



True Places

Sonja Yoerg

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A girl emerges from the woods, starved, ill, and alone...and collapses.

Suzanne Blakemore hurtles along the Blue Ridge Parkway, away from her overscheduled and completely normal life, and encounters the girl. As Suzanne rushes her to the hospital, she never imagines how the encounter will change her—a change she both fears and desperately needs.

Suzanne has the perfect house, a successful husband, and a thriving family. But beneath the veneer of an ideal life, her daughter is rebelling, her son is withdrawing, her husband is oblivious to it all, and Suzanne is increasingly unsure of her place in the world. After her discovery of the ethereal sixteen-year-old who has never experienced civilization, Suzanne is compelled to invite Iris into her family's life and all its apparent privileges.

But Iris has an independence, a love of solitude, and a discomfort with materialism that contrasts with everything the Blakemores stand for—qualities that awaken in Suzanne first a fascination, then a longing. Now Suzanne can't help but wonder: Is she destined to save Iris, or is Iris the one who will save her?

True Places Details

Date : Published January 1st 2019 by Lake Union Publishing

ISBN :

Author : Sonja Yoerg

Format : Kindle Edition 347 pages

Genre : Fiction, Contemporary

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Download and Read Free Online True Places Sonja Yoerg

From Reader Review True Places for online ebook

Lisa says

A remarkably descriptive novel that will lose you in its emotionally gripping pages.

SUMMARY

Suzanne Blakemore is hurrying through her busy day, when she spots a figure lying on the road. She stops and discovers a young malnourished girl in need of medical attention. She transports 16 year old, Iris to the hospital and learns that she has been living on her own in the woods for many years. Her mother had passed away in the woods three years ago and her father had disappeared three years before that. Iris was frightened and overwhelmed being in the hospital and wanted to go back to the woods. Suzanne feels a strong connection to Iris's feelings, and is compelled to help her adjust to life in the normal world. Although Suzanne's life with two teenage children at home is anything but normal. But the encounter with Iris has changed Suzanne and made her take another look at her own life.

"No one gives in without giving something up, and nothing is given up without cost."

REVIEW

The first thing you notice about TRUE PLACES is it's reverence to nature. Author Sonja Yoerg's writing is mesmerizingly descriptive. With a PhD in Biological Psychology that's not surprising. From the first pages you will feel the beauty of the dense and thick woods surrounding Iris's cabin. And you, like Iris, will yearn to get back there, or perhaps even find your own true place. TRUE PLACES will appeal to women who are juggling with the sometimes overwhelming demands of being both wife, and mother while perhaps losing your sense of self. My favorite part of the book was the expertly drawn character development of Suzanne's family.

You know you are reading a remarkable book when you are captivated by the book's language and it's real life relevance. I found myself highlighting quite a few thought-provoking paragraphs. This is a must read book for 2019!

"That was, in fact, what time was: a narrow container for a relentless succession of task. The container could not be expanded, but the tasks could multiply exponentially. In fact, tasks were guaranteed to multiply."

"Without the space and the quiet for contemplating, she could not know her own mind, trust her own perceptions, and she was lost."

"Sometimes it takes a stranger to show you what should be obvious, how far you've drifted from who you want to be, from what's right for you, your true place."

Publisher Lake Union

Published January 1, 2019

Review www.bluestockingreviews.com

David says

I rate this brilliant creativity 7 stars... I've lived on the edge of the wilderness, so I have witnessed the subtle

stirring magic!

“Sometimes it takes a stranger to show you what should be obvious, how far you’ve drifted from who you want to be, from what’s right for you, your true place.”

