



# The Forgotten

*Faye Kellerman*

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## **The Forgotten** Faye Kellerman

Rina Lazarus and her husband, LAPD Homicide Lieutenant Peter Decker, are shocked by an outrage that cuts close to the spiritual heart of their family. Rina's small storefront synagogue has been desecrated with anti-Semitic graffiti and grisly Nazi death camp photographs. The alleged perpetrator is seventeen-year-old Ernesto Golding, a "rich kid" obsessed with haunting suspicions about the origins of his Polish paternal grandfather. Then Ernesto is found brutally murdered, along with his therapist, Dr. Mervin Baldwin, at an exclusive nature camp that caters moneyed, troubled children. For Decker and his wife, unraveling the truth behind Ernesto's violent death becomes more terrifying with each sinister twist. For lethal secrets with roots in the horrors of a past generation are coming to the surface, propelling Peter and Rina into a ghastly world of ruthless parents and damaged youth and toward a dark evil and its ultimate retribution.

## **The Forgotten Details**

Date : Published (first published 2001)

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Author : Faye Kellerman

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Genre : Mystery, Fiction, Crime

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## **From Reader Review The Forgotten for online ebook**

### **Barbara says**

Don't think the author could decide what this book was supposed to be about. Too many characters each called by multiple names got confusing at times. Language and descriptions inconsistent.

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### **Carolyn (in SC) C234D says**

I thought this was a pretty interesting mystery; it kept me turning the pages. Rounded up to 4 stars from 3.5.

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### **Quinn says**

The whole Kellerman family writes. Jonathan, Faye and their son, Jesse. Jonathan and Faye's styles are similar, which is a good thing for happy readers. This is another Rina Lazarus/Peter Decker story. Rina is a frum (observant) Orthodox Jew and Peter Decker is her detective husband, not quite so observant. Their lives include three at-home children. Two boys, from Rina's first husband, who died, and a daughter, Hannah.

The novel starts with the desecration of a temple that Rina belongs to and contributes time to. Evidence points to the son of wealthy parents, who admits to committing the crime, but claims to have worked alone, a clear impossibility considering the level of damage.

The book unravels a far more complex crime, and various characters enmeshed in it. I did find the central problem a bit hard to believe or accept, but it's a novel and deserves some wiggle room. The plot lines of parents spending money, time and effort to get their children's SAT scores high enough to get into the college of their choice. No effort is spared to make children look appealing to admissions officers, even if it involves breaking the law. Or murder.

The book is fast, well-written, has interesting characters and enough tension to keep me reading.

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### **Jaime says**

Though I've been reading her husband's books for years, I'd never read a Faye Kellerman book. I picked up this for cheap at the book fair and decided to give it a shot. I didn't realize it was the 13th in a series! There was obviously back story, but I don't feel like I was missing too much. The book itself was pretty good. I found myself fairly engrossed by the end. I wasn't expecting to finish it last night, but before I knew it, I was done!

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### **Kristen says**

Like most Kellerman books, this one will keep you reading, but it isn't fabulous. The plot is kind of a mishmash and there really isn't anyone who is likable other than Peter and his son. I liked the inclusion of a bit more of Peter's son, and could have used more.

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### **Cindy says**

Like series but enjoyed it more when his wife helped solve crimes. Well narrated and recommended with proviso that series seems to dedicate more and more time with religious ceremonies, especially as we are being inundated with Islam recently in books, this IS a nice counterbalance and series predates that but ...). I read Christian mysteries regularly and understand how religion MUST be a base for family life, however, more isn't always better and at the cost of a good characterization (his wife) as crime solving aide to the main character.

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### **Steve says**

I had read another Faye Kellerman book many years ago and Jonathan Kellerman, Faye's husband, is one of my favorite authors. This book is just awful though. I actually considered putting it back on the shelf after about 200 pages as I didn't really care how it turned out. Every character was whiny and annoying. The first crime, the vandalization of a synagogue, is solved far too easily. The second crime, several months later cause the police to automatically conclude the two are related even though there was no evidence that they are related. A waste of my time.

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### **Vernon Chaplin says**

This started out with some promise--she's not a bad writer for a bestseller mystery author, and the character development was decent. However, the story got more and more implausible as it went on. The killer's supposed motive was hopelessly weak and totally didn't justify the killing spree, and the tying together of two unrelated plot lines involving the Holocaust and college entrance exams (yeah, I know, WTF?) was absurd. With few leads, the detectives were forced to take a few shots in the dark early on in the investigation. Somehow, everyone they checked out turned out to be involved in the conspiracy. Aren't mysteries supposed to have a few twists?

Thoroughly unsatisfying.

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### **Shomeret says**

I had stopped reading Faye Kellerman's Decker/Lazarus series because it had become too much like her husband's Alex Delaware series which I can't read anymore. As much as I like the protagonists of both series, their cases are too dark for me. I read an interview with Faye Kellerman in which she said that she wanted to write L.A. noir. Well, she's certainly been succeeding. The reason why I started reading her was because of the Jewish content in her work. This book, which deals with a hate crime against a synagogue seemed to be

dealing with the kind of themes that had drawn me to Faye Kellerman.

This was actually an interesting book. I learned about the concentration camp Treblinka and why there were so few survivors of that camp.

There were some very moving moments and some excellent characterization as well. I'm glad that I decided to read this one.

