



# The Escape Room

*Megan Goldin*

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## **The Escape Room** Megan Goldin

‘Welcome to the escape room. Your goal is simple. Get out alive.’

In the lucrative world of Wall Street finance, Vincent, Jules, Sylvie and Sam are the ultimate high-flyers. Ruthlessly ambitious, they make billion-dollar deals and live lives of outrageous luxury. Getting rich is all that matters, and they'll do anything to get ahead.

When the four of them become trapped in an elevator escape room, things start to go horribly wrong. They have to put aside their fierce office rivalries and work together to solve the clues that will release them. But in the confines of the elevator the dark secrets of their team are laid bare. They are made to answer for profiting from a workplace where deception, intimidation and sexual harassment thrive.

Tempers fray and the escape room's clues turn more and more ominous, leaving the four of them dangling on the precipice of disaster. If they want to survive, they'll have to solve one final puzzle: which one of them is a killer?

'Fantastic – one of my favorite books of the year.' Lee Child

## **The Escape Room Details**

Date : Published May 28th 2018 by Penguin eBooks

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Author : Megan Goldin

Format : Kindle Edition 368 pages

Genre : Thriller, Mystery Thriller, Fiction, Mystery

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# From Reader Review The Escape Room for online ebook

## Nazanin says

### 3 Stars

The idea of the story was something new to me, something I hadn't read about before and it seemed interesting but the story itself, unfortunately, wasn't what I expected. I don't count it as a mystery and as a thriller, it didn't excite me or thrill me. It's slow-paced and dragged at places, there was too much information that wasn't necessary to be told. Told in multiple POV, in both 1st and 3rd person. I went into it with high expectations but unfortunately, it wasn't as good as I thought. Overall, it was an okay read for me and hope you enjoy it more than me.

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## Selena says

Four executives, (Vincent, Jules, Sylvie, and Sam) work for Wall Street in Finance. All they care about is money. They are told by human resources to go to a building for a mandatory, team building meeting. They all enter an elevator and are all on their phones when the door closes. The elevator named the "escape room" is an exercise to work together to get out. But this exercise is way beyond team building. Now they are fighting to just stay alive.

A fantastic book filled with suspense. Thank you NetGalley for an ARC copy of this book.  
A thoroughly fun and entertaining read.

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## Carolyn says

Megan Goldin's second novel is a cracker - an exhilarating mix of corporate crime and psychological thriller as a high flying team of Wall Street bankers are lured into what they think is a team building exercise in an escape room. Jules, Sylvie, Vincent and Sam are all ruthless and greedy, concerned only about the next big deal and the size of their annual bonus. When Sarah Hall is recruited into this toxic world with her brand new MBA she is quickly indoctrinated into the company and the excitement of the high octane lifestyle.

The chapters alternate between the escape room - an elevator stuck on the 14th floor of a building still under construction, and Sarah's account of the events that led up to the team's current dilemma. This is a a novel with a very dramatic start and a very satisfying ending. The pace is good, the characters well developed, although mostly unlikeable, and the insights into the corporate world of finance convincing.

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## Linda says

"The main thing about money, Bud, is that it makes you do things you don't want to do." (Gordon Gekko)

Megan Goldin takes us on a whirlwind ride through the financial district of ol' New York City. She sees to it

that we're immersed in the ruthless, highly competitive, cynical behavior of the rich and the powerful. Stepping over the threshold to ride the money train falls to the ticketed and certainly not to the unfortunate ticketless.

Sara Hall stares down at the golden seal on her recent MBA from Chicago. Youthful ambition may only get you a cup of coffee in this town. Sara ratchets up debt on her credit card in order to purchase the almighty "interview suit" for her meeting in New York. Didn't go well at all. But it's place and timing that gets your foot in the door. Vincent de Vries spots her in an elevator after her dud of an interview and extends his card from Stanhope and Sons. It is this mere gesture of an employment opportunity that will start a wrecking ball of giant unstoppable proportions.

Hang onto your hats, Folks. We've entered into Dante's Inferno.

Sara signs on the dotted line and so begins her career at Stanhope as an investment banker. Vincent, a former military man from Holland, introduces her to The Team: Sylvie, former teen model who knows the business world, Jules, the lawyer with liquor on his lips, and Sam, cash-strapped by an ill-tempered wife. Later, we'll meet Lucy, an autistic financial wizard whose white noise in the background may start a tsunami of things that go bump in the night.

Four members of The Team have been called to an unexpected Friday night meeting. Each individual eyes the others as it's time for the Bonus wheel to start spinning. Who gets what and exactly how will the fruits of their labors be divided? As the elevator zooms to the upper floors, it stops suddenly and everything goes dark. The Team interprets this as a team-building activity as "clues" come to light. But as the hours pass by in the oppressive compartment, The Team talons will come out to play.

