



To the Edge of Shadows

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Sarah Phillips longs for the simple life - a job to fill her days, a home to return to and a small amount of steps to count between the two. Seriously injured in a car crash when she was thirteen, Sarah has no memory of her childhood or the family she lost.

Ellie Wilson remembers her own past only too well, the cruelty she suffered at the hands of a mother that abused her and a father who couldn't protect her. She finds Sarah fascinating, a mirror to the life she never had.

But as curiosity spills over into obsession, and as Sarah's world begins to unravel, Ellie moves ever closer.

To the Edge of Shadows Details

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From Reader Review To the Edge of Shadows for online ebook

Elaine says

I really enjoyed Lacey's House by Joanne Graham so was delighted to be given the opportunity to read and review her latest. This is altogether a much darker, intense read. It is the story of Sarah who, at the age of 14, lost her father and sister in a car crash which left her brain damaged. The long lasting effect of the crash was her total loss of memory of her life before the accident. She has no memories of her family whatsoever.

Now aged 20, living with her aunt and struggling to live a normal life, she is being stalked. Just who is watching her, going into her home when she is not there and orchestrating her life?

The story is told in alternate viewpoints, that of Sarah and her unnamed stalker. Both viewpoints are very dark in feeling, very tense and you really have to concentrate at the start of each chapter to try and figure out who is speaking. The plotline is quite complex, with a number of possible culprits and I admit I did work out who it was. Having said that, when you read a lot of this genre then you do "wise up" a little to the possibilities and, in any event, I was still kept guessing right to the end because I still needed to know "how" it all came about and how every piece of the puzzle slotted together. Well worth a read.

Cora Tea Party Princess says

My mind is now broken.

This book... I never expected that.

I can't even think.

This book is quite creepy and it really ramps up the tension. And then it blows your mind with a twist that I really didn't see coming.

This review will have to wait.

I received a copy of this for free via Goodreads First Reads.

Ruth Johnstone says

Wow, I loved this book, it had me gripped throughout.

I changed my mind several times to the identity of the mysterious visitor to Sarah's life and didn't get it right until a few pages before she was exposed, very clever.

I was lucky enough to receive a free copy of this book with First Reads and am so glad that I had the opportunity to read it.

Kim Dallmeier says

One of my favourite Psychological Thrillers of the year! Highly recommend it!

Lisbeth Davies says

It's probably a little too soon to be writing this review since I read the last page very late last night but I'm going to go ahead now in case I inadvertently give something away later - the latter part of the book is especially surprising and I'd hate to spoil it for a fellow reader.

So I'll just say that I enjoyed it immensely, not just as a moving, psychological thriller with wonderfully drawn characters but for the writing itself which is lyrical, almost poetic. I found myself constantly slowing down to appreciate many a sentence because it's so beautifully written. Technically it scores highly too - the narrative switches seamlessly between the present day and flashbacks.

I don't think I've ever described a book as "haunting" before but that's the word that keeps coming to mind, it's a story that will stay with me for a long time.

Christine says

I absolutely love it when I pick up my kindle and unexpectedly get a little gem of a book.

This is the story of Sarah. Sarah lost her memory, following a road traffic accident. We meet her as a teenager and then as a young adult. Sarah is struggling to adjust to life, with her faulty memory and PTSD. As an amnesiac, Sarah gets by with the help of her aunt. Suddenly she becomes aware that she has a stalker. Things in her flat are being moved and she has a feeling she is being watched.

This is one of those books that moves at a slow, yet beautiful pace. Sarah is a delight to read about. I could believe in the confusion of a girl waking from a coma, with her memories all gone and life very different. Sarah develops OCD in the way she deals with the world, only going to certain places and staying in a comfort zone. She has a very real anxiety about the world and what could happen to her. I thought the descriptions of Sarah's condition and the way she perceives the world were just brilliant.

