



## **The Cry**

*Helen Fitzgerald*

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# The Cry

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*He's gone. And telling the truth won't bring him back...*

When a baby goes missing on a lonely roadside in Australia, it sets off a police investigation that will become a media sensation and dinner-table talk across the world.

Lies, rumours and guilt snowball, causing the parents, Joanna and Alistair, to slowly turn against each other.

Finally Joanna starts thinking the unthinkable: could the truth be even more terrible than she suspected? And what will it take to make things right?

*The Cry* is a dark psychological thriller with a gripping moral dilemma at its heart and characters who will keep you guessing on every page.

'Fitzgerald is dark, clever, highly inventive.' [Lovereading.co.uk](#)

'FitzGerald excels at twisting the reader's expectations and turning our assumptions on their heads.' *The List*

## The Cry Details

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Author : Helen Fitzgerald

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## From Reader Review *The Cry* for online ebook

### Noelle says

This story starts out in Glasgow but is mainly set in Melbourne, Australia. The reader comes face-to-face with deception, selfishness, narcissism, frustration, being a new mother and all the emotions that come with that, mistrust, secrets, lies, anger, hopelessness, denial and revelations that will leave your jaw on the floor!

WOW ? Talk about an OMFG opening! I wondered what in the world was going on and then BOOM! The tension could be felt from the onset and from there it just increased, leaving me no choice but to sit and read until the end! It started in one direction but as each layer was peeled, I was left thinking WTF? (in the best possible way!) This was an emotive and absolutely riveting read, and I imagine that for anyone who has children – this topic would be difficult to take in objectively. I thought this was a well written novel, both sensitive and explosive in all the right places. It's no surprise that it has been optioned for tv – I can't wait!

The narrative and characters were OH-SO-GOOD! Believable and fascinating as their lives unravel. Joanna – my heart broke for her, even though I just wanted to shake her at times. Manipulated by her husband, Alistair who cared for no one but himself. I hated him ... but I was supposed to ... a brilliant character who evoked both passion and disgust by his behaviour. Alexandra (ex wife) was another awesome character. For the most part, I liked her – could understand her actions but also needed her to be strong for her daughter. I love when characters do that to me!

I could go on about the characters, but I think as readers we each pick our favourites – so I won't go on about my thoughts. Instead, read it yourself and tell me what YOU think ?

Would I recommend this book? ? Chilling, intense and absolutely addictive – you bet your sweet arse I would! Make sure you grab a copy today!

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### Bill Kupersmith says

If you've read Helen Fitzgerald before, you know that her plots can take off in totally unexpected directions, although the twists are actually well-prepared & very logical. But you find you're not reading the book you thought you were. That's true in *The Cry*. We expect Joanna's story will be like Lindy Chamberlain's or Kate McCann's - Joanna receives a sympathy letter at one point that looks to be written by Kate McCann - but we find that things are quite different.

I'll not write about the ending, so won't use a spoiler alert, but let me just say that I'm glad Joanna finally asserts herself. Like Krissie in *Dead Lovely*, Joanna was apparently reared Catholic but didn't pay enough attention in religion class & much of her anguish, as well as her acquiescence to her partner Alistair's hare-brained scheme to pretend the dead infant Noah was abducted results from a badly formed conscience. Of course any mother would feel immensely guilty if she thought she'd killed her child by mixing up his meds, but Joanna ought eventually to have realised that at worst it was just she had very bad luck & told the police what they really did. I got very tired of Joanna's moaning about how she 'killed her baby' and wanted to scream 'Just tell the truth!'

Joanna is a typical Helen Fitzgerald main character, weak, vacillating, off the wall, but very likable. He

partner Alistair is a minor league politician, utterly sleazy (a pleonasm in the case of politicians?) & totally narcissistic (definitely a pleonasm). But the other characters are well-drawn, Alex, Alistair's ex is another very likable off the wall type - bit of a drinking problem but you can't blame her, & I just loved Chloe, their teen-aged daughter whom the sleazy Alistair is trying to regain custody of. Chloe is brave, independent, assertive, & I'm only sorry we don't see even more of her.

The Cry is not laugh out loud funny like Dead Lovely or as bizarre as The Devil's Staircase, but I found it unputdownable.

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### **Dem says**

The Cry by Helen Fitzgerald was a book that I have had on my kindle for the past couple of months but was advised to save it for my holiday as it is just the sort of book you want to read start and not stop until the end. And it was an excellent clever psychological thriller.

This is the story of a young couple who suffer every parent's worst nightmare with the disappearance of their baby. Lies rumours and guilt snowball causing the parents Joanna and Alistair to slowly turn against each other.

