



My Name is Anna

Lizzy Barber

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'A dark, addictive read, with a real heart at its core. I loved it' – AMY LLOYD, bestselling author of *The Innocent Wife*

Two women – desperate to unlock the truth.

How far will they go to lay the past to rest?

ANNA has been taught that virtue is the path to God. But on her eighteenth birthday she defies her Mamma's rules and visits Florida's biggest theme park.

She has never been allowed to go – so why, when she arrives, does everything seem so *familiar*? And is there a connection to the mysterious letter she receives on the same day?

ROSIE has grown up in the shadow of the missing sister she barely remembers, her family fractured by years of searching without leads. Now, on the fifteenth anniversary of her sister's disappearance, the media circus resumes in full flow, and Rosie vows to uncover the truth.

But will she find the answer before it tears her family apart?

'A compelling read that's itching to be made into a TV two-parter' **RED**

'Dark, disturbing and powerful, the gripping plot is full of twists, turns and suspense. You will not want to put it down' **Candis**

'One of those thrillers in which it is almost impossible not to flick ahead' **Alison Flood, Observer**

'Skillfully-plotted...the journey to the truth is one of high tension' **Sunday Times Crime Club**

'It's the big emotions this book evokes that make you keep reading' **Good Housekeeping**

'Barber has created characters with sufficient appeal to fuel real suspense' **Guardian**

'With well-judged interweaving narratives and plenty of rich description, this is an absorbing and promising debut' **Spectator**

'A gripping story about loss, memory and love' **Best**

'Compelling, emotional and haunting in ways beyond your imagination, this story is everything I hoped it would be and more. A must-read for 2019' **Books of All Kinds**

'If you like compulsive psychological dramas with emotionally complex characters, make this your next read' **Culture Fly**

'A gripping one-sitting read... this is a deft and assured debut novel from Lizzy Barber' **Shots Magazine**

‘I ripped through it in no time at all and thought the writing was wonderful and the storyline gripping.’
Lesley Kara, author of *The Rumour*

‘You won’t put it down until you finish it!’ ***Prima***

My Name is Anna Details

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Author : Lizzy Barber

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From Reader Review My Name is Anna for online ebook

Sarah says

I thought this book was really good. It's split into two narrators - Anna and her sister Rosie. Anna who was called Emily was snatched from Astroland as a toddler and now living with the woman who took her. I won't reveal much but I really did like both Anna and Rosie. You could tell how completely different their lives were. It was different than what I expected. There was a lot about God, cults and the church which I haven't read in a thriller yet. The book kept me entertained and I was really interested to find out what happened. I did like the ending and I'm glad the bad characters got their comeuppance. It was so good and I definitely recommend this book.

Shalini says

This book had all the makings of a thriller which caused the heart to beat at a strange rhythm especially when I knew that things were reaching a point where secrets had to be revealed.

A child Emily kidnapped from a ride in a theme park on a vacation to Florida, 15 years ahead, the family in London was still ravaged by the loss when Rosie the sister decided to get to the truth. Across the river in Florida, Anna lead a biblical life with a fanatic mother who was obsessed with cleanliness and dirt and germs to the point of cruelty. A routine life that was soon broken by memories....

The story was told in Anna and Rosie's POV by author Lizzy Barber. It was obvious from the very beginning where the story would go, but the reasons for the decisions were still unknown, and that captured my interest along with Lizzy's crisp and fast writing.

My niggles had to be remarked on. There were a few subplots linked to a cult-like church which I skimmed over. And the story gave me a sense of deja vu. I have read similar stories before.

Even with a predictable formulaic storyline, the fast pace kept me hooked to the book. Enjoyable.

Pauline says

My Name is Anna by Lizzy Barber is a story that kept my gripped from the first page to the last. I could not put it down and read it in one day.

Anna lives with her mamma in a house with little comforts and has a very strict religious upbringing. On her eighteenth birthday she goes to a Florida theme park for the first time but remembers having been there once before.