As for Sarah's stalker, I sort of half guessed what was going on. I was very impressed, when the pieces of the puzzle slotted together.

This is a book that people should be reading and talking about. Recommended!

Thanks to Legend Press and Netgalley for my review copy.

Mauoijenn ~ *Mouthy Jenn* ~ says

NetGalley book review

Great book. Excellent story line and written very well. Filled with enough suspense and drama to keep my attention. Not really sure if this is a young adult book or just a regular adult book. Could go both ways. A great book for anyone who likes a bit of mystery.

Steve says

I wanted so much more from this book.

The writing style really drives these characters to become real, people you can almost feel. The cadence with which this story marches along mirrors the idiosyncracies displayed by the main character. Rich with flowing language, the story kept hinting at something grand.

From the opening salvo, this story sets the stage for heartbreak. This is a character that loses everything, including her memories. Now, everything must be rebuilt. Shadowing the main character is a mysterious figure bent on causing even more mayhem for this already stricken character.

And then, nothing else happens except for the obvious. The 'a-ha' moment in this story happens so early on, the rest of the read is just waiting on everyone else to figure it out also. With only minor signs of life, this story really flatlined for me. I felt like I had read the spoiler, then had to sit through the rest of the show knowing how it would end.

Paula Sealey says

Injured in a car accident at 13 that killed her father and sister, Sarah loses her memory of the crash and her life before it. Now living with her Aunt Leah, she meanders through each day, completing the same routines that make her feel safe and secure. But someone comes along to upset her life. They wish their memory of an abused and troubled childhood could be erased like Sarah's has been. They begin to disturb Sarah's safe routines, watching and waiting for their chance to strike. Who is this person and why do they want to terrorise Sarah?

To the Edge of Shadows is an interesting story with lots of twists and turns and tension that builds chapter by chapter. I really enjoyed Joanne Graham's writing style. It's very descriptive and great at setting a scene to make your spine tingle. I didn't guess as to the identity of Sarah's stalker until quite near the end, having changed my mind about them a couple of times throughout. A recommended read for those who enjoy a good thriller.

*I received a free copy through NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

sue says

Sarah Phillips was injured in a car crash, she has no memory of what happened or who everyone is let alone where she is. Her Father and her sister died in the crash. The only relative she has is Leah. Her Aunt. She continues to have headaches, and is suffering from amnesia. She is not in a happy place as you can imagine.

Her Nightmares become part of her daily/night life.

Feeling that her aunt wants to see her Independent in life she decides to moved out, in the block she is living in is another young lady named Ellie.

Ellie has come from parents that abused her, she has memories she wants to forget while Sarah has things to remember.

Things become quite obsessive between the girls and very confusing for Sarah.

Its a good complex story, you need to set some time aside when you first start reading so that you can follow the book OK but once you get started its all good.

Mental health and emotions go hand in hand in this book, and the insight this author had was brilliantly portrayed within its pages.

I would like to thank Legend Press via Net Galley for my copy to read and review

I would definitely recommend this.

Jane says

A character driven psychological drama can be a lovely thing.

Fourteen-year old Sarah woke in a hospital bed not knowing where she was or what had happened. She would learn that there had been a car accident, that her father and her sister had been killed. She remembered nothing, because she had sustained serious head injuries that has left her brain damaged.

Her father's younger sister, Leah, took Sarah in and supported her wonderfully well, but Sarah's fears and the continuing unreliability of her memories made life difficult.

Sarah tried to be independent she had a legacy from her father, enough to buy a flat, and she wanted to give back to Leah some of the freedom that she had given up when she had needed her.

It was a brave step.

Sarah didn't know that there was someone, close by, who wished her harm.

Ellie had survived an terrible childhood; her mother had been cruel and her father, not seeing, or maybe not wanting to see, what was happening had left. How she resented Sarah, who had been able to forget.

It wasn't clear who she was, but I saw possibilities

There were two things that made the story sing.

