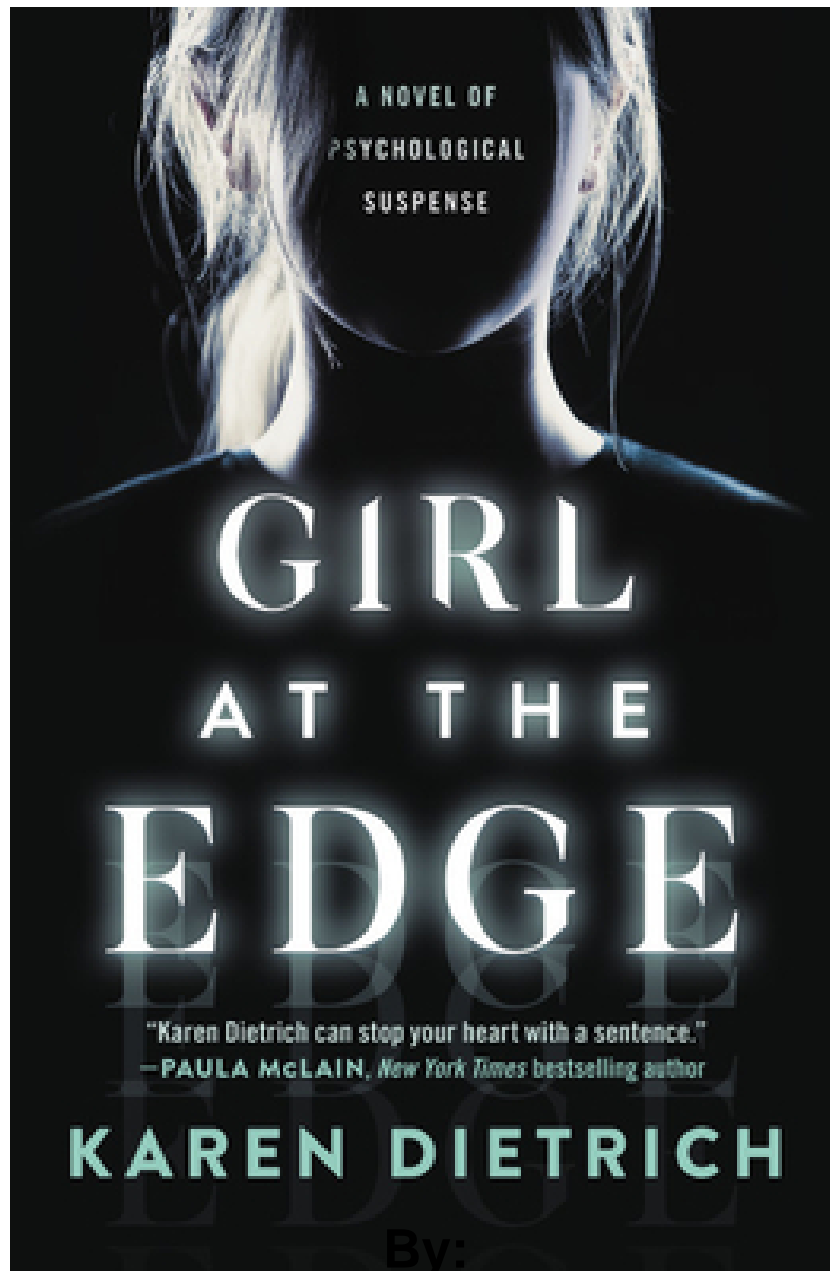


Girl at the Edge Book PDF Download



By:
Karen Dietrich

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What people Say:

Chrissy

I received an ARC from the author in exchange for an honest review.

This book is DARK. The biggest question it asks is are we who we are due to nature, nurture, or both? It's a question the main character, Evelyn, is struggling with, because her father killed 11 people in a mass shooting and is on death row. She joins a support group, where she meets a girl with similar questions, and the story follows them as they try to find the answers. There are quite a few disturbing scenes, which one would

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Karen R.

