



Close to Home

Cara Hunter

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A truly original psychological crime novel about a missing child and the scandal that erupts in the aftermath, brilliantly plotted with a shocking twist

She was certain it was Daisy in the flower costume . . .

When eight-year-old Daisy Mason vanishes from her family's Oxford home during a costume party, Detective Inspector Adam Fawley knows that nine times out of ten, the offender is someone close to home. And Daisy's family is certainly strange—her mother is obsessed with keeping up appearances, while her father is cold and defensive under questioning. And then there's Daisy's little brother, so withdrawn and uncommunicative . . .

DI Fawley works against the clock to find any trace of the little girl, but it's as if she disappeared into thin air—no one saw anything; no one knows anything. But everyone has an opinion, and everyone, it seems, has a secret to conceal.

With a story that feels all too real, *Close to Home* is the best kind of suspense—the kind that sends chills down your spine and keeps you up late at night, thrilled and terrified.

Close to Home Details

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Author : Cara Hunter

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From Reader Review Close to Home for online ebook

Brenda says

Daisy was frightened – she could hear someone coming for her; she knew she couldn't get away.

When Detective Inspector Adam Fawley was called in the middle of the night, he knew it wouldn't be for anything good. But learning it was a child abduction was much worse – they all hated cases involving small children and Daisy was only eight years old. The big party the parents were holding, with fireworks, lots of people from the neighbourhood, including children – the noise would have muffled the sounds of a child screaming...

As the force investigated, the door to door with the neighbours, the scouring of the nearby bush and surrounding land, Adam knew time was running out for little Daisy. They had to find her, and fast. But where would she be? How could she just vanish as if from the face of the earth? Surely someone had seen or heard something...

Close to Home by Cara Hunter is an intense psychological thriller that just buried itself under my skin and stayed there! The pace was electric – the clues and innuendoes horrifying. But the twist at the end – now I didn't see that one coming!! Absolutely brilliant! My first by this author, and definitely not my last. Highly recommended.

With thanks to NetGalley and the publisher for my digital ARC to read and review.

Chelsea Humphrey says

I feel like I've hit the jackpot lately because I've read so many excellent novels! Why aren't more people talking about this book? I'm blown away and likely can't wait for book 2 to make it to the states, so I'll be purchasing off of Book Depository. Fantastic debut that completely had me fooled; I did not guess the ending in any way, shape or form. Highly recommended and full review to come!

Content warning for mentions of child abuse, child pornography, and murder (thought not graphically described).

Won via Goodreads Giveaway!

Meredith says

Promising new police procedural series about the disappearance of an eight-year-old girl. Close to Home offers compelling characters, an unpredictable mystery, and some surprising twists and turns.

When 8-year-old Daisy Mason is reported missing, DI Adam Fawley and the team are called in to investigate. Daisy was last seen at a neighborhood barbecue wearing a daisy costume. As Fawley and his

team investigate, they quickly learn that the Mason's carefully crafted personas are nothing more than facades hiding dark secrets. The Mason's quickly become primary suspects due to mother Sharon's chilling facade and father Barry's repulsive hobbies. Dragged through the Twittersphere, the Mason's are found guilty in the eyes of the public but many questions remain: Where is Daisy? Did she someone kidnap her? Did she run away? Or has she been murdered? The case is especially traumatic for DI Fawley who is dealing with the loss of his young son.

This is a fast-paced read that goes back and forth in time to before and after Daisy's disappearance. The POV shifts, and while Fawley's is the main voice, additional character POV's are shared. Fawley is a likable lead, and I am curious to learn more about him, as well as more about some of the other characters that play a role. I feel like we only get tiny glimpses of their inner lives, and I would like to have seen more.

What I liked most about Close to Home was that the mystery kept me guessing. I thought things were going to be cut and dry in terms of who committed the crime, but in the end, I wasn't even close to being right about. I thought the culprit came out of left field, which made things more interesting. I would recommend this to those who enjoy mysteries and police procedural series!

Michelle says

For a debut novel I have to say that I am very impressed. This is book 1 in the DI Adam Fawley series and I look forward to reading more.

During an evening barbecue it appears 8 year old Daisy Mason vanishes into thin air. Even her own parents can't recall the last time they saw her that evening. Now DI Adam Fawley and his team need to put the puzzle pieces together in order to save Daisy before it's too late.

In interviewing the parents DI Fawley can't help but to wonder what they may be hiding. An uninterested mother who seems to care more about her appearance than the fact that her daughter has gone missing and a father who comes across as cold and hostile. All the while keeping his eye on Daisy's brother Leo who seems withdrawn and scared but of who?

This is an excellent police procedural and I was hooked on every word. The best part for me was the fact that the pacing never let up. No moments of boredom here. To be sure Cara Hunter is an author to watch out for. Highly Recommended!

