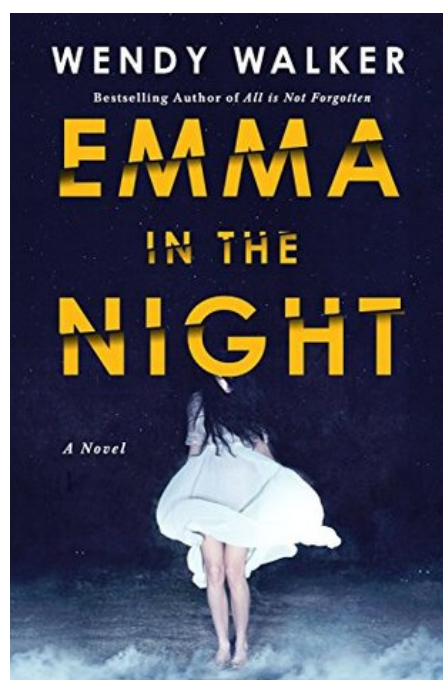




Emma in the Night

Wendy Walker

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Emma in the Night

Wendy Walker

Emma in the Night Wendy Walker

One night five years ago, the Tanner sisters disappeared: fifteen-year-old Cass and seventeen-year-old Emma. Three years later, Cass returns, without her sister Emma. Her story is one of kidnapping and betrayal, of a mysterious island where the two were held. But to forensic psychiatrist Dr. Abby Winter, something doesn't add up. Looking deep within this dysfunctional family Dr. Winter uncovers a life where boundaries were violated and a narcissistic parent held sway. And where one sister's return might just be the beginning of the crime.

Emma in the Night Details

Date : Published August 8th 2017 by St. Martin's Press

ISBN :

Author : Wendy Walker

Format : Kindle Edition 298 pages

Genre : Mystery, Thriller, Fiction, Mystery Thriller

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From Reader Review Emma in the Night for online ebook

Kaceey - Traveling Sister says

I recently read Wendy Walker's previous book *All Is Not Forgotten* and loved it! When I saw she had a new release I was all in for another great read! Sadly, in my opinion, this one did not match the brilliance of the first.

Cass and Emma grew up in a blended family. After their parents divorced, Emma chose to stay with their mother, her new husband and son. Little sister Cass reluctantly tagged along. Their mother, always totally unpredictable with her affections, took great joy playing cruel games with their emotions. A Pathologic narcissist.

Cass and Emma disappear on the same day, though under different circumstances. Three years later one of them returns.

Dr. Abigail Winter, a forensic psychiatrist with the FBI dedicated herself to this case until it went cold, sending her into a tailspin. Now she's been given a second chance to pull herself out of the darkness and help bring the second sister home.

Written from both Cass and Dr. Winter's point of view, in present and past tense. At times I was so confused, I never quite knew who was talking, and if it was a flash back or current conversation.

Nobody was very likable in this book. The writing seemed disjointed and I felt disconnected with the main characters. The pace of the book seemed somewhat slow, and really didn't pull me in. I found myself frustrated and struggling through most of it. Maybe because I had such high hopes for this one I set myself up to be disappointed...?

3*

Thank you to NetGalley, St. Martin's Press and Wendy Walker for an ARC to review in exchange for an honest review.

Norma * Traveling Sister says

This was one of the hardest reviews for me to write.....I wish I would have loved this one more!

My absolute favorite genre or type of book to read is a psychological suspense/thriller novel as I am totally fascinated in the way that some people think, feel, or behave. I also like to challenge myself to see if I can figure out the why and who. EMMA IN THE NIGHT was an intriguing look at Narcissist Personality Disorder and how a family is ultimately affected by it.

Why I wanted to read this one.....I was really excited and jumped at the chance to read an advanced copy of WENDY WALKER'S new book, EMMA IN THE NIGHT, as I ABSOLUTELY LOVED her previous novel, ALL IS NOT FORGOTTEN, and it was one of my favourite reads of 2016.

What it's all about.....One night two teenage girls, Emma and her younger sister Cass go missing in the middle of the night and three years later one comes back and tells her story.

