

Where the Missing Go

Emma Rowley

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The twisty, gripping psychological thriller about a mother working at a Missing Persons helpline who receives a desperate phone call from her own daughter, who went missing four years before - perfect for fans of I LET YOU GO by Claire Mackintosh and TELL NO ONE by Harlan Coben.

My name is Kate.

I volunteer at a local charity - young people who have run away from home call me and I pass on messages to their loved ones, no questions asked.

I don't get many phone calls, and those I do are usually short and vague, or pranks.

But this morning a girl named Sophie called.

I'm supposed to contact her parents to let them know their child is safe.

The problem is, Sophie isn't safe.

And Sophie is my daughter.

Where the Missing Go Details


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From Reader Review Where the Missing Go for online ebook

Maureen says

4.5 Stars

My thanks to Orion for my paperback copy of Where The Missing Go. I have given a fair and unbiased review in exchange

Kate's 16 year old daughter Sophie left home two years ago after leaving a note for her parents, but nothing in the note gave any clue as to why she felt compelled to leave. Her disappearance prompts Kate to man the phones at a local charity 'Message in a Bottle'. The charity encourages runaways to call them and they pass messages on to loved ones, no questions asked, no repercussions.

Since Sophie went missing, Kate's marriage has crumbled, and her husband has moved on - found himself a new love interest, so the helpline gives Kate a purpose in life - but everything changes the night she receives a call from a young girl who appears to be really scared, and it's not just any girl - it's Sophie!

Have you ever wished that you could read at twice your normal speed? Yes of course you have. Well that's how I felt reading this well constructed psychological thriller. Nothing is as first appears in Sophie's disappearance, but as we begin to gain some insight into why she made that fateful decision, it becomes clear that this is a rather more dark and disturbing theme than we were led to believe. However, there is nothing as joyous, painful and relentless as a mother's love, and Kate is determined to discover Sophie's whereabouts, even though her obsession causes those around her to worry for her sanity.

This was a deeply engaging and thought provoking psychological thriller. The tension at times becomes unbearable due to the quality of the writing, and had me turning the pages as if hypnotised by the narrative.

Should you choose to read Emma Rowley's excellent debut novel, and go 'Where The Missing Go' I promise you'll be richly rewarded!

Nazanin says

4 Stars

"Where the Missing Go" is a story about a mother who after two years is still in search of her daughter. Sophie was sixteen when she ran away from home and never came back. Just sent some postcards to her mum, Kate, and told her she is doing well. But these are not enough for Kate! She wants to know why Sophie ran away and why she doesn't come back or why Kate can't find her and Does she really safe?! Everyone think Kate got obsessed and can't let go... So now after two years when her neighbor, an old woman who is not in a good health, mentions about a girl who's gone missing nearly twenty years ago Kate got suspicious especially when she finds about the case's details!

It was well-paced, a bit predictable and a page-turner. I enjoy it, a lot! I liked its writing, couldn't put it down and I was at the edge of my seat the whole time! Told in dual POV, 1st person (except for the prologue and epilogue, they're in 3rd person). It's a standalone Mystery/Thriller novel. It was my first read by this author

but won't be my last. Overall, I had a very good time with this one and hope you like it as well!

Joanne Robertson says

WOW! and yet another WOW! I finished *Where The Missing Go* about 2 hours ago and I'm still saying.....WOW! I was so blown away by this fictional debut by Emma Rowley that I went straight onto Amazon after I had read it to see if she had written another book yet! Which was probably a bit too enthusiastically optimistic as this one isn't even out yet! If you enjoy psychological thrillers by writers such as Jenny Blackhurst and Clare Mackintosh then you are going to love this book. And if you're a regular reader of my reviews then you'll know that I have a particular passion for a certain type of twisty thriller and this one is 100% what I look for in my psychological thrillers. If you like similar books to me then I guarantee you will love this one too.

I actually started this in the very early hours one morning when I couldn't sleep and very quickly became gripped by the storyline of a mother in pieces following the disappearance of her teenage daughter, Sophie. And by the time I had to get up, I was so addicted that I couldn't wait to get back to bed that night to finish this fascinating storyline. I had immediately felt Kate's devastation at the loss of her only child, refusing to give up hope, her entire life revolving around looking for clues to Sophie's whereabouts. Everyone says she should move on with her life, others close to Sophie have, and accept that Sophie has gone away and doesn't want to be found. But Kate isn't giving up and when she takes a call at the missing person hotline she volunteers at, her worst fears seem to be realised.

