



Stolen in the Night

Patricia MacDonald

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Patricia MacDonald delivers the chilling story of a woman who discovers that her own eyewitness testimony about her sister's abduction led to the conviction and execution of the wrong man-and that the real killer is still at large.

When Tess DeGraff was nine years old and on a camping trip in New Hampshire with her family, a stranger kidnapped and killed her sister Phoebe. Thanks to Tess's eyewitness testimony, a man named Lazarus Abbott was arrested and convicted for the heinous crime. But twenty years later, a test reveals that Abbott's DNA does not match that of Phoebe's murderer. Driven by her fear that she may have sent an innocent man to his death, Tess and her adopted son, Erny, return to the New Hampshire town in which it all happened years ago. Stone Hill, New Hampshire, is still an idyllic New England town. Tess's courageous mother, Dawn, now runs the charming Stone Hill Inn. Tess's older brother, Jake, lives nearby with his wife, a local girl he fell in love with during the trial of his sister's killer. While Tess's family stands by her account of the crime, nerves are frayed throughout Stone Hill, and others in town accuse her of lying and view her as a murderer. In a race against time to untangle the truth about her sister's murder, Tess encounters an anti--death penalty lawyer, Ben Webster, a biased police chief related to the Abbotts, and an unknown killer who has Tess and Erny in his sights.

Stolen in the Night Details

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From Reader Review Stolen in the Night for online ebook

Michelle says

I really enjoyed this story. From reading other reviews, it seems like other people figured out "who dun it" way before I did, but that is ok. I like being surprised and I don't try TOO hard to figure things out early. The only negative aspect was the fact I "read" this as an audiobook and 3 of the discs were scratched up, two of which were the last two CDs, which is where a good part of the action happened and where all was revealed. I think I am going to start making more of an effort to avoid audio CDs and go for the digital audio books that I can listen to through my phone or tablet and the aux jack in my car.

That said, the story starts out with Tess and her sister, Phoebe, camping with their family. Tess witnesses her sister's abduction, and then the story fast-forwards to the future and Tess, as an adult, is going back to where her sister's abduction and murder happened to hear the results of some new DNA evidence that ends up revealing that the guy Tess accused of the abduction and murder was innocent.

The lawyer that represents the falsely accused family ends up falling for Tess, and then strange things start happening. Someone is killed, her adopted son is abducted, she goes in search for him and then all is revealed. The story twists and turns, which is fun, but at times it got tiring because every time she had the slightest inkling of who MIGHT have done it, she acted as if she KNEW that is who did it and proceeded as though she had all the facts and there could be no doubt. Of course, she was wrong, a few times. A wild goose chase or red herring ONCE in a story, is plenty.

Krista says

This was a pretty interesting mystery. The book kept me wondering the entire time who the killer really was. While the identity of the real killer was a surprise, the reasoning behind it was lacking and made the book end on such a lackluster note. The book would be a full 4/5 stars if it was not for the ending.

3.5/5

Teresa in Ohio says

I can find no fault with this book. When Tess was 9 her family went on a camping trip that forever changed their lives. Terror reigns down when a madman, cuts the tent and takes her older sister from them. Twenty years later the case is reopened since DNA can now be tested. The governor is strong anti death penalty and when the unthinkable happens Tess's world explodes again into dismay. Macdonald writes a tight psychological thriller that showcases how this tragedy not only affected the family but the town as well. There are many clues presented that can give you different theoris on the truth of this case. When I got to the end, the ending supported the clues that was revealant to the ending. Lately I have finished books with an ending that didn't make sense or the plot didn't make it plausible. Not this time, strong plot, defined characters and an ending that kept the plot together.

Zézinha Rosado says

História viciante que nos deixa agarrada ao livro e não nos dá descanso enquanto não chegamos à última página.

Uma mistura muito interessante de personagens, interligando o passado com o presente e fazendo com que se descubram segredos impensáveis, cujo desfecho ninguém poderia imaginar.

Se há autoras talhadas para escrever bons policiais, esta é uma delas... uma leitura 5 estrelas.

Daniela Maciel (Denise Luz) says

A leitura é bastante dinâmica, não há descrições exageradas e a ação decorre a bom ritmo. Não foi um dos meus preferidos da autora, mas não deixa de ser uma leitura que entretém e nos espicaça a vontade de desvendar o crime.

Opinião completa: <http://quandoseabreumlivro.blogspot.p...>

Annabelle says

I liked this book a bit. Tess, a documentary film maker, returns to Vermont, where her sister was abducted years ago. Tess was the witness that fingered the murderer who was executed. But now the mother of the murderer asks for DNA evidence to be examined and the murderer is vindicated. Tess is vilified, and finally figures out there were an accomplice, and she runs after every possible suspect, and falls in love with Ben, an opposing attorney. It's pretty formulaic, but the Vermont setting is sweet, and you sort of like Tess, and of course she gets in situations fearing for her life.

Dan Quigley says

I enjoyed this book a great deal and liked the protagonist, Tess. This book is not a deep or profound work, but it is a fun, diversionary read for a summer day. I did not figure out whodunit until it was revealed, and have to admit I doubt those critics who say they did figure it out long before since there was a critical impossibility that had to be accounted for first.

The part of the book I did find frustrating was the suggestion 10-year-old Ernie gave to Tess on how she could be right and how lab results could also be right. Ernie's suggestion was blatantly obvious, and the first hypothesis I considered. It is difficult to believe it could not have occurred to anyone else either for such a long time. The failure of all parties to consider the possibility made for a slow, frustrating beginning that almost caused me to stop reading. However, nothing else in the plot was so obvious to me.