I'd like to thank Penguin Books for sending me a copy of this book in exchange for my honest review.

emma says

ughhhhhh.

this book was *so meh*.

it follows Detective Investigator (i'm making that up, kinda) Adam Fawley, in the most procedural murder

book of all time. seriously. if you have ever been interested in the mundane inner workings of a suburban british police station, this is the book for you.

i am not. so this wasn't.

this book was more confusing than mysterious or thrilling, and i ended up just really not caring about what happened. which is impressive, considering this book details a sh*t ton of children's suffering. it's kind of crazy to be so bored and ready for a book to be over that you're like "child death? sure. child abuse? uh huh. child negligence? kk."

please if i ever choose to run for president, do NOT take the preceding quote out of context.

also shoutout to the gender roles in this book, which were truly wildin. we've got: objectification of female interviewees; objectification of female police officers; condescension/patronizing of female police officers; judgment of women based on sex life/clothing/maternity; and just really vitriolic ways of talking about women on the internet!!!

which, speaking of: there was also some half-ass attempting at unique formatting (through the inclusion of tweets and BBC articles) that was just the worst. it added nothing to the story that wasn't already covered and completely broke the narrative flow. yippee.

anyway. i didn't hate this book but i did really dislike it! there were twists, kind of, but the twists were more just discoveries of evidence and who cares about that. whatever. boring.

bottom line: non merci. (is it possible that i'm bigoted on the subject of british thrillers exclusively?)

thanks to penguin first to read for the ARC

Juli says

During a costume party at her home, 8-year old Daisy Mason disappears. The entire family acts strange. The mother is obsessed with appearances. The father is coldly distant. And the 10-year old boy seems a bit too withdrawn and quiet. DI Adam Fawley knows something is amiss and he is determined to find out what happened to the bubbly, beautiful little girl. Did someone in her family do her harm? Has she been abducted? Did a stranger do this, or someone else at the party? Little does he know just how horrible and vile things really are.....

OMG! This book is amazing! The story grabbed my total interest from the beginning, and the suspense kept going strong until the very last word. The story moves along at a good pace, and there are plenty of suspects. I like DI Fawley as a main character. He's had a lot of pain in his life including the death of his own child, and that makes him go after this case with determination. The author does a great job of portraying these totally crappy parents. I wanted to jump into the book and punch both of them. The mother is completely narcissistic. And the father is a total Wanker (yes, with a capital w). There are some magnificent twists and turns of plot in this crime story....I didn't know exactly what had happened until the very end. I LOVE suspense novels that always have that one last surprise in store. Just lovely!

This is book 1 in a series featuring DI Adam Fawley. I will definitely be reading more of this series!! (and

yes, that gets two exclamation points) This is Cara Hunter's debut novel. Awesome job! The second DI Fawley book, *In The Dark*, will be coming out in July 2018. Can't wait to read it!

****I voluntarily read an advanced readers copy of this book from Penguin Books via First To Read. All opinions expressed -- including capital letters and extra exclamation points -- are entirely my own.****

Louise Wilson says

Last night, 8-year-old Daisy Mason disappeared from her parents summer party. No one saw anything- at least that's what they are saying. DI Fawley is trying to keep an open mind. But nine times out of ten, it's someone the victim knew. Someone is lying and Daisy's time is running out.

This fast paced well plotted novel kept me on the edge of my seat, urging DI Adam Fawley and his team to find Daisy. There are lots of twists in this intense psychological thriller. I was constantly changing my mind about who the guilty party was. Even better was the book's satisfying ending. I loved it.

I would like to thank NetGalley, Penguin Books UK and the author Cara Hunter for my ARC in exchange for an honest review.

Jonetta says

Daisy Mason inexplicably disappears during her parents costume party at their home. She's only 8-years old so the case is given high level importance and captures the attention of the media, as well as everyone within their reach.

Detective Inspector Adam Fawley is the lead on the investigation, which is one of the book's superlatives. Everyone carries their weight and the procedurals are highly interesting, causing me to have a tough time finding a breaking point. The clues took me on the most puzzling journey but it prepared me for the big twist in the epilogue. The story is well paced and both narrators delivered two fine performances. It's a large cast but each was given distinction both in voice and design. The primary suspects kept me off balance for most of the book. And, the inclusion of social media commentary added a layer of reality, no matter how unfortunate.

I'm really looking forward to more in this series as the procedurals were so well done and I liked how each character was developed. This was an incredibly interesting story that could have taken predictable paths but fortunately offered something different.

(I received a complimentary copy from the publisher in exchange for an unbiased review)

Gary says

'Close to Hone' is the 1st book in the Oxford detective DI Adam Fawley series by author Cara Hunter. This fast paced novel is certainly a page turner and features some great characters. 8 year old Daisy disappears from her Oxford home and both her parents are quickly identified as possible suspects. Daisy's

mother doesn't appear to be concerned and her father is more concerned in keeping a low profile than helping the police to uncover the truth regarding Daisy's whereabouts. The book reveals more information to the reader by featuring flashbacks that explain the family history and open up more possibilities to the crime.

