



Seven Minutes to Noon

Kate Pepper , Katia Lief

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A GRISLY CRIME

On a day that seems perfectly ordinary, Alice Halpern waits for her best friend at the playground where they always meet with their children in their comfortable Brooklyn neighborhood. But when Lauren doesn't come home, then fails to pick her son up from school, a normal day turns into a nightmare-and Alice begins to realize that nothing will ever be ordinary again.

A GROWING FEAR

The police desperately search for Lauren, who is nearly nine months pregnant. Alice, herself pregnant, realizes she's being followed and has the creeping fear that she and her unborn twins are in danger. As the investigation intensifies, Alice is shocked as her familiar world begins to unravel. And as new life grows within her, she must fight to save her family-and herself..

Seven Minutes to Noon Details

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Author : Kate Pepper , Katia Lief

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From Reader Review Seven Minutes to Noon for online ebook

Gloria says

I love this book, your interest is peaked after page 2 and you can't put it down!!!

VLynch says

Katia Lief is one of my favorite authors right now. I found her books to be affordable on Barnes and Noble and I have purchased all that she has written. (I love affordable Ebooks!). This book is very good in the "oh my gosh, what if this happened to someone you know" feeling. I could not help but to actually feel scared for the characters and hope that all turned out well for them in the end. Can you imagine if your wife/husband never returned home one day? How your entire life would turn upside down in more ways then just missing them. I recommend this book, its a good thriller to keep you on your toes and appreciate what you have at home.

Dawn says

This was an "edge of your seat" suspense novel. I really enjoyed it. This was the second book I've read by this author. So far she is two for two.

Margaret says

Disconcertingly cosy view of Brooklyn - that also never mentions Manhattan.
It was OK - especially since it cost all of 50p - but curiously uninvolved and certainly never scary.
My main gripe (trivial though it is) is that on my eReader I only ever get the option of small / medium / large font & always go with small but in this edition the small font is too large - barely 2 paragraphs per page. It wasn't as bad as when you accidentally pick up a large-print book & it shouts at you but it didn't seem too far off.

Annyliis says

„Seitse minutit enne keskpäeva“, selle pealkirja taga on õõvastav lugu armukadedusest, petmisest, suhetest perekonnas. Põnev mõrvalugu. Seitse minutit enne keskpäeva on Alice õe Lauren'i surma aeg. Lauren, nagu Alich isegi, oli viimast lõppu rase. OLI, sest ta mõrvati jõhkral moel. Tema beebi aga jäi kadunuks. Seesama beebi, kes jõhkralt laibast välja lõigati.

Külmavärinad!

Kes küll sellise jõhkru suutis toime panna. Ja miks? See selgub suhteliselt raamatu lõpus. Nagu ikka kahtlustatakse kogu aja valet inimest. ;) Minagi läksin kahtlustustega kaasa ja seepärast kiire ja peaaegu ootamatu lõpplahendus pakkus pinget.

" Kui hirm oleks hiiglaslik laine, mis minu peale langeb, mida ma teeks? Sukelduksin sellesse või keeraksin ringi ja jookseksin minema? Kardaksin hirmu või alistaksin selle?"

Elusive says

In 'Seven Minutes to Noon', Alice's worry about her friend Lauren's failure to meet up like they always do escalates when her whereabouts remain unknown. Lauren is due to give birth anytime soon and as Alice herself is expecting as well, she begins to fear for her own safety. What has happened to Lauren? Will Alice suffer the same fate or will she have the happy ending she longs for?

This book started off promising only to progressively go nowhere, thanks to the uneventful chapters, long-winded scenes and lack of development in terms of the investigation. Most of the chapters were repetitive, revolving around Alice and how she spent her days looking for a new house to move into (as the landlord was hellbent on evicting her family within thirty days), taking care of her kids (I use 'taking care' very loosely here) and missing Lauren. Strangely enough, none of her constant thoughts of Lauren delivered an emotional punch.

Despite the entire story being told from Alice's perspective (in third person narrative), I found it hard to connect to her. She lacked personality. Everything about her was wrapped around Lauren or her unborn twins. She didn't have a life outside of that - no interests or hobbies. She was annoying and unreasonable, frequently contacting the cops assigned to Lauren's case. She was also paranoid and suspicious of someone who might be stalking her yet she failed to lodge a police report. She contradicted herself many times.

The cops weren't any better either. They behaved more like distant friends who dropped by to check in on Alice, drive her to wherever she needed to be and answered personal calls from her. To make things worse, they didn't even excel at their job! The incompetent fools relied heavily on Alice for information, couldn't put two and two together and took forever to take any sort of action. All of these made me wonder if the author has any idea of what an actual cop is like? Because those two were ridiculously unconvincing.

The revelation regarding the perpetrator's identity (view spoiler) and motive was underwhelming especially after wading through the sea of red herrings. The explanation was complicated, bogged down by tons of details that simply didn't work because they were far-fetched. Plus, the author didn't flesh out any character at all so it's impossible to understand or care about their feelings, actions and decisions. The epilogue further worsened the story. (view spoiler)

Overall, 'Seven Minutes to Noon' had the potential to be an exciting murder mystery but it turned out to be a dreary, uninspiring read featuring cardboard characters. The pacing was so slow that a tortoise would have already long crossed the finish line.