Everything about this book worked for me! I loved the Cheshire setting which felt authentic with its slower pace of life compared to its biggest neighbour Manchester and also to London which was where the family had been living previously. And Cheshire born Kate was an immensely relatable character, one struggling with her own personal demons, but her maternal instincts that something wasn't quite right about her daughter's disappearance overtook those worries to show the raw emotion of a mother's love for her child. I thought she was just so wonderfully brave, determined never to give up hope of finding Sophie even though it meant pulling away from every other relationship in her life. But most of all I loved all the red herrings floating around the periphery, never quite in the line of sight but throwing suspicious glances throughout the narrative. This book is twistier than my curls after I've been caught in a rainstorm and every twist was a jaw dropping, flick the pages back, "what the **** just happened there?" moment for me! Just how I like them!

Emma Rowley is a name everyone should remember as I think she is going to be HUGE! I pre-ordered my own copy of *Where The Missing Go* as soon as I finished it and on the strength of this debut, I would also preorder her next book without even reading the blurb-that's how much I want to read more from this very talented writer. This is a very clever, breathtakingly brilliant read that you won't be able to put down. Highly recommended by me!

Tracy Fenton says

So this little book managed to jump to the top of my toppling TBR pile because I had heard such great things about it and it was highly recommended by a friend. (Thanks Jo!)

Personally I thought this was a fantastic debut and has all the ingredients of a truly gripping psychological

thriller. The characters were all well developed and believable, the story was full of twists, turns and several red herrings and kept me entertained from start to finish.

Where the Missing Go is about Kate, a mother whose only daughter “ran away” 2 years ago but Kate can’t let go, she doesn’t believe her Sophie would leave and when she gets a call one night at the Missing Persons Helpline she volunteers at Kate recognises Sophie’s voice and so begins her investigation to find her missing daughter.

If you like your books full of twists and turns with a fast paced plot line then you will thoroughly love this book.

The only reason this is a 4.5 star review and not 5 stars is because there were several similarities to other books I’ve read but won’t mention as they would spoil this book for you.

Jo says

Two years ago Kate's teenage daughter Sophie went missing, having seemingly run away. Now Kate is separated from Sophie's father and volunteering for a charity phone line where runaways can anonymously let their families know they're okay. One night Kate picks up the phone to hear her own child on the other end and this propels her into renewing her search for Sophie. Missing child and everyone thinking Mum has gone nuts is not new but this was still eminently readable.

Paula Sealey says

An amazingly gripping read, I found this book really hard to put down. It's a super thriller with plenty of twists and turns and held my attention all the way through to the enthralling climax.

Sophie went missing two years ago. Her disappearance was initially investigated by the police, but as she had left a note and further communications arrive from her in the coming months stating she is safe and not to worry, they start to wind down their search. Mum Kate is desperate to find her though and refuses to give up looking, latching on to any clue that comes her way. She knows something just isn't right, and when, volunteering at a missing persons helpline she receives a call from Sophie, she takes her investigations into overdrive.

We see most of the story unfold from Kate's perspective and she is a superbly drawn character. I had such empathy with her predicament and her fierce love for her child, simply refusing to give up even when others around her do. Just over halfway through, Sophie starts to reveal what has happened to her and these parts were completely heart-rending. Just as I thought the story had concluded, there was another unexpected twist which I loved and felt perfectly rounded up this riveting thriller.

*I received a copy of the book from the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Nicki says

My name is Kate.

I volunteer at a local charity - young people who have run away from home call me and I pass on messages to their loved ones, no questions asked.

I don't get many phone calls, and those I do are usually short and vague, or pranks.

But this morning a girl named Sophie called.

I'm supposed to contact her parents to let them know their child is safe.

The problem is, Sophie isn't safe.

And Sophie is my daughter

This gripping, riveting thriller is split into three parts, the first part is voiced only by Kate but from part two onwards the narration alternates between Kate and Sophie. We know Sophie is still alive from the book blurb but where has she been for the last two years and how and why has she managed to contact her mother after all this time. Kate has never given up hope that one day her beloved daughter would be found or come home even if everyone else in her life including the police gave up searching for Sophie years ago. You couldn't help admiring Kate's bravery and determination as she battled against her own demons and the constant doubts of others about her sanity throughout her desperate search for her daughter. Both Kate and Sophie were complex believable characters, the authors portrayal of their ever changing emotions felt realistic, pulled me into the story and had me rooting for her characters.

