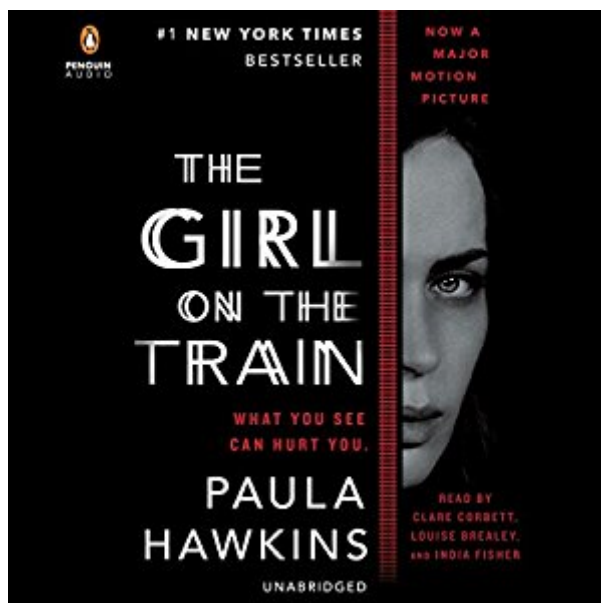## The book was found

The Girl On The Train: A Novel

Synopsis

Audie Award, Audiobook of the Year, 2016 Rachel takes the same commuter train every morning. Every day she rattles down the track, flashes past a stretch of cozy suburban homes, and stops at the signal that allows her to daily watch the same couple breakfasting on their deck. She's even started to feel like she knows them. "Jess and Jason," she calls them. Their life-as she sees it-is perfect. Not unlike the life she recently lost. And then she sees something shocking. It's only a minute until the train moves on, but it's enough. Now everything's changed. Unable to keep it to herself, Rachel offers what she knows to the police, and becomes inextricably entwined in what happens next, as well as in the lives of everyone involved. Has she done more harm than good? Compulsively readable, The Girl on the Train is an emotionally immersive, Hitchcockian thriller and an electrifying debut.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

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Customer Reviews

THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN is a dark, haunting and depressing psychological thriller, but it's incredibly effective thanks to the writing skills of author Paula Hawkins. Rachel is a divorced woman who would do anything for a drink, and like a lot of folks consumed by a love affair with the bottle, one might call her a victim of circumstances. Her husband Tom had an affair that resulted in a pregnancy. He divorced Rachel, married the "other woman" and now all three (husband, wife and child) are happily ensconced in the house that was once Rachel's.The train that Rachel rides to London each day takes her past her old neighborhood. From the window of the train she observes

not only her old garden that backs up to the tracks, but also the daily activities of another couple who reside down the street from her previous home. In her imagination she has given the couple names and has created a fairy tale love life for them. Real life, however, cannot live up to her fantasy and the couple does not have the picture perfect relationship that Rachel has concocted. When a murder occurs, Rachel becomes entangled in the investigation because of what she has witnessed on her daily commute.This rather bleak story with intersecting timelines is told from the viewpoint of three different women Rachel, Anne and Megan. All the women are unreliable narrators with something to hide. In fact, most of the characters in this novel, including the men, lack veracity, and are a self-serving and unsympathetic group with plenty of skeletons in their closets.Lest I continue and divulge too much of the plot, let me just say that the twists and turns in the story are many and readers will be easily drawn in, making it easy to devour this book in one afternoon.

I couldn't wait for this book to come out. It was such a disappointment. This was probably the darkest book I've ever read. Just when I thought It couldn't get any darker, it did. There were only five main characters. Not only were they all dysfunctional but it was hard to keep them straight. When the story was being told from each respective character's point of view, the writing tones were all the same and sometimes it was hard to determine who was actually doing the talking. But, I didn't give it up and finished it to its dark ending. There was absolutely no uplifting parts to tis book.

Rachel is a woman who considers herself worthless. She feels that women are only valued for two things: their looks and their role as a mother. She is barren and rather plain looking. Unbeknownst to her landlady she has lost her job but continues to ride the commuter train twice a day. Unfortunately she must pass the home of her ex-husband Tom and his new wife Anna. They've recently had a child which is something Rachel was unable to produce when she was married to him. He's moved his new family into the home that he and Rachel once shared. Tom posted a picture of himself and his newborn on Facebook with the caption that he's never been happier.Rachel, in her despondency, has taken to drinking to a point where she has blackouts and forgets that she drunk calls her husband many times a night, even shows up at his home. Because of a signal malfunction she often finds her rail car stopped on the tracks next to her former home. She starts to notice another couple who live a few doors down. She refers to them as the golden couple and manufactures a narrative about their lives as she observes them each day. They gradually become important to her.When Megan (of the Golden Couple) disappears Rachel finds herself an integral character in the police investigation. She was seen stalking the neighborhood the

night of the disappearance. She has wounds on her body that can't be explained. Megan and Anna look enough alike that the police feel there may be mistaken identity involved.The book is told in three voices: Rachel, Megan and Anna. The fact that Rachel has a history of drunken blackouts and has a hard time separating fact from fiction makes her overtly suspect, even to herself. Megan has plenty of secrets of her own and Anna - is she the perfect second wife she appears to be?I understand that the option of this book has been picked up by DreamWorks. I can't think of a better Hitchcock style mystery of voyeuristic observation since Rear Window.

. . . restraint writing this book. For the reader this book is like a present with 336 layers of wrapping paper that are slowly removed to get to the gift within. I am not saying this is a lovely story. It is not. It is ugly and scary, but it is written so beautifully that I enjoyed every word. I was so enthralled with the writing that it took me awhile to realize that it is narrated by several people. It was a smack myself in my doofuss head moment, but it didn't bother me at all to start the book again paying attention to who was speaking.Even if you do figure out who the bad person is early it doesn't matter because it's the story and how it unfolds that is important. This book is full of pathetic, flawed people, but I felt hope at the end.I am not sure I will see the movie. I like suspenseful books, but I don't like scary movies even when I know what happens.

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