Rosie's elder sister Emily disappeared when she was three years old when they were on holiday in Florida and now fifteen years later she decides that it's time to find out what happened to her sister.

This was a very emotional story. The heartbreak that the family had to endure after their child went missing and the consequences that followed for the extended family and friends was very well written and believable. I really enjoyed this book and will be eagerly awaiting Lizzy Barber's next book.

I would like to thank NetGalley and Random House UK Cornerstone for my e-copy in exchange for an honest review.

Mandy White says

I loved My Name is Anna!! I wanted to devour it in one sitting but my eyes had other ideas. Whilst at work I was thinking about what was going to happen next and how the 2 girls were feeling. Another tough story for a parent to read but I just had to know how it ended. It was emotional and had an ending that I didn't see coming. I would have liked it to keep going a few more chapters from where it ended but I just loved it.

Told from the point of view of 2 girls in 2 different countries. Anna is about to turn 18 and is living in the US with her over protective and church going mother. She has led a very sheltered life but on her 18th birthday she sneaks away with her boyfriend to the local theme park where she has never been allowed to go before. But when they get there it feels really familiar to her and she has no idea why. Then she receives a letter that has her questioning everything in her life. Then there is Rosie who lives so in the U.K with her family. 15 years ago her sister went missing, never to be seen again. It is breaking her family apart and she is determined to find out what happened.

Thank you to Random House Cornerstone and NetGalley for my advanced copy of this book to read. All opinions are my own and are in no way biased

Bex (Beckie Bookworm) says

My name is Anna was my first book by this author and If I'm being honest I enjoyed the first half much more than the second.

Telling the story of the aftermath of a young girls abduction and the effect this has on the people impacted by these tragic events we pick up the story fifteen years after the fact.

Told from two sisters POV Anna/Emily currently residing with her Mama in the USA and Rosie younger sister of abducted Emily living with her mum dad and brother in the UK.

This is mainly the sister's story and as we switch seamlessly from girl to girl we start to get a sense of the differences that from the same instant in time have impacted both their lives so dramatically and while for the most part, I did enjoy this: It started to get slightly monotonous the further I progressed.

I just wasn't fully on board here and I'm not sure quite why that was.

It almost had a slightly anti-climactic feel to it especially the finale which for me felt a bit flat.

On a sidenote, I did enjoy the Carrie references included with Anna and noticed the parallels included here almost instantly.

This, in conclusion, was for me an OK read that never really took flight: hoping it's a better fit for you.

I voluntarily reviewed an Arc of My name is Anna.

All opinions expressed are entirely my own.

Reviewed By Beckie Bookworm

<https://www.facebook.com/beckiebookworm/>

www.beckiebookworm.com

Mark says

Mmmmmmmmm, an interesting but at times uncomfortable story of a girl kidnapped from a Florida Theme Park 15 years ago...

The story is told in 2 halves, one chapter from 'Anna's' narrative the other from the Sister, Rosie's.

Anna is in America and Rosie in London so the differences in narrative style keeps you on your toes as you swop continents

The story is there for you from the beginning and then you work backwards from the present day to the day of the kidnapping (and before)

Mamma (the American one) is portrayed wonderfully, if scarily, as a 'Carrie' type Mum whilst the UK Mum is just about coping 15 years on

The use of the internet and forums in the story is fascinating as people 'air their ideas'....but someone knows more than they are saying....

The outcome of why Anna was taken is scary and even more so as its believable and the conclusion of the book moving and a little sad tbh

A darkly intense story that kept me involved and wanting to know how, why, what for and what will happen now

Louise Wilson says

On her 18th birthday, Anna defies her Mamma's rules and visits Florida's biggest theme park. She has never been allowed to go, so why, when she arrives, does everything feel so familiar? When she returns home, she receives a note addressing her by a different name, a name she recognises.

