



The Silence of the Sea

Yrsa Sigurðardóttir

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The most chilling novel yet from Yrsa Sigurdardottir, an international bestseller at the height of her powers.

'Mummy dead.'

The child's pure treble was uncomfortably clear. It was the last thing Brynjar - and doubtless the others - wanted to hear at that moment. 'Daddy dead.' It got worse. 'Adda dead. Bygga dead.' The child sighed and clutched her grandmother's leg. 'All dead.'

A luxury yacht arrives in Reykjavik harbour with nobody on board. What has happened to the crew, and to the family who were on board when it left Lisbon?

Thora Gudmundsdottir is hired by the young father's parents to investigate, and is soon drawn deeper into the mystery. What should she make of the rumours saying that the vessel was cursed, especially given that when she boards the yacht she thinks she sees one of the missing twins? Where is Karitas, the glamorous young wife of the yacht's former owner? And whose is the body that has washed up further along the shore?

The Silence of the Sea Details

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From Reader Review The Silence of the Sea for online ebook

Diane S ? says

A luxury yacht, repossessed from its crooked wealthy owner sails from Lisbon to Iceland. On the dock waiting is an older couple and small child, they are waiting form the rest of the family. But when the yacht arrives it is empty, no people, no apparent bodies. Thora is hired by the older couple to collect on the large life insurance policy, the money to be put aside form the smallest daughter, the one considered to young to make the trip. What could have happened and where are the seven people who should have been on the yacht? Reminds me of And then there were none, but of course there is always one but is it human or not of this world?

Very slow paced story, alternately narrated by Thora as she investigates and the story of those that started out on the yacht. Clues abound, discoveries made and eventually the truth is known. Creepy, chilling and not just the weather, and though I was impatient at first with the pace I soon melded with the story and loved it.

ARC from Netgalley.

Ana Fernandes says

Yrsa tem o dom de me deixar de boca aberta...

Depois de ler "Lembro-me de ti", k conseguiu até me assustar, estava à espera de algo do género neste livro... mas isso n aconteceu... Ok... há partes k nos faz correr um friozinho pela espinha...

É um policial sombrio envolto num grd mistério que nos deixa em suspense até à última página.

3,5??(pq estava à espera de algo ainda mais sombrio)

Pamela says

Sadly thrilling

This is a chilling story, told adroitly by its author. Written in a fashion that generates curiosity and fear, it lives up to its title as a thriller. To this reader's mind, none of the characters are very likable, although Thóra, who investigates, has some compassion for those who are affected by the death of their family members. How Thóra solved the mystery is a bit of a mystery, as the solution is nearly as confusing as the mystery itself! I seldom have criticism for the arc of any story, because I am not its creator, but I found this one to be uncomfortable and odd.

All the characters, good and bad, seemed to have unexplainable shifts in their character. Not much is revealed about Thóra's mystery-solving processes until she is accusing or confronting others. The characters lack a certain mesh with their reality as the author expressed it. So, to me, this story became a "cheap thrill" at the expense of the terror and sadness of the more sympathetic characters.

Denise says

4.0 out of 5 stars -- Complex and intense mystery, the latest in the Thóra Gudmundsdóttir series (#6).

The chilling opening of this suspense novel by the "Queen of Nordic Noir" quickly sets the mood for this well plotted tale. A luxury yacht that is supposed to have 7 persons on board crashes into the pier in Reykjavik Harbor. A family of four (husband, wife and twin daughters) and 3 crew are missing from the yacht. There is no evidence of foul play and no clues as to what might have happened. Thóra Gudmundsdóttir gets involved when the parents of the missing husband (who have been keeping the youngest daughter while the rest of the family was on the cruise) ask her to help them sort out the life insurance. Thóra needs to prove that the missing husband and wife are dead in order for them to collect the money.

This is a very complicated mystery and the narration shifts in time and person from the point of view of what is occurring on the yacht out in the ocean and Thóra's investigation back in Reykjavik . It is methodical and slow in some parts, but the reader is guessing wildly as to what happened on the yacht and why there is no one on board as the clues come to light. The revelations at the very end are surprising and very satisfying. No spoilers!

I love this series. I'm waiting for #3 and #4 so that I can be up-to-date having just finished this one, the most recent. I like the main character a lot and the writing style. There wasn't much of Matthew Reich in this book, and that's fine by me. I'm looking forward to reading #7 whenever it's written.

Thank you to NetGalley and St. Martin's Press for the e-book ARC to review.

Andy says

Book 6 of the Thora series which has been a long hiatus for me since my last venture with Yrsa. It's not always been a smooth ride with some of the stories a bit of a grind.... those with her German b/f in tow to be precise but seeing as it looks to be the last in the series I thought to finish it off.

