



My Sister

Michelle Adams

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My Sister tells the story of Irini, who was given away by her parents at the age of three, whilst her volatile, destructive sister was kept within the family. Twenty years later Irini receives a phone call from her estranged sister to say that their mother has died, compelling her to return for the first time to the family home, and to uncover the shocking truth that has defined both their lives.

My Sister Details

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From Reader Review My Sister for online ebook

Judy Collins says

IF YOU KNEW MY SISTER —British author, Michelle Adams' riveting dark and spellbinding psychological debut thriller of two broken sisters.

As dark and sinister as The Sinner, by Petra Hammesfahr (TV-mini-series-which I loved) and Gone Girl, by Gillian Flynn. Multi-layered, Complex, Spine-tingling, and Twisty, with an explosive conclusion you do not see coming.

Narrated by Dr. Irini Harringford, (an anaesthetist at Queen's College Hospital); the unwanted little girl now a woman living in London —haunted by the scars, unknowns, and mysteries of her past. *The missing gaps.*

Daughter of Maurice and Cassandra and **sister, Elle in Scotland**. Only for three years. Then she was sent away. She was the good daughter (age three). *Why did they keep the bad daughter Elle (age seven) and send her away?*

The years of studying to become a doctor to wear a mask so people would not see the real her. Maybe she does not recall. A life where she had parents. A past with somebody other than Elle.

“Sometimes I think I can remember my mother’s face: like mine, only older, redder, wrinkles like a spider’s web weaving around her lips. Other times I’m not so sure. But I’m sure that she didn’t offer any last-minute advice to be a good girl, no quick kiss on the cheek to tide me over. I would have remembered that, wouldn’t I? She slammed the car door, stepped back, and my aunt and uncle drove me away from her like it was the most normal thing in the world. And even then, I knew something was over. I have been given away, cast out, dumped.”

Elle is her sister. Her only sister from a previous life from which she has kept a few memories. Some are blurry, some are hauntingly real. She is the last remaining connection to a past she has tried desperately to forget. Elle is her destiny.

She is utterly inescapable. She is back to ruin things. Torment her, and create havoc in every part of her life. She even killed their family dog, Toto, plus so much more . . . (way more than Irini knows)

Irini is living with a man Antonio whom she will not marry. She had no role models. She really would like a family, but it feels too dangerous. She only needs someone to care for her for the last twenty-nine years.

When Irini was only three-years-old her parents sent her away. They kept one daughter, Ella, and sent her away. She has never discovered why.

Presently, her sister Ella has found her once again. After six years of absence, she has managed to worm her way back into her life. Ella is a dark monster. One she runs from. *One she is indebted to.*

A message, that their **mum (Cassandra) has died.** Of course, a mother is nothing more to her than an idea. A dream. A childish hope. However, she is curious. Ella needs her. Once again after six years, of keeping her distance, she weakens her. She makes her feel guilty. She owes her. *Ella constantly reminds her.*

She agrees to return home. Possibly she will use this as an opportunity to find answers to her past. Maybe she will find the truth from her father. The why? Why did she have to leave her home and family to go and live with a woman who did not want her?

The missing part of this puzzle. Why did her aunt continue to move them each time Elle found them. How can she pass up the chance to know why they gave her away and kept Elle?

Elle is everything superficially, Irini is not. Irini has a limp due to her dysplastic hip. She is a cripple. She has deep scars. She is chubby. Elle is beautiful, thin, fit, enigmatic captivating, and has confidence.

Elle is the one person who never tired of finding her. This knowledge was for Irini, an addiction. The fact no matter how far she runs, Elle will find her. *The only thing worse than her absence was her presence.* A risky game of cat and mouse.

But it is too late to ask for answers because all that remains is her mom's grave, the secrets of the past buried with her and out of reach. The little butterfly returning to the nest. The grand Victorian house with all its wealth. One she was not a part of. *One giant black hole waiting to suck her in.*

With all their wealth, she had to settle for hand-me-downs. *Discarded things for a discarded child.*

The return was not as she expected. She does not belong here. Ella is still manipulative and evil. She was the one they kept. Even after they sent her away, Ella would seek her out and deliver her from the bullies. The late-night trips she would leave Aunt Jemina's house to meet her sister. She was hoping her father would explain.

