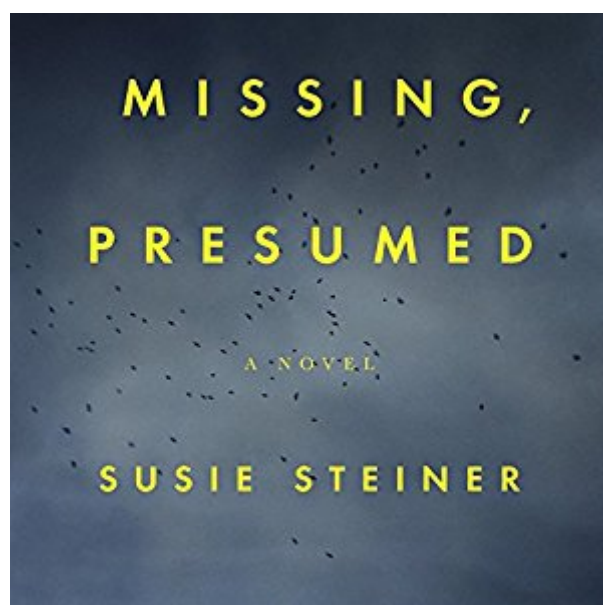


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Missing, Presumed: A Novel



Synopsis

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

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Missing, Presumed is a beautifully written British crime novel with the emphasis more on the characters than the actual crime. This is most definitely a quieter, gentler mystery centered around the disappearance of a young woman and the reverberations to the missing woman's family and friends who unwittingly become part of the investigation. 24 year old Edith Hind has it all. A handsome and caring boyfriend, an excellent education, a wealthy and solid family and a best girlfriend. When she disappears from her apartment, leaving only a streak of blood along the wall of the front foyer, she becomes an overnight media sensation due to both her physical beauty and her father's prestigious position as a surgeon to the Royal Family. 39 year old Manon Bradshaw from the Cambridgeshire Major Incident Team is the detective assigned to the case and she hopes that this investigation could be her big break. In her professional life, Manon is smart and hard working gaining the respect of those she works with. Her personal life on the other hand is a mass of contradictions. Manon is desperate to meet a man to share her life with and is frequently hooking up on internet dating, however, her neediness appears to scare off the best prospects. Manon gains no moral support from her family either. After losing her mother at a young age, she is now estranged from her father and his second wife as well as her sister. Wanting so desperately to make a connection, she is at odds with her caustic and self-absorbed personality that gets in her way.

I am a fan of the British mystery, and Missing, Presumed, described as a "literary mystery" got my attention. What makes a mystery "literary"? When the writer has an unbelievable way with words, analogies that make you chuckle, character descriptions that leave no doubt about "knowing" the person, and settings that cover from wall to wall, ceiling to floor and every shelf of the bookcases. Instead of the time spent on descriptions feeling superfluous, the reader is happy to lap up every detail, as it is so neatly and creatively provided. The heroine is the erascible Manon - who leaves no doubt that, at thirty-nine years old and single, she is lonely with a capital "L". With desperation running rampant, she tries to make life as a senior police officer enough. She dedicates herself, without regard for time off, to every aspect of the kidnapping of the daughter of the surgeon who treats the royal family - as there is much riding on police efficiency. Manon is surrounded by a fascinating group of police, each with their own problems, but Manon just takes a look at the married officers and those with children and feels deep-seated envy. Her desperation leads to the worst possible experiences with internet dating. Twisting and turning in the investigation is the order of the day, with suspects seeming to loom as possibilities, only to be discarded in favor of a stream of others. Manon has the inquisitive mind that constantly stirs up suspects. The ending is full of

surprises as it should be.

Poor Detective Manon Bradshaw. She is jaded about work and life, seeking fulfillment in both of these arenas. She is 39 years old and single with no hope of romance on the horizon. She is frantically internet dating and comes up with one loser after another. Truthfully, she doesn't give any of these guys a chance despite bringing them all home and to her bed. Her name in Hebrew means 'bitter' and that's exactly what she is. Her colleague Davy is naive and hopeful, volunteering in a children's shelter and very concerned about the welfare of kids who are in the child services system or foster care. His girlfriend, Chloe, is mean-spirited and unloving but Davy continues to stay with her. When beautiful 24 year old Edith Hind disappears, Manon and Davy are the detectives assigned to the case. Edith turns out to have had a complex love life. She is living with her boyfriend Will Carter, a handsome but very boring man. Her best friend Helena turns out to be more than a friend as they have been involved in a tryst very recently. There is some blood in Edith's apartment and the door has been left open. There appear to be signs of a struggle. To make matters more sensational, Edith's father is the personal doctor to the royal family. Several people are on Manon's radar as she and Davy investigate this crime. However, nothing seems to pan out. The reader is privy to the sad and funny goings on with Manon's love life along with Davy's personal issues. The characters in this novel are interesting and the book is a page turner. However, if you are seeking a real mystery, thriller, or procedural, this would not be your first choice. The mystery unfolds without much suspense and the denouement seems to be a deus ex machina of the first degree.

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