Below are the complete reviews, written by Lovereading members.

Alexandra Harper-Williams

Fantastic thriller, incredibly hard to put down before you get to the very last page! Well worth staying up late for, a must-read for thriller fans.

‘When She Was Bad’ tells the story of an office department that is in a difficult phase, with everybody adjusting to major changes. The new boss’ cut-throat attitude taints the atmosphere and reveals formerly hidden dark sides in people’s characters.

But what if there is true evil lurking and murderous thoughts that can no longer be controlled?

Tammy Cohen is clearly an accomplished thriller writer and she kept me entertained from the first to the last page with her depiction of the different characters and an interesting storyline. As I was reading the novel, I was getting more and more curious about what was going to happen next, but I could never second guess how the events were going to unfold in the end.

If you like an excellent thriller, ‘When She Was Bad’ will be just up your street, I’d thoroughly recommend reading it!
Janet Gilliard

I think you might be able to tell I loved this!

Do you really know the people you work with? The book starts with the sacking of Gill the leader of a team that get along with each other. The arrival of Rachel with her Machiavellian meddling disrupts the team.

Alongside this is the strand set in America. Anne is a psychologist looking back at the case of child L and child D, the subject of abuse an unspecified time ago. 

How this is relevant keeps the reader turning the pages. **I wanted to find out what happened but I also didn't want the book to end.**

Doreen McKeown

There are two distinct threads to this story, one set in the UK and the other in the USA. In London, five colleagues all work together for a high end recruitment company. At the start of the book their Manager has just been replaced by a shiny new ambitious young woman, for the sole purpose of shaking up their department to make it more efficient and productive, which she ruthlessly begins to do.

In the US, Anne Cater, a child psychologist, is reminiscing about her career, and one particular case in which she was involved as a young woman and changed her life forever.

Both threads are fascinating in their different ways, but it's not immediately obvious how they're going to come together, and even when it becomes apparent, near the end, the author still keeps you guessing.

**This is a truly good book, very well written and constructed.** In London, the characters of the office workers are well described; each carrying their own little secret. Anyone who has ever worked in an office will empathize with the office politics in play and the jargon. In the USA, the horrendous case on which Anne Cater was working is gradually revealed, and the complete story progresses to a horrific finish, which I was certainly not expecting.

Each chapter of the book is dedicated to a particular character, which I liked, and they're fairly short chapters; another plus for me. **All in all, I loved this book and was enormously impressed by it. Well done Tammy Cohen.**
Jane Nicol

*A great psychological thriller which I couldn't put down, highly recommended.*

I loved the way the author took the lives of ordinary people in an office and wove a tale which was both fascinating and tragic. We can all relate to their fears as the office is turned upside down by a new boss. Gradually they start to question their relationships with each other.

Go back in time to a horrific case of child abuse and how the "experts" deal with the two children involved and a story unfolds which you know will not end well.

Tammy Cohen is a new author to me but I shall certainly be looking out for more of her books. Highly recommended.

Phyllippa Smithson

*Took a while to ‘get there’ but well worth the wait in this most unique suspense thriller.*

There are two sets of characters whose lives we follow. One is a group of employees struggling to come to terms with the ruthless management style of their new boss made worse because she has replaced their easy going and friendly former manager.

In parallel we meet Anne who is a middle age lecturer in psychiatry in the US. Anne is haunted by a child abuse case she was involved with when a recently qualified psychiatrist.

What links the two stories is not revealed until the final few chapters. And whilst I had some sense of where the link may lie, I must admit I did find myself getting frustrated as Cohen very cleverly (frustratingly?) gives very little away. It was like constantly picking up one book, reading a chapter and then putting it down to do the same with a completely different one. Hard work to the point of thinking it was not for me.

But then, bang, suddenly I got to the crescendo and boy did the slow, slow build up make sense.

*If you are a patient reader, this is great!*
Debbie Patrick

Well recommended.

This is the second book of Tammy Cohen’s that I have read. I saw this and remembered how much I had enjoyed her last one and was really looking forward to reading this.

It didn’t disappoint. Each chapter is told from a different person’s point of view. It’s so well written & keeps the suspense up until practically the end.

Will I read more of this author’s novels? Definitely. I will be checking her other books & reading them.