Now, she still has no answers. Irini wants to leave. She feels trapped. Ella drugs her in order to get her to stay. **Two broken girls. Mental illness.** Dysfunctional family. However, there is much more to the story than Irini can imagine. *What is everyone covering up?*

Before she can speak to her father. He suddenly dies but not before he redoes his will. Leaving everything to the daughter he gave up.

Is Elle setting her up for a fall? Now the police are questioning her about the death of her father. How is Antonio mixed up in all of this? What do the strange numbers mean on the will? Then she meets a friend of Elle. Matt. Everyone knows Elle is a sociopath. Reckless. Manipulative. A killer.

Are we our parents? "We are what they make us either by their presence or through their absence."

Were they really trying to protect her by sending her away? A cover-up? What do suicides in the 1990s at Fair Fields along the Scottish Border have to do with her sister?

Is Elle a scared girl running from her past. Is she a murderer? Who will stop her? Killed to save her sister and to save herself. Will Irini keep her secrets?

I was glued to the pages of this page-turner! Love stories of hidden secrets of families. Elle will give you

the spine-tingling chills! (Was dying to find out the mystery. It is a big one and one you do not anticipate.) Unpredictable.

I am shocked there has not been more "hype" surrounding **IF YOU KNEW MY SISTER** (prime for the big screen). As I was reading, was strongly reminded of The Sinner, in many ways with the toxic relationship and deep scars of two sisters. The forgotten past. The missing links. The dysfunction, violence, abandonment, and the tug and pull between the two sisters. The dark secrets, drugs, manipulation, evil, and the love/hate relationship. *Was one sacrificed for the other?*

Family. The butterfly effect. (many relations to butterflies). Hidden meanings. . . *Madame Butterfly*.

The ending left unanswered questions, so wondering if we may get a sequel, or meant to leave us pondering. Would love to learn more about these haunting characters and secrets of Fair Fields and Elle's POV. *An ideal choice for books clubs and further discussions.*

Well-written, dark, disturbing, twisty, and unsettling. Looking forward to reading more from the talented author. Fans of Lisa Unger, Ruth Ware, Jennifer Jaynes, Alessandra Torre, and Jennifer Hillier will enjoy Adams' breakout debut **IF YOU KNEW MY SISTER**.

A special thank you to NetGalley and St. Martin's Press for an early reading copy. I also purchased the audiobook narrated by Emily Pennant-Rea for an engaging listening experience.

JDCMustReadBooks

Xana says

Macabra esta história..
Lê-se num instante, manteve-me intrigada do princípio ao fim.
Gostei muito e reconendo

Annie ~ The Misstery says

I admit I wasn't so sure about this book at first, especially since I haven't enjoyed psychological thrillers that much lately. Fortunately, My Sister was a truly unique and suspenseful read that not only managed to grab my attention but also made me feel unsettled and weird. And how I love it when books make me feel uneasy!

This was the tale of two different sisters, Irini and Eleanor. Irini was given away by her parents when she was three years old and she has never understood why they didn't keep her instead of her sister. She went to live with an aunt that didn't love her and has struggled with relationships ever since. When her mother dies, she returns home and reconnects with Elle while uncovering dark secrets about her childhood.

This was way more "psychological" than "thriller" and I think it's precisely what made it so special. Forget about the classic domestic thriller, this was way more gothic and eerie, kind of like what I felt when reading The Roanoke Girls. Don't you love it when books are not what you expected at all? When the plot captivates you even though you don't even like most the characters?

Irini was a weird one, that's for sure. I couldn't understand most of her decisions, but at the same time I really felt for her and found her relationship with Elle fascinating. Elle was not a really good person but was nevertheless appealing and you couldn't get enough of her. Impulsive and volatile, you just never knew what she was going to do next. She was unpredictable and a great character to read about. If you enjoy stories about toxic relationships, look no further.