What happened then for just 3 stars.....I really tried to get involved in the storyline but it just didn't happen for me. I don't know if it was just because I couldn't fully get into this story because there were quite a few distractions surrounding me while I was reading this, as I was away on vacation, or if it was just because I did get the feel of the novel early on and it started to get a little monotonous for me and just didn't hold my interest like I would have liked.

EMMA IN THE NIGHT by WENDY WALKER is a disturbing, insightful, captivating, and a twisted psychological thriller that is filled with dysfunctional and manipulative characters.

WENDY WALKER delivers an extremely well-written read here with an interesting and unique storyline told from two different perspectives which focuses mainly on Cass and her story of what happened to her during those missing three years and Dr. Abby Winter who questions what really happened while searching for the still missing sister, Emma.

Overall, it was a mostly enjoyable, quick and easy read with a satisfying and neat ending. I look forward to reading more from this author in the future. Would recommend!

Publication date: August 8, 2017

Thank you so much to NetGalley, Wendy Walker, and St. Martin's Press for the opportunity to read an advance copy of this book for a fair and honest review.

Review written and posted on our themed book blog Two Sisters Lost In A Coulee Reading.
<https://twosisterslostinacoulee.com>

Coulee: a term applied rather loosely to different landforms, all of which refer to a kind of valley.

karen says

this is a psychological suspense novel about two sisters; fifteen-year-old cass and seventeen-year-old emma martin, who vanish one night from their affluent connecticut neighborhood. three years later, cass returns, ringing the doorbell of her old home, whereupon she is surrounded by family, police, doctors, the media, and dr. winter, the forensic psychologist who has been obsessed with their case since the girls disappeared, all wanting to know what happened that night and where emma is.

in a real-world scenario, this book would be three pages long: girl comes home, girl tells story, police do their thing.

but that would be a boring book.

this is one of those novels more geared towards reader-manipulation and drawing out suspense than it is in procedural realism. which is not a criticism - that's what fans of psychological suspense want - they want the experience of being cat-and-moused by the story, where answers are withheld and doled out sparingly for maximum drama. and this book definitely keeps a reader invested in the questions and turning those pages eagerly to figure out what really happened.

in that prosaic real-world, cass would stumble home and tell the police exactly what's happened to her and how to rescue her sister, wanting to see justice done. in the world of this book, cass takes DAYS to tell her story, going off on long affectless tangents with seemingly irrelevant details, paging casually through photo

albums and refusing to speak without her mother present, although she takes no comfort from her presence, and just really taking her time making with the details about where her sister is. and without giving away spoilers, i will quote from the synopsis above - dr. winter, who has been involved in the investigation since day one, realizes from cass' explanation that: *something doesn't add up*, seeing the shape of a story underneath the one cass is telling, so she has to put it all together herself - what she's being told, what she's being "told" through subtext, insinuation, and omission, what she observed from the family when she was investigating the case years ago, and the convenient perspective she has on the situation from her own personal experiences.

you have to be willing to suspend disbelief and enjoy the story as a machine, because none of it would work with even a single cog or ball bearing out of alignment, and the odds are against this coincidence-laden situation happening naturally, but as a piece of entertainment constructed meticulously by an author, the journey to discovering the truth is a fun ride. that's not to say you still won't have questions at the end.

real spoilery questions you should stay away from unless you've already read the book:

(view spoiler)

if you ignore all of the "but wait..."s, it's a really suspenseful journey of discovery. there are a lot of similarities to this book and Good as Gone, in terms of premise and slow-reveal, and there are some nice internal moments from cass as she tries to reacclimate to her old life and fulfill her agenda:

I knew they wanted to zap me into their world, magically transform me into the daughter I would have been if I had never left, the young woman who held their history the way family does, living every mundane moment together. But I could not absorb it the way they needed me to. I felt detached, like a stranger eavesdropping on the train. I did not want to be in the present with them - not without Emma, not without justice. Until I had those things, I would not let them distract me with their stories from their normal lives.

but - note to cass - you really could get your justice more quickly if you abandoned this whole stringing-along thing you're doing. just sayin'.