A book that captures your imagination, an easy read and a real page turner and the sort of book that keeps you wondering until the end. The perfect holiday read.

I would recommend this book to people who enjoyed Gone Girl, or Dark places by Gillian Flynn as it has the dark, twisted style to the story. It is well written with characters that are well developed.

I read this book in a day on holidays and look forward to checking out more of Helen Fitzgerald's books.

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### **Rossy says**

1.5 stars

Great premise but I didn't like the book, although I couldn't put it down.

The characters were not likeable at all, and the ending was horrible (to me).

The beginning was great, I had such expectations, and sympathized with Joanna, but as the plot began to unfold, just... nope.

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### **Sharon says**

Alistair and Joanna are on a flight from Glasgow to Australia with their nine week old baby boy Noah. Their plane trip is not only very long but it is unpleasant to say the least. Joanna has a terrible ear infection which causes her great pain and discomfort and baby Noah won't settle for most of the trip. Noah's endless crying and screaming starts to disturb the other passengers although his parents are doing their best to try and calm him down and yet nothing seems to be working.

Once they finally land in Australia they hire a rental car and head towards Geelong. During this trip things

take a dramatic turn for the worst as Noah goes missing and there is nothing his mother or father can do to bring him back.

This is a compelling, gripping and at times disturbing read and it's also a story of guilt, lies, innocence and truth and one in which I really enjoyed. I have no hesitation in recommending this book.

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### **Anna says**

*The Cry is a dark psychological thriller with a gripping moral dilemma at its heart and characters who will keep you guessing on every page.*

....so says the blurb.

No it's not. It's blatantly obvious what had happened, it's not dark and it's not gripping.

Gah.

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### **Anni says**

Having watched the first episode of the TV series based on this book (with the same title) I am so glad I read the novel first, otherwise I wouldn't have had a clue as to what was going on.

So far, the script seems pretty much faithful to the original story which is a relief ( though seeing the baby cry so much on the screen made it far more distressing than reading about it, which was painful enough).

However, Fitzgerald is a first-class writer and this is a stunning debut psychological thriller, if you can detach yourself emotionally long enough to appreciate it.

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### **Shelagh Rice says**

This was my second book in a row with heart breaking story lines, after finishing We Need to talk about Kevin. This is a completely different story but is just as in-depth, with hook after hook pulling you in. It is a little like the new genre of books like Gone Girl at the beginning, where you are not sure if you like any of the characters. I enjoyed the style of writing and if you think you can cope with the subject matter, the disappearance of a baby. This is a dark psychological thriller, which involves the characters response to guilt, rumours, devastation, lies and manipulation. I was on board from the very first scene and enjoyed it all.

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### **Ken says**

This had me completely hooked straight from the first chapter, I just wanted to keep reading. I'd first become aware of The Cry with the BBC adaptation starring Jenna Coleman, prior to reading I'd only knew the basic premise.

It's the type of book that is really quite hard to review, as you don't want to give anything away. The story focuses on a parent's worst nightmare as their 9 week old baby goes missing in a lonely roadside in Australia.

There's so many great twists and the characters are so well written, I found that I was already halfway through within no time at all.

These are the types of books I love!

Definitely going to check out the series on iPlayer now.

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### **Shelleyrae at Book'd Out says**

The Cry by Helen Fitzgerald is a dark, disturbing tale of guilt, innocence, truth and lies which held me in thrall from start to finish.

This thrilling psychological drama delves into every parent's worst nightmare, nine week old Noah is gone and nothing his mother, Joanne, can do will bring him back to her. She wonders if she is being punished for her affair with Noah's father, Alistair, who was still married when she began seeing him, or for her impatience and anger with Noah's endless crying on the plane journey from London to Australia, but no matter the 'why', Joanna blames herself.

I am loathe to give away any hint of the gripping twists and turns that awaits the reader in this engrossing novel. The plot is skillfully crafted to both reveal and conceal the truth and lies that surround baby Noah's fate. Nothing is ever quite as it seems and I couldn't help but race through the pages until The Cry reached its stunning conclusion.

The characters are complex, real but deeply flawed in the way we all are. How you feel about these people, Joanna, Alistair and Alexandra changes as facades begin to crack under the strain of uncertainty and secrets revealed.

Heartbreaking, shocking and utterly gripping The Cry has been added to my list of favourite novels for 2013.

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### **Sally906 says**

THE CRY is going to be very hard to review because the reader gets to know most of the secret very early on but it would spoil it to mention it to someone who hasn't read it. What I CAN say though is that a baby goes missing. The story starts before the baby is reported missing and takes the reader behind the events leading up to the reporting and the subsequent events that follow. Clear as mud? Well you will just have to read it for yourself.

