



# The Family at Number 13

*S.D. Monaghan*

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## **The Family at Number 13** S.D. Monaghan

The most perfect lives can hide the darkest secrets...

**Mary** has everything. Beautiful and rich, she lives on an exclusive street in the heart of the city, in a house with gorgeous views and an immaculately maintained garden. Her life looks perfect.

But behind closed doors the truth is very different. Her husband **Andrew** barely speaks to her, spending his days down in the basement alone. Her teenage nephew is full of rage, lashing out with no warning. Her carefully constructed life is beginning to fall apart.

And then someone starts sending Mary anonymous notes, threatening her and her family...

Everyone has secrets. But is someone at number 13 hiding something that could put the whole family in danger?

## **The Family at Number 13 Details**

Date : Published April 27th 2018 by Bookouture

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Author : S.D. Monaghan

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Genre : Thriller, Psychological Thriller

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# From Reader Review The Family at Number 13 for online ebook

## Malia says

Ugh, I really hate giving bad reviews, but wow, this was a bad book! The only reason it gets two and not one star is because I actually finished it, so there had to have been a tiny, remarkably elusive fragment of something intriguing. I don't want to harp on, but when giving a negative review, I have the need to explain why this did not work for me. I felt very quickly that the characters were all quite weird - which does not have to be a bad thing, I might add - but in this book weird translated as stiff and akin to terrible actors in a soap opera. The dialogue was stilted and unnatural, the plot dragged on and on, and was remarkably unspectacular when the conclusion FINALLY arrived. To be honest, I found myself at the end thinking, why did I even finish this? But I did, and thus I feel I am entitled to an opinion, even if it is unfavorable. I wish I could have loved this and it had been as "gripping" as the title suggests, for me, however, it was a waste of time.

Find more reviews and bookish fun at <http://www.princessandpen.com>

Thanks to Netgalley for supplying me with a copy of The Good Twin in exchange for an honest review.

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## Dash fan says

3? A Twisting Drama.

The Family at Number 13 is a twisting thriller.

This is a story about a flawed family with secrets hidden.

A husband and wife barely connecting and marriage hanging on by a thread.

A nephew with difficulties and aggression.

A new neighbour has moved in. But little does he know he is a pawn in a dangerous game with his ex client. You see he is a therapist and his client was getting too close. So he stops all contact ending the session in an aggressive argument.

His client is aware he is about to be made homeless so he finds a way to get his estate agent to cut a deal drawing him in closer than he knows.

Moving into his new house manipulated by his client. He takes the deal unbeknown to him that his client lives behind him and he can see his every move.

I enjoyed this story but I found that it dragged in places and I got a little confused.

The therapy sessions were drawn out and at times didn't feel relevant to the plot.

The characters though were well thought out and deeply flawed. Each adding a vital part in this complex story. None of them was particularly likeable or relatable. But I think that was the point. You wasn't meant to like them.

Overall this was a good read but just wasn't for me. I didn't feel that it was necessarily a thriller it felt more like a drama. It lacked the suspense I crave from my thrillers.

I do believe that if you enjoy a thriller that has lots of stories entwined then you will enjoy this book.

Thank you to Bookouture for this copy which I reviewed honestly and voluntarily.

My Review is also on my blog website:

<https://dashfan81.blogspot.com/2018/0...>

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### **Megan Johnson says**

This book was a journey - not a bad one - but a journey nonetheless. I thought the beginning was solid. It had a great set up where I felt like I was getting to know the characters, then they threw in a conflict via the neighbors. But somewhere in the middle it fell flat and I kept wondering if I should just give it up. I'm ultimately glad I decided to stick with it as the ending was pretty good, but if you choose to pick it up know that the pacing gets a bit lethargic about midway through.

If I had to sum up this book in one thought, it'd be that despite it being sometimes overly predictable and cliched, there were still moments where I was asking, "huh?" It's not that it's badly written, you could just tell that you were being set up for a twist of some sort because things didn't really line up or make sense. Again, not a bad thing, it just added to the level of predictability.

**Should you buy it?:** When this book publishes, I honestly can't tell you if it's going to be a huge hit or not - it's straddling that line for me. I think it's worth checking out, for sure. But would I rush out on pub-day to grab a copy? Probably not.