So a Mary Celeste style mystery it is as we start with a ghost (luxury Yacht) ship running into Reykjavik harbour..... The story starts with Thora being hired to investigate whilst a story also runs concurrent (alternate chapters) with the crew/passengers onboard ship from the start of their voyage..... the stories converge... mystery solved then.....? Had me floundering with my guesses right to the end with suspect after suspect being the next victim!

Quite engrossing tbh.... I don't as a rule follow many female authors..... but have come to like Yrsa style for the most part (except where her German boyfriend is involved.....!) as its more about the mystery & less about her personnel/family problems which has been my experience with other female authors to date (Anne Holt a case example) which I jus can't relate too. Bella, Thora's secretary features more in this one as well which is good & preferable to the books where her b/f is working with her..... you may have picked up on the dislike of her b/f vibe..... its not a cultural thing its jus her inane/banal interactions with him..... so this tale is one of the better ones fro me & really enjoyed it.

A ghost of a tale ? 4 stars in what appears to be the last of her series about Thora? Or perhaps she's taking a

break to explore other series?

Trish says

This has a very cool premise and neat characters. However, I found it had too many words. I adore this kind of scary mystery and Sigurðardóttir may have managed it further on in pages that surround readers like the endless ocean outside the yacht. Only I would not see it because I would be dead already.

Jaksen says

I loved the set-up of this one, a little disappointed in how it plays out.

Thora, the MC, a PI, is asked to look into the whereabouts of a missing family who were sailing to to Iceland via a private luxury cruiser. Said cruiser enters (bangs into a jetty) in Reykjavik harbor minus crew and passengers, ie., the family: mother, father, nine-year old twin girls. Somehow, after just reading this part of the book I got a funny feeling that all might not end well...

No spoilers here, just a sense of 'oh, no, not good' which hangs over the entire book. I read this book during some torrential downpours - Patriots' Day, Boston - and as my husband was alternating between marathon news and some old zombie flick on TV. Needless to say, the atmosphere in my house was one of doom, doom and more doom: it's three o'clock in the afternoon and as dark outside as night. Really, our street lights came on. Anyhow...

Half the story is Thora's, as she tries to uncover where this family is, what happened and how - she interviews a former crew member of the ship, the parents of the missing father, and anyone she can who has a link to the ship, its past owners, etc. So for her, it's a book about running from place to place, looking for leads, and as one other reviewer said: Thora does nothing more than a lot of paperwork.

The other half focuses on the family: mother, father, twins, and the three crew members (they are returning the ship to Iceland from Portugal), and what is happening on the ship. Much of what we see, as readers, Thora will never know, not even at the book's end. And for me, there were some gaping holes - or things I just didn't 'get.'

So I re-read the last few chapters, saying what? how? where? Few other reviewers noted any of this, so it's got to be me. But I really do feel this book was rather rushed at the end, and not 'contrived' so much as - hey! I need more explanation here! Almost like I wanted one more chapter where Thora sits down with coffee and explains it all, say, to her own husband or something. Even though I'm a great reader of mysteries - and mystery series - sometimes I need things SPELLED OUT!

So in the Thora-mystery series, a decent, yet not exemplary three stars, even though I am looking forward to the next one by Ms. Sigurdardottir. :D

Paulo Pires says

« Um iate de luxo parte de Lisboa com 7 passageiros e chega à marina de ReiQuiavique sem ninguém! O que terá acontecido? Thóra, a advogada contratada para accionar o seguro de vida de dois dos passageiros, AEgir e Lara, começa a investigar a verdadeira razão daquele evento misterioso. Mas como provar que alguém morreu se não há corpos?

Yrsa Sigurdardóttir, é para mim uma autora especial. Exímia na arte de surpreender e chocar o leitor deste a primeira à última página. Julgo que o seu poder está na camuflada intensidade das suas palavras. Na flexibilidade e facilidade que tem em recorrer a uma linguagem marcante e incisiva, de uma forma fluída, equilibrada e de astuciosa perícia.

Sempre que leio um livro de Yrsa, ofereço-lhe um olhar atento, atempado e cuidado, pois a sua escrita é das poucas que tem o condão de me conseguir afectar!

Considero a sua escrita profundamente emocional, uma vez que nos compele a abandonar a parte racional, invocando e despertando os nossos instintos naturais. É das únicas autoras que me consegue arrepiar, e isto de uma forma tão subtil que me leva a desarmar e entregar à sua história sem qualquer resistência.

Lembra-me o título de uma conhecida canção de Britney Spears: "Oops!...(She) Did It Again". :)

As 444 páginas, mantêm o leitor literalmente à deriva, uma vez que não (...)

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Opinião: O Silêncio do Mar de Yrsa Sigurdardóttir |Livros e Marcadores

Vera Brandão says

<http://verovsky-meninadospoliciais.bl...>

Richard says

This is a truly creepy book much of which is set on a yacht sailing from Lisbon to Iceland. This is told in parallel with the investigation into what happened to the passengers and crew aboard when the boat crashes into Reykjavik harbour with no-one on board.