The story opens as Joanna, Alistair and their newborn son, Noah, leave the UK for a long haul flight to Melbourne, Australia, so Alistair can attend a custody hearing for his daughter from a previous marriage. Joanna is ill and Noah will not stop crying; while Alistair sleeps blissfully for most of the flight Joanna is at her wits end getting no help for the air staff and nothing other than grumblings from the other passengers.

Joanne does get a bit of sleep towards the end of the flight and they all get into a rental car and drive south of Melbourne to Alistair's mothers place. The story switches to the ex-wife, Alexandra, and daughter Chloe. Alex sees internet breaking news reports that baby Noah has gone missing – taken from the back of the rental car as Joanna and Alistair stop at a small grocery shop and leave the baby in the back of the car. There is a huge hunt for the missing child, and the usual trial by media that we come to expect nowadays. In fact Helen Fitzgerald has done an amazing job over portraying the role of media and how what is being said in the public domain differs from what is actually happen, for instance, Joanna is poker faced and without emotion because she is doped up on valium not cold and heartless. So not only do Noah's parents go through the hell of losing their child, they have the horror of media saturation to tend with. Everyone has an opinion as to what happened, and everyone feels that it is their God-given right to express it without any thought as to the impact of their words.

THE CRY is very good, it is distressing, it is a study on manipulation and guilt and I just wanted to slap Alistair, what a horrible, horrible character he was – but he is spin doctor for a political party so using the media and manipulating people and events is what comes naturally to him. But while he seems to grow stronger in the crisis Joanna descends into hell and loses all sense of reality. The reader can feel the tension build and just knows that something has to give – and it does. Once the climax has been reached though there can be healing although how a parent can come back from that is anyone's guess. The story is told mostly from either Joanna's or Alexandra's points of view and while the reader thinks they know what is going on there is a twist that I had never even thought of that triggers climax. A definite psychological thriller set in an average family, which makes so scarily plausible.

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### **Deanna says**

I really enjoyed this book. It held my attention from beginning to end. I really had a hard time getting anything else done. Beautifully written with a captivating plot. A baby is gone missing is every parents worst nightmare. The main characters are so well developed. You can see how the manipulation plays out. So many twists and turns but not confusing at all. Right from the beginning with the scene in the airport I was pulled in and excited to keep reading.  
I highly recommend this book!!!

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### **Amanda - Mrs B's Book Reviews says**

\* <https://mrsbbookreviews.wordpress.com>

Meet Joanna, Alistair and their baby boy Noah. When The Cry begins, the family embark on a long haul flight from Glasgow to Melbourne, Australia. However, this nightmare flight takes a turn for the worst when the family finally lands in Melbourne. Baby Noah goes missing. This is a divisive case that seems to baffle the police involved and it seems to draw out plenty of opinion from the public, as well as the media. The pressure is immense on the stressed parents, Joanna and Alistair, but happened to baby Noah?

I must admit the cover enticed me to select this book from my heavy review pile. To accompany the BBC television series based on The Cry, Faber an imprint of Allen and Unwin have republished this 2013 release. The cover features images of the cast of the small screen version of The Cry. Jenna Coleman, the British actress of Victoria fame, is situated at the centre of the front cover and she is a favourite actress of mine. I

have been closely scrutinizing the ABC television guide here in Australia, as I am very interested in seeing how this BBC produced drama will hold up next to a book I completely devoured.

I simply sprinted through *The Cry*. Helen FitzGerald is a skilled storyteller and I loved my first experience of her writing. She places emphasis on the domestic forum and she leans towards psychological suspense. The chapters are short and concise, but they contain a hook so I found it virtually impossible to put this book down. *The Cry* will consume you and have you pondering the scenarios it presents. FitzGerald is deliberate in her approach to balance tension and high emotion with the raw facts of the situation. Expect your heart to be torn apart by the close of the novel, *The Cry* is this kind of book.

I immediately set up camp in Joanna's field when I started to read *The Cry*. The stressful and harrowing plane scene had me reeling in despair. I just wanted to slap Alistair for his ignorance and the flight staff for their distinct lack of concern! With my loyalties set firmly on Joanna's version of events, when the book flipped to include Alexandra, the ex-wife's take on the events, I still felt empathy for Joanna. Alexandra's perspective is like a hidden extra, adding an essential bonus sheet onto the proceedings. Likewise, the presence of Alistair's mother and his daughter provides further substance to this complex tale. Finally, the law enforcement and extra support systems involved in Noah's case are sculpted precisely by FitzGerald.