**\*\*Thank you to netgalley for providing me with a free copy of this book to review. These circumstances did not influence my views or this review in any way.\*\***

WEBSITE | TWITTER | FACEBOOK | INSTAGRAM

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### **Kristina Nowell says**

I received an advanced readers copy of *The Family At Number 13* in return for my honest opinion, so brace yourselves, because an honest opinion is exactly what you will get.

This book has been one of the top 3 hardest books to get through for me, in my whole life. Why you ask? Because of its incredibly and unnecessarily LONG chapters and it's very humdrum story line.

Upon completion of this book, I IMMEDIATELY went and deleted "The Accident", another book by the same author, from ALL of my wishlists and TBR lists. I cannot put myself through this agony once more. Cannot.

What started out as a very confusing first few pages that had disorganized ideas flowing through them, began a very brisk spiraling descent into what I can only refer to as the gutter.

The story centered around a horrible psychiatrist, 2 rich couples and a poor understanding of religion. Throughout the novel you'll stumble upon lines such as "Oh wow, I think I just had a money-gasm. So the milky bars are on you? I'll have to start charging you rent." Which honestly made me wonder what in the actual hell this book was even about anymore.

There were entirely TOO MANY confusing themes going on throughout all 310 pages. Ranging from being a story about the spoiled rich, to a story about super sexual frustration, then somehow moving on to a story about coming out and concluding on masochism. I honestly didn't know what else to expect after I'd finish the 6483950 page chapter because it seemed like the author was literally throwing a little bit of everything in there. We had rape, religion, money, animals getting hurt, stalking, murder, psychotic breaks, mental institutions, threats, you name it.

Had there been only 1-3 themes going throughout the book, and had there not been over 100 pages worth of absolute time wasting garbage, perhaps the book would have been more tolerable.

I honestly cannot even begin to fathom how some people enjoyed this atrocity.

I should have listened to the other reviewers and just stopped reading it, but of course, me being so stubborn, I had to read it in its entirety because I was hopeful that they were wrong and that this book would be some literary masterpiece.

Absolutely nothing about this novel hooked me in and there were no "gripping psychological thriller"-esque twists throughout the whole book. At all.

I am beyond disappointed and had I not read this book on a kindle format, I would have used it to feed the flame of my ever burning heart and my fireplace along with Into The Water by Paula Hawkins which was another disaster all on its own.

Special thanks to NetGalley for providing this book in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Tiffany Foskey says**

Ok The Family at Number 13 is just not my kind of book. I thought it was gonna be a really good thriller but i just could not get into the story. The people in the story all physcho analyze each other constantly. We have a therapist who moves into the neighborhood and immediately his fellow neighbors involve him in their lives which i found a little weird. They were like accusing him of writing some vicious letter his 1st or 2nd day there when he doesn't even know the people the letter was sent to. Then we have a wife who's ex army husband is a aggressive pyscho bully and they are taking care of their really weird nephew. Some of you might like it but I'm sorry. I just couldn't like it.

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### **Zoe Mann says**

'The family at Number 13' by S.D Monaghan had so much potential but left me disappointed and baffled.

My main issue is the main character Connor. For some reason he is the focus of the story but all the drama and excitement is happening elsewhere. His story and character didn't add any purpose or value to the story

and instead irritated me as he just got in the way. I wish more time was spent on other characters traits and their backgrounds. If the story didn't involve Connor and included more detail about the others it would easily of been a 5 star read for me as the revelations and secrets of everyone else's lives were fascinating and shocking, unfortunately Connors character dragged the story down and made it messy and boring.

Thank you to Netgalley for the free ARC in return for an honest review. I will read S.D Monaghan again as I enjoyed aspects of 'The family at Number 13' but I would not recommend this novel.

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### **OutlawPoet says**

Oh, this is quite a messy book.

There are info dumps and every single character – every last one of them – has so much chaos going on in their lives that it gets thoroughly confusing. Even random neighbors who have little to do with anything seem to have chaos and drama.

Imagine one of those Who's Your Daddy talk shows where everyone is yelling and throwing things and acting completely trashy. Now, take it out of the sound stage and into some houses and...welcome to the neighborhood!

Not all of the drama is logical. I'm still confused why one particular character made a certain decision. Just for the drama of it?

