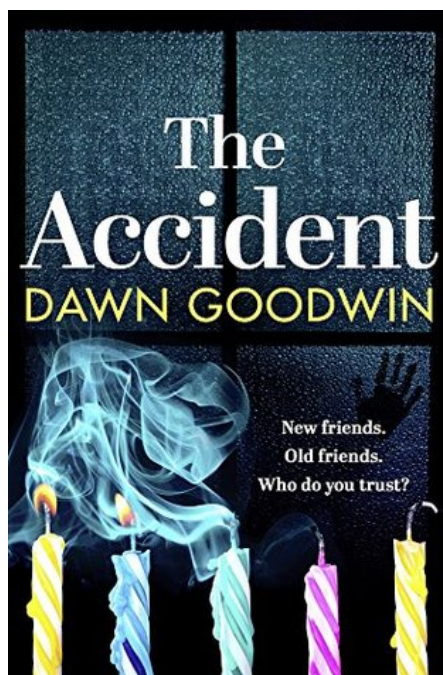




The Accident

Dawn Goodwin

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A tragic accident, an unbearable loss and a marriage in crisis – but who can she trust or is she all alone? A gripping, debut psychological thriller that will keep you hooked. Perfect for the fans of Paula Hawkins and S.J. Watson.

Veronica Pullman's comfortable suburban life comes to a shuddering halt when her young daughter, **Grace**, tragically dies in a car accident.

Months later, unable to come to terms with her daughter's death, detached from her husband and alienated from her friends and family, a chance encounter on a rainy street pushes her into an unlikely new friendship.

Scarlet is everything **Veronica** could've been: feisty, adventurous, unpredictable. But as she approaches what would have been **Grace's 10th birthday**, it becomes clear to **Veronica** that the friendship she thought was saving her life could be costing her everything.

Consumed by grief and left questioning her own sanity, **is there anyone she can really trust or is someone out to torment her as part of their twisted game?**

The Accident Details

Date : Published October 1st 2017 by Aria

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Author : Dawn Goodwin

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From Reader Review The Accident for online ebook

Nicki says

Months after her young daughter Grace was tragically killed in a car accident, Veronica Pullman is still struggling to come to terms with her daughter's death.

Detached from her husband Tom and alienated from her friends and family, a chance encounter on a rainy street pushes her in a unlikely new friendship with feisty, unpredictable Scarlet.

But as she approaches what would have been Grace's 10th birthday, it becomes clear to Veronica that the friendship she thought was saving her life could be costing her everything.

Consumed by grief and left questioning her own sanity, is there anyone she can really trust or is someone out to torment her as part of their twisted game?

This gripping drama is voiced by Veronica, her husband Tom, her best friend and neighbour Felicity and also one chapter that is voiced by young Grace. Interspersed throughout the story are italicized chapters that are voiced by the person who is tormenting Veronica. Hardly anyone in this twisted tale are very likeable but that also adds a human element to their characters. Throughout the book my feelings and sympathy for Veronica changed a number of times as the story unfolded. I know I was meant to feel sympathy for her because of her grief and suffering due to the death of her daughter but I struggled at times to understand some of her actions. Then something was revealed and some of her actions and behaviour made sense. Some situations can put a lot of stress on a couple's relationship, some couples pull together and work through things as a team while others are pushed apart. Is Veronica and Tom's relationship strong enough to survive once hidden secrets and the whole truth about what happened on the day of their daughter's tragic death is finally revealed.

I thoroughly enjoyed this emotional story of grief, relationship, friendships, jealousy, mental illness, blame and forgiveness. Although I did guess quite early on in the story the truth about a couple of characters, it's didn't spoil my enjoyment of this well written, debut thriller and I would happily read more books by this author in the future.

Many thanks to Aria for a arc of this book via Netgalley in exchange for a honest review

Mandy White says

What happens to a mother when she loses her daughter? it is an awful thing to even think about so I sympathized with Veronica. things start to happen to make her question herself and those around her. Secrets and lies are exposed ... this book has it all. thank you to Aria via Netgalley for a copy of this book to read in exchange for an honest review

Leah says

Solid 3-star read. I don't really have a lot to say about it - I guessed what Scarlet was up to as soon as she arrived in Veronica's life and I guessed who was behind all those italicised pieces of writing, so it kind of

took some of the surprise out of things. Pretty gripping, though.

Laura says

It took me a little while to get into this book as it flits between the perspective of several different characters, and it took some time before I could differentiate between them all. Once that hurdle had passed though, I found the storyline very gripping. The main character, Veronica, I found that at times I felt a real fondness for, and at other times I just wanted to shake some sense into her. Other characters were much less likeable.