Rosie has grown up in the shadow of her older sisters disappearance. She was 1 year old when her sister disappeared. They have tried everything in their power to get her back. But Rosie discovers the Trust that was set up for her sister is about to wind down. She decides that she needs to find out the truth behind her sisters disappearance.

The story is narrated by both Anna and Rosie. A tale of two sisters torn apart at an early age but the bond between them is still there. Although the book is well written, it does seem a little far fetched at times. The pace is quite slow until nearer the end where it all kicks off. Anna's mother is a character I won't forget very easily. You can't help but think of all the other children who have went missing while your reading this book, and wonder if something like this has happened to them. A story that definitely makes you think. This is an enjoyable read.

I would like to thank NetGalley, Random House UK, Cornerstone and the author Lizzy Barber for my ARC in exchange for an honest review.

Joanne says

My Name is Anna is narrated in alternate chapters by Anna and Rosie. Anna lives in Florida with her Mamma who is very religious, strict and controlling. Mamma keeps Anna as secluded from the world as she can. There are no computers or mobile phones in their house. The focus is on being clean and pure to please

God. Anna does go to school though and has a boyfriend, William, son of the local pastor. When they sneak off on a forbidden trip to a local theme park for her 18th birthday, Anna becomes overwhelmed by the feeling that she has been there before. Obviously doing all she can to keep Anna from finding out the truth. Meanwhile in England, Rosie's family are almost falling apart. Rosie's sister, Emily, went missing from the same theme park 15 years ago and through Rosie we understand the effect this had on her family. For Rosie, living in the shadow of a perfect though absent sister has been a strain and she becomes determined to succeed where others have failed and resolve the mystery of what happened to her sister.

It's pretty clear from the start that the two girls have to be sisters and to be honest I wasn't sure how the author could make the story engaging for the length of the book but she most certainly did! It was fascinating to watch as Anna became more convinced that her mother was hiding something from her. It almost seems unbelievable that someone could forget their past so completely but as the story goes on, you begin to understand how Mamma accomplished this. And actually, as you find out what happened to her to make her act as she did, you do almost have a bit of sympathy for her too in the end. In Rosie's chapters, you get a sense of unease as she becomes closer to uncovering the truth. She certainly put herself in some dangerous situations in her determination to get to the truth and save her family.

With the story being told alternately by the two girls, this is a book that it's it's easy to zip through as you will always be eager to find out next part of their stories. As the two parts of the story eventually come together, it is clear that this is only a beginning for Anna and Rosie. It made me think about those stories you do hear occasionally on the news about families who have been split for whatever reason and then find each other again. It must really make people question their identity and what their life up till that point now means. An intriguing and through-provoking book.

Maureen Moyes says

Exciting and gripping story!?

The book is set in the UK and USA and takes a bit of thought to get into the story. It is told from the point of view of two girls, Anna and Rosie, who experienced very different childhoods from each other.

?I enjoyed the twists running through the book. The story touches on heartbreak, friendship, family, loss and love. I would highly recommend.?Thank you to NetGalley, Random House UK and Lizzy Barber for the opportunity to read and review this novel prior to publication.

Ivana - Diary of Difference says

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***Two women – desperate to unlock the truth.
How far will they go to lay the past to rest?***

My name is Anna is one of those books that captures your attention from the moment you look at its cover. Then, it drags you into a story, makes you bite your nails throughout, lifts you up in the air with the amazing writing and then smashes you back into the ground with the incredible twist at the end. Exactly what you

want and what you need from a thriller.

The story is being told by two girls:

Anna, a girl raised with a religious mother, where everything is forbidden and everything is a sin. And when on her 18th Birthday, Anna decides to disobey her mum and go to a theme park, she feels like she has been here before. And then random events lead to her realising that she was taken away when she was a little girl. And her real name is not Anna at all...

Rosie, a girl whose big sister has been missing for fifteen years. And when the media is ready to let the story go after the fifteen years anniversary, Rosie is determined to do whatever it takes to discover the truth of what actually happened on that day at the theme park.

