



## The Mother-in-Law

*Sally Hepworth*

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## **The Mother-in-Law** Sally Hepworth

*Someone once told me that you have two families in your life - the one you are born into and the one you choose. Yes, you may get to choose your partner, but you don't choose your mother-in-law. The cackling mercenaries of fate determine it all.*

From the moment Lucy met Diana, she was kept at arm's length. Diana is exquisitely polite, but Lucy knows, even after marrying Oliver, that they'll never have the closeness she'd been hoping for.

But who could fault Diana? She was a pillar of the community, an advocate for social justice, the matriarch of a loving family. Lucy had wanted so much to please her new mother-in-law.

That was ten years ago. Now, Diana has been found dead, leaving a suicide note. But the autopsy reveals evidence of suffocation. And everyone in the family is hiding something...

From the bestselling author of ***The Family Next Door*** comes a new page-turner about that trickiest of relationships.

## **The Mother-in-Law Details**

Date : Expected publication: April 23rd 2019 by St. Martin's Press

ISBN : 9781250120922

Author : Sally Hepworth

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## From Reader Review The Mother-in-Law for online ebook

### Katie B says

I try not to give out 5 stars too often but this one was special and deserving in terms of how much I enjoyed it and took away from it. I went into this thinking it would just be a typical mother in law story but there was so much more to it than that. It explored not just the mother and daughter in law relationship but also the dynamics between child/parent, husband/wife, and siblings. It was one of those reading experiences in which you seriously start reflecting on your own life and how you deal with family members.

Ever since they first met Lucy has had a polite, but distant relationship with her mother-in-law, Diana. It's like no matter what she does, Diana just won't warm up to her. The story jumps back and forth between Diana's perspective of things that happened in the past and the present day in which Lucy and her family have just learned Diana is dead. Her death will have lasting consequences for the entire family.

What I thought the author did brilliantly was the dual perspectives as it prevented Diana from being this one-dimensional character. There were so many layers to Diana and Lucy's relationship and it was interesting to see what they each thought about certain events. There were moments in the story that were so relatable, like when you come across the exact opposite of how you intended or when you regret leaving something unsaid. And while relationships were certainly an important part of the book, the mystery of what happened to Diana was intriguing as well. Overall, such a fantastic book and I can't wait to check out Sally Hepworth's other novels as she definitely has a knack for getting you to feel for her characters on an emotional level.

Thank you to St. Martin's Press for sending me an advance copy! I was under no obligation to post a review and all views expressed are my honest opinion.

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### Kaceey - Traveling Sister says

**All I can say is, Magnificent!!** This book is headed straight to my favorites' shelf!!

Oh that poor mother-in-law! Boy, she's been getting a bad rap lately. This is the third book I've read recently regarding a so called "*evil mother in law.*" This time...it's just a bit different.

*There are two sides to every story. Maybe it's time we all heard the mother in law's side of the story....*

Told from 2 points of view of Lucy the daughter-in-law and Diana. Yup, you guessed it...Diana "the mother in law."

Lucy is over the moon about marrying Ollie and becoming part of his family. She'd also like nothing more than to befriend Diana and develop that special bond between mother and daughter-in-law. If only it were that simple... or easy.

When Diana is found dead in her home no one knows if it was a suicide, or if someone with an axe to grind may have wanted her dead. After all, it's not a stretch to say she may not have been the kindest person to those closest to her.

**Oh my gosh!** I absolutely could not put this book down! This was such a different take on the typical mother-in-law story! I just loved it! I ran the full gamut of emotions reading this book. It will make you smile, shock you at times...it may even bring a tear to your eye. It did for me.

Sally Hepworth does such a fantastic job creating a character that you can love and hate at the same time! This is my second book from her and while I loved *The Family Next Door*, this one just blew me away! I was so ready for something original! Needed a different take on a subject that has been repeatedly done. **This was that book!** Fantastic job Ms. Hepworth! I am now anxiously waiting for your next release!

A buddy read with Susanne(Thank you Susanne!)