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### **Laura Beth says**

A hate crime on the Jewish temple starts this book and leads to the murder of the only boy caught. Now Decker and Rina must find out who killed the boy and his counselors. I do love this series. I especially love Peter's struggles at being a good dad. They give the series that extra something that make Peter a three dimensional character that we can all relate to. Jacob's troubles are real and hard to read but make the stories and the series better and show that everyone struggles.

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### **Natalie says**

I really liked the Jewish history. This was an interesting read.

Amazon:

L.A. homicide detective Peter Decker and Rina Lazarus, his Orthodox Jewish wife, return in a new entry in this popular series. Faye Kellerman can be counted on to deliver emotional complexity along with suspense, and in *The Forgotten* it comes from the relationship between Peter and Jacob, Rina's troubled teenage son. Jacob has a personal connection to the event that sets off this intricately plotted novel, the defacing of Rina's synagogue by one of his classmates. Ernesto Golding can't explain why he vandalized the synagogue, but when he and his therapists are murdered months after the incident, Peter realizes that something the teenager told him when admitting his guilt may hold the key to the killings: Ernesto's belief that his grandfather may have been a Nazi who posed as a Jew to escape to South America after the war. Investigating Ernesto's story gives Rina a strand of the plot to tease out; meanwhile, Peter concentrates on another motive for the therapist murders that involves computer fraud, the College Board exams, and the high cost exacted by parents who pressure their teenagers to succeed.

Kellerman skillfully keeps the dramatic tension going as she pulls all the pieces of her complex plot together. But what makes this novel her best yet is her acutely revealing portrait of Jacob, struggling with the existential angst of adolescence as he attempts to reconcile his devotion to Judaism with the temptations of contemporary life, from drugs to sex. She brilliantly limns his search for identity, intimacy, and independence even as he redefines his relationship to Peter and Rina, in a scenario that resounds with psychological truth. *The Forgotten* is a terrific addition to the Kellerman oeuvre. While she's always been an exceptional illustrator of the emotional life of the family, this time she writes with an expertise that may owe something to professional insights of her husband, author Jonathan Kellerman, who's also a child psychologist. --Jane Adams

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## **Kelly ... says**

After the last book I wondered if perhaps this series had run its course. Luckily I gave it one more chance and I am glad that I did because *The Forgotten* is a return to what I love most about the series: an exploration of the characters and their unique and interesting lives. Rina is front and center where she belongs. Peter is the hard-working and intelligent cop I love. The mystery is there too, but more importantly, the characters I love are there.

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## **Jo Jenner says**

I love Peter Decker and Rina Lazarus and this one was amazing. Some of the history is well explained and opens up a history that is sadly not always well known.

However the ending left a little to be desired and there was definitely a couple of twists that I was expecting that never materialised.

However interwoven in a story of troubled teens and rich parents we get to see how Peter and Rina struggle just the same as everyone else.

Mix that in with the desecration of the synagogue and some very violent murders and you have the combination for a great story.

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## **Brina says**

Peter and Rina Decker and their family are back in another heart stopping mystery, this the thirteenth in Faye Kellerman's award winning series. The Deckers' store front shul (synagogue) has been vandalized and immediately labeled as a hate crime. Even though the case could easily be a conflict of interest, Lieutenant Decker wants nothing more than to nab the person who caused all the mess. Along with his team of homicide detectives and family members, Decker takes on this case that hits to the core of his family's dynamics and religious convictions.

On the surface the crime is as simple as a hate crime can be. A local white superiority group labeled the Preservers of Ethnic Integrity has made de facto segregation their mantra. A teenager from a prep school fell in with this group during troubled times, leading to research his own family history and then vandalize the shul. Admitting his wrongdoings, the teen, Ernesto Golding, is taken into custody and allows his parents to put him into psychotherapy. Case closed. Yet, six months later, Golding and his therapist are found murdered, reopening the case and Decker's involvement in it.

Being the thirteenth book in a series, it would be easy for an author to become formulaic, but Kellerman has dug up many new facets to Decker's cases for us to savor. In this case, Rina involves herself in digging up information on the Golding's past in Holocaust ravaged Europe. Her search takes her to a tolerance center and to a nursing home to visit with a survivor. I thought the scenes at the nursing home to be among the most poignant and touching of the book.

Additionally, in this case is the involvement of a teenaged Jacob. I remember him as a seven-year-old still grieving over his father, but here he has grown to be a seventeen year old young man on the verge of leaving the house. Unfortunately his early childhood left baggage that he did not recover well from, leading him to

fall into the wrong crowd, and, subsequently, his involvement on this case. Peter has to balance his home and professional life more than ever before with things coming to a crux near the end. This made for a page turning second half of the book that kept me reading for a resolution.

With both Shmueli and Yonkel leaving for college, the Deckers have reached a new stage of their lives. Only Hannah will be home allowing her parents to give her their undivided attention, or will they. Also, Cindy has more notches on her police belt and in all likelihood will drop in on father's home from time to time. Kellerman continues to hold my interest with new storylines, and all this speculation will have me reading through to the series' end. As always, a fun yet poignant read, which left me looking forward to the next case.

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### **Steve Ponedal says**

A murder mystery without the testosterone of other authors in the mystery authors. Between the lines this author has a great love of her family. Again, very unique for the genre as portrayed in the book

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