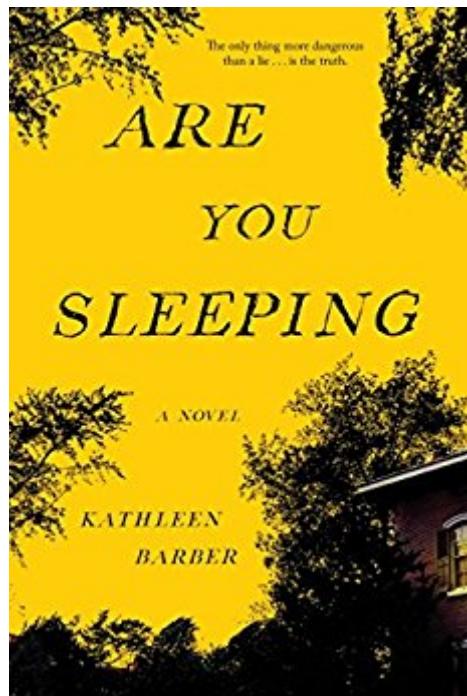


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Are You Sleeping: A Novel



Synopsis

Serial meets Ruth Ware's In A Dark, Dark Wood in this inventive and twisty psychological thriller about a mega-hit podcast that reopens a murder case—and threatens to unravel the carefully constructed life of the victim's daughter. The only thing more dangerous than a lie...is the truth. Josie Buhrman has spent the last ten years trying to escape her family's reputation and with good reason. After her father's murder thirteen years prior, her mother ran away to join a cult and her twin sister Lanie, once Josie's closest friend and confidant, betrayed her in an unimaginable way. Now, Josie has finally put down roots in New York, settling into domestic life with her partner Caleb, and that's where she intends to stay. The only problem is that she has lied to Caleb about every detail of her past—starting with her last name. When investigative reporter Poppy Parnell sets off a media firestorm with a mega-hit podcast that reopens the long-closed case of Josie's father's murder, Josie's world begins to unravel. Meanwhile, the unexpected death of Josie's long-absent mother forces her to return to her Midwestern hometown where she must confront the demons from her past—and the lies on which she has staked her future.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Super predictable

Really enjoyed this book

Actually 4.5 stars. This is another book based around someone hiding from their past. What sets it apart from all the others is that it delves deeper and covers more subjects just than this. We have the media involvement which is predominately a podcast but this is coupled together with the now very topical use of social media and there are examples of this dotted sporadically throughout the text, complete with scarily accurate comments both good and bad. Josie hasn't had a good time of things. Her father was murdered, witnessed by her twin Lanie on whose evidence, the man responsible was convicted and imprisoned. Their mother then left them in the hands of their Aunt when she left to join a cult. No wonder Josie changed her name and moved to escape it all. Then, one day all her nightmares come at once when investigative journalist Poppy Parnell (great name) re-opens the case in the form of a podcast. The man convicted has always protested his innocence and Poppy believes that there is more to the case than originally came to light. Then Josie's mother dies and she is forced to lie to her current boyfriend Caleb who knows nothing of her past, as she returns home to face her past and, in doing so, also face her sister, her twin, once close, now exiled. What will she find when she gets there and will it eventually lead to the truth? This book lead me round the houses and then some, the author skillfully weaved a tale that had me meekly following every twist and turn as, quite early on, I gave up trying to second guess. The characters were delightful, all in different ways. Some I connected to immediately, others took a while and the odd one, well, I had enough in the bag that the odd one didn't hurt at all. I especially liked Aunt A and her daughter Ellen. I also really enjoyed some of the character interactions both positive and negative, and there were some whose development along the way was so well done that the majority came across as completely credible. Obviously, you're not really supposed to like the baddies in books, in this case one of them being Poppy, as some of the things she did to get her story were a little sneaky as well as the way she spun some innocuous things into being something big, but at the end of the day, she has a job to do and I guess she did it very well. The one I didn't really connect with was Caleb, for what reasons I have no idea but to me he didn't quite work. As well as the ending, the author delivered shock after shock throughout the book. Boy did she put her characters through the mill as well as me as a reader and I lost count of the number of times my jaw dropped or I held my breath as another one landed in front of me. The narrative flits n time back to

before the murder, just after and then to the present day. Sometimes I find it hard to follow these multiple timeline books but I found this one very easy to get to grips with and never got lost. I loved how the past was injected/uncovered at just the right times in the present to move the story along a bit further. All in all another cracking debut, can't wait to see what the author offers up next time. My thanks go to the Publisher and Netgalley for the chance to read this book.

This book is soooo good. And the title is completely appropriate, given it's a propulsive read that kept me up late two nights in a row. Josie is an engaging protagonist, complex and flawed. I especially loved the way Barber wove in podcast transcripts, Twitter feeds, and Reddit forums throughout Josie's first person narration. It puts the reader in the middle of the action, and knowing Josie as we do, we experience the gossip and sensationalized "news stories" from the authentic perspective of someone who's living (and reliving) something both heartbreakingly and traumatic. I enjoyed the unique angle and was completely immersed, thanks to a suspenseful hook and strong pacing. It was fun and spooky, with all the makings of a suspense classic.

Talk about an addicting, compulsively-readable book. The author truly kept me needing to know what was going to happen next, with a captivating format that includes the transcripts, commentary, and social media of an investigative reporter (a la the *Serial* aspect of the story), coupled with the first-person narrative of Josie Buhrman, the daughter of the murdered man featured in the podcasts. Josie's storyline was immersive, fully developed, and she portrayed a likeable voice in which I was dying for a happy ending. Did I get one, you'll have to read to see. A book I'd recommend to all the thriller fans out there. I received a galley of this book for an honest review.

To be honest, I never listened to *Serial*. But that may be good, because I came into this book without a basis for comparison. The excerpts from the podcasts were some of my favorite parts of the book. If someone would make a transcript of *Serial*, I'd read it now. In Josie, Barber gives us a heroine it's impossible not to root for: her father was murdered, her life is now being shared with the public, and now her mother has committed suicide. She's not a perfect character, but she's certainly interesting. The book is fast-paced and well-written. There was a red herring I didn't buy at all, and I wasn't surprised by the ending (it's tough to surprise me). But overall, I loved the book and can't wait to see what Barber comes up with next.

In this true crime read, the story follows along Josie Buhrman. A woman that years ago lost her father in a gruesome murder. But in losing her father she also lost her mother who ran away to join a cult and her twin sister became a rebel. The man that they locked away, their teenage neighbor, may not have actually committed the crime. This crime is only being dug up again because of an investigative reporter Poppy Parnell. She doesn't believe he committed the crime he is rotting in jail for. So she starts a podcast that goes viral. Everyone wants to be apart of it and set the man they locked away free. In doing this skeletons will be dug up and lives will be put on the line. Josie who is not to thrilled about the podcast soon finds out that her mother has committed suicide and she has to go back home to attend the funeral. And see too many lingering ghost. But as Poppy gets closer to the truth...things go very bad for these characters. And this book will keep you guessing until the very end. I really enjoyed this fast past, who done it crime and was lost to these characters. Barber does an amazing job of keeping you on your toes and looking into everyone's lives.

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