



## Unwept

*Tracy Hickman , Laura Hickman*

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## **Unwept** Tracy Hickman , Laura Hickman

Gamin, Maine, is a remote seaside town where everyone seems to know Ellis Harkington better than she knows herself—but she doesn't remember any of them.

Unknown events have robbed Ellis of her memory. Concerned individuals, who purport to be her friends and loved ones, insist that she simply needs to recuperate, that her memories may return in time, but refuse to divulge what has brought her to this state. For her own sake, so they say.

Ellis finds herself adrift in a town of ominous mysteries, cryptic hints, and disturbingly familiar strangers. The Nightbirds, a clique of fashionable young men and women, claim her as one of their own, but who among them can she truly trust? And what of the phantom suitor who visits her in her dreams? Is he a memory, a figment of her imagination, or a living nightmare beyond rational explanation?

Only her lost past hold the answers she seeks—if she can uncover its secrets before she fall prey to an unearthly killer.

## **Unwept Details**

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Author : Tracy Hickman , Laura Hickman

Format : Hardcover 272 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Paranormal, Mystery, Young Adult, Fiction, Romance, Did Not Finish

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**Download and Read Free Online Unwept Tracy Hickman , Laura Hickman**

## From Reader Review Unwept for online ebook

### Kelley says

2.5 stars

When I first started reading Unwept, I thought to myself, "What the heck is going on?" -- and I have to admit that this mystery factor was the driving force that kept me reading. I was unsure what kind of story this was going to be, and my guesses kept changing as new things happened (all without any explanations, somehow). By the end of this novel, I was still wondering what the heck was going on, and so I found myself rather frustrated. Confusion reigns supreme in this novel, which would have been fine if I'd gotten more of an answer by the end of this book. As it stands, I don't know that I'll continue the series.

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### Lisa says

I really put this at about 2.5 stars.

Sometimes I'm in the mood for something different from my normal reads, something outside of the books I know are telling stories I want to hear in a style that I enjoy. Sometimes this results in a huge payoff as I read and enjoy something quite different. So, I will admit this is the mindset I was in when I decided to read Unwept. That, plus the gorgeous cover.

The story intrigued me. A girl wakes up with complete amnesia, remembering nothing before a train ride that has brought her to be reunited with her friends and life from before her "accident" (whatever that may have been) that resulted in her memory loss. Imagine suddenly becoming aware of everything and everyone around you with no recognition or familiarity. A part of you has to ask if you should trust these people. That was my hook. The potential for a story that makes you question everything and everyone. What if these are not her friends? What caused her memory loss? What other possibilities exist? Those questions are why I chose this book. There could be some seriously suspenseful creepy things going on, and so I wanted to find out.

I did find some of this with Unwept. We do wonder about this strange place she has awoken to. There are no children, the rules seem more lax and there is just something odd about the place and the people. You definitely can tell that this is not just a simple case of amnesia. But I also found some of the story terribly predictable. And the writing style is just one that tends to not work for me. I hate to say its "too YA" because YA can mean various things depending on who you are talking to, and there are so many different styles represented within it. It also makes it sound like an insult, which I would never want to do. There are some phenomenal YA books out there. But, I feel this was too typical of the common YA that most people think of when they hear the label. There's an audience for those books, it just doesn't typically include me. There's nothing wrong with that and there are plenty of books I read that other readers would feel the same way about. It just comes down to different styles for different readers. I knew this book was going to be a bit of a gamble for me. And while I enjoyed the premise, I just never was as drawn in as I had hoped. I may have been just looking for more of a horror story than this turned out to be. And I can't fault a book for not being something its not.

It is quite a quick read, which in my case was a good thing. I may not have finished it otherwise. But, I was

curious enough to see if my suspicions were correct to read on to the end. I guess I am glad I did, because now I know. I don't think I enjoyed it quite enough to continue on with the series, but it wasn't so disagreeable that I can completely rule out the possibility.

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### **Erica Ravenclaw says**

???