there's one other reservation, and that's with the overall writing style. i had read the author's debut All Is Not Forgotten, and the narrative voice there was a very detached first-person, kind of humbert humberty without the... proclivities, and i figured it was just a tic of that character, but now i think it's more of an authorial tic. although it is much softer than the voice of AINF, there's still something of the clinically detached here. there are some moments when cass skews purple:

Waves of elation and dread rolled through my body like the ocean, each one crashing against a wall and giving way to the next.

but even her purple seems stilted.

it's largely told in one big exposition-heavy recitation, from both of the POV characters. for a book so much about psychology, there's little of it shown, much told. or taught. there's plenty of diagnosis - we learn about several disorders, but in clinical terms, without much insight, or insights that read more like notes from case studies than these supposedly living, breathing characters. in one of cass' POV chapters:

...Dr. Winter told us that she had been working around the clock, tracking down her list of people from the past, people who might know something about the Pratts or (view spoiler). She had already spoken with some teachers and friends of both girls. They had all heard about Cass's return and the desperate search for Emma, though so far none of them had anything to

add that was helpful. They had been shocked to hear the truth about why we left home.

the use of “both girls” and “cass” in an otherwise first-person account is a bit alienating, pushing the reader out of first person and at arm’s length.

there are occasional bursts of description that really work:

I think there are two types of people. Ones who have a scream inside them and ones who don’t. People who have a scream are too angry or too sad or laugh too hard, swear too much, use drugs or never sit still. Sometimes they sing at the top of their lungs with the windows rolled down. I don’t think people are born with it. I think other people put it inside you with the things they do to you, and say to you, or the things you see them do or say to other people. And I don’t think you can get rid of it. If you don’t have a scream, you can’t understand.

but the bulk of the novel is told in a voice that keeps the reader at a distance.

i enjoyed reading the book, for sure, but i think it's one of those books whose enjoyment will fade a bit over time. most of my ratings on here are four-stars, and when i am going through my shelves here for whatever reason, i am frequently surprised at some of the books i have given four stars to. i think a lot of times i feel more positively about a book in the immediate aftermath, and then once the experience merges into the backdrop of “all the things i have read,” many of those four stars are probably closer to threes. All Is Not Forgotten was a 3.5 rounded up, this one is a 3.5 rounded down, just for balance. both books are enjoyable, and excellent summer-reading material, but they're definitely more fruity pebbles than oatmeal.

Diane S ? says

This is a difficult review for me to write, simply because I don't know if I can explain exactly how I felt about this book. So here goes. I applaud this author for trying different things, her first book and this one were a little different, covering psycholological issues in an original way. In this one she tackles narcissistic personality disorder, and the mainstream effects on the family, but she turns it into an unsolved mystery.

I know someone who grew up with such a mother, saw the games played, the harmful effects and the manipulations. In my opinion the author doesn't delve far enough into this issue for Cass to set things up the way she did after her return. It didn't make sense to me, and so I was doubtful of what followed. It is very slowly paced as clues are uncovered, and Cass tells her story in bits and pieces. Which also didn't make sense, because if her motivation was true, wanted her story to be believed, wouldn't she have wanted the searching to begin immediately? So much of this, for me, didn't hang together. We are meant, I think to feel sympathy for Cass, but except for her half brother, I didn't really like any of these characters. Plus, since the story was so drawn out I figured out most of it before books end.

I did keep reading though, and this can be seen as psycholologically twisty. Many have loved it, and many more will. It is as I said a little different from what is out there right now, which is why I rated this a three. Just wish there had been more of some things, and less of others. Still don't think I explained this well, but this will have to do.

ARC from Netgalley.

Melissa says

If you could see the look of disillusionment coloring my face right now—or were made privy to the number of times I rolled my eyes through this convoluted storyline or huffed in pure exasperation as I succumbed to page after page of pure messiness—you might have some idea that **this book wasn't a great fit for *me***. But you can't and you weren't, so I guess I'll just have to lay it all out with my thoughts instead. Yes, that's right, once again, I've fallen victim to another overly-hyped "psychological thriller". What's the deal? Am I just incredibly picky or with variety and exposure have I become more in tune with what works for me and what doesn't? Or who knows, maybe it's a combination of both?