By the end of the book, I was very confused, very sad, and just a bit dizzy.

No, I didn't really like this one. I read it. I finished it. But I did not like it.

\*ARC Provided via Net Galley

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### **Shalini says**

I wanted a book which would grip me from the beginning to the end and distract me away from the realities of life but unfortunately, this book could not do the trick.

I picked up this book due to the cover; there is something so intriguing about it. This was one of the slow starts which showed the darker side of people, their actions and its after-effects .

The story goes thus, Connor a therapist finds a new home in an elite neighborhood and starts his practice from home, but his clients soon turn out to be one different than the next. The story is told in Connor and neighbour Mary's POV. There are other characters like the crazy nephew and the silent husband, all of them equally unlikable.

Every single character was described in such minute detail that they added nothing to the story but just

diluted everything from the plot. The pace was so slow that the initial parts felt like the cryptic clues of the Sunday newspaper crossword. There was a lot of information which just added to the pages, not to the story.

I skimmed through the book till I reached the end. Done with it, no DNF so far for 2018

I received an ARC from NetGalley and publisher Bookouture, and this is my honest and unbiased opinion.

This book is for readers who like a slow burner of a dark drama.

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## **Brina (Brina and the Books) says**

### **1 Star**

Read this and other reviews here: [5171 Miles Book Blog](#)

**\*\*I received a copy from NetGalley in an exchange for an honest review.\*\***

First of all, the idea of this novel was interesting enough or I wouldn't have picked it up. But what Monaghan made out of this idea was simply bad and utterly confusing.

Although it seemed that the blurb promised an alternating POV between Mary and Andrew, what the reader got was an alternating POV between Mary and her new neighbor Connor. So why was Andrew mentioned in the blurb and why was his name highlighted there when he only played a secondary character at best?

Besides those two, Monaghan introduced four more characters: three adults, including Andrew, and Mary's seventeen-year-old nephew. The dynamic they all had going on was terrible. Everyone resented the other and everyone blamed each other for their mistakes. There was no love lost between either of the characters.

Besides them hating each other, all of them were crazy and had major personal issues to deal with. It was not really pleasant to read about. I go as far as to say that I didn't care for either of those characters and this rarely happens to me.

I didn't only not care for the characters, I also didn't care about the story. The beginning was intriguing but I quickly lost interest. The characters were mostly talking about mundane and dull things which made me skip parts of their monologues and conversations. Another thing they did in their conversations was yell at each other - constantly. I still can't fathom how much hate and dislike was conveyed through this novel. I also lost count of how many times someone dropped the f-bomb.

The secrets that were revealed throughout the story were brilliantly plotted either. Some of them were quite shocking but they didn't made me gasp or hold my breath.

To me, The Family at No. 13 was not a thriller, it was merley a poorly written drama with no suspense or build-up whatsoever which is why I can only give it a 1 star rating.

I'm pretty sure that this novel was the last one I read by this author.

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I can't believe I finished this!! \*insert face palm emoji here\*

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## **Maya says**

Beautiful, intelligent and wealthy, Mary seems to have it all but what's happening behind closed doors is what makes her story worth telling.

Sounds like an excerpt of many mystery thriller books we seem to read these days but what makes it stand out is that Mr. Monaghan is so clearly expanding the existing norm of this genre, pushing the boundaries with his unique voice which leaves me nothing less than impressed and for that alone i add an additional star to my rating.

This is not just another mystery full of twists just for the sake of it, it's an insightful and a beautifully written tale of a family so broken beyond repair.

I was drawn into their lives from the very first page thanks to author's incredible way with words, it made me care.

This wasn't a typical thrilling whodunnit type of book, instead it was slow paced in a best possible way. To quote Mr. Monaghan "Power was always more effective when it was quiet."

I received this book from the publisher via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

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## **Sandy \*The world could end while I was reading and I would never notice\* says**

EXCERPT: I just love these family get-togethers. So much shared history. So many happy memories. You're all such open books. No resentments. No secrets. All light and day. I love you both. I love being here. I can't for the life of me think why Mum hates you, Aunt Mary. And it seems Brona does too. Silly Brona - doesn't she know how to play this game?

ABOUT THIS BOOK: The most perfect lives can hide the darkest secrets...

