



Unreliable

Molleen Zwicker

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Decades ago, Edwina made an impulsive decision for which she has successfully avoided the consequences. Until now. A seemingly innocuous trip down memory lane with her daughter has thrown her into a life-altering quandary. Her next decision cannot be made on impulse, but none of the options can lead to any place she wants to be.

FROM THE BACK OF THE BOOK:

Then I said, “Okay, but what do I do with the body?”

That old family joke. Said hundreds of times by one or another of us. Just a flippant, smart-assed remark. A quick comeback. Clever. Witty. Off-handed. Predictable and therefore comfortable. Comforting. The signal of the end of a rant. “God, I could’ve just killed her.”

Or him, as the case may be.

Or him.

Then the comeback, perfectly timed. Two beats, and the other would say, “But what would you do with the body?”

Only this time, no one laughed.

Unreliable Details

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Author : Molleen Zwiker

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From Reader Review Unreliable for online ebook

Robyn says

Unreliable manages to offer the reader a lot of suspense, and had me on the hook to figure out what the mother's confession was all about.

The character development is really good, especially the use of numerology to imbue a personality to each house she revisits. The author's choice to tell the story in non-chronological order also adds to the suspense without getting confusing to follow. I wish the author would have explored making Edwina stronger/darker and less apologetic. Also, the use of the word cliché was overdone. The author offered some interesting opportunities to build to a climax but they were not fully developed so I feel the end just "fell off" instead.

*I received a free copy of this book.

Kelly says

Don't believe the title: there is no suspense in this book. This is a narrative that is very slow-moving and difficult to stick with. I haven't wanted to throw a book against the wall since Snape killed Dumbledore, and that was for a completely different reason (I am still in mourning for Dumbledore because I *cared* about him, whereas I didn't care about anything in this book). It was nearly impossible to become invested in the characters because they weren't interesting enough. There were dozens of typos and grammatical errors (and this was not an ARC). I hate writing negative reviews because I feel bad for saying negative things, but they're true in this case. I'm sorry, but I really hated this book.

One redeeming quality: every now and then, there was a remarkably true and poignant statement about motherhood. That's all I've got.

Note: I received a free copy of this book from Goodreads's First Reads program.

Alysia says

I won an advanced reader copy of this book in a Goodreads First reads giveaway.

I really liked the idea of this book, and although the time stream was a bit out of order it wasn't too difficult to follow. I loved how the main character was built and how her past (very depressing at times) could show the reader what could lead to murder. Sometimes the narrator even mentions that she doesn't know exactly how her past could answer why she killed "Tim". She leaves it up to the readers to decide. It would be interesting to look farther into the psychology of why people commit murder. All in all, I was pretty interested in this book and liked the drop-off ending. It left me wondering a lot of things, and I found myself wishing for more.

Toni says

I won an advanced reader copy of this book in a Goodreads First reads giveaway.

From the beginning (which was actually the middle) to the end (which was actually the beginning) I was held captive. A great read that included lots of witty ramblings that all amounted to the life of a murderer (even though she really didn't mean to kill the guy she still did). Although the book had many sad undertones, the way the story was told made it a quirky read. I especially liked the end where the daughter discovers what her mom has done and says, "Where the hell is my mom?"

Ryan Loge says

Very little to no suspense, and no high point in this book. Did not care for it.

Greg Hickey says

Molleen Zwiker's *Unreliable* is subtitled "A novel of suspense," which seems an unfortunate choice for the book. If you're looking for short chapters and cliffhanger after cliffhanger to give you goosebumps and keep you on the edge of your seat, you won't find them here. The novel is written as a confession about a death (as indicated on the back cover). That death occurs about halfway through the book and is surrounded by the narrator's explanations and justifications. All that being said, unless you're only looking for the next *Da Vinci Code*, there's a lot to like in *Unreliable*. The book reads like a fictional memoir, and Zwiker's narrator has a powerful, consistent and authentic voice. While it may not be suspenseful in the sense of most of the books in that genre, the story is fast-paced and engaging. And at just over 200 pages, it's a quick and compelling read. In my opinion, Zwiker does herself a disservice to pigeonhole her novel into a specific genre, because it has the potential to appeal to a much wider audience.

Denise says

I received this book as a First Reads giveaway winner!

Unreliable had me hooked instantly. I loved the author's writing style and felt very much like I was being told a story rather than reading it. The story of this woman's life and the care she took to keep her secrets was compelling and creepy, and when I finished the book I wanted to know more. In fact, my only complaint about the book was that it just leaves you hanging.

I would definitely read more from this author, hoping that future books would end in a more satisfying manner.

Kim Mack says

Thanks to Goodreads for sending this First Reads book for free through Goodreads Giveaways.