*Actual 3.5*

**No spoilers and colorful language abound! I received this ARC from the publisher in exchange for an honest review.**

Imagine coming into consciousness on a train, you remember nothing of your self at all but your own name. Your travel companion refuses to tell you anything, only referring to your uncle that you are traveling to see. When you arrive it turns out he isn't even your uncle, just someone who likes to be called "uncle" by the entire town *read: creepy as fuck*. None of the smiling faces at the station feel safe or remind you of home, no one will give you answers and keeps coddling you because of how unwell you are. The thing is, you don't feel unwell, you feel confused and angry because *who the hell are you and why won't anyone tell you?*

#### **Bonus: Interesting as hell premise.**

Almost immediately I was absorbed into this interesting world Hickman had created and was quickly locked down by the mystery of it all. Each little hint of the truth was revealed *excruciatingly* slowly, all the while second guessing my hunches and realizing I actually have no idea what is happening. I have a deep love-hate relationship with mystery, I love it because when written well I can do nothing and see nothing else. *Nothing gets under my skin like a good mystery*. However, I get incredibly annoyed when it takes the entire book to get even the slightest sense of truth, but I suppose that's part of the seduction of it all. In retrospect the clues were obvious enough, at least to give you an *idea* of what it all meant, but as I said earlier, I was second guessing myself until the very end.

This reads very much like a first installment, which of course it is. However this is not an aspect I appreciate, but one I accept. The truth is that not many authors can carry an entire first book on the premise of *laying down the foundation* and follow it up with something spectacular, *that ending tho*. I do hope in the second installment there is a bit more character exploration, I was left with way more questions than answers.

Ellis gets off the train in Gamin, a strange but quaint seaside town brimming with curiosities that speak of the life and times of the 1920's. She is swept up in a life she doesn't recognize filled with people she isn't sure she can trust. With aspects of a child-like secret society, a passion for music, and the ever present sensation that she *has to remember* you won't be able to put this down! I don't want to spoil so I'll keep this part vague, it's a fast and engrossing read that I read in one delightful sitting.

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### **John says**

When Ellis Harkington awakes from a nightmare, she knows little except her name. A nurse accompanies her on a train back to her hometown of Gamin, Maine in hope that familiar settings will restore the memory robbed from her by unknown causes. After a short rest, she begins to meet members of the Nightbirds, a circle of young men and women who claim to be friends. They tell Ellis little about her forgotten past hoping that activities they invite her to join will gently spur her memory.

I wish the husband and wife authors would have described better the members of the Nightbirds as they did Gamin. I found it difficult portraying them in my mind's eye. The action seemed to drag and was ready to rate it one star until the last 60 pages when it finally began to become interesting. This novel is the initial in a trilogy. Generally, when I read a trilogy, the weakest of the set is generally the second serving as a bridge between an introduction that draws the reader in and the climatic conclusive third novel. However, this series appears to be the exception with such a slow start, I doubt I will read the other two even if there was a cliff-hanger at this book's end.

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### **Elspeth says**

I received this as an ARC from Netgalley for an honest review.

I really, really wanted to like this. I mean the cover was so pretty, and I had such high hopes. The problem is this book was SO boring, and I just couldn't get into the characters. Then that ending happened, and it was a cliffhanger, and I just really didn't care. There was no emotional connection for me to care to find out what happens in the next book.

I guess I was looking for the magic Hickman had with Weis in the Dragonlance Chronicles and it wasn't there.

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### **All Things Urban Fantasy says**

**UNWEPT** strives to create an uncanny dreamworld of menace and meaning, but falls far short of its goal. After a gripping opening scene, the story bogs down under Alice in Wonderland levels of incongruity and silliness.

Though the story lags after the incredible opening chapter, once Ellis arrives in Gamin the mystery manages to overpower the nonsense for a time. Unfortunately, the clues and hints scattered page by page don't build to a satisfying trajectory, but rather pile up and become cacophonous. Like the reader, the characters are similarly overwhelmed. Rather than growing over the course of the story, book one of this series takes Ellis from confused and compliant to hysterical and obdurate. Despite glimmers of strength and intelligence, Ellis herself seems fed up with this story by book's end.

