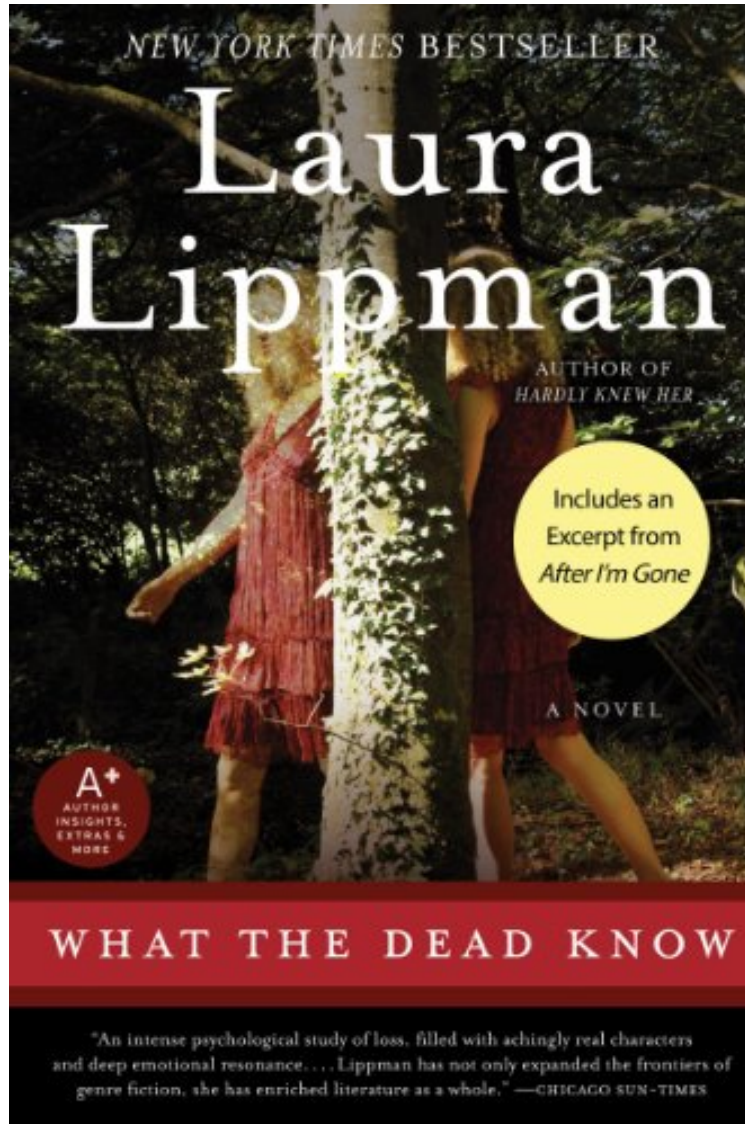


(Free and download) What the Dead Know: A Novel

What the Dead Know: A Novel

Von *Laura Lippman*

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Von Laura Lippman : What the Dead Know: A Novel before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised What the Dead Know: A Novel:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Overly Contrived StoryVon Donald MitchellTwo sisters head for the mall on an afternoon. They disappear. Thirty years later, a woman runs from a traffic accident and tells a police officer that she's one of the missing sisters. That sounds like a great premise doesn't it? Actually, the premise is the only great thing about this book. What the Dead Know quickly goes downhill after the opening sequences.For me, a suspense novel doesn't work unless the tension realistically

simulates what might have occurred. As I read this story, I realized that Ms. Lippman had to go to great lengths with her assumptions in order to make the plot work. When I realized how contrived the story was, I lost interest. I felt like I had been conned rather than entertained. I won't point out all of the extreme contrivances (I don't want to spoil the story), but here are a few to think about: How many pairs of sisters aged 11 and 15 haven't had any cavities or broken bones? How many times have two similar-appearing sisters been adopted into the same family? How likely is it that a child wouldn't ever contact her parents after having problems? Here's what I think really happened with this book. Ms. Lippman remembered the dual disappearances of the Lyons sisters from around Wheaton Plaza in 1975 (as she discloses in the Author's Note) and wanted to make up a story that could explain such an occurrence. If that's what happened, that's a disservice to the Lyons family and to Ms. Lippman's readers. It would have been better to write a nonfiction book about the Lyons tragedy . . . or to write a more plausible novel based on another story idea. I also didn't find the characters to be especially interesting or sympathetic. Further, much of the back story wasn't very relevant or interesting either. So why did I decide to read this book? I read good reviews about it. I recommend you skip *What the Dead Know*.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Spannende Krimiuunterhaltung Von Andrea O'Brien, www.krimiscout.de Dieses Buch besticht durch die eindringliche Erzhlweise und die beiden spannenden Handlungsstrnge um das Verschwinden zweier Mdchen dreiig Jahre vor dem Einsetzen der Handlung. Eine Unbekannte, die nach einem Unfall von der Polizei aufgegriffen wird, gibt sich als Heather Bethany aus, eine der beiden Schwestern, die 30 Jahre zuvor aus einem Einkaufszentrum spurlos verschwanden. Whrend die Polizei versucht herauszufinden, ob diese Behauptung der Wahrheit entspricht, erfhrt der Leser die Geschichte der Familie Bethany vor und nach dem Verschwinden der Tochter. Das Buch ist besonders spannend, weil der Leser mit zwei grundlegenden Fragen konfrontiert wird: Ist die junge Frau in Polizeigewahrsam wirklich Heather Bethany und Was geschah mit den beiden Mdchen? Eingebettet in die Geschichte der Aufklrung dieses spannenden Rtsels liefert die Autorin dem Leser emotionale Einblicke in die seelische Achterbahnfahrt der Mutter, des Vaters und der Schwestern selbst. Diese Rckblicke haben ein paar Lngen, aber ansonsten gibt es an diesem Krimi nichts zu meckern.