The first thing I noticed in this book, that makes it different than all the stories about the kidnapping is – that the plot is being revealed in the first chapters. I was not expecting to immediately know that Anna and Rosie are sisters and Anna was kidnapped as a girl, but this was stated in the first chapters in the book. I personally thought that this would be the big twist, but the twist came to be so much better than that.

I loved how you could relate to both girls, for different reasons, and how even though they were sisters, how one little moment changed their lives completely. How Anna was raised with different beliefs than Rosie, and how they grew up to be so different, but the same...

This was a great story that give you thoughts about ‘‘what could’ve been...’’ and it makes you wonder – if certain things didn’t happen, would our lives be the same?

The end for me, was particularly meaningful. The last moments, the realisation, the conclusion, the story that ended, or the one that never begun, all the things we could’ve been, but are not, and all the things that we wish we could have changed, but we can’t.

If you, like me, are into kidnapping stories, amazing twists and thriller stories that take your breath away, this will definitely be the perfect book for you. This will be a hit at the beginning of 2019, and it will hit the top shelves. I know it hits my favourite shelf – for sure!

A huge thanks to Penguin Random House UK, for providing me with a hardback copy, in exchange for an honest review of this book. The opinions in this review are entirely my own, and completely unbiased.

Ingstje says

4.5 stars rounded up.

Most surprising novel of the year so far! I loved this debut, it was so much deeper and darker than I thought it would be.

A story always has two sides and I was thrilled the author didn’t choose to write this magnificent story in a single narrative but opted for a dual narrative by Anna and Rosie, sharing their own individual story in alternating chapters. Their very different, contrasting lives made for fascinating reading and the anticipation of seeing these threads come together was agonizing.

As a reader I knew more than the main protagonists right from the start so I had to wait a while for one of the girls to catch up with what I already knew and some readers might perhaps find it a bit of a slow start but it's

oh so important to watch the whole thing unfold in its own time, it's essential to see how that seed of doubt develops, grows and is cultivated. It can't be rushed or it wouldn't be believable anymore so I tried to resist the urge for a quick progression and my desire to see the storylines cross-over. The buildup was subtle and let me see the many nuances in the girls' lives. Not only were they raised on different continents, they were raised very differently as well. You can't miss what you don't have but my heart went out to Anna because I knew of course what they were both missing. As I turned the pages I was overcome with a sad feeling thinking how different both their lives could have been.

Anna lives with her religious neat-freak mother and she's destined to lead a strict and frugal life. I didn't envy her life and I certainly didn't like her mother. Rosie on the other hand was raised in a warm and affectionate family, she smokes, drinks and goes to parties (without her mum knowing). She'll never be like other teenagers though, the fact that her sister is missing casts a big shadow on their family. The grief of this entire broken family of parents, a sister and even the brother who doesn't even know the missing girl was so touchingly described that it made my heart ache.

I was hugely awarded for my initial patience because the last part of the novel was terrific. The story intensified gradually with the help of two other narrators who help reveal the backstory and the reasons why this happened 15 years earlier. It made such compelling reading! I might have had my judgement at the ready from page 1 but hearing the full story that led to the kidnapping, it changed my initial views and condemnation. Never judge a book by its cover, or in this case, by the facts. I'm not saying I'm agreeing with what Anna's mother did but at least I can say I have some understanding.

My Name Is Anna made me feel a wide range of emotions and quite surprisingly the story turns more and more dangerous. Who does Anna have to be afraid of though? Her mother or this mystery man who knows who she is? The story builds to an amazing climax too that made me hold my breath. Gripping and tense, check and check!

I'm very happy with the way it ended, I loved the epilogue. It could have ended differently or the author could have written clichés to give the story a 'happy ever after' ending with no further thought but she didn't and that's what makes it so much better and made me close the novel with a sigh of contentment.

Joanne Robertson says

My Name is Anna is a stunning debut novel that I defy you not to lose yourself in and read in one session. It's an involving, character driven mystery that is so beautifully written it's impossible not to fall in love with these two young girls as they struggle to make sense of their life changing discoveries.