The characters were so well drawn and I found it so easy to be drawn into their stories and to care. Everything – their relationships, their actions, their emotions – felt so real.

The writing was lovely: insightful and understated.

I was held in the moment and so when the twist, the revelation, came I was taken by surprise. Had I thought about it I suspect I would have worked it out. The clues were there, but I was too caught up with the story to stop to try to work things out.

I'm deliberately not saying too much about the plot, but I will say that wasn't the only twist.

In the end I had to pause to work out how the pieces fitted together. I think that there was one too many piece, and that simpler might have been better. Ultimately, I think that they did fit together, but I don't want to analyse the story too much, because I suspect there were inconsistencies.

I didn't want to find anything like that because there was too much about this book that I liked, and because I suspect that the concerns I had came from trying a little too hard, making a little more story where there was no need.

I liked the way the story grew, from a story of family relationships into a story of suspense; and the way that it drew in serious subjects – abuse, therapy, identity – quite naturally.

I felt for Sarah, as she struggled to work out what was going on, and she began to question her sanity. And I felt for Ellie as she struggled with painful memories; the writing there was so beautifully measured, and it caught exactly the right details.

In the end I have to say that this is a wonderful human story; and that, two novels in, I think Joanne Graham has the potential to write something rather special one day.

Fictionophile says

Like most readers of popular fiction, I tend to follow authors I like. In fact I will more often remember the name of the author than the name of a book's title.

Last summer I read "Lacey's House" by Joanne Graham. A debut novel, "Lacey's House" was very well-

written and enjoyable. So... when NetGalley had another novel by Joanne Graham on offer I could not help but request it. I was not disappointed.

Although both novels were written as dual narratives, "To the edge of shadows" was very different from Joanne Graham's first novel – though just as well written. Set in Devon, this psychological thriller (with the emphasis on the psychological) recounts the life of two emotionally damaged girls.

For my complete review visit my blog Fictionophile

Terri says

First of all, let me just tell you...Picking up a book from a shop, reading the blurb and finding it interesting leads to it sitting on the bookshelf for a while before I finally pick it up and start reading it...only to have to stop and have a complete freak out because said book turns out - not only is the Author living in the same county as myself, the whole book is based in the city where I was born and grew up in. Exeter.

And let me just say...that is a strange sensation to have because my city is only ever briefly mentioned in books and normally, it's in passing as if it was mentioned as a city to pass through on a train. So to have a whole book based within my actual city. It felt strange to be able to read descriptions in the book, to follow Sarah's directions and know exactly where she is walking and is going. It's like a whole total mind trip.

Apart from that, To the edge of shadows is a whirl wind of a book, from the very moment you start to read, to the very last page, the book is filled with non stop action and fear from Sarah, the horror that she has gone through and that of what she doesn't remember and then on to the fear that someone is out to get her and to make her fearful of her life.

Written amazingly well, I give Joanne Graham a five out of five stars, would be more if it was possible since this is the first book in a very long time that has gotten me a little uncomfortable, that's made me really feel like I'm being watched by someone every time I step out of my front door . She's captured the horror of not knowing about your childhood, the fear of being alone and never really belonging so well, that I felt like I was right there along for the ride in the car and in the house.

Not only that, I did not see that twist coming at the end of the book when we found out the truth about Ellie and Sarah, it wasn't even a blimp on my imagination of what could be the cause behind Ellie's behavior towards Sarah and it's not often that a book can throw me like that and actually surprise me so much. so kudos.

I would highly recommend To the edge of shadows to anyone who would ask for a recommendation, it's a wonderful book and I'm so glad I didn't leave it sitting on my bookshelf for as long as some of my other books have been sitting there for.

Carmen Blankenship says

Joanne Grahams writing is like poetry. I found myself highlighting so many passages on my kindle that nearly each page is bright yellow. Her ability to take an emotion and paint a picture is enviable. To The Edge of Shadows surprised me in so many ways that I find myself thinking about this book throughout the day.