Nicola Smith

A truly thrilling psychological thriller.

‘When She Was Bad’ has two very separate stories running through it. One is based in a London recruitment agency where six workmates have a new boss who has a divide and rule style of management. In chapters told from each viewpoint we see how the changes at work affect each of them and also what is going on in their private lives. The other story is that of Anne, a child psychologist who, after hearing something shocking in the news, remembers a particular case that she dealt with. Although we know the stories are linked, we don’t find out all the details until near the end of the book and it certainly kept me guessing. I had a good idea where it was going but exactly who was involved and how was not clear.

This is the second book by Tammy Cohen that I have read. I have to say I wasn’t totally convinced by ‘Dying for Christmas’, which had a clever twist but didn’t quite ring true, but ‘When She Was Bad’ was a true page turner. I totally empathised with the workers and remember well a lot of the buzz words and requirements of working in that kind of office environment.

It’s a very cleverly plotted book and I raced through it, not wanting to put it down. All of the characters are interesting and the writing is excellent. A fine example of a psychological thriller.

Carol Peace

A great read and I found myself totally absorbed right until the very end and then some.
I loved 'When she was Bad' it was quite a book! It almost felt like two books running together as we learn about the office politics in an office under strain. It seems that since a new manager was brought in nothing is the same and I could almost feel the animosity from the staff who are being pitted against each other. What is the connection to the drama unfolding in England? What is the significance of the horror that happened to two children in America? It all seems that there must be a connection but I was way off the mark. I was glued to the book and am hoping that there are more to come from Tammy Cohen.

I was lucky to get a copy of the book from http://www.lovereading.co.uk/ for an honest review and I am so glad I had the opportunity to read such an amazing book.

**Edel Waugh**

The story is told in two parts. The first is a family that has abuse at its centre and the second is about an ordinary office where the staff get a new boss. I had no idea for the longest time if or how the two stories could be linked. The abuse in the Egan family was terrible, I really felt for the children. Then in the office the boss, Rachel, is evil in heels! She seemed to gain pleasure from hurting people and making them afraid. **This book gives us tiny glimpses about the past but it does not give up its secrets until the heart stopping last page.** The different types of terror between these pages makes for an uneasy read, but it's completely impossible to put down. I hated the narcissist Rachel, she is completely unlikeable, but makes a great bad character! The twists in the story surprised me and the entire plot came together very well at the end. If you enjoy mystery/ thriller books then I think you will really enjoy this.

http://edelwaugh.blogspot.ie/2016/02/when-she-was-bad-by-tammy-cohen-review.html?m=1

**Amanda Keeling**

**A tense and nail biting story which had me gripped right to the very end.**

I have nothing but praise for this book. It was so brilliantly written. I loved how the story hopped from character to character keeping the story moving along at a brisk pace. It was full of intrigue and I had no idea where that the story would end up where it did. The characters were well rounded and I was invested in
An absolute gem of a book.

You can follow Amanda on twitter: @pikalili

Karen

A twisty, compelling and addictive psychological thriller that will make you look at your work colleagues in a different way!

‘When She Was Bad’ is a two strand story, initially beginning in America but with the main chapters set around a London recruitment agency. The American narrator is a child psychologist, reminiscing about one of her most famous and traumatic cases – ‘the House of Horror’. When she is alerted by a friend that something bad has happened in the UK, she seems to be half expecting it.

Colleagues working at a recruitment agency are dismayed when their old boss Gill, becomes a victim of cost cutting measures and is sacked. Her replacement, Rachel, appears to be manipulative and cold hearted who plays mind games with her staff and pits one against the other. They were once a friendly and cohesive team – not any more. With each of them facing their own personal issues and scared for their jobs, they no longer know who to trust and turn on each other.

Watching the characters in this story was a bit like watching a car crash in slow motion. You know that something awful is going to happen but it’s wondering exactly what that kept me turning the pages. Initially I thought I was being so clever in figuring out where the story was going and I had even had certain characters in mind for the reveal. However, Ms Cohen is the master of misdirection and the twists that kept appearing made me doubt everything.