So, the book as a whole worked for me, despite being a bit melodramatic for my taste, and the ending was tremendously exciting. The book worked so well for me that I looked at Books-A-Million for another Patricia MacDonald book in order to buy one. To my great surprise, they were selling none. Is this a

beginning author? I went to Wikipedia. No author page. Yet, Reader's Digest books thinks enough of her work to summarize one of them for their series. I have just gone to the local library and saw four Patricia MacDonald books on the shelf. And this library is tiny too! Oh happy day. *From Cradle to Grave* then will be my next MacDonald read.

Elaine says

The better part of the book occurs in the second half when Tess starts digging for the truth behind the death of her sister when DNA proves that the man her testimony helped convict, didn't match his DNA. This man eventually ended up a victim of the death penalty. I had wrongly believed I knew who the real perp was and didn't figure it out correctly until much later in the book when it began unraveling. I too could find myself like Tess in assuming something to be true because of its seeming fit.

The first half of the book seemed to drag because I had wanted something more. I had briefly considered giving up on it until I went back to read the synopsis, and that alone made me hang on. When Tess starts delving into her own detecting at the wisdom of her 10-year old son, I was glad I continued.

For someone who likes books with likable characters, this probably isn't the book for you. None of the characters were particularly likable except perhaps Tess' 10-year old son.

Ally Marie says

I read this book with members of the book club I belong to. This is the third book I have read by the author and I found it to be very predictable. I really enjoyed one of her older novels, *THE GIRL NEXT DOOR*. I found it hard not to compare this story line topic to other books I have read.

My favorite character was Erny and I liked the way the author had him interact with Tess and her family. It had realistic moments of the difficulties children face in his situation.

Kathleen Hagen says

Stolen in the Night, by Patricia MacDonald. B-plus.

Downloaded from audible.com.

A family goes camping on vacation. There are three children: Jake, Phoebe, and Tess. Jake, a teenager, sneaks away to a dance in town with others he has just met. He was supposed to stay in the tent to protect his two sisters. Tess awakes as someone cuts the tent with a knife and grabs Phoebe, telling Tess that if she says anything Phoebe will be killed. So Tess lies awake scared to death until Jake finally sneaks back in and finds the tent ripped and Phoebe gone. Then Tess tells about the man she saw take Phoebe away. She staunchly testified at every turn as to what the man looked like. A couple of days later, Phoebe's body is found. The man she identified went on trial and was convicted and put to death. Then, twenty years later, his mother having always protested his innocence, she finally gets the state to agree to review the existing evidence in light of current DNA probabilities, and the tests determine that Phoebe's rapist and killer's DNA did not match that of the man who was executed. Tess, the only witness, is blamed by the town and accused of lying about the identity of the convicted man. But Tess is convinced that she was not wrong in her identification.

Tess must find a way to incorporate what would seem two conflicting theories, that she had identified the right man for the kidnapping of her sister, but he might not have been her murderer. This is a somewhat lighter read than I usually expect from MacDonald, really more like a Mary Higgins Clark novel. But it was a good and fast read and lighter than other things I've read recently.

Valerie says

This novel by Patricia Macdonald kept me guessing all the way through it as to who killed 13 year old Phoebe DeGraff. Her nine year old sister identified the person who cut a hole in their tent and took Phoebe away, but 20 years later, after the alleged perpetrator was executed, DNA showed that he did not kill the girl. In fact, only some of the DNA matched, and it was not in the CODIS system, so the book kept me guessing. Since the novel took place in a small town in New Hampshire, many of the people (especially the year around residents) knew each other, so it was difficult for me to guess and then guess again. However, the motive for the young girl's rape and murder was the most sickening thing of all. After the news about the DNA proving that the state executed the wrong man, Tess, Phoebe's sister, and her adopted son go back to the small town where her mother now lives alone and not only does Tess risk her life to find the killer, she also finds romance for the first time in her life. I enjoyed this book very much.

Elaine says

As I read the first part of the book, I felt like I was figuring things out before the main character. I was pleasantly surprised by the unexpected twist in the second half. I was ready to give up on the book before then. It's a good, quick read.

Su says

The mystery of a nine year old on a family camping trip who witnessed the abduction of her 13 year old sister. Two days later, her sister's body is discovered. Jump ahead 20 years and the former nine year old is now trying to prove who actually was the murderer. I knew about half way through the book. Someday I will write a mystery and no one will be able to figure out who the villain is until the last sentence on the last page!

Evelyn says

Nine-year-old Tess McGraff witnessed the kidnapping of her older sister and testified in court, causing Lazarus Abbott to get the death penalty. Now, even though new DNA tests exonerate him, Tess insists she didn't make a mistake, digging up old memories to get to the truth.

Another solid suspense offering from MacDonald. Lots of red herrings thrown in to keep you guessing. Highly recommend.

Amy says

A fantastic thriller!

When Tess DeGraff was 9, she went camping with her family in New Hampshire. During this trip, her sister, Phoebe, was kidnapped and killed. Thanks to Tess's eyewitness testimony, a man named Lazarus Abbott was convicted and put to death for the crime.

Fast forward 20 years . . . DNA testing reveals that Abbott was not Phoebe's killer. Driven by the fear that she may have sent an innocent man to his death, Tess and her adopted son, Erny (pronounced Air-Nee), return to the NH town where everything happened.

It is a race against time to untangle the truth about her sister's murder and the fast pace of the story really keeps you on your toes in trying to figure out who the real guilty party is!