I'm not a reader that gave Wendy Walker's debut, *All Is Not Forgotten*, a chance. There was something about the synopsis that didn't appeal to me and at this point, I'm thinking that was a very wise decision. After this book, I don't feel like I connect with the author's point of view or her writing style, to be quite honest. Just like everything else in life, reading is subjective and this just so happens to be one of those times that reader and writer weren't a good fit.

One of my biggest pet peeves as a reader is being *told* what happens versus actually having the chance to experience what the characters are going through firsthand. So above all else, it was the fact that almost the entire book consisted of stories that Cass relayed to other people—rather than flashbacks, memories or scenes with actual dialogue that we could live through—that **dragged this story down for *me***. What happened to show, not tell? When an author chooses to take the tell route it severs any chance *this* reader will forge an emotional connection to the storyline—be it the characters or the situations they find themselves in. It doesn't matter how much the author throws around the idea of some psychological disorder.

Now, to give Wendy Walker some credit, there is a reason behind the story being *told* in this manner, but it was so borderline mediocre, it didn't make up for the incredibly messy, overly wordy and downright blah experience, I found it to be.

What happens when two teenage sisters disappear and only one resurfaces randomly, three years later, with an outlandish story and a plea to help find her sister? Well, I'll tell you—the author beats the reader over the head with the emotional turmoil this family endures as a result of a narcissistic mother. She explores the struggle that ensues for ultimate control and the importance of breaking that cycle, but honestly, I didn't care. Ms. Walker failed to make me care about any of these people—not the mother, the daughters or even the broken detective with her own mommy issues. Again, throwing that disorder around and not really allowing us to fully experience the emotions that surround the psychosis firsthand, **didn't work for *me***.

Being the optimist I am, of course I held out hope the ending or the twist would somehow redeem the story for me, but no shocker that didn't happen. Let's be honest, it rarely does. I think I was too far gone at that point to find any sort of enjoyment in the outcome or even believe that anyone would go to those lengths when the facts could have been proven so easily. Trickery? I think *not*.

**Thank you to St. Martin's Press and NetGalley for a copy in exchange for an honest review.*

Meredith says

Since GR seems to be fully functional (fingers crossed), I have finally posted my review!

***Emma in the Night* is a chilling psychological thriller about the stories people create in order to survive.**

Sisters Emma and Cass had to endure their mother's narcissistic personality throughout their childhood. As they begin to grow up, they come to recognize their mother's dangerous nature. Older sister Emma shines; she is the one that everyone sees and wants a piece of. She is her mother's greatest competition. Younger sister Cass hides in the shadows, keenly observing those around her. Engrossed in a world of manipulation and games that is fueled by sick and twisted competition, the sisters must do what they can to survive.

One night, the sisters go missing without a trace. Their case stays unresolved for three years until Cass returns home out of the blue. She says she escaped captivity on an island and tells a story about Emma, who is still trapped. Cass's story slowly unravels and it becomes clear that she is hiding something about the night she and Emma disappeared.

I got sucked into the darkness and delusion of Cass's tale. I was captivated by her voice, and was eager to see how her story was going to play out. I found their mother fascinating, yet cringe worthy. The only part that didn't work for me were the chapters told from Abby Winters' POV (but they serve a purpose). I highly recommend for those who enjoy psychological thrillers!

I received a copy of this book from NetGalley and the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

Lindsay - Traveling Sister says

3.5 stars. This was a mysteriously suspenseful novel with an intriguing storyline and excellent narration.

After reading and LOVING Wendy Walker's previous novel, All Is Not Forgotten, I was very excited to get my hands on a copy of her latest book. Once again, Walker does a fantastic job with narration! (The way AINF was narrated was brilliant and one of my favourite aspects of the book!) This story is told from multiple perspectives, focusing mainly on 18-year-old Cass who returns home after disappearing three years prior. I felt completely captivated by Cass' story and for most of the book my curiosity had me flipping pages as quickly as possible.