There's a fascinating and very current feel to the plot line and, as I've always been drawn to real life cases where missing children are searched for by their families, it was a must read for me. The computer generated images of how loved ones will hopefully have aged always breaks my heart when I see them, whilst wondering what the reality of the comparison would really be. Families are often torn apart by the disappearance or murder of a child, as often feelings of guilt overwhelm any strong connection between the parents, so it was interesting to meet the Archer family and realise that they were still a complete family unit. Saying that, it's a far from normal atmosphere for their children to grow up in and Rosie plus her brother Rob have to deal with the constant media attention so that they are constantly living with the disappearance of their sister Emily.

The other narrator we follow is 18 year old Anna. Anna lives in Florida with her God fearing mother in a very strict household but has always accepted this way of life. That is until a rebellious trip to a local theme

park with her boyfriend makes her question everything that has gone on before. I loved watching Anna as a character as she became more independent from her controlling parent and, although I found her mother a difficult person to warm to at first, as the plot developed I couldn't help but feel a certain sympathy for the life she had lived and the reasons behind it.

Although it's obvious both these girls are connected in some way, I never lowered my guard to the possibility of further twists to the plot. And as the situation became clearer, my emotions were torn, watching as the build up to the powerful and affecting denouement exploded with a harrowing and heartbreaking outcome. This dramatic but poignant storyline means that My Name is Anna is a book you will find extremely difficult to put down whilst also being one that will leave you reflecting on the choices and decisions made. Lizzy Barber didn't, thankfully, make her ending too melodramatic with all the ends of her threads neatly tied off which I appreciated as it felt more authentic.

My Name is Anna is a contemplative and keenly observed debut novel that really stood out for me and has me excited for future books by Lizzy Barber! A brilliant read!

booksofallkinds says

Happy New Year everyone. I hope you all received lots of lovely books to set you up right for 2019. My first book for the year is MY NAME IS ANNA by Lizzy Barber and what an amazing book to start the year off with. Compelling, emotional and haunting in ways beyond your imagination, this story is everything I hoped it would be and more.

Anna has grown up in a very strict religious household but when she breaks the rules and goes to a theme park in Florida for her eighteenth birthday it will set off a chain of events that will change her life and the lives of so many around her.

Rosie doesn't really remember the sister that disappeared fifteen years ago but she knows the sadness, pain, and devastating consequences that it has had on everyone. Determined to discover the truth once and for all, Rosie will do whatever it takes. But sometimes the truth can be very unexpected ...

MY NAME IS ANNA by Lizzy Barber is the kind of book that really gets under your skin and makes you feel every heightened emotion on the page. As a mother, the idea of a child disappearing into thin air terrifies me so I knew that this book would get to me, but the writing and depth of feeling described in this story was above and beyond what I expected. Lies, secrets, tragedy, this book has it all and at the centre two girls who are desperate to know the truth once and for all.

MY NAME IS ANNA by Lizzy Barber is a fantastic book with elements of crime fiction, drama, and suspense to guarantee that it has something for everyone and I would be shocked if we don't see it on our television screens in the future. A must-read for 2019 and this is only the beginning!

*I voluntarily reviewed this book from the tour organiser

Kylie D says

An intriguing thriller about two teenage girls, separated by an ocean, leading vastly different lives. Anna is

an 18 year old growing up in Florida, being raised by her deeply religious single mother, whereas Rosie is in London, living with her parents and younger brother, but this existence is overshadowed by the disappearance of her older sister Emily at a theme park in Florida 15 years before. Both young women are searching for the truth, what happened that day 15 years ago. Who is behind Emily's disappearance? Who is the mysterious Father Paul? The story slowly unfolds to reveal it's secrets, and the answer, though not a great surprise, still leads us to a satisfying conclusion.

3.5 stars rounded up to 4.

My thanks to NetGalley and the publisher for an ARC in exchange for an honest review.