This is an excellent novel that keeps the reader interested to know more and serves up twists and turns to keep you guessing to the very end.

I would like to thank Penguin Books UK and Net Galley for supplying a copy of this novel in exchange for an honest review.

Susan says

This debut novel is the first featuring D.I. Adam Fawley and is set in Oxford. The story begins when an eight year old girl, Daisy Mason, is reported missing after a family party. From the first we are aware that Fawley has lost a child himself, although the details only become apparent as we read on, so the case is very emotional for him. However, the reactions of the parents are not what either Fawley, or his team, expect. Father Barry Mason is upset, but acting suspiciously, mother Sharon is defensive and secretive and Daisy's brother, Leo is withdrawn and quiet.

As the investigation continues, we begin to learn of the many secrets in the Mason household. This book takes us from the investigation, to the day of the disappearance, back to events in the past – using newspaper reports, interviews and the outpourings of social media along the way. It soon becomes clear that the initial report is not to be trusted and interviews with the family, classmates of the missing girl, and their parents, reveal that nothing is as it first appeared on the surface.

This is a clever and well plotted novel, with lots of plot twists and some good characters. There seem to be a plethora of crime novels about missing children at the moment, but any book so good that I forsake my kindle and take a paperback with me on my daily commute, is a winner for me. I thought this was realistic (including the police assumption that the outlook of finding Daisy alive was bleak), the characters interesting and the story gripping. I look forward to reading more novels by Cara Hunter and to revisiting D.I. Adam Fawley and his team.

Maureen says

****4.5 STARS****

The literary world already has a huge number of successful Detective series, but I believe DI Adam Fawley will find his place amongst those successes with this excellent debut novel from Cara Hunter, as 'Close to Home' has all the makings of a great series.

8 year old Daisy Mason has disappeared from her parents summer barbecue in Oxford; there were lots of guests - neighbours, school friends, their parents, but nobody saw a thing and were therefore unable to help with police enquiries. But the one thing all police officers hate more than anything else, is a case involving a child, and DI Adam Fawley and his team will leave no stone unturned in their search for Daisy.

Suspicion naturally falls on those closest to her, and investigations reveal that this 'normal' everyday family is actually very dysfunctional. Mum Sharon, and Dad Barry, each have secrets they'd rather keep hidden from the outside world, while 10 year old Leo, (Daisy's brother) is reluctant to share what he knows with the police - and he clearly knows something.

As is the case today, thoughts and feelings about the family are displayed for the whole world to read on the big wide web. This is definitely trial by social media, with many of the posts making serious accusations without anything material with which to back up those accusations. This in turn, results in anger and threats of violence, and it becomes even more imperative that DI Fawley and his team discover the whereabouts of Daisy.

Nothing is as first appears in this investigation, but (through flashbacks) we gradually gain insight into this very complex family, and what led to Daisy's disappearance, though what actually happened to her isn't revealed until the very end of the book.

This was a page turner in every sense, the writing was crisp, the storyline was utterly gripping, and the characters (though not always likeable) were completely believable. DI Fawley and his team worked tirelessly in their search for Daisy, and it was encouraging to watch the results of their hard work and long hours unfold into concrete clues.

I don't think I've ever changed my mind so many times regarding who the perpetrator was - so congratulations to the author for keeping me guessing right until the end. I'm not sure the ending was quite believable, but having been utterly gripped throughout, I'm willing to go with it.

A brilliant start to a series that (I for one) will greet with huge anticipation.

Thank you to www.shotsmag.co.uk for my paperback copy in exchange for an honest review

Paromjit says

Cara Hunter begins her series featuring DI Adam Fawley of Thames Valley Police with a mix of police procedural and psychological thriller set in Oxford. It begins with a scene of a fearful Daisy Mason. The precocious 8 year old Daisy goes missing at her parents barbeque and fireworks party for parents and neighbours. The police are called in, and DI Adam Fawley instigates local area searches. Adam has a focused and highly competent team that are determined to find Daisy that includes DS Gareth Quinn, DC Gislingham and the sharp eyed DC Everett. However, the parents, Barry and Sharon Mason are displaying strange behaviour and refusing to countenance a detailed search of their home. Leo, their 10 year old son, is clearly not opening up about all that he knows. In the meantime, the media have parked up outside their home with no intention of leaving anytime soon. A social media storm takes off, firstly mostly concerned but later a more trolling, toxic presence with its vilification of the parents, threats and more worryingly, incitement to violence and murder.