Sarah wakes from a horrific accident with amnesia. When she awakens her Aunt Leah is at her side and does

not leave it for another 6 years. It is so hard to truly explain the story without giving a lot away. I will ask that you not be off put by the description of "girl wakes with amnesia" ... I know that story and premise has been played out as much as " girl goes back home after years away to find herself again". There is NOTHING run of the mill about this story. The contrasts of the subject matter and the poetic beauty of the writing is memsmorizing.

I dare you to buy "To The Edge Of Shadows" and not be whisked away by the gorgeous prose. I also dare you to not to fall in love with the charachters. I double dog dare you to say you were not surprised as hell at the revelations throught the story.

Joanne Graham is going on my list of authors to recommend to my friends and book clubbers. She was simply born to write and I am just thankful she is sharing her tremendous gift.

Thank you Netgally so much for the opportunity to read in exchange for this honest review.

Hannah says

To the Edge of Shadows is a very difficult book to categorize or talk about without giving away key plot points, but I will do my best to write about it without revealing spoilers.

First of all, I eagerly anticipated To the Edge of Shadows, Joanne Graham's second novel, after falling in love with the characters and world she created in her debut, Lacey's House. You can see my review of that novel here <http://hafullmer78.wordpress.com/2014...>

That said, To the Edge of Shadows is an ambitious second novel that bridges several genres, including fiction focused on the lives of women, as well as suspense and mystery. Major themes of the novel include grief, abuse, memory, and self-actualization.

Graham has a recognizable voice as a writer, one which often borders on the poetic. At times, this voice works well to convey the sense of being lost, or undefined, which her characters struggle with. In Graham's debut novel, Lacey's House, this poetic voice was used with great success for an older character who was dealing with memory issues, while her younger friend seemed slightly more concrete and immediate.

To the Edge of Shadows also follows the intertwining narratives of two women. However, in this novel, I found the descriptive writing style to be overpowering at times, such that it slowed down the pace and immediacy of the story.

Some other impressions I have after finishing To the Edge of Shadows:

Part of what I really enjoy about Graham's writing is that she has the ability to create an atmosphere of warmth and comfort, a feeling that you are in a cozy pink bedroom with a softly glowing nightlight, warm hot chocolate, and comfy pajamas. In fact, scenes very similar to this exist in To the Edge of Shadows, and combined with one of the main characters, the gentle and affectionate Aunt Leah, Graham is able to create a singularly lovely sense of place.

At the same time, Graham is able to write authentically about the horror of violent death, abuse, and fear. Her writing is never excessively gory, but rather, is powerful because it feels true.

So Graham is talented in that she is able to write a story that is (at different times) lovely, and terrifying.

So here's the thing. The twist, and there is a big one, was something I realized 1/3 of the way into the novel. It seemed so obvious to me that I thought I couldn't be right. I kept reading, wondering if the author's intention was for the reader to guess so early on, or if this was a red herring. I was slightly disappointed when, near the end of the novel, my suspicions about the twist were proved true.

However, after that (and this is where Graham really excels) the way that Graham examines the repercussions of the twist on her characters' lives, makes the story something special.

Joanne Graham writes books that no one else could write, with characters who are truly her own. But she

writes in such a way that she gently draws readers into her imaginary world, and leaves us with deeper empathy for others, as well as a greater understanding of ourselves.

To the Edge of Shadows is, in some ways, a more ambitious novel than *Lacey's House*, in that it attempts to be a thriller as well as a character-driven narrative. While it does not fully succeed at the suspense element, I admire that Joanne Graham is expanding her horizons as a writer. This second novel has flaws, but it also has much to recommend it, and I look forward to seeing where Joanne Graham's imagination and talents will take us next.

I'd like to thank Legend Press who allowed me access to the arc of *To the Edge of Shadows* through NetGalley.