Thank you to Jordan Hanley at St Martin's Press for an advanced copy to read and review.

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### **James says**

I read one of Sally Hepworth's earlier novels last year and immediately connected with her writing style and storytelling approach. I marked the rest of her books as TBR, then saw *The Mother-in-Law* available via NetGalley. I was lucky enough to be approved for an ARC earlier this week and began reading it right away. What an emotional and angst-ridden tale about the relationship between several family members who can feel all too real and all too fake at the exact same time. I truly enjoyed this book and give it 4.5 stars. Let's get into some specifics...

Lucy lost her mother when she was young. Although her father was wonderful, she never felt that connection with an older female who could guide her through becoming a mother, caring for a family, or securing your own position in the world as a strong, intelligent woman. When she meets Ollie, and he wants to introduce her to his family, Lucy is nervous but hopeful it fills a hole that's been growing for far too long. Unfortunately, when Lucy meets his mother, Diana, it becomes quite clear that won't happen.

Diana had a difficult childhood and was essentially almost forced to give Ollie up as a baby. When she was kicked out, Diana learned how to build something from nothing and to care for her family when she didn't even have a place to live. She used that savvy experience to become a major player in an organization that helps young women trying to escape from difficult circumstances in their own country and move to America for a better life. Diana also developed a thick skin and an attitude that no one should be given a handout without working for it in return.

Although the story alternates chapters from Lucy's and Diana's viewpoints throughout the decade they know one another, there are other characters who help show what each woman is truly made of. Diana's husband, Tom, is the complete opposite of her; he's a lovable, genuine, and thoughtful husband and father who gets sick. Ollie's sister and her husband are desperate for a baby and go to the extremes to make it happen with or without their family's support and money. Ollie's best friend becomes his business partner and wreaks havoc on a complex family relationship. Then there's the 3 young children Ollie and Lucy have during that first decade. Throw in Diana's untimely death, mysterious circumstances that make it look like a suicide but also a murder... and you've got quite a psychological exploration of what it means to be a parent and an in-law.

This book explores that fine line of how you say things without coming across as insensitive or rude, how you determine when to let a mistake happen so a new parent learns on her own how to care for the child, and how you deal with making a decision when you and your spouse are on opposite sides of how to best support

your children. At times, Diana was truly a horrific witch of a human being. You come to realize she kinda knows the way she's behaving is wrong, but it's been ingrained in her. When she softens, you want to root for her. You want to believe she will turn that corner and do the right thing. Then she goes in the opposite direction, unlike Lucy, who is nearly consistent almost the entire time. She sucks it up when Diana is rude or distant. She does all the things she doesn't want to do just so she doesn't look like she's being difficult. Until something bad happens, then Lucy blows up.

While 90% of me sides with Lucy, I do understand Diana's approach. And it works in many circumstances; however, there comes a time when you let someone try to help themselves for only so long before it becomes too late. If you have an excess of money, and your children need it, don't hold on to it forever if they have put years into helping themselves only to fail for reasons out of their control. Eventually, Diana begins to see the light, but it's too late. Too much has been set in action, and her death is imminent. Was she murdered by one of these people who felt she went too far? Did she commit suicide because she felt guilty? Was it a freak and unexpected accident? You'll have to read the book to find out, but I believe it's worth it.

I couldn't put the novel down. If I did, within 15 minutes, I kept telling myself 'just one more chapter.' Hepworth is brilliant at displaying angst, love, pain, and despair in a family who needs a little therapy to heal and forgive. It's down-to-earth, regular actions and words that remind you of your own world (not the drama necessarily, but the way people relate to one another) feel comfortable yet push you just enough to question how you think about a situation. I adored this book and would love to give it a full 5-stars, but there were a few items I thought could have been a bit more tidy to be absolutely perfect. The ending is 'ten years' in the future which is great, but I would love to have seen some of the immediate drama after Diana's death. We get a lot, but once the true reason she died is discovered, there's a bit of a windy wrap-up without a clear enough focus on everyone's reactions to the truth. I don't want to spoil this surprise, but ultimately, if you're gonna throw a curveball at us, give us a few reactions from the rest of the people involved so we sense a complete and thorough emotional see-saw when learning what happened to your family member.

