

[PDF] The Longings Of Wayward Girls: A Novel

Karen Brown - pdf download free book

Books Details:

Title: The Longings of Wayward Girls

Author: Karen Brown

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Description:

From Publishers Weekly At the age of 13, Sadie Watkins has always been on the lookout for excitement. She and her best friend Betty fill this desire by causing mischief such as stealing their mothers' cigarettes or sending fake love letters to a neighborhood outcast, a girl who then goes missing. Flash-forward to twenty20 years later, Sadie is married and living a comfortable life as a mother to two young children and wife to an attorney, but her need for adventure still remainshas not left. When her childhood crush Ray Filley returns to town, Sadie is swept up into an affair that disrupts the lives of those around her. Details about her mother's death and the missing girl start to emerge and this is something Sadie is not quite ready to face. In her full-length -novel debut, Brown (Little Sinners and Other Stories) writes from the perspective of Sadie's past and present in alternating chapters. She seamlessly joins the events to create a story full of tension and suspense

with an ending that is unexpected. Agent: Samantha Shea, Georges Borchardt, Inc. (July)

From *Starred Review* Nine-year-old Laura Loomis disappeared from the small town of Wintonbury, Connecticut, in 1974; she was last seen walking toward home. Chilling newspaper clippings about the missing girl frame Brown's debut, which centers on imaginative 12-year-old Sadie Watkins, a Laura Loomis look-alike from the same town who is navigating the shifting landscape between childhood and adolescence. In chapters that alternate between the summer of 1979 and the early 2000s, when Sadie is grown with children of her own, long-buried secrets from the past begin to surface in the present. In 1979, Sadie and her friend Betty play a prank on a neighborhood girl named Francie, writing letters to her from an invented farmboy, who invites her to run away with him. The harmless joke is anything but, and Francie, like Laura before her, disappears. Alongside the story of the missing girls is one about mothers and daughters, and Sadie realizes much later how her flawed mother has shaped her. Brown is meticulously detailed in her description of a small New England town where neighbors host communal cookouts, and the only threat to safety is the woods lurking just beyond. Using precise language, she explores the hazy edges of memory, the gnawing desire to escape circumstance, and the pervasiveness of one neighborhood's secrets. The result is a nerve-racking, psychologically complex novel sure to haunt readers—especially those with dark secrets of their own. --Ann Kelley

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