

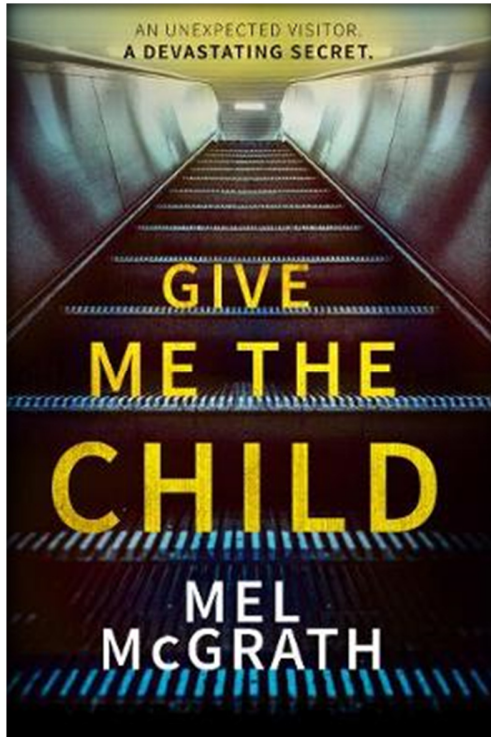


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your next book

HARPER

LoveReading Reader reviews of **Give Me The Child** by Melanie McGrath

Below are the complete reviews, written by LoveReading members.



Natasha Motton

Fantastic fast paced thriller that will drag you in, keep you hooked and won't disappoint at the end!

This is a fantastic book! It gripped me from page 1, kept me intrigued and wanting more throughout and didn't disappoint at the end. The plot centres on a normal suburban family whose lives are turned upside down one night when a young girl arrives on the doorstep. Not everything is as it seems and as the story unfolds secrets and lies are discovered that make the main character (Cat Lupo) question her past and her future. She has to dig deep and fight against people she thought she could trust, using her professional knowledge and

skills to save the only person she really cares about. Set against the back drop of a rioting London this is a fast paced thriller that illustrates how easy it can be for people to manipulate the truth and concoct evidence that can destroy lives forever.

Krissy

A well written, gripping read, an un-put downable book that captured me throughout. I definitely recommend this book.

'Give Me The Child' is a gripping read. Once into the story I had to race through to know the outcome.

As a mother and an individual who has had mental health issues I found the read poignant but difficult in parts to read. The way Cat's past issues were brought up and used against her at every turn was a little exaggerated but true

to life and as a mother the thoughts of your child in danger and you not being there is impossible to think about.

Despite this I really enjoyed this story and think it's well written.

Nicola Southwell

Tom and Caitlin are married with a daughter, Freya.

An early morning knocking on the front door sees Tom going downstairs to answer it. The police are there with a young girl who was fathered by Tom.

Reeling from the shock of this revelation, Caitlin takes the girl upstairs and puts her to bed in their spare room. Ruby is only a matter of months younger than Freya.

Tom cannot avoid the issue any longer and owns up to a one night stand. She is deeply hurt that he would do this just before their daughter was born.

Caitlin's job was working with very confused and difficult children. Cat does not feel comfortable about Ruby's influence on Freya.

Cat struggles at work until she is suspended.

By chance she opens a bank statement in Tom's name. The account was set up with a large sum of money via a loan that Tom took out against their house having forged Cat's signature. He had been paying Lilly for months, so DID know about Ruby.

Things get serious very quickly. Tom rings Cat's sister to get her on board about Cat's fragile mental health. She is then suspended from work.

Was Lilly's death really an accident? Why was her window closed when she always slept with it open? The truth begins to make sense.

I wished to read this book and all opinions in this review are all my own and unbiased. My thanks to Lovereading for this opportunity

Phylippa Smithson

This had such potential but never really delivered in the style that 'The Girl On The Train' so absolutely did.

Cat Lupo is married with one daughter, Freya, who was born late in her married life after a lengthy and emotionally and financially draining period of time. 11 years after giving birth, a similar aged girl, Ruby, arrives on the

doorstep of the family home with social services and is introduced to her and her husband (Paul) as his child.

Shocked, angered and threatened, Cat struggles to accept her husband's claim that Ruby is as much a surprise to him as it is her. Her appearance is the result of the death of her Mother and the woman Paul had the one night stand with.