Zan says

I don't usually read thrillers, but a friend of mine from college wrote this book, and I'm glad she did. It takes place in the familiar neighborhood of Carroll Gardens, in the familiar social network of a certain type of woman with young children in such neighborhoods, and the victim is one of our own... creepy. But "Kate Pepper" evokes this world with a sureness of touch and ample detail. I guess I'm a sucker for books that take place in Brooklyn.

Mandy says

Would have been 5 stars if the ending hadn't been so horrible and abrupt.

A thriller about a group of friends whose friend goes missing and is very pregnant. They soon find out her missing case is similar to that of another pregnant woman who went missing. The group of friends and their children are soon drug into a ring of deceit, lies, and bone chilling revelations.

Honestly a great story until the epilogue. The ending so needed to be different.

Suzanne says

3 friends who had children, went to the park together. 2 of whom owned a business. 2 were pregnant at the same time. One of the pregnant women was reported missing. She also had a husband and a 5 yr old son. 2 days later, she was found dead. Her unborn baby was stolen from her as well.

UGH!! How could anybody do that? Crude C-section!! Give me the shivers just thinging about it. Was this a black market scam or what? Did one of the friends--wives or husbands-- commit such a violent acts?? Definitely a page turner.

Debrah says

This was third or so Katia Lief book and my last. Didn't enjoy the characters, storyline was hard to believe and ending was abrupt and because I hate to finish a book, found myself skipping through to the end.

Bev Taylor says

this was the time that lauren was murdered and her baby ripped from her womb

her body was found in the canal 3 days later and an artist was the last person to see her alive crossing the bridge.

alice and maggie r her best friends and like sisters. their families stand together as the investigations continue but then alice has the feeling that she is being followed. add to that she is being evicted - as lauren was - and she is understandably stressed

it also transpires that a 9 month pregnant woman disappeared in the exact same spot 2 years ago and was never found. is there a link?

as pieces slowly link together alice is shocked as her familiar world unravels and nobody is whom they seem they r. no-one is safe - not least her own children and the twins inside her.

a gripping story that pulls u in and doesn't let u go aided by the terrific characterisation. u feel u r living the

story with them

quote a few questions though - why did alice not mention the strange man earlier as he was in the same position where lauren was last seen. no reporters would have been allowed to the reception after the funeral. why did the landlord not just put up the rent on lauren's flat as it was not restricted, rather than serve an eviction notice. strange that pollock lost his wife and baby 2 years ago - the exact time the first girl went missing. why did alice not mention that pam had been threatened by pollock after she starting making investigations. his partner could have been found with a search thru companies house. how die sylvie get her passport to leave america.

epilogue totally spoilt it, too co-incidental to be remotely believable. suggest u ignore it

4.5 stars

bev

Karen says

I learned that I don't like suspense. Once, I watched "wait until dark" starring Audrey Hepburn. and literally jumped out of my seat and ran in to the other room... I should have known that reading suspenseful books would be worse :) Otherwise a good read.

Victoria says

I found this book interesting in the way it made me suspicious of first one character, then another. I always like mysteries that I can't figure out right away. This story is told from the point of view of a pregnant woman friend of the first victim rather than from the detectives who solve the crime, so we never know completely what the detectives know. The plot was maybe a little far-fetched, but it was good escapist summer reading.

Singletary says

WARNING: May contain a spoiler!

I wish there were an option for no stars.

This is a really horrible book. The author blathers uncontrollably with drivel. I had a hard time keeping characters straight. Probably because I lost interest in the story so many times. As for Sylvie, I still don't know who she was, or Analise, for that matter. Was one of them really Judy's daughter? Now, the thing that makes this SO unbelievable...A little background first. Lauren is a friend of Alice. They are both pregnant and near delivery. Lauren is murdered by someone who is terrorizing NYC by murdering pregnant women near term and kidnapping the infant. Two years after this happens, Alice and her family are on vacation in a remote part of Mexico south of Puerto Vallarta. They stop at an area near this cafe to change one of the infants (Alice had twins and two older children). Now who do you suppose pulls up while they are there? The people who now have Lauren's baby. I mean, really! I need a statistician. With over 400 million

people between the US and Mexico, just what are the odds?? Unbelievable? In deed it is. And before you respond, I know this is fiction. But it was never labeled as a fantasy!

PS: What does the title have to do with the story? Or did the boredom cause me to miss that too?

Chana says

A mediocre mystery/thriller. The police were busy but never really solved anything to completion. The story was sordid and pitiful. The author throws out so many red herrings that I thought I was swimming in a school of fish. The best scene in the book is the one where our main character talks to the butcher in the walk-in freezer, that was tense and creepy. The most realistic mystery/horror element in the book is the price of housing in Brooklyn.