Fantastic opening chapter and interesting premise aside, the majority of this narrative doesn't offer enough

grounding to ever give the story weight. **UNWEPT** left me with a long list of questions and very little desire to spend any more time in this chaotic and frustrating world.

Sexual Content: References to sex and sexual assault.

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## Mogsy (MMOGC) says

3 of 5 stars at The BiblioSanctum <http://bibliosanctum.com/2014/07/15/b...>

Some books start off with a shaky opening but then end up getting better as the story gains momentum, but other times there are books like *Unwept* that go the opposite way. These books manage to capture my attention right off the bat and get me invested with an interesting premise, but then they stumble and lose me about halfway through. The magic fizzles out and I can't get it back.

I have my inklings as to why this might have been the case with *Unwept*. Thing is, I love being teased with a bit of mystery. And this book did that very well, starting off by painting a baffling yet very intriguing picture. A girl named Ellis Harkington comes to herself in the middle of a train ride accompanied by a nurse and baby, but has no memory of how she got there or any of her life before this moment. She arrives at a remote seaside town named Gamin where everyone seems to know her better than she knows herself, but she can't even recognize any of their faces. A group of young men and women called the Nightbirds — who claims to be a literary society — welcome her back into the fold with open arms, and yet for a literary society they don't seem all that interested in books...

Then there are the nightmares. Ellis dreams of clouds of moths and visitations from a strange soldier with a paisley-shaped mark on his face. There's also talk of terrible things happening all over town, like a devastating fire, missing people, and the discovery of mutilated bodies pointing to a ruthless killer on the loose. And why are there no children in town? There this real sense of unease and foreboding. The atmosphere is practically humming with anticipation. The stage is set for something great, and you know deep down in your gut that this book has got to be building up to something huge.

Well. It didn't really happen. At least, not for me. You must understand, this book had me wrapped around its finger and I was completely under its control and prepared to fall head over heels in love with it. I cannot give enough praise to the first half of this novel; it was fantastically well written and constructed to give the reader a perfect foundation. I simply adored the first 150 pages or so. But not long after that, the plot started fraying at the edges.

Unfortunately, being plied with all that escalation with ultimately not much payoff has a way of making me feel a bit grumpy. I'm also disheartened by the lost potential of this story. The book could only maintain the suspense for so long before I started questioning where it was trying to go and what it was trying to say. I had the sneaking suspicion that I was being led on a wild goose chase. Not long after that, I finally had to admit to myself that I really had no idea what was going on. By the time some answers were forthcoming, I don't know if I felt as invested or engaged in the outcome anymore. The revelations were certainly eye-opening, but it's a classic case of "too little too late." I just can't decide if the disappointment hurt more or less because the story had such a strong and promising start.

*Unwept* is also the first book of a series, and – unsurprisingly, perhaps – it has the stamp of a "Book One" all over it. Don't expect any satisfying or clear-cut answers. Instead of growing and expanding, the story seemed

to shrink back in on itself. There is mystery at the beginning, and there will still be mystery at the end, and probably more blanks and question marks than you started out with. It's hard to tell now, but I think I might have had a more positive reaction to the book if I had known to rein in my expectations a little.

In the end, I don't think *Unwept* is a bad book. The sheer enjoyment I got out of the first part of it is a testament to that. It's also such a quick read that if you're even remotely interested in the description, I would say it is well worth your time, as the average reader can probably knock it out in one or two sittings. It has a fascinating premise, and I have no doubt it'll work for a lot of readers. I just personally wish I been better prepared for its peculiar pacing.

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### **SoWrongItsRANDI {Bell, Book & Candle} says**

I really thought this might be good, but unfortunately it wasn't. I feel like I was bamboozled. I almost don't know where to start with this book.

The pacing was way too slow. I was bored to tears at first, and very nearly put the book down. The characters were lackluster and uninteresting. It felt like a chore just finishing the book. The twist near the end of the book was kind of random, honestly. The whole book left me feeling crazy myself.