As the team delve into Daisy's life and her family, it soon becomes clear that they are a dysfunctional family mired in secrets and lies. Sharon is insecure, vain and lacking the maternal instincts to nurture her children. Barry has a secret life of other women and dodgy business practices. Daisy is painted as a exceedingly bright child, who feels like a fish out of water with her more intellectually pedestrian family. She is given to eavesdropping on the conversations of others, has her own secrets and emotional fallouts amongst her own

coterie of schoolfriends. We are given flashbacks that go back a considerable number of years to the more recent past. Adam and his team slowly find that every assumption they have made begins to slowly fall apart as they try to find out what happened. Matters are further complicated as we become aware that Adam and his wife, Alex, recently lost their son, Jake, in highly emotionally upsetting circumstances. In an investigation where nothing is as it seems, suspicions focus on and oscillate between Sharon to Barry, as Adam believes the perpetrator is usually close to home.

This is a fast paced and well plotted story peppered with social media postings, news bulletins and police interviews. It authentically replicates the reality of how outrageously people behave on social media in real life missing children cases. There is twist after twist in the narrative that has you desperate to keep reading to find out how it all ends. The final twist requires a huge suspension of disbelief in my view, as indeed does the portrayal of Daisy as a 8 year old, but this did not stop me from enjoying the novel. One of my favourite parts is just how well Adam's police team worked, their absolute commitment to the case and how they support one another. A highly entertaining and absorbing read. Many thanks to Penguin for an ARC.

Book of Secrets says

CLOSE TO HOME was part contemporary domestic thriller and part police procedural, though probably too heavy on the investigation side for my liking. DI Adam Fawley is the main investigator, though it flipped back and forth between him and other detectives. I felt like it didn't matter which detective did what, as they needed more personality or back story to grab my attention. The mystery of the missing girl was intriguing and had plenty of twists. The big reveal at the end was great but kind of out there. This book has gotten lots of great reviews, though for some reason I had a hard time really getting into it. Not bad, but didn't wow. Thank you to Penguin's First to Read Program for a review copy.

Sassy Brit says

A nail-biting read!

Visit all my reviews here. I love to chat books!

I'm reviewing Close to Home by Cara Hunter. This is an Vine Customer Review of Free Product. Here are my thoughts:

^^ 'Close to Home' is the 1st book in the Oxford detective DI Adam Fawley series by author Cara Hunter.

^^ I have just finished this book, and I read it fast. I found the whole 'Daisy Mason is missing' mystery wonderfully intriguing and loved the way it was written. So much information was provided to us, but a lot was held back in the way it was revealed. It's the sort of book I'd like to go back and read again, knowing how it ends, to see precisely what I was made to think, what actually happened, and how it was conveyed to me by unreliable witnesses. It was as though I was helping DI Adam Fawley with his investigations. Trying to work out who did it, alongside of him.

^^ This story flits between the day of the investigation, past events and eventually leads up to the day of her disappearance. We focus on the parents, Daisy's brother Leo, and largely on what he social media are saying as everyone gets involved in the hunt for Daisy. Suspicions are flying around all over the place. Help, or hindrance?

^^ My copy was an ARC copy, so I'm not entirely sure it's the final version, but I really enjoyed how there was actually NOT any separate chapter breaks. It was all a mix of interviews, police reports, newspaper cuttings in different fonts. So each part of the story was told in different formats and had their own natural breaks. In a way, I think this made it an even faster and quite unique read. I do hope the finished product stays the same for you.

Overall: I can definitely recommend this to those of you who like these 'who did it?' missing children stories. Do read this when you have the chance. I don't think you'll be disappointed. Catra Hunter writes how a bestseller should read! (That make sense? LOL) It's clever. Thought-provoking. And quite emotional at times. These characters kept me up all night until I finished. It's a nail-biting, fun read!

Laura says

I'm going to say this now, before we get started. You won't like it, but trust me, I've done this more times than I care to punish myself remembering. In a case like this - a kid - nine times out of ten it's someone close to home.

Close to Home is a good start to a new police procedural series. The characters are complex, strong and well-portrayed - some might even say unlikable. The mystery here is certainly intriguing with an 8 year old who goes missing at a family BBQ, although it takes hours for anyone to notice. The police know something isn't right from the start with each family member suspicious in their own way and certain details not adding up. Can DI Fawley find Daisy before it's too late?

Interwoven throughout are tweets, articles, police interview transcripts, emails, facebook posts, etc. This is a nice addition to the format because it shows how things develop throughout the case, how information is released to the public and how the public reacts to the case as it unfolds.

My biggest issue is with Daisy. Not in the way you may think, but it bothered me how she came across when she spoke. There were times she seemed her age, but more times than not she sounded like an adult. My other issue is the final reveal. I felt it came out of nowhere and wasn't particularly necessary.

I see myself reading the sequel because of DI Fawley. Plus, the twists and turns throughout **were** entertaining.