I enjoyed this one for the most part. Loved the writing style and the fact that it really did seem like I was reading a story transcribed from a tape recording. But I totally didn't understand the ending. Was I supposed to? I'm the first to say I'm not good at catching the cryptic, but this one left me more than wondering what I missed. I would definitely read another from this author, but this one isn't one I'm necessarily recommending and feel no need to keep it on my shelf.

Kathy says

This is a long and rambling story in a short book about Edwina who revisits her youth (in excruciating detail) in a taped memoir-slash-confession to her children. She has spent her entire adult life avoiding romantic relationships and friendships out of fear of revealing her involvement in the murder of her live-in boyfriend many years before. Although the murder was never discovered she now fears that it soon will be and is afraid of the harm it will cause to her now adult children and her relationship with them. Her solution is to disappear, change her identity and cut herself off from her family. This is an abrupt and unsatisfying ending to the story as we never learn if the murder was ever discovered or the if the story is about a mentally unstable woman who has been consumed by her own guilt.

Emily says

Unreliable: A Novel of Suspense , which I received for free through Goodreads "First Reads," is suspenseful, with a quirky main character, and has some truly interesting ideas. For example, the main character uses her dilettante knowledge of numerology to analyze certain key events in her life by focusing on the numerological significance of the address where she'd been living at the time. While I don't personally subscribe to numerology as a source of wisdom, this was still an interesting story-telling device. In fact, the story is near to bursting with gripping elements. Unfortunately, none of them are focused on for very long, or at least not as long as I would have liked. The narrator has a tendency to ramble from one tangent to the next; and while the book is only 188 pages, the story seems to drag a bit.

I realize we're meant to suspect her of being an unreliable narrator - that at times we're supposed to feel bored with her telling, distracted, that we're intended to sense a certain level of BS, but I've seen it done better. The story has potential that never quite actualized for me.

Emily says

I won this book through the Goodreads First Reads program, and I received it a while back. I enjoyed the first 3/4 of the book which read rather quickly. However, the momentum stopped and it took me awhile to get through the last 1/4. It felt as though the last part of the book, though supposedly key to understanding the first part of the book, just dragged with lots of insignificant details which I found difficult to muddle through. The narrator herself says multiple times that the details that she is relaying may appear insignificant and as readers we may wonder why she is telling them. Almost as if the author knows she is dragging the end of the book out and continues writing just to fulfill her obligation of 188 pages. If the last portion of the book were different, I may like it more, but it just left me exhausted.

Siobhan says

A mother disappears, apparently on purpose - or did she? She leaves behind a stack of recordings for her adult daughter to find when she goes to her mother's house to find out what happened to her. The book is a transcription of the tapes, which reveal a troubled life and a deep dark secret.

It starts in the middle of the story, then jumps to the beginning and then to the end, where it leaves you hanging. Even so, it was a powerful read, and I consumed the book in two days.

I would have given this a 5-star rating if it hadn't left so many questions at the end of the book. What did the daughter discover, if anything, about her mother's secret - and the truth about Tim?

Sarah Wess says

I read this in less than a day. I thought the author's flow was so easy to follow and smooth. The main character's trip down memory lane and her narration of it was so open and honest that it made me feel a connection to her. I got fully invested in Edwina's life and the outcome of her actions. The suspense of what tidbit of information from her past would be unveiled next, had me reading nonstop until I was finished. This book never said it was a murder mystery, it says its a Novel of Suspense, and I for one think it hit its mark.

Amanda says

I won an advanced reader copy of this book in a Goodreads First reads giveaway.

This book was not what I expected. I am not sure exactly what I thought it would be but as I read it became clear this is a memoir of a murderer. A nice change of pace from the usual murder mystery.

After reading another review I will agree this book isn't suspenseful in terms of edge of your seat and biting your nails. The suspense is the anticipation of what the author will say next. Is she going to talk about the murder yet, have we met the victim, how does she do it, why, and countless other questions the author gives you time to wonder about as she weaves her story. The only thing I didn't like about is the frequent mentioning of numerology. I do not believe in this and wish it had been left out.

♥Marie Gentilcore says

I liked this book. It is the confession of a woman who reflects on her choices in life that brought her to this

moment. It was very well written, felt like a real confession, and kept my interest throughout. I liked the format of not having chapter numbers but I hated having to put it down because it was hard to find a good stopping point. I especially related to the main character's childhood, Ms. Zwicker's writing felt so true and even though my childhood was different in some ways it was the same especially when it came to books. I received this book as a Goodreads First Reads winner but I would gladly purchase a copy and I recommend this book to others. It almost made my 5-star rating, but not quite, so I'd have to say 4.75 stars :)