Ellis was just too passive aggressive, which infuriates me. I get that she is supposed to be suffering from some sort of amnesia, but don't act like you remember something and then backtrack later. Merrick needs to calm his butt down and quit acting like the smug, psycho dentist creeping around with ether. Jenny needs to take a hint and quit acting like a dog in heat. And every other character should just get a life. Oh right, easier said than done in this book.

I kept asking myself what was going every couple of pages. This story was hard to follow and not well written if I might add. The flow wasn't smooth at all. Too bland for my tastes.

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### **Melanie says**

See more reviews at YA Midnight Reads

### **DNF**

Unfortunately, another beautiful cover gone to waste. Be prepared for the over-usage of the word 'boring', because that's the only word that I can use to describe everything.

Ellis, the main character, was boring. I definitely had an incentive to like this Ellis; to prove Ellis @ The Random Transliterator that her other life was so much better. Alas, I can come up with nothing to prove that

her other life was better no matter how hard I tried to whip up something. Why? Because for most of this book, Unwept Ellis doesn't have any emotions. Sure, it's mentioned that she's flustered or confused but I never really felt those emotions dig into my skin. I honestly could not care less about Ellis because of this lack of connection between us, and same goes for all the other characters. Not one character, could catch my interest.

He whispered her name simply and yet there was a rushing wind in his breath that spoke of green summer, bitter winter, resigned autumn and a thousand glorious springs.

The writing, was beautiful, but booooooring. I mentioned the same problem in an earlier review this month—that while the writing was highly exceptional, but it dragged slowly and made me unquestionably bored. The long sentences and overly long descriptions just did not work.

The plot and pace was slowly developed, and well, boring. The idea of a girl waking up to discover that all she could remember was her name was certainly haunting and mysterious, but that's the intrigue ended. Ellis, I feel, doesn't even act like a girl whose memories have been lost. She just didn't feel all that shocked, in my opinion. I expected Ellis to be so much more confused and withdrawn in general. Going on, the pace didn't work at all. I DNFed this book at 50% and at around 40%, nothing in regards to the plot moved. It was only around after this point, when Ellis began having eerie and strange dreams (and where the plot actually starts to pick up.) If you cannot deal with boring and slow writing for a good 50%, then I wouldn't be recommending this. While it is only a 272 paged book, it reads to feel so much longer.

This book was boring, if you haven't gotten the message yet. If you want a good mystery with intrigue, this would not suffice. While these authors have great potential, the pace and slow writing and characters let this down.

~Thank you Tor Books for sending me this copy!~

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### **Sandra says**

*"You know, Ellie, Nightbird is just another name for 'moth'. Maybe that's where your dreams come from."*

### **I would like to thank Netgalley and Tor books for providing me this review copy for an honest review.**

Where do I even start with this?

Until now my head is just overflowing with possibilities on what will happen on the next book. That's a bit of a spoiler isn't it?

Yes, there will be sequel!

And this baby, ended in a way that you will surely ask for more.

This is how I looked like as I was reading this. This is chronologically arranged, starting from when I started

reading it up to when it ended.

STARTED READING:

AT ABOUT 30%:

AT ABOUT 60%:

AT ABOUT 80%:

AFTER FINISHING:

**THIS BOOK WAS A SUCKER PUNCH TO THE GUT OR FACE... WHATEVER!**

It will keep you guessing up until the last minute, even after they're already revealing the secret behind the mystery, you are still guessing if it's true or not.