The premise is that there is a tragic accident, hence the title of the book, and this has serious knock-on effects to Veronica's relationships with both her husband and her friends. However she soon meets a new friend who appears to be trying to help her, but perhaps all isn't as it seems. I really didn't see the ending coming, and with each couple of chapters I changed my mind as to what I thought was happening. It's very hard to give much of a review without giving away key parts of the storyline, but all I will say is that this is a 5-star read and will keep you hooked until the very last page. If you can persevere past the confusing first few chapters, hopefully you'll love this book as much as I did.

(Thanks NetGalley for this copy).

sue says

A fantastic debut novel from this new author Dawn Goodwin.

What an engrossing story a great psychological thriller that gripped me from beginning to end. The characters were totally believable, well rounded.

Veronica has a good settled life, wants for nothing, good husband. Daughter, Grace.

But when something happens to Grace, Veronica's life tips upside down, she can't cope and is suffering from clinical depression for sure. As time goes on we realise that its affected her in many ways, many unusual ways that made me question her sanity, but then again I could see that this was a woman holding onto what she knew, the life with Grace was easier to keep hold of than life without Grace which she couldn't accept.

This leaves her marriage in a crisis. She hardly ever ventures outside the home.

Then once she meets a woman named Scarlet they become quite close. They say that 'opposites attract' and this is surely the case with Veronica and Scarlet.

Pre the loss of Grace a neighbour across the road was her buddy, but now Veronica has reason to not need this other friend, we see why as time unfolds.

Scarlet

Is she a good influence on Veronica or not.

I'll leave you to make your mind up about that.

It certainly changes things.

The ending was fab, a totally superb easy to engage in, read. Highly recommended.

My thanks to aria for my copy from Net Galley.

Sandy *The world could end while I was reading and I would never notice* says

EXCERPT: 'Seeing her like that was a bit of a shock. Her dark hair was lank and scraped back in a messy ponytail - not the charmingly messy kind; rather, the kind that looks like you slept in it. The circles under her eyes made her look haunted and her skin had the grey tone of someone who has been indoors too long. Not so perfect now, are we? '

THE BLURB: A tragic accident, an unbearable loss and a marriage in crisis – but who can she trust or is she all alone? A gripping, debut psychological thriller that will keep you hooked. Perfect for the fans of Paula Hawkins and S.J. Watson.

Veronica Pullman's comfortable suburban life comes to a shuddering halt when her young daughter, Grace, tragically dies in a car accident.

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Scarlet is everything Veronica could've been: feisty, adventurous, unpredictable. But as she approaches what would have been Grace's 10th birthday, it becomes clear to Veronica that the friendship she thought was saving her life could be costing her everything.

Consumed by grief and left questioning her own sanity, is there anyone she can really trust or is someone out to torment her as part of their twisted game?

MY THOUGHTS: I have lain awake half the night thinking about *The Accident*, a debut novel by Dawn Goodwin. It made me think about friends, and the mostly random way we become them. We have different friends for different periods of our lives. There are our school friends, some of these we keep for life, others drop to the wayside as we, or they, move on. Our workmates, usually fleeting relationships that change with our jobs. The friends we make as mothers, our children encouraged to bond. And our neighbours, who sometimes also fit into one or more of the categories above.

If we are really lucky, we have one incredible friend. A friend that, if you don't see her for months, it doesn't matter, because you just pick up where you left off and it is like you have never been apart. Veronica Pullman doesn't have a friend like that. She has a group of acquaintances, other mothers who meet for coffee and who vie to be the thinnest, have the newest kitchen, the fanciest SUV, the brightest most talented children.

When Veronica's life falls apart following the accident, although her friends make the right noises and numerous casseroles, they are all secretly glad that it didn't happen to them. Tom, her husband, is coping with his grief in his own way and has his work to sustain him. Only Veronica is isolated in her grief, which leaves her vulnerable.

You will recognize a lot of Goodwin's characters. You've probably had one or two of them in your life. You may even have been, or be, one.

Dawn Goodwin has written an excellent first novel. It is like a slow burning fuse; the explosion at the end, devastating. This is an author whose career I will be following with great interest.

Thank you to Aria via Netgalley for providing a digital copy of The Accident by Dawn Goodwin for review. All opinions expressed in this review are entirely my own. Please refer to my Goodreads.com profile page or the 'about' page on sandysbookaday.wordpress.com for an explanation of my rating system. This review and others are also published on my blog sandysbookaday.wordpress.com

Maxine (Booklover Catlady) says

One that will keep you guessing...