That said, it's a high recommendation from me... can't wait to see what others think when it comes out in early 2019.

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### **JanB says**

1.5 stars

Let me be clear that I think an author can choose to write her characters any way she wants, and I can choose to read it or not. But this was an issue book with characters vs a book with characters who have issues. I prefer the latter. If the author is going to write an issue(s) book then I'm going to comment on what I disliked about her stance on those issues. It is not the characters so much as the fact the author seems to be pushing an agenda.

We are told from the start that Diana, the mother-in-law, is dead of an apparent suicide but the police have their suspicions that it was murder, not suicide. From the blurb: "She was a pillar of the community, an advocate for social justice who helped female refugees assimilate to their new country." But she was not well-loved by her family and for good reason. I don't require my characters to be likable, but if they are unlikable they'd better have other redeeming qualities, be sympathetic, or be funny. Diana was none of these.

The author tried to generate sympathy for Diana and, while I sympathized with what happened to her in the

past, it was no excuse for her behavior in the present. She was cold and mean-spirited, even to her own children and grandchildren. She had money, but found money distasteful and judged everyone accordingly. Diana was just a vehicle for the issues the author wanted to highlight: money is bad. Being poor is good and will make you happy.

Money in and of itself is neither good nor bad. It offers people choices, and can be used for good. But not to Diana. She was a stingy miser who refused to help her children, even when they were clearly hurting and in need. Plus she was hypercritical of everything they did, even to the point of openly criticizing her future daughter-in-law in public for spending too much money on her wedding dress.

Instead of making sure her own children would not suffer from being unloved as a child, as she was, she repeated the pattern. But she's only cold and unloving to her family. She had no problem showing love and concern for strangers or giving them a helping hand. They got her attention and her money, while her own family did not. Little wonder that her own grandchildren were unmoved by her death.

I also felt the author trivialized severe depression, even to the point of intimating that assisted suicide is a valid option, instead of ensuring the person received the psychiatric help they needed (btw, this is NOT a spoiler, there are a lot of characters, twists and turns, and red herrings).

There were dramatic personality turnarounds in characters that were absurd, and behavior that made no sense. Other characters, like her husband, were undeveloped. I, for one, needed to know why he married Diana in the first place.

This was definitely easy reading and the first 75% was interesting enough for me to continue. But the last 25% was ridiculous.

2 stars because I finished the book and did want to know what happened to Diana. I shouldn't have bothered. Thank you to my friend Marialyce for reading this book with me and listening to me vent.

\*I received a copy of this book from Netgalley in exchange for an honest review

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### **Deanna says**

My reviews can also be seen at: <https://deesradreadsandreviews.wordpress.com>

I am a huge fan of this author. “**The Mother’s Promise**” was my first Sally Hepworth novel and is one of my favorite books.

The first line in the description of this novel grabbed my attention...

**“A twisty, compelling novel about one woman’s complicated relationship with her mother-in-law that ends in murder...**

I couldn’t wait to start reading!

The story begins with a police car pulling up to the home of Lucy and her husband, Ollie. Although the car doesn’t have its lights or siren on, she knows immediately that something isn’t right. **“Police don’t arrive on**

**your doorstep at dinnertime unless something is wrong.”**

The police ask if they are relatives of Diana Goodwin and right away Lucy knows what they are going to say next...

The story then jumps back ten years to Lucy's first visit to the Goodwin home. Ollie's father is friendly and seems happy to meet Lucy as does Ollie's sister, Nettie. But Ollie's mother's greeting is lukewarm. She's not rude to Lucy, she is very polite...she just seems sort of cold and standoffish.

When Diana meets Lucy, her first thoughts are that Lucy was probably adored by everyone in her life and things probably came very easily to her.