These two accounts make for an intriguing mystery which perhaps knowing the fate and thinking the worse makes for uncomfortable reading at times. It is quite like the best of Agatha Christie's "And Then There Were None ", with the hapless people seemingly trapped on a luxury yacht where you are mystified as to what is going on as it slowly dawns on you that you might not make it home.

The author is able to crank up the suspense as the 'truth' is slowly revealed. Thora trying to make a case for all hands lost at sea so the elderly parents of the passengers and their grandchildren can plan for providing for the youngest granddaughter left as an orphan. The Police belatedly take a keener interest when another ship reports that the yacht radioed that a body had been found aboard before all communications were lost

with the stricken vessel.

The question is it an unexplained mystery like the Mary Celeste or is there a more rational explanation for what went on and if there could be survivors somewhere.

Original in its plot, and tied as usual to the Icelandic economy, although it is not set very much in the country some of its superstitions are carried into this terrifying tale.

Jeanette says

Intense noir Icelandic to the max!

Although I adore Thora and Bella - especially that dynamic of boss/ worker- I like it more when Matthew is in the mix. This time, it is less Thora's family and more her work. As a lawyer she is in the case of legal procedure to declare a couple deceased so that their daughter may inherit.

Frankly, I was shocked at the fact that in Iceland, the government declares that children who are orphaned become dictates of the state. All regard decided by the "authority". Grandparents of age (over retirement) are "too old" to be their residential guardians regardless of their own desires to do so. And people put up with that and feel lucky to receive visitation rights. APPALLING!

But that is one of the issues Thora has at the center of her crux on this case.

The rest of the story is how this little girl is left the only one standing. It's quite a match to the Agatha Christie "Then There Were None".

Up to page 250 I would have given it a full 4.5. But the ending didn't satisfy, IMHO. And therefore it is a 3.5 star rounded up for the excellent Thora thought pattern and sequence of deductions.

Remind me never, ever to take a ship/boat or any other floating device upon the Northern Atlantic.

Yrsa can write. Thora is a keeper. Bella is the iconic bureaucrat. Hopefully their next escapade will not be so noir and of a much lighter nature. And I hope Thora's son gets off that oil rig near Norway and makes it back to Iceland.

Carol Peace says

Wow, I really enjoyed the book and definately a 5* read. I was lucky to get this as a first read winner and I am so pleased. The book makes me feel as though I was on board the yacht, sea sickness and all. When the boat arrive at Reykjavic harbour with no-one on board the police are mystified. What had happened to the crew and family that left Lisbon. The family's parents are looking after their youngest daughter and are worried at what will happen to her now they can't be found. They are too old to be granted custody of her so they go to a lawyer to find out what will happen, Thora Gudmundsor looks into the case for them. She is the mainstay of the book and because she isn't police it seems she has easier access to things. Where did the parents and 2 young girls go to? what happened to the crew? I was totally involved with the book and didn't

see the twist coming. I found myself getting very emotional and didn't even realise I was holding my breath until it ended.

Sonia Cristina says

4,5 estrelas

Para mim, o melhor trabalho de Yrsa Sigurdardóttir, terminando assim a série da Thóra. A partir de meio do livro fiquei completamente agarrada ao livro tal o suspense provocado pelo enredo. Foi uma excelente ideia intercalar intervalos do que acontecia no barco com a investigação depois do barco vazio chegar ao porto. À medida que as pessoas no barco iam morrendo e os conhecimentos que os leitores adquiriam com outras revelações sabidas pelos capítulos do "depois" foram provocando um aumento de ansiedade em saber de tudo. As gémeas, com apenas 8 anos, é que era a parte mais difícil de saber...

No final só fiquei mais desiludida com a forma como tudo é revelado ao leitor: (view spoiler)

Para fim de série também teria ficado bem uma coisa mais arranjada no que se refere à Thóra. (view spoiler) É como se não estivesse planeado que este fosse o último livro da série, que viesse mais livros a seguir.

Kari says

I found this boring and the story felt like it was dragged out to breaking point. Where was the chilling, creepy, crime mystery? People disappear from a boat, lets spend over 500 pages taking you through their entire paranoid voyage whilst also following a lawyer as she proves how great she is at collecting various bits of paper from people. Yes, apparently the lawyer is trying to solve the mystery but in reality she is visiting various people in the company of her wholly unbelievable receptionist as she tries to get an insurance company to cough up the policy money for the family missing from the boat. Oh and the ending - are you kidding me? That was so completely unbelievable, saccharine and ever so slightly nauseating that is tipped me over the edge from general apathy to actual dislike for the book. I didn't expect this book to be life changing but I was hoping for a decent read.

Laura Rash says

Agonizingly slow mystery that leads to a bitter ending. Not my thing.