Yoerg, Sonja. True Places: A Novel

Deborah Blanchard says

This is a beautifully written story about the complexities of life and finding your true place in the world. This is the story of Suzanne, her family and Iris, whom Suzanne found by the side of the road. It is about losing yourself, but then finding what makes you happy. The characters are riveting and vividly portrayed. I was there. I could feel the anxiety, the fear and the joy. The landscape is rich in imagery. You can feel the wind in your hair and the sun on your face. We all lose ourselves in this whirlwind called life. It is only when we find our true place in the world that we can feel whole. I have yet to find mine, but this book gave me hope. I was captured into the pages of this book and I lived there. Written with exquisite prose, this book will touch your soul. It touched mine. " Iris knew that being strong wasn't enough, because life could weigh more than you ever imagined. You had to bend, like a branch laden with snow, arcing toward the earth." This is my favorite quote from this book. We are all like trees, bending in the wind, reaching for the sun, but what is hidden is the strength of our roots. Thank you Sonja Yoerg and NetGalley for a book that I will always hold close to my heart.

Meredith says

Loved this!!

“The girl was not simply ill or lost; she was otherworldly.”

True Places is a beautifully written family drama that focuses on materialism and superficiality. A family is left in shambles after they take in a 15-year-old who has lived off the grid for her entire life, They must either learn to recognize what’s really important in life or lose each other.

Suzanne, a mother of two, is simply existing in her upper-class world in Charlottesville. It appears she has the perfect family--perfect husband, perfect children, and perfect marriage. She spends her time doing charity work and constantly taking care of her husband and children. But Suzanne is not living--paralyzed by fear from an event in her past, Suzanne has learned to avoid conflict. She is physically present, but she’s emotionally stilted. One day she takes a long drive for an escape, and she stumbles across Iris, a 15-year-old girl who has lived her entire life in the forest.

Without a mother or a home, Suzanne takes in Iris. Her family is resistant and Iris does not want to be a part of this new world full of excess and unnecessary things.

Iris’s appearance exposes the cracks in the perfect facade this family has been hiding behind.

Told from alternating chapters, the reader gets to experience the journey and transformation of each character.

I really enjoyed *True Places*. While the plot of a crumbling family is one that felt familiar, the plot

surrounding Iris's character was original. Iris's character won't be one I forget for a long time. While the writing was strong, I felt at times, that it was a bit overly preachy and could have used a little more subtlety as the message was pretty obvious. However, I was completely transported by Iris's journey and loved the chapters told from her perspective. I was moved in the end and became emotionally connected to these characters. **I would recommend to those who are looking for a family drama with a unique spin.**

Suzanne Leopold says

Driving along a parkway in Virginia, Suzanne Blakemore notices something on the side of the road. As she moves closer, she realizes that it is a young girl who is malnourished and in need of medical care. After admitting her at a nearby hospital, she finds out Iris is an orphan who has been struggling to survive in the woods.

Suzanne is informed that Iris will be placed in foster care if no relative can be located. Without consulting her family, she decides to bring Iris into her household. This has lasting ramifications since nobody else is happy with this decision. Tension starts to build with her husband and two teenage children where the environment had already been spiraling downward. Her husband has a successful career but seems more concerned with work than home. At the same time, her children are growing up and pushing for independence. The arrival of Iris seems like a good catalyst to improve some nagging mistakes from her past.

Sonja Yoerg's novel provides insight into a woman trying to find her true place in the world. People change over time and it takes courage to start on a new path. True Places was an engaging view of complex family issues.

Kendall says

True Places is such an exquisite, emotional, and beautiful story.

Sonja Yoerg has an impeccable talent of pouring her beautiful words across the pages with such elegance, love, and inspiration. I fell in love with Sonja's writing in All The Best People last year and her new novel is nothing short of amazing.

This novel spoke to me in so many different ways. Yoerg truly shines with her descriptions of the natural world. I was mesmerized with the beautiful words that truly come to light in this novel. Haven't we all felt at one point or another that we haven't found our "true place" in the world?

Ironically, I never found my place in the world until I stepped foot in the world of social work. This story brings to light the complexities and struggles of a family dealing with this thing called life. It's about all of the family members losing themselves and somehow finding what makes them happy.

The power of emotion that pours off these pages will truly touch your soul and your heart.

"Iris knew that being strong wasn't enough, because life could weigh more than you ever imagined. You had to bend, like a branch laden with snow, arcing toward the earth."