**“Take the pregnant refugee girls I deal with every day. They've been through unimaginable hardships, and here they are working hard, contributing and grateful”.**

Lucy just wants Diana to like her. However, it seems the harder she tries the more strained their relationship becomes.

And now...Diana is dead.

As they learn more about Diana's death and more things are brought to light, Lucy finds herself questioning everything...some things just aren't adding up.

### **Did anyone really know Diana?**

I thought this was an excellent story filled with engaging characters and an entertaining plot. We are given insight into the complicated relationships within the family. I liked how it alternated between Diana and Lucy's point of view in both the past and present. It was interesting seeing how they each read or misread the same situations.

As I mentioned in a previous review of **“A Mother's Promise”**, Sally Hepworth does a wonderful job of bringing her characters and their individual stories to life. She creates characters that readers can relate to and empathize with.

This was definitely a thought-provoking read. I've read other novels that deal with the relationships between men and women and their in-laws, but I found this to be quite a unique story. I was really surprised by a few things and extremely satisfied with how everything came together in the end.

In my opinion, this was another winning story from Sally Hepworth.

I'd like to thank St. Martin's Press for providing me with an advanced copy of this novel.

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### **Holly B says**

*Relationships can be complicated, especially when it involves the "Mother-in-law".*

A twisted family situation and a hidden motive lead to murder. The MIL is Diana and my opinion of her changed so many times throughout the book and she certainly surprised me in the end.

The first chapter was intense and sets the stage for a compelling read. We get the POV of Diana and Lucy (the daughter in law). Their relationship is complicated and Lucy has many insecurities when it comes to Diana. The author explores the roles of all the family members into the mix that led to much pondering on my part. Who is at fault here?

A **shocker** was exposed as the mystery unraveled and all the pieces fell in place. It had me to retracing the previous events to see more clearly how it had led to utter devastation and murder. I had almost all the characters as suspects at some point.

I enjoyed this twisted family drama and never saw the last piece of the puzzle until it was added. I really enjoyed the beginning of the book and all the suspense it created, the rest of the story was more about the family dynamics. You should keep in mind that this is a women's fiction with some suspense, but more family drama. I did enjoy it and I thought it was a thought provoking story,

~ A solid read with a side of family drama and a *whodunit* element.

Thanks to the NG and the publisher for my copy to read/review

Out April 23,2019

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### **Linda says**

Nothing makes us so lonely as our secrets.

Standing at the door of those secrets is the sentinel of our choosing who presents the face of the moment. We don the mask we find appropriate and carry it forward while protecting the truism of self.

Sally Hepworth presents an absolutely dynamic story that weaves its way into a family unit that has locked down their deceptions with bolt and key. She is a wizard at revealing just enough backstory on her varied characters to more than wet your whistle. Chapters shift from the perspective of Lucy, the daughter-in-law to Diana, the mother-in-law. Hepworth adds the element of present and past events as well. It's a boiling pot of family situations that gets stirred about.....better keep your oven mitts on for this one.

Our story is set in Melbourne, Australia. Lucy and Ollie seem to be a young couple battling the challenges of everyday life with three young children. Add to the mix: Ollie's parents, Tom and Diana, and a sister Nettie and her husband, Patrick. We have a spicy stew of the In-Laws and the Out-Laws building up and tearing down typical interactions from year to year.....until typical is no longer typical.

Lucy and Diana's relationship is in the spotlight. Each is in a defensive mode and each presents themselves as territorial. When lines begin to cross, tension is elevated to high degrees. As readers, we experience the layers being peeled back and there's some rotten fruit on both sides of these encounters. That's why this novel would be an excellent read for book clubs. There's definitely a love/hate tango going on here.

Then Hepworth throws in a lightning bolt. Diana is found dead on the floor of her home. A suicide note has

been kept in a drawer of her desk....found much later. The police are hesitant to call this a full-out suicide quite yet. Family members are called in for questioning. And now the feathers begin to fly. Who is responsible for all this? Diana, herself, or a family member, or one of the individuals that Diana has been helping through her charities?

