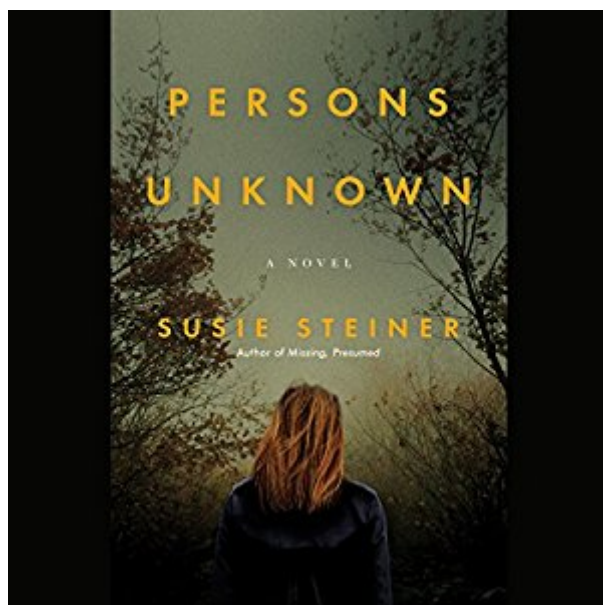


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Persons Unknown: A Novel



Synopsis

In this brilliant crime novel from the author of *Missing*, *Presumed*, a detective investigates her most personal case yet: a high-profile murder in which her own family falls under suspicion. As dusk falls, a young man staggers through a park, far from home, bleeding from a stab wound. He dies where he falls, cradled by a stranger, a woman's name on his lips in his last seconds of life. Detective Manon Bradshaw handles only cold cases. Five months pregnant, in pursuit of a work-life balance rather than romantic love, she's focused on being a good mother to her two children: her adopted 12-year-old son, Fly Dent, and the new baby. But the man died just yards from the police station where she works, so Manon can't help taking an interest. And as she sidles in on the briefing she learns that the victim, a banker from London worth millions, is more closely linked to her than she could have imagined. When the case begins to circle in on Manon's home and her family, she finds herself pitted against the colleagues she once held dear: Davy Walker and Harriet Harper. Can Manon separate what she knows about the people she loves from the suspicion hanging over them? Can she investigate the evidence just as she would with any other case? *Persons Unknown* shows acclaimed author Susie Steiner writing her most intricate, suspenseful novel yet.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 11 hours 46 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Random House Audio

Audible.com Release Date: July 4, 2017

Language: English

ASIN: B0733PCGW1

Best Sellers Rank: #61 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Mysteries & Thrillers > British Detectives #399 in Books > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Mystery > British Detectives #2772 in Books > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Thrillers & Suspense > Crime

Customer Reviews

LOVE Manon. Susie Steiner takes no prisoners in this installation of the Manon Bradshaw series. Manon is as blissfully workcentric and self-critical as ever and it's nice to see some of the old gang back and have a few characters introduced who, from the looks of it, may turn up again in the future. Satisfying!

Closer to a 3.5. Steiner is a clever writer. Her characters, flawed though they are, are beautifully drawn. Enjoyed the writing more than the plot, which I felt was weak. But oh those inner musings of Davey and Manon. Wish I could hang out with them.

Great writing for this genre with the brilliance of biting wit. The second book in this series - read "Missing Presumed" first.

Good beach book'-I have been reading some 'heavy' historical books this was a nice change

Eye for detail, no crap, no shortcuts, no unexpected surprises 3/4's of the way through, excellent and believable characters and a really good story, I enjoyed the first book just as much and was worried this would get old, but no! Can't wait for your next book

Tana French has been my favorite author of literary mysteries for a very long time. I have now discovered Susie Steiner and both she and Ms. French share a place on my 'favorite list'. Ms. Steiner writes in a way that inhabits her characters, gives them life, and resurrects them from the page. She is able to develop characters while also providing psychological intrigue. Detective Manon Bradshaw is 42 years old, single and very pregnant. She has moved from London to Cambridgeshire to give her 12 year old adopted son, Fly, a better chance at succeeding. While they were in London she feared that Fly was cavorting with a bad crowd and, given his brother's death and his mother's history of addiction, Manon wanted to help him while she had the chance. This move, however, is not what Fly wanted. He is being bullied at a school that is almost lily white and he feels out of step and alone in Cambridgeshire. On top of that, Manon is having another child. What could she want with him he thinks. Manon and Fly live with Manon's sister Ellie and her son Solly. Fly loves Solly and is very good with him. However, it is not long before Fly is arrested as the main suspect in the knifing murder of Ellie's ex who is also Solly's father. Fly is unmoored and lashes out at Manon, feeling like it is her fault that she is in this predicament. On top of that, because of Manon's closeness to the case, she is asked to step aside and not participate in any aspect of the investigation. The word 'no' is not enough to stop Manon and her love for Fly has no bounds. As she navigates the twists and turns of this squirrely ride, she comes face to face with situations that not only puzzle her but have her questioning herself and her family. What she wants most is to win back Fly's love and trust but she is smart enough to realize that this takes time, not

just determination. She asks herself repeatedly why she got pregnant, why she wanted another child when she already had Fly. The psychological insight into the book's protagonists is excellent. I felt like I knew each and every one of them and what made them tick. There are no red herrings and every single loose end of this wonderful novel is tied up at the end. Steiner's first book 'Missing, Presumed', gives a background for this second novel in the series but is not a necessary prerequisite in order to read and love this second installment. It is rare that a mystery has the profound depths and insight as those shown in 'Persons Unknown'.

Many acronyms associated with the U.K. Once past the initial slow start, an enjoyable read

Waiting for her next book, really enjoyed both.

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