This is a dark book, but make no mistake, it makes you think. The age old question....nature vs. nurture, and does it make a difference? Evelyn's father is on death row for a horrific crime. Is Evelyn like her father? Can she kill someone?

Sharon May

Many thanks to NetGalley, Grand Central Publishing and Karen Dietrich for the opportunity to read and review this dark thriller. 4.5 stars!

A serial killer walked into a mall and killed 11 people in St Augustine, FL, and now sits on death row. His daughter, whom he has never met, is a teenager now obsessed with death and trying to understand why her father did what he did. Her mother encourages her to go to a support group for kids with incarcerated parents where she meets Clarisse, daughter of a

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This is both a coming of age story as well as exploring the topic of nature vs nurture. The writing is spot on, even when it is dark enough to make you shiver.

Ludwig Reads

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Janie Hickok Siess

"My father is a murderer." So begins Girl at the Edge, a compelling and deeply disturbing consideration of the invisible victims of horrendous crime: the perpetrator's family. Evelyn's father had an extramarital relationship with her mother, Mira, and when his wife learned of the affair and left him, he took up residence with Mira. Six months before Evelyn's birth, he kidnapped his wife from the jewelry store at which she was employed, situated in the Ponce de Leon Mall in St. Augustine, Florida

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Evelyn's story is told through her insightful but chilling first-person narrative. She can't recall when she first became aware of her father's history -- she has no "sit-down-and-have-a-serious-talk-with-my-mother memory" in her mind. But she has memories of

other children taunting her at school. "A kid who sat next to me in reading group in first grade who whispered in my ear,

" When she was six years old, she and her mother moved to Pass-a-Grille, a small beach town two hundred miles from St. Augustine, and they continue residing there with her mother's partner, Shea. Evelyn has numerous new articles about her father bookmarked on her internet browser, but doesn't open the links. She describes how she can never escape the knowledge that her father's "actions are like a rock thrown in the water, creating a wake, circles of motion emanating from the center out, ripples in the surface. His actions ended ancestral blood lines, tore lovers apart, left children without mothers and fathers, made orphans and widows with each squeeze of the trigger. And now his actions overshadow him. He's reduced to a mug shot, a name on a list 00 of mass murderers, mall murderers, death row inmates."

And as his actions overshadow him, they hound and perplex Evelyn. She has moved from simply knowing what happened on that horrible day to needing to know why it happened." And contemplating whether, because he was capable of committing such monstrous acts, she is inevitably like him and, therefore, also capable of killing.

Dietrich's prose is eloquent -- rich and evocative, almost rhythmic which, given that she is a poet is not surprising. She describes Evelyn's feelings and inner struggle convincingly and empathetically. In Evelyn, Dietrich has drawn a complex, deeply troubled character. She has disturbing visions and has to remind herself that what she is seeing is not real. She maintains The Catalogue of Everything I've Done Wrong into which she enters details concerning acts about which she feels remorse or shame. Despite being raised by a loving mother, and living in a stable home with Mira and Shea, she wrestles with self-doubt and tries to understand whether the dominant force in shaping her character has been nurturance or if, perhaps, she shares an inherently dark nature with her father. Dietrich says Evelyn is "grappling with her own identity and trying to figure out how to navigate the legacy her father has left through his violent act."

The story moves at a steady pace, as Evelyn joins the support group and her friendship with the risk-taking Clarisse deepens. The two girls have much in common and embark upon a course of action fraught with danger. Dietrich's examination of Evelyn's includes staggering developments that are shocking, as well as heartbreaking. Evelyn and Clarisse are not typical American teenage girls. They are part of a distinct group who are involuntarily saddled with shame, notoriety, revulsion, and a desire for normalcy that perpetually eludes them because of the heinous actions of a family member. Dietrich deftly encourages readers to consider their plight and draw their own conclusions, even though she notes that she believes "we're all at the mercy of both nature and nurture."

Girl at the Edge is a fascinating study of one young woman's circumstances that is not easy to walk away from after reading the last page. Readers will find Evelyn's inner turmoil and actions haunting, and will likely never view a news story about yet another mass shooting the same way again.

Thanks to NetGalley for an Advance Reader's Copy of the book.