



Elizabeth Is Missing: A Novel

By Emma Healey

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In this darkly riveting debut novel—a sophisticated psychological mystery that is also an heartbreakingly honest meditation on memory, identity, and aging—an elderly woman descending into dementia embarks on a desperate quest to find the best friend she believes has disappeared, and her search for the truth will go back decades and have shattering consequences.

Maud, an aging grandmother, is slowly losing her memory—and her grip on everyday life. Yet she refuses to forget her best friend Elizabeth, whom she is convinced is missing and in terrible danger.

But no one will listen to Maud—not her frustrated daughter, Helen, not her caretakers, not the police, and especially not Elizabeth’s mercurial son, Peter. Armed with handwritten notes she leaves for herself and an overwhelming feeling that Elizabeth needs her help, Maud resolves to discover the truth and save her beloved friend.

This singular obsession forms a cornerstone of Maud’s rapidly dissolving present. But the clues she discovers seem only to lead her deeper into her past, to another unsolved disappearance: her sister, Sukey, who vanished shortly after World War II.

As vivid memories of a tragedy that occurred more fifty years ago come flooding back, Maud discovers new momentum in her search for her friend. Could the mystery of Sukey’s disappearance hold the key to finding Elizabeth?

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Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

Starred Review Your best friend doesn't respond to calls or knocks on the door. A moving van is loaded with your friend's possessions. Your friend's son, a nasty, grasping type, seems to have taken over. You report what's going on to the police, to your daughter, to anyone who will listen. No one believes you. You hardly know whether to believe yourself since you know that your memory, lately, has gotten so bad. This is the predicament facing Maud Horsham, a woman who survived the London Blitz and is now sinking into dementia. Part of the wallop of this mystery is that a woman with declining memory and mental powers is placed in the position of detective. This adds to the urgency of her quest, since Maud is battling the condescension of her caretakers, the police, and her daughter as her faculties fade. Another part of the power of this debut novel is that Maud is the narrator; this choice of point of view gives readers a lens on the casual cruelties inflicted on the aging, especially those with dementia. Maud writes everything down, to help her remember clues about her missing friend, and she also writes down how she is treated. Maud focuses on a second mystery as well, the disappearance of her sister, Sukey, after the war. Part mystery, part meditation on memory, part Dickensian revelation of how apparent charity may hurt its recipients, this is altogether brilliant. --Connie Fletcher

Review

"[A] knockout debut.... Ms. Healey's audacious conception and formidable talent combine in a bravura performance that sustains its momentum and pathos to the last." (*Wall Street Journal*)

"Maud Horsham, the narrator of Emma Healey's spellbinding first novel...is aware that she's slipping into dementia.... It's a sad and lonely business watching your identity slowly slip away. But even at the end, Maud insists on making herself heard and understood." (*New York Times Book Review*)

"Part mystery, part meditation on memory, part Dickensian revelation of how apparent charity may hurt its recipients, this is altogether brilliant." (*Booklist* (starred review))

"A thrillingly assured, haunting and unsettling novel, I read it at a gulp." (Deborah Moggach, author of *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel*)

"*Elizabeth Is Missing* is every bit as compelling as the...hype suggests.... The novel is both a gripping detective yarn and a haunting depiction of mental illness, but also more poignant and blackly comic than you might expect." (*The Observer*, (London))

"A compelling read, *Elizabeth is Missing* offers added depth of mystery and suspense along with aptly portraying a family trying to cope with illness." (*New York Journal of Books*)

"*Elizabeth is Missing* will stir and shake you: an investigation into a seventy-year-old crime, through the eyes of the most likeably unreliable of narrators. But the real mystery at its compassionate core is the fragmentation of the human mind." (Emma Donoghue)

"Ingeniously structured and remarkably poignant.... A riveting story of friendship and loss that will have you compulsively puzzling fact from fiction as you race to the last page." (Kimberly McCreight, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Reconstructing Amelia*)

“This is no conventional crime novel but a compelling work that crosses literary genres.... The result is bold, touching and hugely memorable.” (*Sunday Times* (London))

“It is a gripping thriller, but it’s also about life and love: the love of an exasperated daughter for her mother; the love of sisters and of friends and the love I felt for Maud.” (*The Independent*, (London))

“Maud’s memory is failing, slipping further away each day. So how can she convince anyone that her best friend is truly missing?...A poignant novel of loss.” (*Kirkus Reviews*)

“This novel genuinely is one of those semi-mythical beasts, the book you cannot put down.” (Jonathan Coe, author of *The Rotter’s Club*)

“British author Healey draws on her own grandmothers’ experiences to create the distinctive narrator of her first novel... an absorbing tale.” (*Publishers Weekly*)

“A gripping mystery...this bears comparison to *A Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* and S. J. Watson’s *Before I Go to Sleep*. (*The Bookseller*, “Ones to Watch”)

“Healey is able to imagine and empathize on such a level because she’s simply a brilliant writer. Let’s hope we hear much more from her over the years.” (*BookPage*)

From the Back Cover

Maud is forgetful. She makes a cup of tea and doesn't remember to drink it. She goes to the shops and forgets why she went. Sometimes her home is unrecognizable—or her daughter, Helen, seems a total stranger.

But there's one thing Maud is sure of: her friend Elizabeth is missing. The note in her pocket tells her so. And no matter who tells her to stop going on about it, to leave it alone, to shut up, Maud will get to the bottom of it.

Because somewhere in Maud's damaged mind lies the answer to an unsolved seventy-year-old mystery. One everyone has forgotten about.

Everyone, except Maud . . .

A page-turning story of suspense, *Elizabeth Is Missing* hauntingly reminds us that we are all at the mercy of our memory. Always compelling, often poignant, and at times even blackly witty, this is an absolutely unforgettable novel.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Warren Matt:

Do you certainly one of people who can't read gratifying if the sentence chained inside straightway, hold on guys this specific aren't like that. This Elizabeth Is Missing: A Novel book is readable by you who hate the perfect word style. You will find the information here are arrange for enjoyable examining experience without leaving even decrease the knowledge that want to give to you. The writer connected with Elizabeth Is Missing: A Novel content conveys objective easily to understand by lots of people. The printed and e-

book are not different in the articles but it just different as it. So , do you still thinking Elizabeth Is Missing: A Novel is not loveable to be your top listing reading book?

Hollie Hoffman:

This book untitled Elizabeth Is Missing: A Novel to be one of several books this best seller in this year, this is because when you read this book you can get a lot of benefit into it. You will easily to buy this specific book in the book retail outlet or you can order it by way of online. The publisher of this book sells the e-book too. It makes you more easily to read this book, since you can read this book in your Mobile phone. So there is no reason for your requirements to past this reserve from your list.

Bruce Benedict:

The particular book Elizabeth Is Missing: A Novel has a lot info on it. So when you make sure to read this book you can get a lot of advantage. The book was written by the very famous author. Tom makes some research before write this book. This particular book very easy to read you may get the point easily after scanning this book.

Judith Bowman:

Many people spending their time frame by playing outside together with friends, fun activity having family or just watching TV the whole day. You can have new activity to spend your whole day by reading a book. Ugh, think reading a book will surely hard because you have to bring the book everywhere? It fine you can have the e-book, bringing everywhere you want in your Touch screen phone. Like Elizabeth Is Missing: A Novel which is keeping the e-book version. So , why not try out this book? Let's see.

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