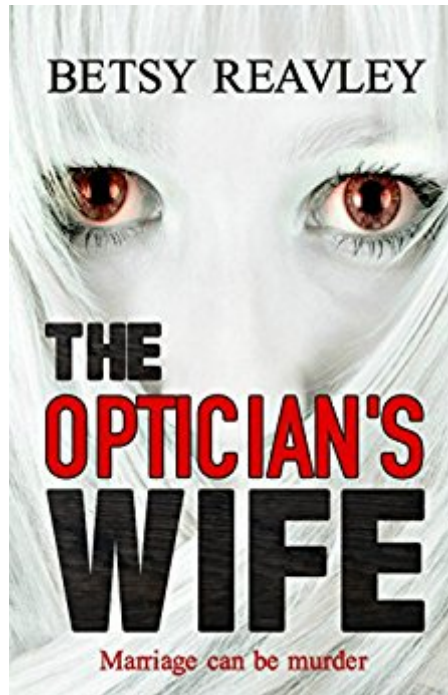


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The Optician's Wife: A Compelling New Psychological Thriller



Synopsis

The Optician's Wife: A compelling new psychological thriller from an international best-selling author. Can you ever really know someone? When Deborah, an unpopular seventeen-year-old, meets the charming and handsome Larry, he sweeps her off her feet. The trouble is Larry has a secret. Then a series of grisly murders cast a shadow over everything. As Deborah's world starts to fall apart she begins to suspect the man she loves of a terrible betrayal. And to keep their marriage alive, sacrifices must be made. A compelling, psychological thriller that unpicks what goes on behind closed doors and reminds us that sometimes the worst crimes can take place closer to home than you think.

Editorial reviews:

- An addictive, compelling read that pushed me well out of my comfort zone - if you like disturbingly twisty plot lines and dark characters then this is definitely the read for you. • Lisa Hall, Author of the best selling psychological thriller *Between You and Me*
- "The Optician's Wife is a stylish, brilliantly crafted thriller which really delivers. A very real sense of creeping dread, combined with intelligent, finely drawn characters, had me turning the pages late into the night. This one will linger with you, long after the book is finished. Reavley has delivered a masterclass and deserves to be up there with the best in the business." L J Ross - Bestselling author of *The DCI Ryan* books.
- "A fabulously dark and twisted psychological thriller which kept me gripped and on the edge of my seat from start to finish. Five stars." Tracy Fenton - *THE Book Club*
- "This is Betsy Reavley at her most volatile best. Nothing about this fascinating plot line is as it seems, with an equally unpredictable finale. A brilliant read from a superb author." Anita Waller - Bestselling author of *Beautiful and Angel*.
- "If you want a well written walk on the dark side of humanity then this is a must read." Fiona - Goodreads

A The Optician's Wife is a powerful psychological thriller by the best-selling author of *Carrion*, *The Quiet Ones* and *Beneath The Watery Moon*. If you are a fan of authors like Angela Marsons, Kathryn Croft, Helen Durrant, Barbara Vine or Rachel Abbott you will be gripped by this brilliant and bracing psychological thriller. **** The content of this book has been updated to correct some editorial issues raised by reviewers. ****

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Customer Reviews

Weirdest book ever which I don't know is a good thing. This book left me feeling dirty. I was so tired of hearing about how the wife was always stinking, not changing her underwear. If the author was going for her readers to feel disgusted, she sure accomplished that. I also knew what the supposed "twist" was about halfway through the book so it was no surprise to me. The book gets 3 stars because it was a fast, steady read but the twists were predictable (how many villains can there be?) and the characters too one dimensional and unlikable.

Yes, it is a dark book. Yes, it is somewhat predictable in the way that you will probably guess the twist. That said, it is fast paced and the ending literally had my stomach clenched, my body tensed, and I think I was even holding my breath and shaking my head in denial of what happened. This is a disturbing book in a lot of ways, but to me thrillers are supposed to be disturbing. If you like reading scary books that pull you in, I would recommend.

I was given an ARC by the author in exchange for an honest review. The book much more complex and layered than it first appears. Dee is one of the most complex fictional characters I've ever read. She's a very sympathetic character at first; sad, frumpy, shy and a bit put upon – the kind of person you instinctively feel sorry for. I really didn't like Larry at first and thought he was a total creep and felt frustrated when Dee falls for his dubious charms. Dee blossoms thanks to her marriage to Larry and having three children – though not in a very good way. She becomes quite harsh and abrasive and I really didn't like her. I missed shy, sweet naïve Dee. The final

quarter of the novel is packed with events shocked me so much my jaw literally smashed into the floor. Dee is a brilliant example of an unreliable narrator and I never saw what happens coming. I'm still stunned by the turn of events. This was a different sort of thriller than I'm used to and I'd describe it more as domestic noir. Dee is a fantastic narrator. I'd highly recommend The Optician's Wife. It's head and shoulders above the competition.

Having read The Quiet Ones not so long ago by the same author, I knew I would be in for a disturbing but enjoyable read and I wasn't wrong. Deborah is one of those quiet mousy types of girl that you would probably forget as soon as you met her. When Larry meets her, it isn't long before he takes her under his wing and turns her into his own creation. I really liked Deborah to start with but have to admit as the story goes on she becomes quite hardened and even though I felt quite sorry for her at times, I didn't really like the person that she was becoming. Larry right from the start I didn't trust. I didn't like how he was moulding Deborah and cutting her off from the outside world and becoming his own personally skivvy. He obviously has his own ideas to how a wife should act and he expects Deborah to follow that to the letter. He is very protective of her and in his own way I do think he truly loves her, though why she loves him so much beats me. It is slightly hard to say much more about the storyline without giving key parts of it away which would spoil it for other readers and I certainly wouldn't want to spoil the surprises that are awaiting them. The Optician's Wife is a dark and disturbing read. The author cleverly reels you in and has you believing what she wants you to believe before grabbing you and twisting you around leaving you dizzy. All I will say is that this is one book that sent a shiver down my spine and had me feeling like someone had walked over my grave! My thanks to the author for a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

I only give 5 stars to the books that I carry around with me just in case I get a minute to read and this was one of those books. I devoured this book in two days which is not like me. I may even go back and read the last two chapters again so I can really absorb what the hell just happened. The best \$2.99 I have ever spent!

This was a surprisingly decent story. I honestly didn't have high hopes going in and I figured everything out very quickly...but it still kept my interest and had me clicking through the pages rapidly. Recommended!

WOW. What a great read this is. A teenage girl grows up emotionally neglected and finally gets lucky when a young man shows an interest in her. Larry is all she could wish for as her life is dull, lacking in love and adventure. She marries Larry and she changes from a gauche girl into a woman with lots to live for. Her transformation is gradual and not without knocks to her confidence along the way. Larry is a huge influence on her and she is happy to be led by him. She leaves behind a father who only cares where his next drink comes from, a younger sister who is spoiled, and co-workers in a dead end job. In their local area around Cambridge random killings are taking place with the distinction that the killer removes the victims eyes. As Larry is an Optician we can be forgiven for jumping to conclusions, or maybe not. Deborah and Larry go on to have 3 children and life appears to be going well. Larry seems to have enough money for them to manage but when an opportunity comes along for Deborah to earn extra money, it is too good to turn down. How she earns the money, thinking it acceptable, is surprising in the extreme. I don't want to spoil this brilliant plot but suffice to say it will shock you, up to and including the last 2 pages. Looks can be very deceptive. My thanks to Betsy Reavley for allowing me to have an advance copy in exchange for an unbiased review.

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