The Mother-in-Law is a honey of a read. If you enjoy very creative storylines, then this one has your name all over it. A very, very satisfying read.

I received a copy of this book through Giveaways on Goodreads. My thanks to St. Martin's Press and to the talented Sally Hepworth for the opportunity.

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### **Crumb says**

#### ***Intensely Readable and Immensely Dishy!***

What is it about in-laws that makes them so abhorred? Is it their constant meddling? Perhaps their subtle, but persistent disapproval of every little thing. For Lucy, she just wants her Mother-in-law, Diana, to love her. Accept her. But *that* is never going to happen. At least not as long as Diana walks the earth . . .

For originality, this one deserves five stars. In addition, this was Hepworth's first attempt at the thriller genre, and I think she nailed it. I've always loved her work, but I was a little apprehensive about whether or not she could pull off a suspense novel. I'm here to tell you... she rocked it!

I don't want to share too much about the plot or characters, because I feel you should know as little as possible going into this one. There is a huge twist, that was very well-executed. Not only was this a supreme psychological thriller, but it was a meditation on the dysfunction between families. I always love me some good drama!

There is a storm brewing in the East coast and in my opinion, you should put on something cozy, and get this book. It's a delight to behold!

*Thank you to St. Martins press for providing me with an ARC in exchange for an honest review*

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### **Elyse Walters says**

When Jordan at St. Martin's Publishing presented this book to me to read and review- I definitely 'paused', thinking this could be an interesting topic, yet I definitely had reservations of concern. I didn't want to create problems - add more to my already - sometimes challenging relationship with my mother in-law. However - this book is so far off from anything in my life - I didn't relate to any of it.

NOTES OF INTEREST.....about in-laws' .....It's a hot topic in the news today. Review of this book will follow at the end.

In the news recently- a psychologists stated the rise in couple's coming to therapy for the sole purpose to deal with issues with their mother-in-law. Seems universally the most delicate relationships is when the son gets married. When a daughter gets married, they remain close with their mother regardless of how much the

mother gets along with her husband.

The mother in-law and daughter in-law dynamic is the most fraught of in-law relationships. Son's are made to feel guilty. Daughter-in-law's are made to feel not good enough - judged - and intruded on by lack of boundaries.

In laws can either help or hurt marriages.... being much more trickier and stressful for a daughter in-law than a son in-law.

But this book by Sally Hepworth, is not an advice manual.

But they 'do' have these type of books. A high rating such book is written by Susan Abel Lieberman Ph.D, called:

"The Mother-in Law's Manual: Proven Strategies for Creating and Maintaining Healthy Relationships With Married Children". There are excellent reviews on Amazon. The book is not only about being a better mother-in-law - NOT A SELF HELP MANUAL about ways to create a better relationship with their own adult children.

The reviews are inspiring. In most cases readers reported it was helpful, informative, and entertaining.

SO.....NOW THAT WE GOT THAT OUT OF THE WAY...THIS IS NOT THAT TYPE OF BOOK.....let me share my thoughts about THIS BOOK. ( no spoilers)

Similar to "Big Little Lies", by Liane Moriarty, this is not a mystery. We know the mother-in-law dies at the very beginning.

The setting also takes place in Milbourne, Australia....just as "Big Little Lies" did.

The title of this novel is very incidental IMO.. There are many side plots - many characters - ( very easy to remember all of them including every child) - with the mother-in-law's story not standing out that much more than any other character - as everyone has a story. There are lies - secrets - judgements- resentments - told in present and past time alternating narration between Diana and Lucy.

Diana is the mother-in-law. Tom the father in-law.

Ollie is their son. Lucy is the new daughter in-law in the family. Ollie & Lucy have 3 young kids: Archie, Harriet, and Edie.

Nettie is Diane and Tom's daughter - Patrick is their son- in-law. Nettie & Patrick have no kids.

A few more characters - (friends of Diana)...Cynthia and a few other women.