Perhaps I had set my expectations a little too high (AINF was a 5 star for me!), but I finished this book feeling slightly disappointed. The novel started off strong with a unique and captivating plot, however, by 50% of the way in, I felt that it started to drag and get a bit repetitive. The household drama became monotonous and my interest began to wane. Regardless of this feeling of repetition, I still enjoyed the way it was narrated – Walker's talent is undeniable in that regard!

There is some extremely disturbing mental abuse and manipulation throughout this story. I felt terrible for many of the characters and what they had to endure. There is a strong focus on narcissism which I found very interesting to learn about. Walker must have done a ton of research to present such a well-constructed portrait of narcissism and the damaging trail it leaves.

Overall, I enjoyed this novel and I look forward to reading more from Wendy Walker!

A big thank you to NetGalley, St. Martin's Press and Wendy Walker for an ARC of this novel in exchange for an honest review!

Deanna says

My reviews can also be seen at: [https://deesradreadsandreviews.wordpress...](https://deesradreadsandreviews.wordpress.com)

This is the second book by Wendy Walker that I have read. I read ALL IS NOT FORGOTTEN last year and loved it. I was really excited when I heard about EMMA IN THE NIGHT, but a part of me was worried that I wouldn't like it.

"The truth can evade us, hiding behind our blind spots, our preconceptions, our hungry hearts that long for quiet. Still, it is always there if we open our eyes and try to see it. If we really try to see"

The Tanner sisters disappeared on a foggy night three years ago. Emma was seventeen-years-old and Cass was fifteen. Now three years later, Cass is back. Turning up on her mother's doorstep....alone.

When they disappeared, Emma's car was found at the beach, with her purse and keys inside. Her shoes were in the water. Assumptions were made. Almost everyone believed Emma was dead. But they couldn't figure out what happened to Cass. Emma would never have taken Cass with her to the beach. Plus none of Cass's things were missing. So where was she? Different people believed different things. Could it be a coincidence? One sister dead, the other a runaway? An abduction?

"Some people needed to believe I was dead because it was too hard to wonder"

The girl's mother tells the story of the night in question, which gives her the attention she thrives on. An apparent fight between Cass and Emma over a necklace then a car seen leaving later that night...

Social media, the girl's cell phones, and diaries didn't help at all. Everyone was at a loss.

What happened to the Tanner sisters?

We learn more about what life was like in the Tanner/Martin home. Dysfunctional would be one way of putting it. Daughters who craved attention from a mother who also craved attention, and for whom playing favorites was a game she perfected.

"Am I a good mother? The best mother you could ever want?"

For three years, Cass had imagined the moment she would see her mother again. But she was not at all prepared for the expression on her mother's face when she saw Cass on her front porch.

They take Cass inside, asking question after question, but Cass won't answer. Until finally.....

"We need the police!" "They have to find Emma! They have to find her!"

Dr. Abigail Winter (Abby) forensic psychologist is called in to consult along with the FBI. Abby knows this case inside out, it has eaten at her all these years. One of those cases that buries itself deep under your skin. Abby could see things that others couldn't...or wouldn't. So when she hears the words "Cassandra Tanner came home", she's on her feet, ready to go in seconds.

Will she finally find out what happened the night the girls disappeared? Where has Cass been? Where is Emma? Is it possible that the theory Abby had about the case was correct? The theory that no one else believed?

"Find Emma!"

When Abby hears those words from Cassandra Tanner's mouth, time stands still. Emma is alive?

"The island." Cass said. "She's still on the island"

And with that, Cass begins telling them what happened. As she begins her story, everyone keeps asking her why they left in the first place. When she finally replies, her answer shocks them all.

As I mentioned before I was worried I wouldn't like this book as much as I liked the authors first novel. I shouldn't have worried as I REALLY enjoyed it.

EMMA IN THE NIGHT is not just a story about two missing girls. It's a story about love, obsession, loyalty, mental illness, secrets, jealousy, and even revenge.

The story is told from Cass and Abby's point of view. I think the book is well paced, and I couldn't wait to read what was going to happen next. This is one of those books that I wanted to talk about to everyone. I've always been interested in behavioral psychology and one of the main themes of the book is one I'm most interested in. I found it fascinating. Wendy Walker really knows her stuff. Intelligent and disturbing, I was completely engrossed in the psychological aspects of this story as well as the mystery itself.