The themes covered in *The Cry* are fairly distressing, from anxiety, depression, blame, guilt, confusion, loss, sadness and justice. The cross in setting from Glasgow to Melbourne was presented well by Helen FitzGerald. There is further foreshadowing involved, when a bushfire threatens to take hold, adding to the heightened tension – filled atmosphere. FitzGerald is a clearly the queen of manipulation, she sets us up for a situation that we try to unpack with as much logic as we can, but she turns the axis so we feel disorientated. I admit to having absolutely no idea of where the ending was going to settle, but the closure FitzGerald presented was fitting.

This book and the accompanying series has had twitter in uproar. I think *The Cry* is a novel that will appeal to readers of any genre, it is that style of book. It will send you in a spin! The lasting reminder *The Cry* left me with was my new interest in Helen FitzGerald, I am really keen to explore more of her work.

\*Thanks extended to Allen & Unwin for providing a free copy of this book for review purposes.

*The Cry* is book #140 of the Australian Women Writers Challenge

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## **Liz Barnsley says**

Coming September from Faber & Faber

Thank you kindly to Helen Fitzgerald and the Publisher for the advance copy of this novel.

Baby Noah goes missing from a roadside in Australia and the media attention is intense and extreme. Battling their loss and the attention, Noah's parents Alistair and Joanna slowly start to fall apart. As the search heads ever closer to the truth of what happened to Noah, the blame game begins...

I'm not sure how best to describe "The Cry". The blurb calls it a "psychological thriller" and yes I suppose it is in a way. But I have to say I read it more as a family drama – the characterisation is pure and oh so realistic and Ms Fitzgerald has used real life to great effect – we have all seen on the news many high profile



missing children cases where first sympathy abounds then suspicion begins...and how social media can play such a huge role in the pressure put upon parents and the police in these situations. What she has done is put a human face on it – the public can't see what goes on behind closed doors when the 24/7 news cycle goes mad but in this fictional story that's exactly what we get. Brilliantly done.

Timeslips are used to great effect – we see Joanna and Alistair's journey with Noah from leaving Scotland, on various legs of the flight to Australia, at the same time hints and teasers about what is actually going on now. As the strands come together the whole picture emerges...in a fascinating way. There is no real attempt at hiding secrets here – although what you see may not always be what you get – it's very much about the emotion behind the mask and how you can never know what really goes on in someone else's head. As Joanna heads further and further into what could almost be called insanity, you will feel for her...and for those around her.

It's an amazing book to be sure. I have read some fantastic books lately, this has been a terrific year for terrific novels – yet I sense that this is the one that will stay with me for a long time. Beautifully written, characters you will relate to and feel for and a story that could so easily be truth you should certainly not miss this one. Cry? Oh yes. Indeed I did.

Happy Reading Folks!

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## **Joodith says**

“A dark psychological thriller with a gripping moral dilemma” - a description that is music to my ears – sadly this book did not live up to its promise.

Joanna is the Other Woman, having enjoyed a lusty affair with Alistair, which precipitates his divorce from the beautiful Alexandra. After a rather fraught flight to Australia, during which Joanna was seen to lose patience with their baby, Noah, he “goes missing”, and so begins the cover up. Joanna, naturally, is grief-stricken but goes along with Alistair's wishes; he quickly immerses himself in the story he has fabricated, almost seeming to enjoy the drama. In the meantime he is also trying to gain custody of his daughter Chloe who, he claims, was kidnapped by Alexandra. He is a man who has to win, no matter what.

This novel is inhabited by characters who are one-dimensional and unlikeable, a plot so far-fetched, and often ridiculous dialogue, I wonder how I managed to finish it. The timeline, with chapters about each of the two women – Joanna and Alexandra – told on the same date makes for often very confusing reading, and for some strange reason Joanna's chapters are written in third person, whilst Alexandra's are first person. Would fourteen year old Chloe, who had never met her baby step brother, really spend so much time and effort in trying to find the missing baby of her estranged father and his new partner, a woman she hated with a passion? Hmmm – I doubt it. Alistair is a self-centred sleaze, who will stop at nothing to get what he wants - and the reason for his atrocious behaviour is all too apparent. I was hoping he would wander off into the Australian outback never to be seen again.

Why did we have to endure all those Twitter entries? Surely the author could have found another, better, way of conveying gossip and rumour; I suppose this was to give the book a “modern” feel – to show how social media is used. It failed to impress, and in fact had me skipping through those sections.

A more appropriate title would be “The Lie” because this is really what the novel is about – not so much a

missing baby, but the lie concerning his demise. This is one of those Lazy Afternoon reads, with too many loose ends, a see-through plot, irritating characters and the obligatory bad language thrown in for good measure and “realism”. A psychological thriller it certainly isn't. I wish I could say it was an enjoyable page-turner – it wasn't.

This does not encourage me to read anything else by this author.

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