Highly highly recommend!

4.5 raw and emotional stars.

Huge thank you to Sonja Yoerg, Netgalley, and Lake Union Publishing for the arc in exchange for my honest thoughts.

Publication date: 1/1/19

Published to GR: 11/10/18

Christine says

4.5 stars rounded to 5 stars

What a beautiful story. I have now read all four of Ms. Yoerg's books, and she never fails to deliver a well-written tale with significant depth.

This one focuses on Suzanne, a housewife and mother who is doing the best she can to keep her dysfunctional family rolling on. Her co-protagonist is Iris, a teenager who has lived her whole life in the Blue Ridge Mountains without ever experiencing a "modern" lifestyle. How these two come together and help each other handle their pasts and discover a better way of life is the crux of the story.

Having grown up near the foothills of the Smoky Mountains I loved the Blue Ridge Mountain area setting in Virginia. I believe this is home territory for the author. Her descriptions brought back those mountain sounds and smells to me. Gee I miss all the times I spent with my family in the mountains of the southeast Tennessee. I understand Ms. Yoerg is also an avid gardener and plant lover, and her knowledge of the flora of the mountains in her area is clearly demonstrated in True Places. Her descriptive imagery is lovely.

There is a lot going on in True Places, but Ms. Yoerg keeps us on track. There are issues between Suzanne and her parents, her husband, and her children despite her efforts to keep things moving as smoothly as possible. Each of her two children have problems, and poor Iris is having a hard time without her family and trying to assimilate into "the real world." At one point I wondered how all of this could possibly be resolved. I liked the way the author brought things together at the end, though I wished the resolution had been drawn out a little more, hence the withholding of half a star.

I must commend the artist responsible for the cover and the author for a perfect title. Not only does the title sum up the story in two words, it is intriguing and original in this age of so many similar (and oh so tired) titles. My first impressions of a book are almost always based on the cover and the title, and this one hauled me in like a mega magnet.

I felt for the realistically drawn characters, especially Suzanne, Iris, and Reid. I was pleased Ms. Yoerg didn't fluff things up with a "perfect", and thus unrealistic, ending. I would love to visit this family again in ten years to see how things all worked out for them, but at the same time I'm glad the author elected not to have an epilogue. Despite it feeling a tad rushed, the denouement is satisfying just as it is.

What I liked most about this novel is that the story made me think. Have I made the most of my life? Am I in my own true place? I highly recommend True Places (and Ms. Yoerg's other three books) to all readers of contemporary fiction. I await the author's next offering with great anticipation.

Thank you, Ms. Yoerg, for gifting me an ARC of True Places. Opinions are mine alone and are not biased in any way.

Darinda says

While out driving, and taking a break from her exhausting life and family, Suzanne comes across a teenage girl. The girl, Iris, is in need of medical attention, and Suzanne rushes the girl to get help. While Iris is in the hospital, it is revealed that she has been living on her own in the wilderness. Suzanne offers to take Iris into her home while the authorities try to locate relatives of Iris. Suzanne's husband and teenage kids, a son and a daughter, all have different reactions to Iris living with them and being in their lives.

Told with alternating points of view, this novel focuses on Suzanne and Iris, but also presents POVs from Suzanne's family – Whit (husband), Reid (son), and Brynn (daughter). Suzanne is dissatisfied with her life, and not really sure where things took a wrong turn. She wants more, and is increasing frustrated with her husband, children, and parents. Iris has lived her life in solitude and has a close connection to nature. Her entire world is turned upside down when she meets Suzanne, and she is faced with a modern life she doesn't necessarily want to be a part of. Whit works hard and adores his wife, but he has some misguided ideas about what is best for his family. Reid is a bit of an idealist, and butts heads with his parents, especially his father, on what is important. Brynn is a mean girl who manipulates people to get her way, but is also a little lost herself.

The characters are a mix of likable and unlikable. The female characters are all better developed than the male characters. I would have preferred a little more depth on both Whit and Reid, because I believe both of them could have been more complex. Ultimately, each of the characters is trying to find their own way and be happy. Some of the character's decisions and actions comes across as selfish, but some turn out to be uplifting.