As she tries to adapt to the change in circumstance, Cat's world crumbles. First her career as a child psychologist, then her marriage and then her relationship with her sister. All as a result of them believing that her previous mental breakdown during pregnancy has materialised again as she begins to question the safety of her daughter with Ruby and also the death of Ruby's mother. Was it really a household accident?

So, the plot was attractive but I did not buy into it and in not being sold on this, I struggled to be convinced that those around her would so easily disbelieve her. Great disappointment.

Vicky-Leigh Sayer

What would you do if the doorbell rang in the middle of the night revealing a love child you didn't know your husband had?

When the doorbell rings in the middle of the night, Dr Caitlin Lupo's first thought is that it's the Police, bringing tragic news of her alcoholic father in law. It is the Police, but they're not reporting news of Tom's Father. Instead they are delivering news of the worst kind. Tom it seems, has a love child, Ruby, whose Mother is dead, leaving Ruby to turn to the Father she barely knows. Tom insists he knows nothing of Ruby, but Cat isn't sure she believes him and is too shocked to question him. Instead she thinks of their daughter, Freya, and how this will affect her. Cat is a child psychologist and sees that something about Ruby isn't quite right. Of course the poor child could be in shock after her Mother's death. But Cat's trained eye sees there is more to it than that. She fears for her family's safety. Ruby is not a good influence on her daughter, but Tom is keen to stick up for Ruby at any opportunity. He thinks Cat is paranoid, delusional, despite her work she herself has had psychological issues, during her pregnancy with Freya. Cat knows that she isn't crazy, but Tom can be so persuasive. The more she tries to voice her fears to her husband the more delusional he tells her she is. Cat is desperate for someone to believe her, but at what cost?

<http://thewelshlibrarian.blogspot.co.uk>

Edel Waugh

*This is a deeply disturbing story about a doctor and her family. Cat is happily married woman with a great husband and a child that is beautiful inside and out, then one night her whole life changes when a stranger shows up at her door. **This was unnerving for a number of reasons, the secrets and lies, the layers of deception and the sheer evilness of some of the characters, this makes such good reading!** There is some awesome backstory here and that makes the present day story even more juicy. Add this to your TBR immediately! Loved it!*

Carrie Jones

Secrets galore- posing the question, even if it's illegal, how far would you go to protect your own child. From beginning to end this pacey novel keeps the reader hooked.

It forces you to face uncomfortable questions- how would you react in the same situation?

For someone who's an expert, Caitlin is made to feel a failure- in fact she seems quite unlucky both with her work colleagues & home life, as even her own sister doubts her, as her mental health is questioned..

In spite of this she is passionate in her care for her daughter, even when rejected.

As the novel progresses you feel for Cat in her overwhelming exhaustion, not knowing who to turn to or what to do.

Ultimately, the same questions are raised- even if it's illegal, how far would you go & what would you do?

Sarah Harper

Sinister and unnerving, this brilliant thriller will really get under your skin.

With the arrival of Ruby Winter on her doorstep in the middle of the night, Cat Lupo's world is shattered in a matter of minutes. Ruby is the result of a one-night-stand between Cat's husband Tom and Lilly Winter and whilst the discovery of your seemingly perfect husband's infidelity might be hard enough to accept, in Cat's case it's made even harder by the fact that Lilly Winter is dead and Ruby has nowhere else to turn. So Cat takes Ruby, a similar age to her own

daughter, Freya, into her family and endeavours to forgive Tom. As a child psychiatrist specialising in troubled kids, Cat has plenty of experience with children who have problems but Ruby takes it to a whole new level. Beneath her innocent childlike exterior lies a manipulative and evil force with the determination to blow Cat's family apart. Tom and Ruby seem to be protecting each other and through a series of events they manage to force Cat's estrangement from Freya. As those closest to her are systematically turned against her, Cat becomes increasingly isolated and her own, once fragile, mental health is again brought into question. But Cat has dragged herself up from a rough start in life with an alcoholic mother. She's a survivor and she'll do anything necessary to protect the ones she loves.

Bam – this grabs you by the scruff of the neck and doesn't let go until the very last page. Sinister and unnerving the mounting tension as Cat fights for her daughter is mirrored by the growing unrest of the Brixton riots. This brilliant thriller will really get under your skin.