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The Disappearances



Synopsis

What if the ordinary things in life suddenly disappeared? Aila Quinn's mother, Juliet, has always been a mystery: vibrant yet guarded, she keeps her secrets beyond Aila's reach. When Juliet dies, Aila and her younger brother Miles are sent to live in Sterling, a rural town far from home and the place where Juliet grew up. Sterling is a place with mysteries of its own. A place where the experiences that weave life together—scents of flowers and food, reflections from mirrors and lakes, even the ability to dream—vanish every seven years. No one knows what caused these "Disappearances" or what will slip away next. But Sterling always suspected that Juliet Quinn was somehow responsible—and Aila must bear the brunt of their blame while she follows the chain of literary clues her mother left behind. As the next Disappearance nears, Aila begins to unravel the dual mystery of why the Disappearances happen and who her mother truly was. One thing is clear: Sterling isn't going to hold on to anyone's secrets for long before it starts giving them up.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A Bookish Must Read YA Book of the Summer A Barnes & Noble Teen Most Anticipated Book of the Second Half of 2017 "The Disappearances is a delicious mix of mystery, fantasy and romance." Bookpage "At its heart, The Disappearances is a carousel of sentimental acts, of regret, the many kinds of love, the people we love, and the ways people, places, and things never truly leave us even if they've been taken. The adventure to unravel the riddle of The

Disappearances made my heart race." **Ravenous for Reads** "How do we find the words to emphasize just how much we loved and enjoyed this novel? The Disappearances had us captivated within its spell from the very first page... was just beautiful, heartbreaking and irresistible... We definitely recommend this read and we are warning you, remember the name Emily Bain Murphy as she is a rising author who will just leave you in awe, page after page! **Pocket Full of Pages** "Thick with mystery, buried secrets, and magic, nothing is safe in The Disappearances. Be careful, or you might lose yourself in this strange and wondrous world, where stars go missing, reflections don't exist, and the question, how much would you sacrifice for love? is given entirely new meaning. I adored this book!" **Stephanie Garber**, New York Times bestselling author of *CARAVAN* "The Disappearances is purely poetic a beautifully woven story with enough heart to take on its own life." **Lindsay Cummings**, New York Times bestselling author of *THE MURDER COMPLEX* "The Disappearances is a dazzling debut, as glimmering as the Variants themselves, with a haunting mystery, wondrous world building, and a finely wrought family at its heart. I adored it." **Jessica Spotswood**, author of *The Cahill Witch Chronicles* | "Sumptuous worldbuilding, richly developed characters, and a swoon-worthy romance elevate this delightful, fantasy-tinged mystery." **PW**, starred review "...delightfully whimsical and unsettling... a story bursting with color and originality." **Kirkus** "The riddle behind the town's curse is an intricate and surprising one, and readers will happily join the clever and witty Aila on her hunt for clues." **Bulletin** "... Murphy's debut is no doubt ambitious . . . expertly woven world, spun with secrets, lush with literary allusion, and shimmering with magic (quite literally), is a place many readers will happily disappear into."

Booklist "The Disappearances is a book of wonder and mystery by first time novelist, Emily Bain Murphy. It is well crafted and the plot is memorable and complex. Shakespeare's words help solve the mystery, leaving the reader with a sense of hope as well as awe. This book should appeal to young adults and adults. The eloquent writing style and the well-researched inclusion of historical details make it memorable. Aila and Miles often use one word to summarize an experience, calling it a finishing word. My finishing word after reading The Disappearances is sublime." --Assembly on Literature for Adolescents of the NCTE, an ALAN pick Nov/Dec 2016

Emily Bain Murphy grew up in Tokyo and Hong Kong, graduated from Tufts with a major in creative writing, and now lives in San Francisco with her family. The Disappearances is Emily's debut novel. Visit her at emilybainmurphy.com and on Twitter at @EBain.

This book was so good! I couldn't put it down! There were some great unexpected twists in there that tied together the story beautifully. Even though this book fell more into the realm of fantasy, the characters were so relateable that it felt like it could have happened. I'm a fan of some YA but often find the genre too sappy or over the top. This was neither, just a beautifully crafted story that pulled me back to it until the end. I can't wait to see what this author comes up with next!

This story is magical. I just finished reading *The Disappearances* over the span of 3 days and may have neglected to take care of my kids (kidding!!) because I did not want to put this book down. I knew nothing about the book prior to reading it and was captivated by such a beautiful and well-written book. Loved the 1940's setting with the Shakespeare references throughout. In my mind, I could see the characters come alive and could feel my own senses heightened anytime the characters came across a Variant. Love this book!!!

I loved Emily Bain Murphy's debut novel! The plot was engaging and kept me guessing as the mystery of the disappearances unfurled. I liked the narrative frame of the novel, with two parallel story lines ultimately converging at the end. Stefan's narrative arc had me asking tons of questions that with patience were answered. Ultimately, I liked the delayed development of his back story. The characters' voices feel authentic, including the teenage characters, which in my opinion is often difficult for adult writers to capture. I thought the cover (beautifully rendered) and the use of multiple fonts/visual stylistic effects complimented the words on the page. My favorite part of the novel was Bain Murphy's voice. I loved her use of word choice, detail, and imagery throughout. One such example is the recurring "finishing word" throughout the novel. I highly recommend you pick this up for yourself or your teen reader!

I absolutely loved this book. I read it over the weekend and couldn't put it down! I had to keep turning the pages to find answers. A job well done.

Such a fun read. I'm not normally a fan of mysteries, but this one was so well done, I enjoyed it immensely and finished it in under a day.

Beautifully written book that keeps you emotionally invested until the very last page. While it's labeled a Young Adult book, it certainly is appealing to an older demographic

as well (like me!). It's a raw and emotional story that explores the feelings of loss both big and small and leaves the reader considering the magic of our everyday lives. It's a well-crafted story and a must-read. I highly recommend this book!

I had the distinct pleasure of reading *The Disappearances*. Emily Bain Murphy crafts characters that are easy to become attached to, and as a reader you are eager to learn where they are headed next. The story is unique and holds the reader's attention. If I had the chance, I would have read this all in one sitting. I absolutely recommend this book. Adults, young adults, or any person who wants a book to take them away.

This was a great book! Once I started I couldn't put it down. Emily Bain Murphy's writing style is very fluid and enjoyable to read. The book is suspenseful, full of emotions and even great for tweens because it has some romance but is still a clean story line. I am a Nana and still loved reading it! I could see a sequel out of this for sure.

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