This was an enjoyable read and one I can think of a few people to recommend it to. That said, the story is mostly predictable and the characters are somewhat stereotypical. Basically, it's a well-written novel that's good for fans of contemporary women's fiction.

Melissa Crytzer Fry says

For starters: that cover! It spoke to me immediately. But what is beneath the beautiful artwork is equally delightful. While I have enjoyed all of Sonja Yoerg's novels, this one has to be my favorite, with its juxtaposition of nature and affluent suburban living.

If you enjoy book club and upmarket women's fiction in contemporary settings – and family drama, replete with difficult teens – this book is a must. The prose is assured and lovely, and where Yoerg shines the most, I think, is in her descriptions of the natural world.

The foothills tumbled gently down to the valley floor, an undulating expanse, farmland and wood, hazy through lingering mist, still and mute.

The colors harmonized within her, melting together like a lazy babble of a stream, the flutter of the wind in the trees, and the excited warble of a bunting.

The author's adoration of the natural world (and subsequent background in biological psychology/animal behavior) as well as her belief in nature's healing balm spills on to the pages through the characters of Suzanne and especially Iris, an exceptional teenager, whom I loved from the very first pages.

I was impressed by Yoerg's ability to show us, through Iris's eyes, how little sense traditional society might make to someone 'new' to it. From Iris:

People. People want to know things about you. People want you to follow rules. People put chemicals in the water, and ruin good food and hurt animals and waste things that are precious. People won't let you live a simple, good life." She faced him. "I don't need people, and I don't want them."

This book spoke to me loudest in the questions it poses about materialism, overabundance in our society, and the remoteness so many have from the natural world today (as well as the devastating emotional consequences of that removal from outdoor exposure). And, in that sense, I found the character of Iris in this book, and the character of Kya in the recently published *Where the Crawdads Sing*, to have interesting parallels. While they're markedly different books, they share thematic similarity regarding commune with nature, and subtle overtones that point out man's sprawl and historic lack of thought in altering the natural terrain.

This book also includes botanical themes (I loved learning about *Hydnora* and herbalism), and even the name *Iris* has its own thematic ties – not only to botany, but also to Greek mythology. While the novel covers topics related to parenting and the busyness of today's lifestyles, it also begs readers for introspection at their own choices.

Felicia says

MY THOUGHTS AFTER READING THE SYNOPSIS:

This is gonna be so awesome. I cannot wait to read about how this child adjusts to her new surroundings. I mean, she has never even seen running water or electricity! What will she think of this new world and how will it change her? How did she even end up in the woods? What made her finally leave the only home she has ever known?

Everything I hoped I would find in this book, based on the description, is the complete opposite of what I got.

After the death of her mother, a child that has been living off the grid in the woods stumbles into the modern world where she is discovered and ultimately taken in by the woman that found her, Suzanne.

This story isn't about Iris at all, it is about Suzanne and her shallow, self-serving, unrealistic, cliché caricature of a wealthy entitled American family.

I received an ARC from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

This was also an Amazon Prime First Reads choice.

Judy Collins says

Check out my fascinating Q&A Elevator Ride Interview with Author, Sonja Yoerg. An exclusive “behind the scenes” look behind **TRUE PLACES** and some fun facts about the author and her latest book. Plus learn what is coming next!

Sonja Yoerg returns following *All The Best People* (2017) with her best yet! **TRUE PLACES** is moving, emotionally charged and beautifully written story with lyrical prose and tons of heart and soul—discovering our true place in life.

For every woman who feels overwhelmed, unappreciated, and has lost a little of herself along the way due to marriage, family, motherhood, and career choices. A road to self-discovery. Readers you will adore the unexpected relationship between Suzanne and Iris!

Often it takes a stranger to put us back on the correct path and find our true place.

Set in the Virginia Blue Ridge Mountains (your stress level drops just looking at the stunning cover). If you have ever been to the Virginia Mountains, it is just as breathtaking.