The book revealed few secrets that caught me by surprise and while it didn't feature a shocking twist, I was kind of grateful for that. My Sister didn't need it. Michelle Adam's beautiful writing certainly makes it stand out from the rest of books about family secrets that I've recently read. Prepare for a slow-burning creepy adventure!

Dee Ryan says

This is a really good book. I didn't gallop through it as I normally would and I think perhaps it was because mentally this book just tires you out.

The book revolves around Irini, given away by her parents at age 3 to an aunt and uncle who seemingly never wanted her and did little to hide the fact. She struggles with the fact that her parents chose to keep her sister Elle instead of her. Was it because she was damaged with her disfigured hip? Never having been given an answer to any of her questions and being kept away from her family for most of her life, the news that her mother has died may perhaps give her the chance to get the answers she so badly needs....but to do that she needs to face her sister Elle who is unstable and vindictive but who in a very strange way Irini loves.

The games that Elle plays with Irini as the story unfolds are unsettling and you can see it coming, Irini can too but she just cannot help herself. This is a great read....hard on the head at times but so worth it!

Carla Geraldes says

Embora o inicio se tenha revelado um pouco "difícil" por ter emburrado com uma das personagens, e ter pensado em abandonar a leitura por várias vezes, valeu a pena ter continuado a não ter desistido.

Um thriller psicológico que envolve e que nos faz querer saber que mais reviravoltas a estória irá dar, quando pensamos que já se descobriram os segredos todos

Roy says

This was recommended by the local bookstore. Something different to the usual cop/killer crime novel. Psychological thriller family drama. Very good 1st person narrative, extremely well written, great characters (both sisters are completely different) and the plot is unfolded at the perfect pace. Really amazing book. Not something I usually pick up but is definitely something I'll be recommending to others. My only negative was that the main characters decisions in some instances were a little stupid/silly as well as being quite naive in her surroundings most of the time.

Bookread2day says

Review on www.favouritenovels.wordpress.com

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Sitting down with a good book to read is one of my life pleasures. Michelle Adams is a genius writing her first thriller, **MY SISTER**. I can't wait to read this authors next book. I do advise every reader that loves a good thriller **MY SISTER** is it. It's definitely the book to read.

Irini's parents gave her away to her Aunt and Uncle and she never knew why, nobody would never tell her the truth. Aunt Jemima never wanted Irini's sister Elle in their lives and Irini never knew the reason why. Years later when Irini and her Italian boyfriend live together she receives a phone call from her sister Elle informing her that their mother has died. Irini has kept her number and address private so Elle couldn't find her. So how did Elle get Irini's telephone number?

When Irini arrives back to the family home for the funeral she is there for one reason she needs to know why they gave her away and not Elle. And why did her parents spend so many years keeping their distance from her. Will Irini find the answers to past that she is looking for? **My Sister** is certainly with unsettling family twists to excite you all.

Amy says

Ahh sister relationships never fail to intrigue me, especially messy ones and Irini and Elle have one of the most complex relationships I've read about in awhile. Irini was sent to live with relatives when she was just three and she has no idea why, so when her mother dies and Elle summons her back home the idea of finally finding out some answers is too much for her to resist. Elle is toxic, manipulative and calculating but she is Irini's sister and her hold on her is very strong.

I was dying to learn exactly why Irini was sent away and to find out if Elle was really as crazy as Irini remembered, there was definitely that sense of uneasiness about both women throughout. Elle is clearly unbalanced but there were times that something about Irini seemed off as well. There was a heavy ominous undertone, something sinister and creepy lurking around that I really liked, it messed with my head in the best possible way. Put that together with really strong writing and I'm super impressed it was Adams debut, she has a subtle, nuanced style that worked really well for me.

There was something intoxicating about this book, it almost had me in a hypnotic state while I was reading it, I was that captivated by it. Despite it being a true psychological thriller I found it to be heavy on the psychological aspect and pretty light on the thriller part, but that did not in any way stop my enjoyment of this one. I actually think it further enhanced my experience and forced me to savor this read instead of rushing through it like I sometimes do in a twisty, fast paced thriller.