The Escape Room has drawn out my Gemini proclivity. On the one side, I fell head first into the fast-paced drama and electrically charged storyline. The chapters revert back and forth from Sara Hall to the goings-on in that darkened elevator. A true page turner on steroids. The literary side of me was perplexed by a constant onslaught of inserted information and explanations that tended to bog down the flow with two steps forward and one step back. I was getting squirmy each time we had to go back inside that elevator with those cold-blooded individuals. But, like me, you have to know. You have to know.....And the ending will ricochet with a one-way ticket picking up hot coals in that ol' Inferno.

I received a copy of this book through NetGalley for an honest review. My thanks to St. Martin's Press and to Megan Goldin for the opportunity.

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## **Malia says**

I FINALLY finished! I can't even explain why it took me seemingly forever to get through this book. It wasn't boring, but the pace wasn't as fast, nor the story or characters as absorbing as I had hoped. There were also a number of plot holes, not to mention the implausibility of it, which I didn't mind so much if it had been gripping. I wanted to love this as much as other readers, who say they couldn't put it down. However, I could put it down, as it happens, and so I suspect it will be rather forgettable in the scope of my reading year, I'm sorry to say. Maybe I didn't feel very engaged by this because it comes on the heels of the brilliant The Heart's Invisible Furies and at the moment it feels like nothing can quite measure up:-)

Thanks to Netgalley for supplying me with a copy of The Escape Room in exchange for an honest review!

## **Lisa says**

What an adrenalin rush The Escape Room was absolutely loved every minute kept me turning the pages, the prose sounded interesting & the characters were abhorrent greedy rich bankers who would kill their own grandmother to make a quick buck. until 4 bankers Vincent Devries , Sylvie, Sam & Jules get stuck in a lift the lights go out & the game of survival starts.

fear grips them all trust know one trusts the other its a dog eat dog world if your a female living in a mans domain, then we have a murder thrown in which makes the prose come to life Lucy is dead she keeps a diary but what we find is a secret that has serious consequences for them all.

## **MY THOUGHTS**

This was my first read by Megan Goldin & it wont be my last it was such a rush to the head kind of read greed bares its ugly head & all the characters were so despicable all of them got what they deserved, I did feel for Lucy & her mother was heartbreaking, if you love books with the most detestable characters this is for you now I want to read The Girl In Kellars Way may be a while though all the stars.

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## **marilyn says**

The Escape Room is all about the careers of Wall Street financial wizards, Vincent, Jules, Sylvie, and Sam, who are employees of a company that puts money above all else. Nothing is taboo in this world where clawing your way to the top, over anyone who gets in your way, is considered normal practice. Greed, the addition of more money and more power, drives these people to the exclusion of all else in their lives. Wives, family, and girlfriends are accessories and not allowed to interfere with the earning of more accolades and more money. To even get an interview at this company, an individual already has to be willing to ditch all else, to risk losing everything that could slow their drive to the top, their drive to win over others. Once a person makes it on the payroll, the week long introduction to the company is designed to make sure each new employee is addicted to the acquisition of more riches, for the company first, which then leads to more riches for them. The company actually encourages cutthroat practices, deception, manipulation, and ruthlessness as a way of life.

The story starts with Vincent, Jules, Sylvie, and Sam in an unfinished high rise where they have been summoned by management to take part in a team building exercise that involves getting out of an Escape Room. With no other instructions, they enter an elevator, discovering that the elevator is their Escape Room. These four people hate each other, don't trust each other, and are determined not to be bettered by the others. Whether by accident or by design, things happen that put all four people in jeopardy of losing their lives if they don't escape or get rescued before they die.

The book alternates chapters with these four, stuck in the elevator, and with the narration of Sara Hall, one of their co-workers from years ago, who died sometime in the past. With Sara narrating, it's clear that she must still be alive, as she tells the story about getting hired by the company, her horrible co-workers, and her

grueling job at the company. Never ending work hours and never ending deadlines, allow Sara to put all other parts of her life aside, as she slaves over each work goal.

During the chapters concerning the people in the elevator, we get to know a lot about each of the people trapped. I did not care for how we learn about each person though because it was basically massive amounts of information on each person's past that did nothing to make us care for them or understand what made them such horrible people, with no concern for anything but money. These four people are ruthless, selfish, dishonest people, that deserve to be locked in a room with each other forever.