EMMA IN THE NIGHT is definitely a book I won't soon forget. I'm two for two with Wendy Walker and I cannot wait for more!

Thank you, St. Martin's Press for providing an advanced readers copy of this book for me to read in exchange for my honest review.

Cheri says

!! NOW AVAILABLE !!

"We believe what we want to believe. We believe what we need to believe."

"Emma in the Night" begins with these words, words that reach gently in and pull you into this story, never really letting go, delaying the inevitable until the final pages.

Last year I read Wendy Walker's *"All is Not Forgotten,"* which I also enjoyed up until the very end. Mysteries, Thrillers, Psychological Suspense are not my typical genre, but every once in a while, I can enjoy the ones which are light enough that I can still manage to sleep at night, if they don't tie my stomach in knots in the meantime.

Sisters. Two years apart, teenagers Emma and Cassandra – Cass. Emma the older at seventeen, Cass is fifteen as this story really begins, when Emma and Cass both disappear one night. The FBI investigation. The media circus that follows. The years that follow.

And then as suddenly and slowly, time has passed, the way time does when one is lost in a fog and one thing, one day blends into the next. Three years pass and one day Cass returns, but not Emma. Questions follow. The same FBI investigators become involved, including Abby Winters, a Forensic Psychiatrist, and the media circus returns.

When Cass returns, she is no longer the naïve, young girl she was the night she and Emma disappeared. She returns to her hometown, eighteen years old now, showing up at the home of her mother and step-father, Mr. and Mrs. Martin, instead of the home of her father. Abby Winters and Special Agent Leo Strauss are promptly re-assigned to this case once again, in the hopes of finding Emma. Before it's too late. Until Emma is found, she is still be in danger.

Told from the alternating viewpoints of Cass and Abby - Dr. Winters, the details of that night when the sisters went missing are followed, slowly unravelling the many truths behind this wild and crazy, completely captivating story.

"What I do know is that the truth can evade us, hiding behind our blind spots, our preconceptions, our hungry hearts that long for quiet."

Pub Date: 08 Aug 2017

Many thanks for the ARC provided by St. Martin's Press

j e w e l s [Books Bejeweled] says

Emma and Cass have a strange relationship with their mother. For starters, they are required to call her Mrs. Martin, not mom. **WHY?** That will get your suspicious mind working overtime!

Mrs. Martin is a narcissistic, self-involved mother and she's not the only weirdo in this dysfunctional family. The two sisters have an overprotective half-brother, a weepy-wimpy father, an out-of-control stepbrother and a stepfather that likes to cross personal boundaries within the family. **WHEW!** I'd run the hell away from that house too!

When Cass returns home after she and her sister have been missing for three years, she is alone. What happened to Emma? The FBI are all over the case and continue to grill Cass with a forensic psychologist, Abby, leading the interviews. The entire story is told in alternating, somewhat confusing views: a first person narrative coming from Cass and a third person narrative from Abby. Coincidentally, Abby the expert, grew up with a sister, too, and their own mother was a textbook narcissist. She knows firsthand what Cass and Emma may have been dealing with at home. Too many coincidences for me *I don't like when authors resort to using coincidences as a plot structure.*

This is not as much of a suspense story as it is an overly long definition of the narcissistic personality type. I learned more than I ever thought I would about the disorder. For starters, the disorder has been overlooked by the courts when it is a woman suffering from it. And especially overlooked when that woman is a mother. Very interesting.

Normally I adore the psychological suspense genre. But, if I want to study a disorder, I will pick up my old

psychology textbook. Please, **SHOW** me the actions and develop her character into a more layered person. Showing is so much more exciting to read than telling. A book that comes to mind for expertly portraying a maternal narcissist in action is , **MOTHER, MOTHER** by Karen Zalikcas. A biting, memorable character if ever there was one.

This book has all my favorite elements in a mystery. A BEAUTIFUL, INTRIGUING COVER, the surprise ending, unreliable narrators, and a psychological disorder at the heart of the story. As much as I wanted to love it, the book fell flat for me. The pages did not turn fast and it was ultimately disappointing.