Mary has everything. Beautiful and rich, she lives on an exclusive street in the heart of the city, in a house with gorgeous views and an immaculately maintained garden. Her life looks perfect.

But behind closed doors the truth is very different. Her husband Andrew barely speaks to her, spending his days down in the basement alone. Her teenage nephew is full of rage, lashing out with no warning. Her carefully constructed life is beginning to fall apart.

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MY THOUGHTS: After reading something like this, I thank God I never had sisters. S. D. Monaghan has captured the bitchy rivalry, the love hate relationship between these three sisters with an amazing accuracy. I recall seeing exactly these same dynamics, these same psychological games being played out between friends and their sisters and indeed they continue with them still, albeit on a more subtle level. But while these three may profess to hate one another, an emotion covered by the thin veneer of civility, there is still that belief, that hope, that deep down they still love one another and have one another's backs.

The fact that there are three sisters adds a whole nother dimension to the dynamics. For these three can never form an equilateral triangle, although each of them feels hard done by, resentful and/ or envious of the others



and, at some point, left out. And each of them harbors a secret. Is it the same secret? Or is one secret somewhat deadlier than the others? A secret that just may drive one of them to the edge of insanity.

Add into this mix a supporting cast of less than reliable men with their own set of problems, including a highly intelligent but equally unstable teenager, and you have all the ingredients for a compelling page turner.

I liked this clever psychological-thriller. None of the characters are particularly likeable, captivating but definitely not likeable. Monaghan keeps the unpredictable plot moving along at a mostly good pace and throws in a few curve balls for good measure. I was never quite sure where this book was heading and there was enough mystery and suspense to keep me turning the pages late into the night.

Thank you to Bookouture via Netgalley for providing a digital copy of *The Family at Number Thirteen* by S. D. Monaghan for review. All opinions expressed in this review are entirely my own personal opinions.

Please refer to my Goodreads.com profile page or the 'about' page on [sandysbookaday.wordpress.com](https://sandysbookaday.wordpress.com) for an explanation of my rating system.

This review and others are also published on my blog [sandysbookaday.wordpress.com](https://sandysbookaday.wordpress.com)  
[https://sandysbookaday.wordpress.com/...](https://sandysbookaday.wordpress.com/)

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## **Maxine (Booklover Catlady) says**

### **A Twisted and stunning novel!**

Wow! Silly me. I thought I had guessed the plot early on. Don't be as foolish as me. This is super brilliant mix of good story telling, complex damaged characters and twists thanked my mind.

From page one I was psychologically hooked. I knew this was an intelligent and entertaining novel. It weaves its path as you walk along uncertain of outcomes. Each chapter throws up new things to consider and wonder. It's every twisted novel fanatics dream.

All the characters are written brilliantly. All shine in their own way. The way they interact is intriguing and nothing is as it seems. I fluctuated often on how I saw each person. No perfect characters here! Damaged is an understatement.

I loved this. The ending was unexpected and one of the most original endings I've read in 2018. This is a writer to take notice of. From page one to the last I got it all wrong. An author hooked me then kept me high on my toes. Don't go past this novel. It's something different, sleeker than many psychological books I've read (a lot). 5 huge stars and a standing ovation from Booklover Catlady.

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## **Berit??? says**

**3.75 Dysfunctional Stars ???75**

Well, this is the week of unlikable characters.... another book filled with people I would not want to spend the day with or probably even an hour with, but somehow I found them quite compelling... and what I have learned this week from this book and another I read that was slightly similar... is if you cannot afford to live in a house and they are happy to give it to you... something is wrong! So yes if things are too good to be true, they probably are....

Connor needs to find a new place to live, and quickly.... so when a lovely bungalow in an elite neighborhood becomes available, he cannot believe how lucky he is to have snapped it up.... Connor is a therapist and intends on seeing his patients in the perfect office in his new home.... and everything is perfect until his first patient arrives and the neighbor kid starts jumping on his trampoline and creating quite the ruckus, causing that session to end prematurely.... turns out the neighbor kid is a teenager with some serious issues, most of them loud.... also turns out that one of his ex patients with a grudge is now one of his new neighbors... coincidence?

Everyone in this book was a serious hot mess.... they all needed some serious therapy and not from Connor.... not even sure how I would classify this book, perhaps as a family drama with a few twists... admittedly it took me a little while to get into this book, but once I did I was hooked.... really wanted to figure out what made these people tick.... and why was everyone so hostile towards one another....