For the **GIST**

*Ellis doesn't know how she got on that train going to Gamin, Maine. All she remembered was waking up from a nightmare, and in front of her was a nurse who knows her, but she had no memory of ever knowing her.*

*Upon her arrival to the town, she was greeted warmly by people she had never met, but knew her. Doctor Carmichael (who prefers to be called Uncle) picks her up from the train station and takes her to her cousin, Jenny, to recover from an illness she also does not have any memory of.*

*She still gets dreams, and the dreams are getting more and more vivid. She doesn't distinguish which is real and which is a dream anymore.*

*She wants to trust in someone, but she doesn't know who she can trust, especially now that everyone can't seem to tell her what happened to her. No one tells her anything. She wants answers, and she will find them no matter what it takes.*

**MY RATING**

**WRITING:** 17

**PLOT:** 20

**CHARACTERS:** 17

**UNPREDICTABILITY:** 20

**PACING:** 5

**ENJOYABILITY:** 8

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**87 points**

## **WRITING**

I just have one thing to say about the writing, it was damn eerie. It has that mysterious vibe oozing through its pages. It will make you flip through its pages faster than you should. I usually don't like third person narration, except for maybe the Harry Potter series and Cassie Clare's books, but this one worked for me.

Waking up without a memory will cause you to be confused, puzzled, and lost. I've never lost my memory, so I couldn't really confirm if this was an accurate thinking of a person who had amnesia. But I kind of think it was as close as it could get to it.

## **PLOT**

UNIQUE. The plot of this book is nothing I've ever read before. I wasn't exactly sure at first, if it was going to be a paranormal book, or just an otherworldly contemporary book. The story doesn't really give away too much of what was going to happen until the last few pages of the book. This book was like a puzzle with missing pieces, that we were trying to complete. As the story progresses, we get one piece of the puzzle at a time until the whole picture is revealed.

It was amazing.

## **CHARACTERS**

Ellis was an admirable character. She may have lost her memory, but she doesn't give up in finding out the truth about who she was, and what was going on around her, because there was a lot going on in the background. There was a lot of things we weren't able to see at first. She thinks before she speaks. Although everyone tells her she was sick or something, it didn't break her spirit. I liked that about her. She knew she'd be a fool to trust anyone, which was the right decision. Although, there was a point she misjudged someone, which I kind of thought she would.

I don't want to get too much on the details about the other characters because I'd probably give away too much if I did. There were a lot of secondary characters, but not all of them had a role, most of them are just pawns on the game that one of them was playing... So no, I wouldn't tell you guys anymore about the characters.

## **PREDICTABILITY**

I still gave this a perfect score on my book, because majority of the time I was just shaking my head in disbelief that what I was thinking about is so far from the truth. I did guess one thing right though, I guessed who the evil villan was!!

## **PACING**

It was too slow for my taste, but towards the last quarter of the book, all the truth came out in the open and hit you all at once.

## **ENJOYABILITY**

I love my mystery so I definitely enjoyed this book!

## **FINAL RAMBLINGS**

I am totally impressed with this book! I would have finished this earlier had I not been irritated with the Bluefire reader. \*NOTE TO SELF: never send a galley through Bluefire!!\*

Romance was not a big thing in this book so if you're looking for paranormal romance in this novel, better look for it some place else. There is pseudoromance I guess, but I'm not really sure until I get the next book which I want right now!!!

Oh and the cover's gorgeous! I should have given plus points for that. Publisher's should always remember that the cover gives the book additional pull to its audience.

What else am I missing?

I think that's all for my review of this book! Would I recommend it? Abso-fucking-lutely! I'm not really sure if this was supposed to be YA or adult or something, but younger readers could read this. No mature themes that I have read, just a little bit of gory stuff towards the end.

**VERY FINAL NOTE** I don't get the title. Why was it *Unwept*? Maybe I missed it somehow. I'll probably skim through it at some point to figure it out!

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## **Sarah Marie says**

Unwept by Tracy and Laura Hickman

First in the Nightbirds series

**2 stars (DNF)**

Ellis finds herself amidst a strange town with no recollection of who she is or what is going on around. Something feels off in the town she finds herself in and she can't help, but feel as if she's inside a nightmare. I was incredibly excited when I was approved for this on Netgalley because 1) the cover is absolutely gorgeous, 2) the summary is intriguing, and 3) it seemed like a book I would love. Sadly I didn't even make it to the 50% mark of *Unwept*. I found myself enjoying the opening chapter. I thought it was creepy and the dream sequence left me feeling excited for more. This feeling quickly left me feeling unsatisfied. The tone of *Unwept* is very uncertain and while I don't mind this tone I don't like the feeling of being trapped while reading and that's exactly how I felt. I felt like the opening chapter- trapped in a coffin and it was as if I couldn't get out. I quickly began to dislike the book because the town felt like one giant coffin. I also didn't understand the dual point-of-view aspect that was slowly thrown in. I wasn't sure if this was because there are two authors and they wanted to take a gander at writing from different perspectives, but whatever the real