3 von 4 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Overly Contrived Story Von Donald Mitchell Two sisters head for the mall on an afternoon. They disappear. Thirty years later, a woman runs from a traffic accident and tells a police officer that she's one of the missing sisters. That sounds like a great premise doesn't it? Actually, the premise is the only great thing about this book. *What the Dead Know* quickly goes downhill after the opening sequences. For me, a suspense novel doesn't work unless the tension realistically simulates what might have occurred. As I read this story, I realized that Ms. Lippman had to go to great lengths with her assumptions in order to make the plot work. When I realized how contrived the story was, I lost interest. I felt like I had been conned rather than entertained. I won't point out all of the extreme contrivances (I don't want to spoil the story), but here are a few to think about: How many pairs of sisters aged 11 and 15 haven't had any cavities or broken bones? How many times have two similar-appearing sisters been adopted into the same family? How likely is it that a child wouldn't ever contact her parents after having problems? Here's what I think really happened with this book. Ms. Lippman remembered the dual disappearances of the Lyons sisters from around Wheaton Plaza in 1975 (as she discloses in the Author's Note) and wanted to make up a story that could explain such an occurrence. If that's what happened, that's a disservice to the Lyons family and to Ms. Lippman's readers. It would have been better to write a nonfiction book about the Lyons tragedy . . . or to write a more plausible novel based on another story idea. I also didn't find the characters to be especially interesting or sympathetic. Further, much of the back story wasn't very relevant or interesting either. So why did I decide to read this book? I read good reviews about it. I recommend you skip *What the Dead Know*.

Kurzbeschreibung Thirty years ago two sisters disappeared from a shopping mall. Their bodies were never found and those familiar with the case have always been tortured by these questions: How do you kidnap two girls? Who or what could have lured the two sisters away from a busy mall on a Saturday afternoon without leaving behind a single clue or witness? Now a clearly disoriented woman involved in a rush-hour hit-and-run claims to be the younger of the long-gone Bethany sisters. But her involuntary admission and subsequent attempt to stonewall investigators only deepens the mystery. Where has she been? Why has she waited so long to come forward? Could her abductor truly be a beloved Baltimore cop? There isn't a shred of evidence to support her story, and every lead she gives the police seems to be another dead end: a dying, incoherent man, a razed house, a missing grave, and a family that disintegrated long ago, torn apart not only by the crime but by the fissures the tragedy revealed in what appeared to be the perfect household. In a story that moves back and forth across the decades, there is only one person who dares to be skeptical of a woman who wants to claim the identity of one Bethany sister without revealing the fate of the other. Will he be able to discover the truth? From Booklist In 1975, the abduction of the teenage Bethany sisters rattled residents of Baltimore. Now, some 30 years later, a woman who flees the scene of a hit-and-run accident claims to be Heather, the younger of the two sisters. Could this mysterious blonde really be the missing teen, or is she pulling some sort of clever, unspeakably cruel con? Detective Kevin Infante is assigned to the case and must tiptoe around "Heather," who

is prickly, smart, and clearly conflicted about cooperating with authorities. In this stirring stand-alone, Lippman, the critically acclaimed author of the Tess Monaghan series, deftly shifts between present and past, intertwining Detective Infante's investigation with the narrative perspectives of individuals irrevocably changed by that fateful spring day. Of particular interest is the girls' adoptive mother, who has since relocated to Mexico in hopes of leaving the past behind. Lippman has received the Edgar, Shamus, and Nero Wolfe awards, among others. Though her ending is a bit of a stretch in this latest offering, the compelling plot and vivid characters prove the author well worthy of honors bestowed. Allison Block Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved From School Library Journal Adult/High School After fleeing a car accident, a middle-aged woman with no ID is questioned by both the police and hospital administration. Refusing to reveal her identity (and proof of health insurance), she instead hints that she is the younger of two sisters, Heather and Sunny Bethany, who disappeared the day before Easter in 1975. This gets everyone's attention. She knows both too much and not enough about the case, leading Baltimore police on wild goose chases to Pennsylvania and Georgia, saying just enough to stay out of jail and keep them interested, albeit suspicious. The narrative threads unravel into the various accounts of that Saturday's events, the aftermath of the disappearance, the investigation, and Heather's own increasingly desperate attempts to evade further disclosure. This novel is a page-turner. Tantalizing revelations are dropped at chapter ends before veering into another part of the narrative, back and forth in time. Characters are well defined and varied, each with a different perspective on the nature of grief. Ultimately, after all of the half-truths and deceptions are played out, unexpected but moving forgiveness wins out. Jenny Gasset, Orange County Public Library, CA Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.