Joanne Freitas says

Adorei completamente este livro, não conseguia parar de ler. Suspense de início ao fim, cheio de descobertas. Os segredos que podem destruir uma família e que é melhor que fiquem guardados. Este livro fala do poder do amor e da família e dos mistérios que rodam a mesma.

Jaime says

If You Knew My Sister is a novel about Irini returning to her family home to learn the truth of why she was given away by her parents. It's also a story following Irini's journey trying to escape her sister's influence.

Michelle Adam's writing was great. It was the only redeeming thing about this book for me. The characters, especially Irini's sister, Elle, was detestable. I had a difficult time connecting with the characters and the plot. The premise of the book was good. I liked the idea, but the plot fell flat for me. I could put the book down and be totally fine going days without reading. The plot did not pull me in. The characters were unlikable. However, the ending answered a lot of questions I had and overall I was happy that it was over. I will say that I am I'm willing to giving Michelle Adams another chance.

Thank you to Netgalley, St. Martin's Griffin and Michelle Adams for an opportunity to read and review this novel.

Karen Whittard says

Thank you to Netgalley, Headline and Michelle Adams for the opportunity to read this book for an honest review.

I voluntarily reviewed an Advance reader copy of this book.

You can find my review on both Goodreads and Amazon. On goodreads.com/karenwhittard and on Amazon under k.e.whittard from publication date.

I found this book rather hard to read. Some of what goes on and the language used is a little unsettling. I'm not one for the c word sorry. It tends to put me off things.

My attention was grabbed by this story however and I did read it in one sitting. It's a rather good psychological thriller that I'm sure will be spoken about everywhere this year.

Happy reading everyone

Liz Barnsley says

A really stand out psychological thriller here from Michelle Adams – great depth to character and setting, beautifully done, not easily anticipated which is a huge plus and generally I'm a big fan of this one.

The two sisters are oh so very different – Irini, given away by her parents, never grasped the full reason, over the years her intermittent contact with sister Elle brings a whole world of trouble. When we meet Irini she has spent a while trying to escape Elle's vortex, moving and hiding, again we are not sure why but a single phone call brings her back into Elle's world and back into that destructive sphere of influence.

I loved *My Sister* for its eloquent descriptive sense, especially of the relationship between the sisters which is difficult to grasp and even harder to hold onto. Michelle Adams brings a sense of menace to the whole story but mostly to Elle who is definitely a character I will never ever forget. Divisive, out and out scary occasionally, her loyalties questionable but unbending – it is no surprise that Irini cannot stay steady or react logically in her presence. Irini has been formed by that sense of abandonment, that inability to discover why she was discarded. Both Elle and Irini are fascinating, compelling and completely unpredictable, it is gripping gripping stuff.

The plotting is taut and effective – sitting at the heart of it, these two girls, but the multi layered mystery element is completely clever, the resolution when it comes is one of those you go away and think about for ages afterwards. *My Sister* is about family dysfunction, about parental love and security, about what you do to keep those you love safe. It is a psychological thriller with a whole heap of heart and I was agog at every page. You know how sometimes you actually talk out loud to a book while you are reading it? Ok maybe that's just me then but “*My Sister*” and I had many discussions. I could not put it down.

Flipping awesome.

Highly Recommended.

Kristy K says

2.5 Stars

I'm not sure how I feel about this one. It's billed as a thriller but not as suspenseful as I hoped. A large part of it reads as a twisted family saga with Irini trying to figure out her past and Elle manipulating everyone. I didn't really care for Irini's character, but I thought Elle was the perfect blend of crazy. The twist near the end is decent, but I didn't like the ending itself.

Karen says

Hmm, I thought that the characters were awful, the plot was a bit unbelievable and I guessed the ending

Cortney LaScola - The Bookworm, Myrtle Beach says

Wow, this book was a lot. I found myself yelling at Irini through out the book to just LEAVE. It was a good book and I think the author did a great job depicting the toxic relationship between the sisters. The big "mystery" as to why she was given away was obvious from the beginning, but there were still a lot of surprises and twists I didn't see coming. 3.5 stars