Readers are introduced to **Suzanne and Whit Blackmore**, parents of two teens, Brynn and Reid. We also meet Suzanne’s mother Tinsley (self-absorbed and needy). On the outside this looks like a happy family; however, there is much lacking.

Suzanne is a very busy mother and has no time to barely breathe. (we all have been there). She is overwhelmed and needs an escape. One afternoon she takes a drive along the Blue Ridge Parkway. She will drive. Clear her head. Escape. She thinks of all the deadlines and things she must do; however, for a moment this will be hers. No cell service, no texts, and no little bar. (Seems like heaven, right)?

Soon she spots a young girl all alone along one of the overlooks, near the wooden railroad tracks, running parallel to the road. The girl looks alone and terrified. All she can say is, “mama.” She only has a backpack with some essential items to survive outdoors. Where is her family?

The young girl looks sick and since Suzanne has no cell phone service, she decides to take the girl to the nearest hospital. The girl goes in and out of consciousness. Suzanne is drawn to this young girl. She makes a life-changing decision.

Of course, no one in her family can understand why she becomes involved with this homeless girl. Everyone is questioning her in her own family. **A woman already extended.** However, this young girl named Iris may just be what Suzanne need to find her true self and at the same time a guardian angel for her.

Suzanne takes Iris into their home (and her heart) when she leaves the hospital. However, how will this family (one that is so different) be able to handle a young girl who lived in the woods, without all the social interaction?

A simple life and one not filled with materialistic things. The dad and the teen daughter are especially materialist. They will have more problems versus Suzanne and Reid, which are more down to earth.

We also flashback to 1995 when Suzanne and Whit met and her own childhood. How do choices she made years ago get her to the place she is now? She put her own life on hold to care for her husband’s career and her own family.

The conundrum.

“Giving too little, giving too much. Subtracting from here, adding there. Caring for your marriage, your children, your parents, your reputation, your future, and if you could manage it, your younger, more idealistic self. This complex calculus was based on theories of love and motherhood, and equations of duty and self-worth. . . She wanted a balanced life but had only guesses, wishes, and fears when what she needed was answers.”

There is a mystery surrounding Iris. What happened to her family? Her dad (disappearance), mother (recently deceased), and little brother Ash (appears to be a mystery). A police investigation. A social worker. Suzanne begins to do more digging on her own.

In the meantime, there is a war going on in their household with the tension of Iris joining their household. Iris and Suzanne seem to have developed a strong bond. Suzanne is drawn to her and her simple way of life. However, people do not want you to lead a simple life. They think this way is strange. Iris is drawn back to woods.

Suzanne must continue to defend herself and Iris. Can Iris survive in this new environment? Can Suzanne continue to survive, living as she has been or is there something new on the horizon which will change all their lives? Being true to one's self.

I loved TRUE PLACES!

Yoerg is in her element from the setting (her own backyard) to the complex family dynamics. Thought-provoking, filled with lush scenery, beautiful botanical imagery, themes, strong metaphors, life lessons, and many takeaways. The relation between nature, animals, and humans. Each can be beautiful and dangerous at the same time.

Character-driven, the author does an outstanding job with the teen language and each character's distinct voice. Many readers will relate and adore the ending. I enjoyed the relationship with plants, healing, and modern medicine. I survive on an organic plant-based diet and use herbal teas and plants for healing, taking no prescription drugs.

On a side note: There is a project in NC, I consulted with several years ago which strongly reminds me of this story. It offers the setting of a simple life. The property managers told me of the history of the project which is fascinating. Located in the mountains of NC (Flat Rock) —with a combination of vacation rentals, condos, old mill, B&B, and small village little town; old farmhouses, tree swings, porches, lake, mill surrounded by farm animals, and organic gardens, with fresh eggs delivered to your door. It allows your children or grandchildren to get the feel of farm simple living. I was there one week and it snowed. It was like a Hallmark movie scene!

