated one..

Lena, the teenage daughter's who lost her very best friend and mother in the same month.. her scene with **Louise** -her best friend's Mother- was a great well written one.

Sean Townsend, the police and his father **Patrick**, and wife **Helen**, and their complicated past, since Sean lost his mother when he was so young...and his 'affair' recently.

And **Erin**, his partner in the case of Nel's death, she also suffer a troubled past.

-though I feel she's a bit the weakest character here-

Nikie, the old town's hag, she also speaks to the deads... but not metaphorically, she's a witch descendent, her grand grandmother the first to be drowned in the river in Witches Ordeal Trials..

I really loved the mystery, this puzzle game where every character seems to hide something... and chapter by chapter the picture get clearer...some mysteries reveals. ...as if the river really brings everything from the past.. from deep into te water..to spit it by the end..

(view spoiler)

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All this tangled characters, also with the small town by the river 'Beckford's setting ,reminded me heavily with J.K. Rowling's 'Pagford'.. in The Casual Vacancy

**Small Town, One Death, Many tangled Characters, River, Responsibilities... but of course much different kind of story.**

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**** The Verdict ** ?????? ****

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(view spoiler)

Since we thought The Girl on the Train is just a fluke, a one time big hit... Here is a certain deal that the author really can make a good story. And she got it in making characters you can feel them and care for them.

Adding a very little bit of magic into the mystery was good, just to serve the theme of the persecution against women... The Troublemakers...

So, It's a hot, and hot summer needs a cool reads.. so get; **Into The Water.** , It's really worth it.

Mohammed Arabey

"During the Mystery & Thriller week here @Goodreads"

From 1st May 2017

To 7 May 2017

James says

Into the Water by Paula Hawkins was the book selected by my blog followers as my Book Bucket read for January 2018. Each month, I hold a poll where you can pick from 12 books I want to read, rotating a new one in and out each month. I was excited to read this one, but hadn't read Girl on the Train before, so Hawkins is a new author for me. I enjoyed the book a great deal, despite a few areas that didn't quite work for me, but I'd still recommend it to others as a strong thriller and suspense novel.

The novel focuses on a small town in England, following a core set of about 10 characters. Chapters alternate to provide the history and perspective of multiple deaths by drowning in a local river. It all begins with the death of a suspected witch from several hundred years earlier, culminating with a few deaths in modern times that could be suicide, accidental or murder. As each character shares parts of the story, readers learn what truly happened to each victim.

Ignoring the historical murders, the current day plot is intricate. Several teenagers fight to be popular or earn respect while in high school. Sisters struggle to accept their differences with one another. Parents and children argue about parenting styles. Families are broken by affairs. Police detectives walk a fine line of doing the right versus the wrong thing. Each of the stories are weaved together in a way you can't help but want to know all the connections. And there is, of course a 'surprise' twist in the end... which for many readers, probably won't be a surprise.

I'm primarily a plot reader, followed closely by character. The plot is definitely strong; however, at least 50% of the characters have some flaws or issues in how they were written. Keeping characters in the grey zone is important within a suspense novel; readers need to know that they might be missing part of the picture, but in the end, it should be clearer than it was in this book. For 3 characters, I felt like the actions didn't quite match what we'd come to expect from the personalities we'd gotten to know – and it wasn't due to the grey area. It felt like a totally new character had replaced the ones we'd spent attaching ourselves to. If there are connections we just failed to see because of how good the writing is, then I am OK with it. But if it feels disconnected, then I think the book fails a bit. That's what I felt happened here... what started out as a 4.5 rating began going south as parts of the plot unraveled. It was clear the entire way that something wasn't right with a certain character, yet the twist in the end doesn't do any justice to 'why' certain things happened.

All that said... as I kept turning the page, my interest was held and I liked many aspects of the book. I lowered my rating by 1 star because of how it seemed to fall apart in the end... ending somewhere between a 3.5 and a 3.75, rounded up to a 4 in the rating. I'll keep reading Hawkins' novels, but if another has a similar

downturn, I might not stick with it.

Book of Secrets says

I lost patience with INTO THE WATER early on. By page 32, I counted seven different POVs. Confusing! A few more POVs were added after that. Basically the story was about a place called "The Drowning Pool" where several women died, beginning in the 1600s. The latest death is a woman who was writing a book about this seemingly cursed place. Sounded promising, but turned out to be dull. Needed more suspense! I was looking forward to this book, but in the end it was just meh.

Linda says

When I first started reading this "much-awaited" second novel by Paula Hawkins, I was so impressed by her ability to create such an eerie, chilling description of what I had hoped was a taste of what was to come--reminiscent of old, black-and-white, British movies. I remember wondering at the time she was writing, if she might have been imagining this book becoming another movie. That's how it began to feel--too much attention was given to the details of the surroundings.

The author gives a quick introduction to each of the 10 characters. This is about five more than I can comfortably keep track of. In between these characters, chapters of a book being written by one of them is added in throughout the storyline on previous drowning victims, which also adds to the confusion.

"Into The Water" is about who drowned, when they drowned, and why they drowned. After bouncing me around from one character to the next through the first half of the book, my interest quickly started to wane.

At no time did I feel any suspense building nor could I form a connection with any of the unlikeable characters. The ending was lackluster, leaving me with several unanswered questions.

2.5 stars.