Diana runs a charity business - she brings maternity clothes and prams to pregnant women. One woman in particular she has gotten close with: Gheala and her two young children Aarash and his little sister Aziza. Gheala's husband is from Kabul.

We meet some of Ollie's friends too ( and business partner).

I promised no spoilers - ( easy to do). Truthfully I found the writing - the dialogue to be very ordinary. I was bored for at least the the first 60% of this book. It's readable- but lacking creative conflicts between characters. The writing is very safe...very few juicy risks. My thinking is if you're going to be bold enough to put a title on your book called "The Mother In Law".....( and bless the author's heart for sharing that she has a wonderful relationship with her mother-in-Law at the start)- I think there needs to be some out-of-the-box outrageousness.

With so many stories about each character - I felt the book lacked a strong focus. There was wasted chatter of each child: from watching TV, eating snacks, tossing balls, climbing trees, playing with Tupperware lids, etc.

Add lots of talk about judging and evaluating the meals or housekeeping - and descriptions of basic clothing that people wear: leggings, a long cardigan, trainers, AND PAGES of grammatical typing errors on the

Kindle download that I had —

guessing this will get corrected -domestic family life wasn't particularly clever- or complicated or heartwarming or hilarious or earth shattering exciting.

It was 'readable'.

3 Stars. Read other reviews. Its woman's fiction. Sally Hepworth fans who enjoy easy reading quick page turning books should love this novel. I needed something meatier to wrap my brain around.

Thank You Netgalley, St. Martin's Fiction, and Sally Hepworth

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### **Jennifer ~ TarHeelReader says**

**5 stars! ?? ?? ?? ?? ??**

I deliberated on this one for a couple days, and as much as I thought about it when I wasn't reading it, I knew it had to be a five-r! This book explores the complex mother-in-law/daughter-in-law (and mother/daughter) relationship in a way I've not seen before. It was also explosively dramatic and well-written. Full review to come much closer to pub date in April! I continue to love Sally Hepworth!

Thanks to St. Martin's Press for the copy. All opinions are my own.

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### **Mackenzie - PhDiva Books says**

**Gripping and haunting — there's a poetry to the story told in *The Mother-in Law* that is so captivating and suspenseful, you will think about it for days after reading it.**

Over 24-hours after finishing Sally Hepworth's *The Mother-In-Law*, there are still so many nuances I'm left turning over in my mind and unpacking. This is a thought-provoking novel of domestic suspense. I hate to compare it to other authors, though there are a few I see, because Hepworth to me has a truly unique voice and a story that needs to be told.

What this book made me think about the most are the things we don't say that sometimes can have the biggest impact of all.

**Full review closer to publication date 4/23/2019**

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### **Marialyce says**

I have asked myself this question a few times in the past. What is it that makes me dislike a book while so many others have voiced their acclaim and praise for this book? Was it the setting, the writing, or the

characters, or could it be a combination of all three?

In the book, The Mother In Law, I am going to say it was most definitely the characters, particularly that of Diana, the erstwhile mother in law of the story. She was to me a vile woman so intent on making sure her children were not spoiled by both her husband and herself, that she literally abandons her children when they hit upon hard times and desperation. You see this couple had plenty of money. However, both her time, her effort, and her money went to outsiders. Diana was definitely opposed to the old adage of charity begins at home. I surely can understand wanting one's children to grow up with a strong sense of independence, but when her own flesh and blood begs for money for her fertility treatments and is refused, my heart broke. At this point she took away all her daughter's hope. How despicable is that?

At any rate, when Diana mysteriously dies, leaving a suicide note saying she couldn't deal with her cancer, (which incidentally she never had), the mystery is on to discover the why of her death and her daughter in law, who Diana has also treated deplorably, comes to the forefront as being sympathetic and eventually wanting to know what happened. Why this young woman, Lucy would ever want to help this woman who treated her with little respect was not understandable to me.? The rest of the children, especially her grandchildren really could have cared less.( I was definitely with them here). Diana had a loving husband who had the backbone of a jellyfish. He allows her shallow treatment of her children to proceed never seeming to take a stance in defense of his own progeny. (another turn off for me).