TRUE PLACES is a mix of Delia Owens *Where the Crawdads Sing*, Kristin Hannah *The Great Alone*, works of Jodi Picoult, and Rochelle B. Weinstein's *Somebody's Daughter* combined with Sonja Yoerg's own winning signature style.

With the author's own background to draw from plus her love of nature and gardening, her passion is reflected throughout each page. You will find yourself bookmarking many pages and beautiful phrases.

TRUE PLACES reminds me of a time I was visiting in NC, dealing with my elderly parents— I took off

one afternoon and drove to Virginia and the Blue Ridge Parkway. Even though I did not meet a young lady, it clears your mind and fills you with peace, and a renewed spirit. I also have fond memories as a child and roadside picnics along the Blue Ridge Parkway.

Highly Recommend!

Top Books of 2019 List

Jan 2019 Must-Read Books

A special thank you to the author, Lake Union, and #NetGalley for an advanced reading copy. (The hardcover is stunning and a "must" for your home library collection)

Read My Reviews (each has been 5 Stars).

?????

TRUE PLACES (2019)

JDCMustReadBooks

ALL THE BEST PEOPLE (2017)

THE MIDDLE OF SOMEWHERE (9/2015)

HOUSE BROKEN (1/2015)

Camille Pagán says

With luminous prose and a story that speaks straight to the heart, Sonja Yoerg has crafted another stunning novel. TRUE PLACES is a beautiful reminder that though we may busy ourselves seeking what we want, what we need has an uncanny way of finding us.

Susanne Strong says

5 Lovely, Lyrical and Marvelous Stars!

There are times when there are no words. When you are writing a review and you know that you just can't do an author's novel justice. This is one of those times.

I was lucky enough to be offered an advanced copy of "True Places" from the author, Sonja Yoerg and of course, I jumped at the chance after having read her prior novel "All the Best People" last year as that book and those characters have stayed with me. The same can be said for "True Places." There is a beauty in Sonja Yoerg's words that transcends all else.

In "True Places" a young girl named Iris is found on the outskirts of the forest, alone, emaciated and deathly ill. She is brought to a nearby hospital by Suzanne, a pillar of the community. Suzanne is a wife and mother - her husband Whit, and her two children, Reid and Brynn couldn't function without her. Suzanne is scared for the girl and immediately takes Iris under her wing and together they become a foster family. Iris, having lived on her own in the woods for so many years, does not fit in, not at Suzanne's, not anywhere but the woods where she came from. When Suzanne took Iris in, she imagined that it would be her helping Iris, little does she realize, it's Iris who helps her.

Who's to say what defines a person? Where you belong and what is right for you? In "True Places," Sonja Yoerg expresses the ways in which people can be completely different from each other - yet still belong and have a place in this world. The place in which they feel the most comfortable: their "True Place." Sometimes it's obvious and sometimes it takes a bit of work to find.

What stood out for me after having now read two of Ms. Yoerg's novels (besides the fact that I need every book she has ever written!) is the fact that she skillfully delves into to the heart of family dynamics, emotions and people in a way that a lot of authors simply cannot. Her words are beautiful, poetic and soulful.

In my opinion, this is a character driven novel, each character fulfilling a different role - everyone just as important as the other. This novel and these characters, especially Suzanne and Iris, are ones to cherish. If you have not read a novel by Ms. Yoerg, I can't recommend her novels strongly enough.

A huge thank you to Sonja Yoerg, NetGalley and Lake Union Publishing for a complimentary copy of this novel in exchange for an honest review.

Published on Goodreads, NetGalley, Twitter and Instagram.

*Will be published on Amazon on release date.

Sue says

I have a huge stack of books to read but when I received a copy of True Places, it went right to the top. I have read all of Sonja's books and knew that it needed to be read NOW. WOW - what a fantastic book - I wish I could give it more than 5 stars. It will definitely be one of my top books of the year. The writing is so beautiful that I had to stop several times to re-read and became part of the story instead of just the reader.