Sara seems a little more self aware and concerned about how the company cares nothing for people and only for the bottom line. Still, she was already leaning towards going for the money angle in her life when she chose a financial career and higher earnings, sooner, over a medical career, where it would take longer to earn the money she needed to pay off her student debt and help her parents with medical bills. Once she gets on with the company, she gets so wrapped up with the long work hours, the intense pressure to perform, and the competitive atmosphere that she eventually takes on the same ideals as the other high flyers, scrambling to make more, move higher, become more powerful.

At some point Sara is betrayed by these people who already treated her with contempt. Towards the end of the book we get another massive information dump, so many details about why and how Sara does what she does. I never wanted to stop reading the book but at the same time, I didn't care about any of these irredeemable people, who were so out of touch with their humanity. The book is an interesting read for all we learn about such powerful, wealthy companies and people but I think I would have enjoyed the book more if the information we learn about the people and what Sara does, could have been presented in a less dry, info dumping manner.

Thank you to St. Martin's Press and NetGalley for this ARC.

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## Li'l Owl says

### **The Escape Room by Megan Goldin will hit the shelves in May 2019! Provocative and Highly Entertaining! ?????'s!**

The head of his department, Vincent receives a text with instructions to assemble his team and bring them to the eightieth floor of highrise in the South Bronx. All the team members are told that there is a mandatory last minute meeting. one that would be highly prudent to attend. Once everyone is in the lobby, Vincent reveals that they are to participate in a team building challenge of which the results will be used for 'internal consultations about future staff planning'. As there are eminent layoffs in the near future they catch the meaning immediately. The challenge is to be locked in a room known as The Escape Room, where there will be a series of puzzles to solve, which if done correctly, will unlock the door. They are lead to believe that the exercise will take an hour of their time and then they will be free to carry on with their plans for the weekend.

When they step into the elevator to go up to the eightieth floor, all seems fine... Until the lights go out and there seems to be no way to stop it on any floors. When they arrive at the seventieth floor the elevator slows and comes to a stop but the doors remain closed no matter what they try, including the emergency button to which there is no response. The panel above the doors that displays the floor numbers shows an *E. Error*. Then, on the television monitor above the control panel, a message appears.

**WELCOME TO THE ESCAPE ROOM. YOUR GOAL IS SIMPLE. GET OUT ALIVE.**

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The Escape Room by Megan Goldin is unique, entertaining, and provocative!

Megan Goldin creates the perfect odious and repulsive characters in team members, Sam, Sylvie, Juels, and Vincent, representing the kinds of people who live in the financial world of Wall Street.

The book crackles with a continuous sense of distrust and the toxic environment of the where the end game is money, power, and greed shines through in spades!

There's an ever-present, tantalizing sense of anticipation that continues to build as we watch the events unfold in the tight confines of the elevator, all the while I was hoping that they get what they have coming to them in one way or another.

And do these four unsavory characters get what they deserve? All I will say is that the wait was worth reading every word to find out, even if it wasn't what I was expecting!

*"Megan Goldin is the bestselling author of "The Escape Room", praised by Lee Child as "one of my favorite books of the year", as well as "The Girl In Kellers Way", a critically-acclaimed domestic noir thriller nominated for Australia's leading crime fiction awards."*

I have the paperback edition of the girl on my shelves and now I'm wondering why I haven't read it yet! You can be certain that I will be reading it in the very near future!

**\*\*With thanks to Jordan Hanely, Marketing Manager at St. Martin's Press, meg, and NetGalley for providing me with this advanced uncorrected digital copy to read and review.**

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## **Josh says**

The Escape Room is a perfect balance of white-collar and psychological crime which plays on the one percent's penchant for a privileged life where lust, greed, and murder equals wealth.

Four top investment bankers are lured into an empty building under the guise of a demand by the company's human resources department, presumably to discuss a round of firings giving the company's recent poor performance. Upon entering the elevator, the four, all consumed by their phone screens are oblivious to the fact that the door closing symbolizes the end of their careers as they know it.

Enter the escape room; a team-building exercise? A twisted game? Or something more sinister?

Author Megan Goldin cleverly crafts a white hot slow burn of a story filled with deceptive characters and murderous twists in the confines of a claustrophobic elevator.

My rating: 4/5 stars. I thought The Escape Room was a lot of fun to read. Sara Hall, the lead character is personable and easy to relate to, while the high powered investment bankers each have plenty of backstory and read 'real'.

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## **Holly B says**

*Let the page flipping begin...*

### ***A chess game of survival for those trapped in an elevator!***

I had so much fun reading this one! It was both intriguing and suspenseful as the "rules" of the game unfolded. Four rich and greedy investment bankers find themselves stuck in an elevator with someone delivering " ***clues and cryptic messages*** "on how to get out. *Will they turn on each other? Who is responsible for setting them up? And..... can they get out alive?*

Someone has an ax to grind and playing along in this shell game was highly entertaining. A dose of backstabbing office politics, tension and an ending that was highly satisfying!