Diana's death starts in motion a story of a cold woman who came from poor beginnings. I think the author was trying to create in the reader's mind a feeling of empathy for Diana coming from nothing and achieving the status of being a pillar of the community. Too bad that pillar could not or would not support those who should have been close to her. In this, at least to me, she failed miserably.

Do I dislike all vile characters I asked myself? I did read John Boyne's Ladder To The Sky with the vilest of the vile characters, Maurice, and still managed to love the book. So, I have to say perhaps it was a combination of the characters and the writing which made this story a total turn off for me. Maybe it also has something to do with me being a mother of four, who would do anything possible to secure my children's happiness. Is that not what parents do? Aren't they the ones who want only the best for their offspring?

Thankfully, I read this book with my book partner, Jan. We were both somewhat in a tizzy over this book and shared the self same level of dislike for it. As in all things, you can't please everyone all the time and surely for Jan and I, this was an example of that phrase. Guess you can tell by now why I rated this book so low.

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### **Felicia says**

Everybody in Diane's life has reason to want her dead, including Diane herself.

There seems to be an influx of cliché evil mother-in-law stories right now but this one really stands out from the crowd.

Diana, mother-in-law to Lucy, is found dead in her home of what initially appears to be a suicide. What ensues is a clever whodunnit with an array of characters, each one fleshed out perfectly, all so relatable that at times I could imagine myself sitting down to dinner with them.

With the number of suspects combined with alternating chapters from the POV of Lucy and Diane, jumping from the past to the present, one would think that the story would be difficult to follow. Somehow Sally Hepworth, through her easy breezy writing style, is able to pull it off flawlessly.

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

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### **Susanne Strong says**

#### **5 Simply Irresistible Stars.**

**Sally Hepworth is the Master of Domestic Suspense!** This is a heart pounding mystery that I was racing to finish! It's complexities and craziness had me wild-eyed right up until its shocking end. A favorite read for this the year!

**Mother-in-Laws, as well all know, are not to be trifled with.** Sometimes they're scarier than others and sometimes you hit the jackpot. Perhaps it's because of the competition factor, mothers not being able to let go of their sons, or wives simply not feeling like they measure up. Whatever it is, Lucy, (one of the main characters in Sally Hepworth's "The Mother-in-Law") knows exactly what I'm talking about. Here, she desperately tries to make a good impression on her Mother-in-Law, Diana, and she fails miserably. Silly, Lucy.. Mommie Dearest always knows best!

Diana however, isn't so lucky after all. In a crazy turn of events, her body is found in what initially looks like death by suicide. Nothing about Diana's death adds up and once the investigation begins, everyone in the family is scared stiff. The only motive the cops can find? Money. It always comes down to money, doesn't it? If only things were that simple.

**In "The Mother-In-Law" by Sally Hepworth, the twists and turns simply kept on coming and none of them are foreseen. Discount whatever you think you know, start from scratch, then do it all over again. The storyline is utterly wicked with moments that are simply jaw-dropping. The characters are multi-faceted, and their intentions are never straight-forward. Having read three of Ms. Hepworth's prior novels, this was my favorite to date. The characters, the mystery and the storyline all came together in a way that fit perfectly: like a jigsaw puzzle, where, once the pieces interlock, I couldn't help but sit back and smile, absolute perfection! A favorite of the year for 2018!**

A buddy read with Kaceey! This was my favorite by far Kaceey!

Thank you to Jordan Hanley at St. Martin's Press and to Sally Hepworth for a galley of this novel in exchange for an honest review. It was my pleasure.

Published on Goodreads, Twitter and Instagram.

\*Will be published on Amazon in April of 2019.

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### **Berit??? says**

**Sally Hepworth completely sucked me in with this compulsive engaging addictive story that took a hold of me and did not let go until the last page was turned!**

An intense twisty story about the complicated relationship of mother-in-law and daughter-in-law. A tale that will resonate with many!

Full review on publication date April 23, 2019

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