This is a fast paced, riveting thriller, a gripping tale about the power of a mother's love for her child and the recklessness and naivety of a innocent teenager. It's packed with twists, red herrings and numerous suspects. Very intense and creepy at times, it had me hooked in from start to finish. This is definitely going to be one of my favourite books of this year.

Many thanks to Orion publishing group for a arc of this book via Netgalley in exchange for a honest review

Liz Barnsley says

Where The Missing Go is a truly intriguing read, a psychological thriller with a slightly different edge as Kate receives a call she believes is from her missing daughter. Feeling that Sophie is in trouble she seeks help – but those around her believe she is obsessing and seeing things that are not there..

The plot was taut with an ever increasing sense of tension – is Kate losing her mind or is Sophie really out there. The character dynamics are cleverly evasive to keep you guessing even though the suspect pool is small. The themes explored – the mother/daughter relationship, the impact on those left behind when a loved one disappears- are all handled realistically with a strong emotional core.

I read it fast. Addictive and beautifully written Where The Missing Go is an excellent example of how to do a psychological thriller really well.

Recommended.

Mandy White says

Wow! That was intense.. what a brilliant book! Absolutely loved it, definitely kept me guessing right til the very end.

Sophie was nearly 16 when she disappeared without a trace. Her mother Kate has never given up on finding her alive. One night whilst at her volunteer work at aHelpline she receives a call from her daughter... and this time Kate is determined to get to the truth.

Highly recommend this book! thank you to Orion Publishing and NetGalley and TBC on Facebook for a copy of this book to read and enjoy in exchange for my honest opinions

Amy says

Here it is, this amazing book that made me turn pages and pages almost as if I was the one searching for Sophie.

The premise:

My name is Kate.

I volunteer at a local charity - young people who have run away from home call me and I pass on messages to their loved ones, no questions asked.

I don't get many phone calls, and those I do are usually short and vague, or pranks.

But this morning a girl named Sophie called.

I'm supposed to contact her parents to let them know their child is safe.

The problem is, Sophie isn't safe.

And Sophie is my daughter.

This premise is very common. A mother who is dealing with the horror and tragedy of a runaway kid and the consequent broken marriage. She made a mistake of overdosing on pills initially and so whatever her fears and doubts are, they are not taken seriously. She is delusional it seems. Her family and the police think that she is obsessed with the whole matter. Of course she's obsessed, it's her daughter, who can be calm in that situation!

So I have made my displeasure clear when the narrator is painted as delusional, pill popping, drunk (not in this case) with a compulsion for lying (again not applicable here). The general theme of any mystery. But here the whole situation is cracked up with tension and urgency. I could not stop.

The characters are so well rounded you feel them. The style of writing is great, there's no lag no confusion and when you get to the ending it's worth it. All the loose threads get tied up. If you concentrate maybe you

can guess it too.
I can't believe it's a debut work!
Great read.
Great

The Book Review Café says

Picking up a new book is rather like opening a box of chocolates you never know what you are going to get until you sink your teeth into it, sometime you are left feeling disappointed and yet other times you find the perfect combination and it leaves you wanting more, rather like *Where The Missing Go*. What a breathtakingly brilliant psychological thriller this one turned out to be I absolutely loved every twisted page. I feel I should mention it's Emma Rowley's debut novel, but what an exciting new voice in the psychological thriller genre and definitely an author to watch out for in the future.

From the opening chapter I found myself instantly "rooting" for Kate to find her missing daughter Sophie, here was a woman grasping to make sense of her daughter's disappearance, as a parent myself I felt her ever emotion, the constant need to find answers and her overwhelming sense of guilt, constantly questioning her abilities as a parent, something I'm sure we have all done as a parent over the years. Throughout *Where The Missing Go* Kate's desperation is palatable, as the reader you can't but help becoming emotionally involved in Kate and Sophie's story and praying for a positive outcome.