I do recognize this book will not be for everybody... there is a very dark undercurrent to it.... it really shows the ugly side of humanity, and the consequences of that.... if you are looking for an uplifting feel good book, this is not your book... but if you are in the mood for a compelling read with some pretty gritty characters, I'd recommend....

\*\*\* thank you too Bookouture and Net Galley for a copy of this book \*\*\*

PS: this really has nothing to do with the book, but it was something that bothered me for some unknown reason... The author referred to a few things as being North American, such as a North American facial expression.... I live about two hours away from the border between the US and Mexico, and I can tell you they're probably very few facial expressions we share.... I almost felt as though Mexico was forgot to be part of North America.... when some of these statements were made.... but this could just be because I am someone in America who lives close to Mexico and knows there is a pretty big difference..... no biggie it was just something I noticed and really have never heard before....?????

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## **Ella Star says**

The core of all families is an ugly thing – rotten with the disappointments, the disgust.

*TW: animal, child abuse (this is what I'm sensitive about, so I thought I'd include the trigger warning for anyone who's also bothered by it).*

I am quite surprised by all the bad reviews this book has been getting. I definitely had some issues with it, but all in all I really enjoyed the ride and I would give it a full 4 stars!

This book would have benefited (I think) from another round of editing. Not because of grammatical errors but because there was so much jammed into it, so much information, so many stories, so much drama. I think it should have been a little bit longer because the length it's currently at meant it had to condense a lot of the info.

But saying that, I thought TFAN13 was really well-done, explored the psyche of different characters that were frighteningly accurate, and dealt with issues I hadn't seen in thrillers before. It was very compelling, I was eager to turn the page, and I really enjoyed the story. The editing problem didn't bother me enough to take more than a star off the rating. I don't regret reading this at all.

Would I read the author again? Yes, and I've already added his other book to my Goodreads TBR. I'll probably pick it up soon, as I'm excited to see what else he has written.

***Would recommend for: fans of domestic noir! If you like Shari Lapena's books, you might enjoy this. If you enjoyed this book, I would also recommend The Girl Before by JP Delaney.***

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## **Eva says**

When Connor moves house, he finds himself living next door to the family at number 13. Soon, he will regret this rash decision and find himself caught up in a sticky web of family secrets. Because his neighbours may look like they have it all but behind closed doors things are very different. Somehow, Connor finds himself right in the middle of something he wishes he'd never been a part of.

The first part of the story admittedly left me a little confused along the way. There seemed to be a lot of sort of cryptic information being thrown my way that I couldn't quite wrap my head around. But there is something immensely compelling about the author's writing that urged me to keep on reading. Luckily for me, it all did begin to make sense at some point. I'd like to assume that was the author's intention and not that I'm just slow on the uptake. ?

This isn't your typical psychological thriller. In fact, I rather struggle with calling it that at all. Suspenseful, yes. Maybe more drama than thriller? I don't know. It's quite deep and incredibly character driven. As such, the pace is rather on the slow side. Sure, there are some twists but they feel like natural events and aren't intended to dazzle you. Not that that's a bad thing, mind you.

For the most part, we find ourselves digging deep into the complicated dynamics of Mary's family at number 13. Something amongst the many skeletons in the cupboards causes a major event which the book starts off with, but the who or the why remains a mystery. (Looks like I'm doing the cryptic thing myself now. Sorry.) One I was utterly unable to figure out at all and almost made my jaw hit the floor when it was finally revealed. There are a ton of heartbreaking secrets and certain characters' attitudes have affected people over the years and the resentment runs deep. The past can have a huge effect on someone and if not dealt with properly, will always come back to haunt you.

Pretty much all the characters are unlikeable, flawed and damaged. I found myself unable to connect to any of them. However, once you get to know them better, it's obvious why they act the way they do. Minor exception : Finn. Obviously a troubled seventeen year old with some issues but also someone who has no filter whatsoever and made me chuckle with his often immensely inappropriate remarks.

Normally, I prefer stories to be faster paced and with a bit more “oomph” to them. Nevertheless, this is a cleverly written and gripping plot and I enjoyed figuring out the pieces of this damaged family puzzle.

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