My mind was wandering during the long descriptions of the island that Cass gives the FBI upon her return home. She relates her experiences in a straight monotone manner (for a reason, as you will find out) and it just reads that way for most of the book. I was interested to find out what happened to Emma, but my gosh, it was a slow go.

Unfortunately, if you are looking for a suspenseful mystery OR an effective psychological study, this is not the book. Many thanks to the wonderful folks at NetGalley for giving me the opportunity to read and review this book.

Susanne Strong says

4.5 Stars* (rounded up).

Crazy, Hypnotic & Downright Staggering.

"Emma in the Night" captures your attention from the first sentence. *We believe what we want to believe. We believe what we need to believe.* From that moment on, I couldn't tear my eyes away.

Emma and Cass Tanner are sisters. Emma is 17, Cass, 15. One night they both disappear. No trace of them is found. Three years later however, Cass returns, without her sister Emma. Cass' story is far-fetched and is one her mother is unwilling to believe. Though Cass' mother, Mrs Martin isn't exactly the most reliable of characters.. then again, neither is Cass. Her story is however, investigated by the FBI, including Forensic Psychiatrist and Agent, Abby Winters, who specializes in personality disorders and specifically, narcissism. Dr. Winters uncovers much of Cass's dysfunctional family history and also helps unravel many a mystery.

In her time away, Cass has become a grown up. She has a depth of character that defies her age and is no longer the naïve little girl her mother always thought of her as. And Cass sees things in Dr. Winters that no one else does. Whether this helps her or hurts her, is for you to find out for yourselves.

"Emma in the Night" is quite the Psychological Suspense novel. Wendy Walker has now written her second novel expertly intertwining with a mystery/suspense novel with a psychological thriller involving forensic psychiatry that stupefies its readers. Every second captivates. And through most of it, I was none the wiser. There were a few moments that I had figured out but for the most part this was a complicated and truly compelling novel and the characters were juxtaposed within it brilliantly.

Dr. Winters is an intricate and convoluted character whose thoughts and ideas I was excited to unlock. Cass is a tortured soul who's strength of character, brilliance and sheer fortitude had me glued to every word she uttered. And Emma's wickedness had me laughing during the most inappropriate of times. In the end, every phrase and every moment of this novel had me awaiting the stunning conclusion.

You might have thought it improbable for Wendy Walker to hit it out of the park again after her

brilliant first novel, "All Is Not Forgotten" but I can tell you that SHE DID IT!! "Emma in the Night" is bright, brilliant, captivating & intricate. It weaves a web you don't want to get out of.

Thank you to NetGalley, St. Martin's Press and Wendy Walker for an ARC of this novel in exchange for an honest review.

Published on NetGalley and Goodreads on 5.15.17

*Will be published on Amazon on 8.8.17.

Linda says

Surprise!

I must confess I only wanted to read "Emma In The Night," because a friend who majored in psychology had read it and thought the author did an impressive job of researching narcissistic personality disorder, which I've always wanted to have a more thorough knowledge of. Call me lucky, because another friend happened to win an advanced reader's copy and offered to lend it to me.

Since joining Goodreads, the psychological thriller and suspense genres have become two of my favorites, and I also enjoy branching out to new authors and finding unique writing styles. Wendy Walker far surpassed my standards in all these areas. It didn't matter which direction the author took me nor whose point-of-view I was reading, I never lost interest. There were many twists, turns, and surprises, and I never once saw that ending coming! Wendy Walker took a complex psychological disorder and turned it into one of the most well-written storylines I've read in these categories.

Thank you Ms. Walker for the unexpected education I received.

Highly recommend.

4.5 stars

Larry H says

I've remarked in previous reviews that much like they say in spy movies, my philosophy when reading thrillers is simple: **trust no one** . Any character that appears I immediately view as a possible suspect.

Of course, while that thought process makes it a little more difficult when reading, it helps me avoid being irritated when the resolution of a book includes a character who came totally out of the blue. Where Wendy Walker's crazy, twisty, yet surprisingly weighty new book, ***Emma in the Night*** , was concerned, I may not have been ultimately surprised by everything, but Walker took me on quite a journey to get there, full of surprises and twists which kept me guessing.