reason behind it is- I don't care. This book is as dull as the characters introduced. The characters are talking pieces of cardboard who exhibit no sign of emotion; even the main character who should be the most interesting character in the story. I DNFed and I'm sadly disappointed. Maybe one day I will give this another shot, but it seems very unlikely.

**Whimsical Writing Scale: 2**

**Plotastic Scale: 2**

**Character Scale: 2**

**Cover Thoughts: This is another case of beautiful cover, crappy content. This cover is just so gorgeous. I love it.**

*Thank you, Netgalley and Tor Books for allowing me the chance to read this book in exchange for an honest review.*

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I got accepted for this on Netgalley.

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**Sarah says**

As posted on The Bibliophile's Diary

My experience with the Hickmans was Dragonlance, one of the first fantasy series I made very sad attempts to follow. The world was huge, and I loved it! I haven't ventured much back into those worlds recently but I never had any complaints about the Hickmans at the time, so when I spotted this beauty on NetGalley I quickly sent out a request.

I don't know what I expected, but I surely did not get what I expected. I don't even know what to tell anyone else to expect. I made a rather hysterical attempt at explaining and conveying to my roommate who also read Dragonlance as kid why she should read this. I mostly end up waving my arms around and sighing. Ellis wakes up on a train within the first few pages of the book, she's on her way to a city called Gamin to recover from a mysterious illness or trauma. Even from the beginning of the book you wonder if maybe perhaps we have an unreliable narrator. Ellis has no memory of how she got on the train, why she is on the train, or memories of the people who claim to be loved ones she meets. The most clearest recollection she has of the city and it's town are scattered memories and a fondness and comfort she feels with her cousin.

Throughout the first maybe 40% of the book I spent vaguely confused and not at all convinced of it. It's a slow start, and very strange. It seems that over and over the individuals she knew before she left Gamin originally expect her to remember odd things. Things like scrapbooks and relationships, ships and plays. You distinctly get the feeling that Ellis now is very, very different from Ellis before. You also begin to wonder just how sane everyone else is.

In the end it becomes... intense, the world and everyone in it seems to flip and honestly it took me by surprise. I expected maybe a slightly paranormal mystery, which is not what I got. But I loved what I got.

The ride, the confusion, it kept me going. I remember looking up at my husband and wailing that I had no idea what was happening but I could not stop! I had to find the answers, and I was not disappointed. But the answers did somewhat disturb...

I would recommend this to a fantasy, paranormal, and maybe even a horror lover. The twist at the end really makes it unique and the next book in this series is an insta-buy for me if I don't get to a review copy. This was an insta-buy, I've already pre-ordered my hardcover.

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## **Isis says**

I would like to thank NetGalley & Tor Books for granting me a copy of this e-ARC to read in exchange for an honest review. Though I received this e-book for free that in no way impacts my review.

Gamin, Maine, is a remote seaside town where everyone seems to know Ellis Harkington better than she knows herself—but she doesn't remember any of them.

Unknown events have robbed Ellis of her memory. Concerned individuals, who purport to be her friends and loved ones, insist that she simply needs to recuperate, that her memories may return in time, but refuse to divulge what has brought her to this state. For her own sake, so they say.

Ellis finds herself adrift in a town of ominous mysteries, cryptic hints, and disturbingly familiar strangers. The Nightbirds, a clique of fashionable young men and women, claim her as one of their own, but who among them can she truly trust? And what of the phantom suitor who visits her in her dreams? Is he a memory, a figment of her imagination, or a living nightmare beyond rational explanation?