I love a book that has reveals you don't guess at all. As I read this novel I had a gut feeling that I'd be surprised by the ending and indeed I was!

The book has a strong steady pace throughout and the plot centres around Veronica. A woman who is hurting badly and struggling to keep her head above water. A new friendship gives her a new, invigorated sense of self and we journey with her as she stretches her boundaries.

But...

Old, established friendships don't seem to mix with the new. Something has to give and indeed it does! I was taken by surprise once all the cards were on the table.

Its an interesting book that has real strengths with its cast of flawed characters and an underlying current of questions it offers. I happily got stuck into this book. I bet you'll not guess the ending!

A great insight into personal relationships, trust issues and what can happen when one moment changes your life irreversibly forever. A solid 4 stars from me for this one.

Just how much can Veronica trust her friends?

I'd love to connect with you on social media! You can find me on Facebook here:
www.facebook.com/BookloverCatlady
and on Twitter here:
www.twitter.com/promotethatbook

Linda Strong says

Veronica Pullman has had a heck of a bad year. An accident involving her daughter, the overpowering loss, and her marriage is in tatters. She's become a reclusive, rarely leaving her house, has ignored all her friends, and having nothing but silence between her and her husband. She refuses to acknowledge that her daughter is dead and won't hear anyone else say it.

She knows she needs help, but she's unable or unwilling to do something about it. She goes to her daughter's school 2 or 3 times a week, just imagining what it was like for her daughter. The other moms have grown used to her, and knowing her story, they just leave her alone. She only stays for a moment.

But today is different. Today she meets Scarlet, a woman who is to become her best friend. With Scarlet, it's easy to talk to her .. she doesn't judge, she just wants to help Veronica be the best she can be... to lighten up, to be fun again.

But Scarlet's fun isn't always innocent. First there's the drinking, especially the tequila. Then there's the bar hopping, the dancing, the laughing... and then there's the shoplifting, the anger that comes to the forefront, allowing Veronica to say what she wants, when she wants.

Veronica's husband is worried .. a lot. He doesn't know who Scarlet is but she seems to be helping. He can't remember the last time he heard his wife laugh .. let alone go out on the town.

According to Veronica, she is the domesticated, house trained wife .. much like a family pet. Scarlet is a stray who has wandered free and has only herself to please.

Things begin to happen. A picture of her daughter comes to appear out of nowhere. A music teacher calls to schedule her daughter for her first lesson .. only Veronica never called them. A delivery man shows up with lots of packages... full of presents for her daughter's birthday.

Is she doing these things without knowing? Is she being gaslighted by her new friend? Or could it be the neighbor who would like nothing more than to have a go at Veronica's husband? Is Scarlet really a friend ... or something a lot more sinister?

This is an excellent debut of an engaging and suspenseful psychological thriller. Well-written with credible characters. Twists and turns with a surprising ending.

Many thanks to the author / Aria Books / Netgalley for the advance digital copy. Opinions expressed here are unbiased and entirely my own.

Nicki says

Months after her young daughter Grace was tragically killed in a car accident, Veronica Pullman is still struggling to come to terms with her daughter's death.

Detached from her husband Tom and alienated from her friends and family, a chance encounter on a rainy street pushes her in a unlikely new friendship with feisty, unpredictable Scarlet.

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actions. Then something was revealed and some of her actions and behaviour made sense. Some situations can put a lot of stress on a couple's relationship, some couples pull together and work through things as a team while others are pushed apart. Is Veronica and Tom's relationship strong enough to survive once hidden secrets and the whole truth about what happened on the day of their daughter's tragic death is finally revealed.

I thoroughly enjoyed this emotional story of grief, relationship, friendships, jealousy, mental illness, blame and forgiveness. Although I did guess quite early on in the story the truth about a couple of characters, it's didn't spoil my enjoyment of this well written, debut thriller and I would happily read more books by this author in the future.

Carrie says

Veronica Pullman has been shut off from her friends and pulling away from her husband for months since a tragic accident took the life of their only child, Grace. With everyone pressuring her to overcome her grief Veronica slowly tries to get herself together and try to resume normal daily tasks. When out of the house Veronica runs into a lady that is new to town and someone an unlikely friendship is formed between the two.

Scarlet is everything that Veronica is not, outgoing and feisty and never caring what anyone thinks. Veronica finds herself pulling out of her shell as the two do everything from day drinking to shoplifting. As the two get together more and more Veronica slowly starts to feel she can face what had happened to her daughter and finally uncover the truth of just what had happened that day.

