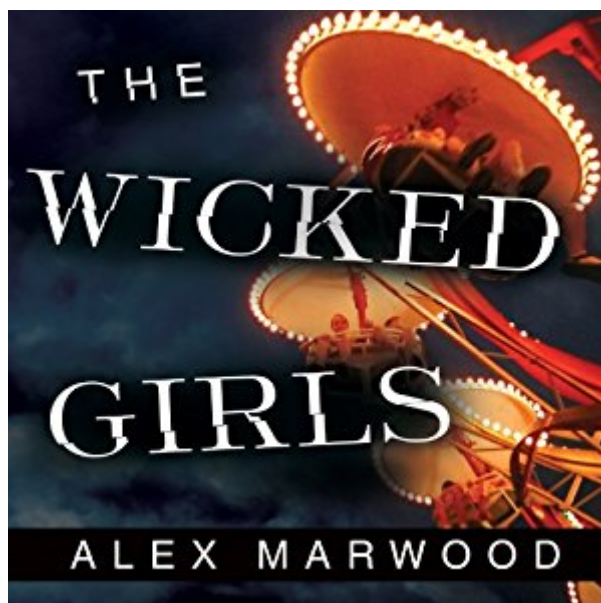


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# The Wicked Girls



## Synopsis

On a fateful summer morning in 1986, two 11-year-old girls meet for the first time. By the end of the day, they will both be charged with murder. Twenty-five years later, journalist Kirsty Lindsay is reporting on a series of sickening attacks on young female tourists in a seaside vacation town when her investigation leads her to interview carnival cleaner Amber Gordon. For Kirsty and Amber, it's the first time they've seen each other since that dark day so many years ago. Now with new, vastly different lives - and unknowing families to protect - will they really be able to keep their wicked secret hidden? Gripping and fast-paced, with an ending that will stay with you long after you've listened to it, *The Wicked Girls* will appeal to fans of the Academy Award-nominated film *Heavenly Creatures* and the novels of Rosamund Lupton and Chevy Stevens.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

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Whispersync for Voice: Ready

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Best Sellers Rank: #56 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Mysteries & Thrillers > Suspense  
#157 in Books > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Thrillers & Suspense > Psychological Thrillers  
#483 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fiction & Literature

## Customer Reviews

This book disturbs and troubles me. It breaks one's heart and in the process turns a glaring light on some of the ugliest aspects of society. These include child abuse and parental neglect, failure of the justice system, lives lived on the thinnest of margins, and the integrity and duties of a free press. The author has done a brilliant job of showing and not telling. The precipitating event is the completely inadvertent death of a hot, hungry and cross four-year old girl whose older sister has fobbed her caretaking duties on two girls about ten years old: Bel and Jade. Both children have been abused and neglected in different ways. Socially and economically they are from different worlds. The entire country condemns the girls and they are sent to two different facilities for juvenile

criminal offenders, one which treats and rehabilitates and one which does not. The outcomes seem strikingly different.....but are they? One works at the most menial of jobs, the other, it is true, is a journalist, but both are scrambling to hang onto whatever modicum of civility and humanity with which they have molded their adult lives. And, more significantly, both live the internally frenzied life of a someone living a lie. The author has created characters who live on the pages, but the book is equally plot-driven. And it's a good plot. There is a secondary story thread about sexual crimes against women which may have been unnecessary. Whether I am right about that or not, the book would stand alone. I give it an A.

SPOILER ALERT: Very well written. I can't disagree with the end, since it certainly built up to it and it is plausible. I can't help but wish there had been a kinder fate after all the girls suffered. Apparently, everyone involved was to some degree responsible for the child's death and the author carefully constructed the story to implicate everyone. But society loves a scapegoat.

I gave it 4 stars because I enjoyed the book, but kept waiting for the BIG surprise. It left me disappointed. Did I miss something? I didn't understand why only one person was the "guilty" one. I liked the story, the main character, Amber, but I found the other characters unlikable.

Excellent writing, well-developed characters, interesting setting, and a unique plot. My one complaint, if you can call it that, were the myriad English-isms which were a distraction. I understood the meaning in the context in which they were used, but found myself constantly looking up the definitions. Kinda fun!

This story is full of characters so richly described I felt I knew them, and know them still. Months later I am still thinking of them. Described isn't exactly right. The author simply lets us watch and hear them, and listen in on their thoughts so we can make up our own minds. I found myself re-evaluating my ideas about good and evil, redemption and forgiveness, media and privacy. Then there is the exciting terrifying twisty plot, and horrifying situations. I feel I have been to this seaside town. You know how sometimes you see a title you've read and have trouble dredging up which one it was? That will never happen with this one! Wonderfully realized great story. Read this one.

This turned out to be one of those great reads. The book kept me up later than I wanted several times. The need to know how it was all going to end became an obsession. This book seems so true

to life I kept asking, how close to the story is this author. Then after some research I found out that Marwood was once a journalist herself. Covering stories of child killers and accidental deaths must have been part of her old job. This story of two young girls who are forced to deal with one day of horrible decision making will put your nerves on end, and make you question the very ideals behind forgiveness. The ability to take gruesome headline making news stories and turn that into workable fiction shows what an emerging talent Marwood is. This author will no doubt grow in popularity really quickly, and she deserves all the praise. I very much look forward to the copy of her next book arriving. I have *The Killer Next Door* ordered and can't wait to dive right in.

This book had mixed reviews, but since Stephen King commented it was his favorite book of the year a few years ago, I had to order. I read a lot of British mysteries because I love the landscape and culture, and Alex Marwood is definitely a British author who doesn't change her wording to appease to an American audience. If you are a reader who doesn't watch British television or read a lot of modern British authors, I can admit that the British slang might get annoying for you. But I do watch a lot of BBC and read a ton of British fiction so I was fine with it. Her characters are interesting and the mystery itself was not the focal point, however, combined with everything else going on, the book just worked for me. I think Marwood, as a journalist herself, is definitely making some important points in this book about journalism in the age of the internet, and that was fine with me because the rest of the story was pretty engrossing. A short, easy read. Nothing life-altering but definitely entertaining. Some graphic scenes here and there but not too bad.

This book is deliciously creepy and keeps you on the edge of your seat. The book alternates between the present day and the day a young girl was murdered back in the 1980's. It gradually reveals the events of that day and the current life of the girls as adults. It addresses some interesting questions. Is there a chance for redemption? Or are the mistakes of the past going to follow them forever? And what are they willing to do to keep their secrets? I highly recommend this book. If you like thrillers, this is a great one. I'm looking forward to reading her next book (not a sequel) called *The Killer Next Door*.

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