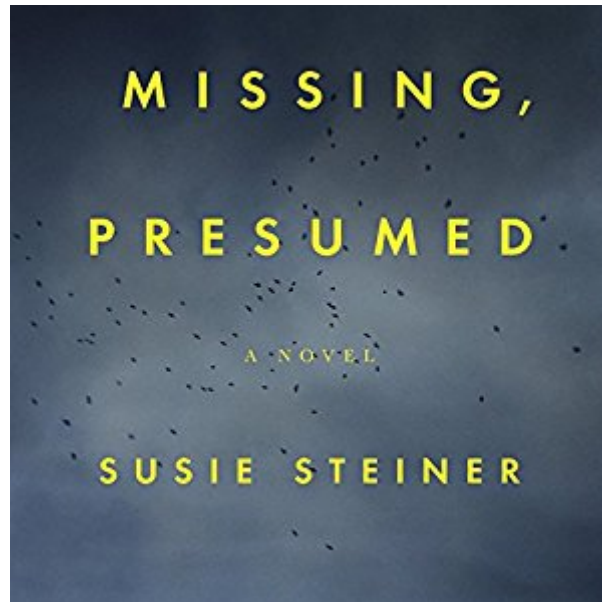




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Missing, Presumed: A Novel



Synopsis

For listeners of Kate Atkinson and Tana French comes a pause-resisting literary mystery that brings to life the complex and wholly relatable Manon Bradshaw, a strong-willed detective assigned to a high-risk missing person case. At 39, Manon Bradshaw is a devoted and respected member of the Cambridgeshire police force, and though she loves her job, what she longs for is a personal life. Single and distant from her family, she wants a husband and children of her own. One night, after yet another disastrous Internet date, she turns on her police radio to help herself fall asleep - and receives an alert that sends her to a puzzling crime scene. Edith Hind - a beautiful graduate student at Cambridge University and daughter of the surgeon to the Royal Family - has been missing for nearly 24 hours. Her home offers few clues: a smattering of blood in the kitchen, her keys and phone left behind, the front door ajar but showing no signs of forced entry. Manon instantly knows that this case will be big - and that every second is crucial to finding Edith alive. The investigation starts with Edith's loved ones: her attentive boyfriend, her reserved best friend, her patrician parents. As the search widens and press coverage reaches a frenzied pitch, secrets begin to emerge about Edith's tangled love life and her erratic behavior leading up to her disappearance. With no clear leads, Manon summons every last bit of her skill and intuition to close the case, and what she discovers will have shocking consequences not just for Edith's family but for Manon herself. Suspenseful and keenly observed, *Missing, Presumed* is a brilliantly twisting novel of how we seek connection, grant forgiveness, and reveal the truth about who we are.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I highly recommend this book. A "police procedural" isn't the type of book I'm usually drawn to. But this book is so much more than that. The inner lives of the very human characters are revealed as each walks through work and family life, grief, frustration and longing. Their actions and motives are convincing. Settings are described with vivid accuracy, but without excess. British colloquialisms were pretty easy to figure out. Even the police jargon is understandable. The threads all come together slowly but the story doesn't get bogged down. Beautifully written and very enjoyable.

Okay British police procedural. Spent too much time on viewpoint character's love life. Sometimes hard to follow. Crime solving was interesting when the story followed it.

The author wrote extensively about the personalities and lives of the characters; less about procedures in solving a possible kidnapping. The last three chapters were excellent but it took forever to reach these chapters--at least it seemed like forever. It seemed as though each character was having a life crisis. No one was happy with his/her life. I was happy to finish the book!

This novel did not hold my interest. I didn't much care what happened to either the missing or to the police involved in the investigation. I cannot recommend this book when there are more compelling suspense novels available right now. What I liked about the novel was the character development of some of the players; I felt I knew the protagonist, Manon, and her partner, Davey. They had contrasting values in the area of commitment. Manon's relationships with men were consistent and evoked sympathy. This was the best part of the book by far.

Sharp and witty mystery, a nothing held back type of book. You can either love or hate Manon, the lead detective, her personality is that type. I found the book almost impossible to put down after the first 4 or 5 chapters. There's TONS of English police jargon which was a bit confusing and hard to follow for this American, but it was still a great story. I would read it a second time even knowing the ending.

I rarely give five stars, want to save them for the most special books. This book, ostensibly a police procedural, is so much more. Unlike most mysteries, this book is more about character than plot. The author has the rare ability to create complex characters. I couldn't stop reading and when done, felt sad to have it end. Highly recommended.

Perhaps the most enjoyable thing about this book are the characters. So often mystery writers make their characters out of cliches, and make them act in ways that no real person ever would. Steiner's characters are all recognizable, normal people, flawed but trying, making decisions that aren't wise but still understandable. My only complaint is that Steiner can't resist a good metaphor or simile; in fact, she often can't resist bad ones. Too often they call attention to themselves, detracting from the flow. Hope she tones it down in the future.

I didn't like this protagonist Manon at all at the beginning. I couldn't imagine what other readers were praising so highly. That wore off pretty quickly as I saw more of her and saw her through the eyes of other characters. Great book, great plot, great story-telling, great characters. I couldn't put it down.

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