Only her lost past hold the answers she seeks—if she can uncover its secrets before she fall prey to an unearthly killer.

The beginning of an unusually creative mystery, this first book sets the stage for the rest of the series. The opening scene is spooky and utterly bizarre, particularly as we jump from there to Ellis being on a train with her nurse, who she doesn't even recognize as her nurse when they begin talking.

Ellis keeps getting handed off from one person to the next, first her nurse, then her doctor, and Merrick, who leave her at her cousin Jenny's with no sign of Jenny anywhere. Poor Ellis keeps being told that her memories will come back given time, but until then no one will tell her anything to help her regain those memories. They say it's for her own good, but right from the beginning Ellis is questioning the illogic in that concept. How can she recall who she is if those closest to her won't talk about their past together? As soon as she asks a question Ellis is handed off to the next closest person, almost as if they're all playing a game of 'Pass Ellis' without explaining the rules of the game to her. Or explaining anything else for that matter.

She finds the town of Gamin to be quite strange. There don't seem to be any adults around acting as proper chaperones for her group. Even her cousin Jenny lives alone in a large, remote house. Not too mention the

strange inhabitants of the town proper, such as the Finney sisters. And the slightly sinister Mr. Merrick Bacchus, who appears to be in his early 30's and was introduced to her as the benefactor of the entire town. Why would a gentleman in his 30's be spending his time with a bunch of young people, hardly even into their twenties? The genders mingle without a thought for propriety, and no one finds this odd. No more odd than a 30-something-year-old man spending all his time with a group of young people barely into their twenties. Nor does anyone think it odd how things seem to get done without anyone seeming to do them - luggage moved, meals cooked, dishes done. All the while other basic upkeep isn't getting done. There appears to be little rhyme nor reason behind the way things are done in Gamin. Again, no one else finds it the least bit odd.

Slowly pieces of the larger picture are introduced, but nothing is ever so fully explained as to make it clear. . . yet. But the pace just keeps increasing throughout the book as Ellis thinks she begins to understand things, and the reader is given further details. Strange things continue to happen, and it's becoming increasingly clear to Ellis that people are keeping secrets from her, while sharing hers as if they were public property.

By the end of the book Ellis has grown a backbone and stopped simply accepting the answers she's being fed. She's determined to make up her own mind about things, regardless of of much or how little she ever remembers. But independent thinking may just be hazardous to her health while in Gamin. It doesn't seem to have done anyone else any good, not that she can really tell since she hardly seems to stumble across it. What she does stumble across makes for a very strong cliffhanger ending!

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### **Amber says**

This was a dark tale of morbid curiosities with gas lamps and steam engines set in a sleepy seaside town of mysterious circumstance. It grabbed me on the first page and kept me interested throughout. The story picks up near the end to a dizzying pace. It gets a little confusing to tell the difference between waking moments and nightmarish discoveries, but the cliffhanger leaves you begging for more. If you like steampunk-ish fairy tales with a twist of gore, this is definitely the series for you. I will be on the lookout for The Nightbirds #2 to find out what happens to Ellis.

\*I received this copy from NetGalley in return for an honest review, and opinions are mine alone.

Review: <http://casualreadersbookclub.blogspot...>

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### **Heather A says**

I received a copy from Netgalley.

I don't quite know how to review this one. It was a pretty bland read for me. I didn't love it, I didn't hate it either. The mystery aspect pulled me in from the get go and it was a fast paced read. However, there were too many questions and not enough answers until right at the end. I had a vague idea of what was going on and to be fair I didn't actually guess the answers.

The plot was kind of slow but picked up towards the end, and I did think the actual revelations of the mystery were quite unique and original. Writing was okay, I liked the setting. The characters didn't really do

much for me. They felt a little flat personality wise. It was more a what the hell is going on and how is this going to be resolved. It was left at an interesting cliffhanger but I'm not all that sure I will be continuing with this series.

It wasn't a bad book, just not for me, I guess.

Thank you to Netgalley and Macmillan-Tor/Forge for approving my request to view the title.

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