One night, 15-year-old Cassandra Tanner and her older sister Emma disappeared. Emma's car was found on a beach, but there was never any trace of the girls. FBI forensic psychologist Abby Winter suspected there was more to the girls' disappearance than met the eye, but she couldn't convince her supervisors, and the case nearly destroyed her. But three years later, Cass has returned home without Emma, but she pleads

desperately that they rescue her sister.

Cass' story is a harrowing one, of being kept captive on a remote island with Emma. She sacrificed a lot to get home, and is afraid her sister might not still be on the island, or even be alive once the FBI figures out where they've been held captive. Cass' return has also thrown her divorced parents into turmoil, as they are happy that Cass is back but they fear for Emma's safety, and they want to understand what happened to the girls three years ago.

But the more Cass tells, the more Abby wonders what the truth is. Her initial suspicions about all not being right in the household where the girls grew up returns with a vengeance, and Abby wonders what Cass is hiding, and whether she's trying to lead them somewhere, to someone, but is unable to say anything directly. These issues of narcissistic personality disorder are ones that Abby knows too well, and she wonders if her suspicions are true, or if she is being influenced by her own experiences.

"Not knowing, not seeing, being deceived—it makes you question everything you have come to trust. It makes you doubt your own judgment, and the truths you have come to believe in, which sometimes are so deeply embedded, you don't even know they're there, shaping your thoughts."

What happened the night that Emma and Cass disappeared? Where is Emma now? Was their disappearance random, or was it caused by, or the result of, something else in their lives? Is Cass hiding something? Time is running out, and the FBI must figure out the truth and bring Emma home before it's too late.

I liked *Emma in the Night* more than I thought I would. There was a brief period a little more than a quarter into the book where I worried one of the characters would be such a huge part of the plot that I didn't think I could stand it, but I persevered, and I'm glad I did. This is a book that isn't afraid to paint its characters as not entirely sympathetic, and you're not sure what to believe and you don't know which character to root for.

Walker does a great job unraveling the plot little by little, and while some of it seemed a little too predictable, there was still enough that kept me guessing. I've never read anything by her before, but I was impressed not only with the way she generated suspense, but the in-depth attention she paid to the depiction of narcissistic personality disorder. That is something that unfortunately I've experienced, and she was right on the money with that.

This wasn't a perfect book by any means, but I enjoyed it and couldn't stop reading. Definitely a good book for a last gasp at the beach, or to occupy you during a long trip or commute. I'll definitely need to read Walker's first book now!

See all of my reviews at <http://itseithersadnessoreuphoria.blo...>

Chelsea Humphrey says

Trying something a little different here guys. Sam and I wrote sort of a joint review; think book club discussion style. We chose questions for us each to answer that we felt covered what you need to know about the book going in, as well as our feelings toward the characters, plot, and author's previous books. I'm just going to post the link to my blog post as the formatting is very specific and won't translate well over to Goodreads. Don't worry; this isn't click bait intended to guide you away from Goodreads and I won't be doing this for the majority of my reviews, simply the ones in this style. Hope you enjoy the book; I know we did!

<https://thesuspenseisthrillingme.com/...>

Carol says

4+ CRAZY STARS!

The Tanner sisters have been gone three years now....and no one knows why the teens left or where they are, but I think you'll understand a bit of the WHY after you meet their CRAZY mixed-up family....especially Mother...and her moods.

Cassandra....who shockingly turns up out of the blue is emphatic.....they must find Emma!!!....so FBI Special Agent Leo Strauss and Forensic Psychologist Dr. Abigail Winter are immediately called back in to work the case....to interview Cass....and to piece together what actually happened the night they disappeared.

EMMA IN THE NIGHT serves up a toxic mix of family members who each play an intricate part in a manipulative game of secrets and lies desperate to accomodate their own personal agendas....AND to make matters even more interesting, Dr. Abby reveals a few ghosts in her closet as well.

Many thanks to NetGalley and St. Martin's Press for the ARC in exchange for an honest review.