‘When She Was Bad’ is a wonderfully twisted story with characters that you will both empathise with and despise. This was such an addictive read it only took a couple of days to race through it. When you consider how much time we spend with our work colleagues, this story clearly shows that you never really know them.

http://myreading-corner.blogspot.co.uk/

Victoria Goldman

Wow - Tammy Cohen has a very twisted mind. When She Was Bad kept me guessing from start to finish. It’s a dark and creepy page-turner that will leave you reeling and make your spine tingle. Tammy Cohen has
an amazing knack of getting right inside her characters’ heads - these ordinary people seem so normal on the surface yet anything could be bubbling under the surface.

The book begins with a brutal killing and only one person - a child psychologist called Dr Anne Cater - seems to know the culprit. Through a series of flashbacks dotted around the book, Dr Cater recounts a tragic and harrowing story of child abuse.

The main plot concentrates on a group of work colleagues, all with something to hide. None are particularly likeable but all are very believable. Their new boss is rattling some cages, pitting one colleague against another and bringing their secrets to the surface. The narrative switches between the different characters and played with my head so much that I had no idea who the culprit was - or how the book would end.

http://off-the-shelfbooks.blogspot.co.uk

Chris Bertenshaw

Excellent psychological thriller about a murder that leaves you guessing who the murderer and victim are until the end.

I've not read any of Tammy Cohen's work before, but having read 'When She Was Bad' I'll be ordering some more titles in to the library as soon as this review is submitted. This was an excellent psychological thriller that kept you guessing all the way to the end about who the murderer and the murder victim actually were. It's predominantly the story of the sacking of an office manager and her more ruthless and highly unpopular replacement, who plays the current staff off against each other exposing divisions that weren't there previously. Moreover, it's interspersed with the story of a child psychologist who worked on the case of an abused child and their sister.

It's fast-paced with well-written characters, all of whom have distinctive voices and relate-able problems, and I'll put this straight on the recommendations display at the library.

5/5

www.bertass-reviews-anything.blogspot.co.uk

Judith Sharp

This book brought back to me why I am so happy now that I have
retired.
I’m sure everyone who has worked in a large company will relate to this book. It really gets inside the mind games being played out in offices these days. Made me glad I’m not still working. Very cleverly plotted, it keeps you guessing to the bitter end.

Hannah Smith

With two storylines running alongside each other and, eventually, both merging in the most unimaginable and unpredictable way, ‘When She Was Bad’ was a truly wonderful and gripping psychological thriller that really keeps the reader glued to its pages from the very first word. As a book that demands your attention and demands to be read, I found that I was completely unable to put it down. Delving into the world of childhood psychology, leading the reader to question whether we remember and are affected by events of our very early years, I found this to be an extremely interesting and thought-provoking read. When She Was Bad was undoubtedly an incredibly accomplished novel that really did have me sitting on the edge of my seat. I highly recommend it and can’t wait to see what the incredibly talented author, Tammy Cohen, will treat us all to next!

http://www.hannahreviewingbooks.blogspot.co.uk

You can follow Hannah on Twitter: @hansbookreviews

Alison Bisping

A brilliant read!

It took me a while to get into the book, but when I did, I couldn't put it down. The first chapter sets the scene that something is going to happen - the rest of the book are the events that lead up to it. I re-read the first chapter after finishing the book - doing that rounded it up nicely.

How well do we really know people? That is the question we are left with. We think we know them, their backgrounds, what makes them 'tick', but this story is a good reminder that in fact we only know what people want us to know. Who knows what we have hidden in our past that can influence our future?

The characters all work together in an office in London. All seem very genuine and they are easy to like. We are shown their insecurities and how easy it is for a team to turn against each other if a new manager comes in and starts trying
to influence the day to day routines - however, in this case, that is the whole reason for Rachel being brought in to replace the previous 'head'. The department is not working efficiently, not making money as it should. You have the dreaded team bonding on a weekend away - that of course doesn't go well, and with the help of drink, things are said that make the atmosphere much worse.

To say any more would be giving a spoiler. Read it for yourself - I don't think you could be disappointed.

**Julie Evans**

Fantastic Read! A must for the summer holidays. Split down into character chapters this book takes you on a journey which will have you guessing until the very end! I actually felt the emotions of some of the characters throughout the book. Highly recommended.