It's not very often a character in a book consumes my every waking moment but I found myself constantly thinking about Sophie as Emma Rowley reveals snippets of the events surrounding Sophie's disappearance. I found my imagination running wild, why did she disappear? Was there something more sinister behind her disappearance? Should I jump to the ending to find out? I never but oh the temptation was overwhelming at times. Throughout *Where The Missing Go* there are subtle clues and red herrings, some you may not pick up on to reach the final conclusion, personally I love it when an author is able to keep you engaged throughout and my god Emma Rowley manages this with finesse. There were a couple of "big surprises" that when I reached them I'm sure my jaw hit the floor, which certainly added to the overall tension and suspense.

There is so much I would like to say about this book, the twists, those OMG moments, the plot, see I could go on and on but in doing so I would certainly spoil the enjoyment of this read for others. This is one of those psychological thrillers that has all the elements needed to make it stand out from a saturated genre, fantastic characters, a complex and devious plot and most importantly the author leads the reader astray at every opportunity, in case you haven't already guessed I loved this book and I will certainly be reading the next book by the author without hesitation. Highly recommended.

All my reviews can be found at <http://thebookreviewcafe.com>

Gillian says

When Kate and Mark Harlow's daughter Sophie goes missing weeks after her sixteenth birthday the search goes on but after two years and little evidence the case is slowing down, it's looking increasingly unlikely they will ever see Sophie again. It's also taking its toll on their marriage they have split under the strain. Kate keeps herself busy by helping out on a charity helpline who will pass on messages to family and friends

to stop them worrying that's with the missing persons authority. It's during one of her night shifts that she gets a call the line is very crackly it's really hard to hear but with Kate's persuasion the caller says she wants her parents to know she's ok but she won't be back when Kate asked their names it was Kate and Mark Har.... then the line went dead. Kate knew that voice it was Sophie she had called.

Kate goes to the police to update them strange things are happening around her. She decides to make a plan she arranges to meet Sophie's best friend Holly just to see if there's anything that's maybe been overlooked before. They have their coffee Kate discovers Holly is now dating Danny Sophie's boyfriend also that things the girls told her before were lies. She starts to wonder if she's imagining things did she really receive a call at work? Did Sophie really leave of her own free will or is there something more sinister going on.

I really enjoyed this book felt it was a bit slow to start but once the details are there I really enjoyed fitting them together. Great read definitely recommend.

Kate says

A one-day read and very entertaining it was, too. An enjoyable story that is also poignant and warm. Review to follow very shortly on For Winter Nights.

Sophie Bristow Harris says

"Where The Missing Go" by Emma Rowley is a superb debut psychological thriller which I highly loved. There were red herrings, twists and turns scattered throughout, the author very cleverly points the finger at one suspect after another only to throw the reader right off track!

The characters are very well formed, description is full and a pure delight to read. An exciting "keep you up all night" book.

I very much look forward to more books by this great author. Fabulous!

BIBLIOMANIAC MJ says

I was immediately intrigued by the premise of this book and friends, I am thrilled to report it did not disappoint!

As a result of her daughter Sophie going missing 2 years ago, Kate has dedicated herself to the message in a bottle helpline, a helpline where missing persons can phone in and leave a message to be passed on to their loved ones, no questions asked.

One night whilst Kate is working at the helpline, she answers one such call. Although the call is broken at times, Kate realises this is no ordinary caller. The caller sounds like her daughter Sophie, frightened and desperate for help!

But is it really her or is Kate hearing what she desperately wants to hear?

My mind was buzzing with questions:

Where is Sophie?

Why did she disappear?

Is Kate's desperation leading her towards a breakdown?

Taking me a little while to get into at first, the story picked up pace nicely beyond the 25% mark. Spicing things up with an abundance of red herrings, the author had me questioning who exactly was telling the truth. Add in some unexpected plot developments and tension filled moments, I was hooked as the clues kept coming.

The author's writing truly had me feeling Kate's love for her daughter, her raw emotions of determination, anxiety and her frustration in trying to get her daughter back.

The conclusion had me feeling giddy as the pace picked up further still. I could not read fast enough!

Definitely recommended if you're looking for a fast paced, clever, twisty page turner, written by an author who is masterfully skilled at grabbing your attention, I thoroughly enjoyed the roller coaster ride.

Many thanks to Netgalley, Orion Publishing and the talented Emma Rowley for an advanced copy in exchange for my unbiased opinion of this book.