The Accident by Dawn Goodwin was a well written page turner of a psychological thriller that was easily to become engrossed in while reading. The point of view is mostly Veronica's but it does switch here and there along with some flashing back to tell the story but it was all easy to follow along as the story unfolded.

The one thing that brought this one down a tad bit for me is again I believe I just read too much and immediately figured out where the story was heading. I don't know that it would overly obvious to the average reader though and still enjoyed reading so I didn't take off too much in my rating for this since it was still an engaging read. In the end I think this was a solid read that fans of psychological thrillers will enjoy.

I received an advance copy from the publisher via NetGalley.

For more reviews please visit <https://carriesbookreviews.wordpress....>

Kayo says

Quite a page-turner. This book kept me going and I just couldn't put it down. It had unexpected turns, and I'm so glad I got to read it. Well worth the time to read.
Thank you to author, Netgalley and Aria Publishing for the chance to read this book.

Chloe says

Veronica Pullman suffers from severe depression after her daughter Grace is killed in a tragic accident. She

shuts herself from her friends and her marriage is on the verge of collapse. One day on her way back home she makes a new friend Scarlet. Scarlet is completely different from Veronica , fun loving and outgoing with care a damn attitude. Scarlet though ends up being a bad influence on Veronica getting drunk at odd hours , shoplifting etc. Veronica's husband and her close friends start getting worried seeing these changes in her. But when strange occurrences start happening in Veronica's life she starts fearing her sanity or is there something sinister in play ?

I felt The Accident by Dawn Goodwin is an excellent , debut psychological thriller with an unexpected ending . An engaging read that kept me turning the pages till the end

Many thanks to Aria & NetGalley for providing an ARC of this book in exchange for my honest and fair review.

Booksandchinooks (Laurie) says

I received a free ecopy of this book from Aria Publishing via Netgalley for an honest review. This was a very enjoyable suspenseful book. The main character, Veronica, is unable to get her life back on track after the tragic death of her daughter. Veronica is mired in grief and depression and it is affecting all facets of her life. She has lost contact with her friends and her marriage is falling apart. A new person comes into her life and Veronica starts to act very erratically. Her new friend Scarlett encourages her to get out and start living life again. The problem is, many of the decisions Veronica makes from here on are so out of character and at times dangerous. There is a twist in the book which you suspect early on but it is still a very good book that keeps your interest. I would recommend this book for readers that enjoy a good suspense story.

Hans says

Extremely well told with a lot of insight. I know (from experience) what it means to lose a child and what it can do to a marriage. Mine didn't survive because we didn't talk and we each went on to do our own thing.

This is advertised as a thriller. But in my humble opinion it certainly is not a thriller. It is a very impressive tale nevertheless. Veronica and Tom are very believable characters. The sarcasm about the use of modern day gadgets and fashion is superbly done.

Sue says

THE ACCIDENT is the debut psychological thriller by author Dawn Goodwin. This is an excellent well-written novel with engaging characters. I was totally engrossed in this novel from beginning to end...wanting to know how it would end. I loved this book, and I know it will be well-received by those readers that enjoy reading psychological thrillers. A talented author to keep on the radar!

A tragic accident, an unbearable loss and a marriage in crisis – but who can she trust or is she all alone? A gripping, debut psychological thriller that will keep you hooked.

Veronica Pullman's comfortable suburban life comes to a shuddering halt when her young daughter, Grace,

tragically dies in a car accident.

Veronica is unable to move on with her life, or come to terms with her daughter's death. She has isolated herself from her husband, a doctor, their marriage and her friends, and refuses to acknowledge that her daughter is dead...killed in a tragic car accident. She rarely leaves her house.

But then one day, Veronica meets Scarlet at her daughter's school, where she goes a few times a week to relive the past. Scarlet is the complete opposite of Veronica, adventurous, wild, unpredictable, but Veronica feels comfortable talking to her...and Scarlet listens to her. They soon become best friends and Scarlet becomes a very bad influence on Veronica what with shopping, drinking during day, shoplifting. Veronica's husband, Tom is worried about his wife's rapid change in behaviour.

But then strange things begin to happen, and Veronica doesn't know who to trust or what to believe.

I won't disclose any more details for risk of spoilers.

Did I figure out the ending...part of it, but there was a real twisted surprise ending I didn't suspect. An easy 5 Star rating from me. Can't wait to read her next novel.

Many thanks to Dawn Goodwin, Aria Books and Netgalley for my digital copy.