Suzanne is a wife and mother who has over scheduled her life to take care of her family and lost her own dreams in the harried life that she lives. Not only is she busy taking care of everyone else but her kids are teenagers now - the son kind of a strange quiet boy and the daughter who at 15 takes out all of her problems with life on her mother. She is just nasty to her mother and has no appreciation for her mother as anything but a mother - not as a woman who is trying hard to make life pleasant for her family. Her husband is little to no help - he is too busy making money to get involved in much at home. So here we have a family that looks perfect from the outside but is in the process of imploding. When Suzanne brings a homeless girl who has been living on her own in the mountains into their lives, things take a turn for the worse within the family.

All of the characters were so well written that I felt like I knew them. Suzanne was such a fantastic person, realizing that she had lost herself in her busy life but having no idea how to make changes that would make her the person that she used to be who had dreams and plans for her future. It's only when Iris is brought into the home that Suzanne begins to see her life for what it is -- a hamster wheel where she spends all of her time taking care of other people and no one takes care of her or even acknowledges what she does to make their lives easier. Through Iris, she realizes that she has lost touch with nature and solitude and taking care of herself. Will she be able to step out of the whirlwind of her life to find the peace and dreams that she needs to be happy?

Along with the wonderful characters, this novel has the beautiful scenery of the Blue Ridge mountains. Sonja describes the mountains so beautifully that I felt like I was in the woods with peace and quietness around me.

This is an exquisitely written wonderful novel about family and love and following your dreams. It really is a

must read for everyone! It's a book that I won't soon forget.

Thanks to the author for a copy of this book to read and review. All opinions are my own.

Melissa ♥ Dog/Wolf Lover ♥ Martin says

This book was wonderful!

Fog hung in the trees, a hush of silvery damp, but the girl could tell the sun would burn through before long and dry the grasses hunched under the weight of dew

The cabin stood in a small clearing, and the trees surrounding it had strained toward the heavens for a long time, long enough for the trunks to have become too thick for the girl to enclose them in the circle of her arms, long enough for anyone with decency to fall silent in reverence.

The fog had disappeared as surreptitiously as it has come. The sun was high and all the green in the world was rising toward it. She listened as she climbed, her skin and each of her senses bound together into solid awareness. Everything surrounds her, impinging on her, she felt and knew

One day Suzanne had enough; she had to get away from the family and her responsibilities for just a little while so she decided to just drive a little bit. She found a little girl next to the woods and took her to the hospital. This is where the story of Iris truly begins. What happened to her parents? Why did she live in the woods?

"People. People want to know things about you. People want you to follow rules. People put chemicals in the water, and ruin good food and hurt animals and waste things that are precious. People won't let you live a simple, good life." She faced him. " I don't need people, and I don't want them."

But life is going to take a different turn for Iris because Suzanne can't leave her alone in a world she knows nothing about.

Suzanne twisted to look across the treetops and roofs to the rolling hills and the mountains beyond. She imagined Iris wandering along the ridges, drinking from the streams, searching for food, sleeping on the forest floor, untethered and unaccountable to anyone but herself. Now Suzanne imagined not Iris but herself, alone in the woods. The thought made her heart beat faster, and for an instant she wasn't certain whether it was from fear or excitement.

I loved how this book had POV's for Suzanne, her husband, two kids and Iris. We get to find out little things about each of them.

I loved Suzanne's son, Reid. He was a big cool dude! I hated the daughter, Brynn until the end. And I didn't like the husband, Whit, on and off until the end as well. And I'm so glad this book had a happy ending for everyone. The book had my feel good ending!

She finished clearing the plants away and squatted on her heels with one hand on the top of the marker, listening. The wind sighed through the tops of the trees, shifting the pattern of light falling to the forest floor. A pair of dusky-blue butterflies, no bigger than her thumbnail, danced in a shifting column of light, then alighted, first one, then the other, on the damp ground, violet blue against brown, before twirling upward once more. Beyond the clearing, in the undergrowth, a bird kicked through the leaf litter. A towhee.

Happy Reading!

Mel ????

BLOG REVIEW

AMAZON REVIEW