Don't miss this one if you love a locked room mystery with a sinister plot.

Thanks to the publisher for my review copy. Book is out August 2019.

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### **Kendall says**

Wow... this was such a fun ride!!!!

I wouldn't categorize The Escape Room as a psychological thriller per say. But, it definitely keeps you turning those pages and wondering what is going on!!

Vincent, Jules, Sylvie, and Sam are the pure elite that work for Wall Street in Finance. Talk about having more money then you could dream off with these four. Nothing matters but getting more and more money to them while making their way to the top.

The four of them are required to complete a team building activity in an elevator called the "escape room". They have to try and get out of this locked elevator... but somehow it no longer is a team building activity and they're all fighting to stay alive.

What could possibly go wrong in this dark elevator between the four of them? Oh..... darkness unfolds at every wall and crevice between them that will leave your mind shattered with the end results!!

I can tell you... those greedy ass characters will get their cake and some ;).

This was a purely fun and entertaining ride! I thoroughly enjoyed Megan Goldin's writing style and appreciate how unique this book was in all.

Definitely recommend this to be on your TBR... one not to be missed!

Thank you to Netgalley and St. Martin's Press for the arc in exchange for my honest review.

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Published to GR: 1/9/19



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## Meredith says

**5 stars for the entertainment factor. ZERO stars for believability! In the end, fun beat out reality!**

***The Escape Room* is a psychological thriller about four co-workers locked in an elevator in order to complete a team-building exercise. They think they just need to complete the challenge and they will be free to go, but things don't go as planned. What seemed like a harmless game becomes MUCH more as the participants struggle to make it out alive.**

This is a novel to read if you are looking for some mindless fun. Keep in mind that the characters are awful and have no redeeming qualities. This book also could have benefited from some editing--it is extremely redundant and the narrative structure is a little odd. While this would normally be a turn off for me, the plot and the potential outcome kept me motivated to keep on reading.

On the other hand, in spite of these issues, *The Escape Room* is compulsively readable! Once I figured out the who and the what behind the escape room, I turned off the critical side of my brain, suspended my disbelief, and enjoyed the crazy ride!

I won a copy of this book in a Goodreads giveaway!

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## Kylie D says

Wow, what an amazing book! I've read many psychological thrillers, but this one is at a different level entirely. In a world where greed rules and everything else is just an annoyance we see 4 members of an elite investment banking team embarking on an escape room challenge that they have been told is compulsory by their employers. Yet after a while they find that this is no ordinary escape room. Locked in a tiny elevator the clues and questions pit them against each other, and it soon becomes a mini war zone. Why are they here in the first place? Who is really behind it and what do they know?

The Escape Room is a cracking thriller. Megan Goldin has spun a novel that brings to light the dog eat dog world of corporate finance, where greed and corruption is rife, where if you don't have the necessary killer instinct you will be chewed up and spat out. I raced through this book in a day, ignoring everything I was supposed to be doing. An absolute first rate read.

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## karen says

they thought it was a game, but they never signed a waiver....for **MURRRRRDERRRR!!!!**

this is what a christopher pike novel looks like when it grows up.

this is *Saw* in an elevator.

if you think either of those comments are made disparagingly, let's never be friends.

this book is pure freaking fun: it grabs your attention from the outset and keeps you locked in for the duration of the ride, action flipping between past and present, frequently switching character POV so you're always slightly off-balance, distracting you with new information so you don't squint too closely or follow one lead too far along the path to discovery, muddying the waters beat after beat until ta-DAAAA all is revealed and even though you've figured out some bits along the way, the final scene'll surprise everyone, including those orchestrating this overly elaborate revenge scheme.

will this book win all the literary awards and go down in history for being the most astonishing, challenging, upsetting, and profoundly moving book anyone has ever written?

dude, no. but if you've been watching the news, getting sick of seeing shitty people get away with shitty things, do you want challenging and upsetting or do you want to see some smug, entitled monsters get their comeuppance for once?

it's four competitive people with big ambitions, shaky moral compasses, career-ending secrets and a lot to lose, trapped in an elevator, with a gun.

popcorn me.

come to my blog!

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## **Felicia says**

Well this was a pleasant surprise.

I started reading around midnight with the intention of getting in a couple of chapters before I went to sleep and the next thing I knew my morning alarm was going off.

This is one of those kind of stories that you read purely for the entertainment value. This book won't win any literary awards and it certainly won't change your life, but if you're looking for an absorbing read with a unique plot featuring despicable people that get their just deserts, then this is the book for you.

Thank you Jordan with St Martin's Press for an ARC in exchange for an honest review.

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