



# The Night Before

Written by Wendy Walker

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The Night Before

# The Night Before

By Wendy Walker

## The Night Before Christmas

First dates can be murder.

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## The Night Before Christmas Movie

Riveting and compulsive, national bestselling author Wendy Walker's *The Night Before* takes you to deep, dark places few thrillers dare to go as two sisters uncover long-buried secrets when an internet date spirals out of control.

## The Night Before Halloween

Laura Lochner has never been lucky in love. She falls too hard and too fast, always choosing the wrong men. Devastated by the end of her last relationship, she fled her Wall Street job and New York City apartment for her sister's home in the Connecticut suburb where they both grew up. Though still haunted by the tragedy that defined her entire life, Laura is determined to take one more chance on love with a man she met on an Internet dating site.

## The Night Before Cast

Rosie Ferro has spent most of her life worrying about her troubled sister. Fearless but fragile, Laura has always walked an emotional tightrope, and Rosie has always been there to catch her. Laura's return, under mysterious circumstances, has cast a shadow over Rosie's peaceful life with her husband and young son – a shadow that grows darker as Laura leaves the house for her blind date.

## The Night Before Christmas Poem

When Laura does not return home the following morning, Rosie fears the worst. She's not responding to calls or texts, and she's left no information about the man she planned to meet. As Rosie begins a desperate search to find her sister, she is not just worried about what this man might have done to Laura. She's worried about what Laura may have done to him!

My reviews can also be seen at: [https://deesradreadsandreviews.wordpr...](https://deesradreadsandreviews.wordpress.com/)

I really enjoyed this author's previous novels, "Emma in the Night" and "All is Not Forgotten". Needless to say, I was looking forward to reading "The Night Before". Especially after reading the description.

Twelve hours earlier, she was...  
Hopeful.  
Excited.  
Safe.

Now she's gone.

The book begins four months earlier. Laura Lochner is in session with her therapist. She's talking about a night from many years ago. She wants to know

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The book begins four months earlier. Laura Lochner is in session with her therapist. She's talking about a night from many years ago. She wants to know why she has such bad luck with relationships. Why she's "the girl no one can love". Her therapist thinks she'll find the answers by going home.

The story jumps to the present. Twenty-eight year old, Laura has moved home and is living with her

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sister, husband, and nephew. She hasn't told them exactly why she left New York, but they know that it involves a man. Laura left home after graduating from High School and she never looked back.

Laura now feels like she's ready to start dating again and joins a dating website. She meets a man on the website named Jonathan Fields. Her sister, Rosie is helping her get ready for her first date with Jonathan. Rosie is nervous about Laura dating. As Laura leaves, she tells her sister not to worry. She says she's going to get it right this time.

When Rosie wakes up the next morning she feels like something is wrong. She tries to tell herself that everything is fine. She knows that Laura has good intentions. But Rosie's memories of a night eleven years ago keep her on edge. She opens the door to the bedroom where Laura has been staying. It's empty. The bed has not been slept in.

“Something is wrong”

Rosie's husband tells her not to worry, that Laura is fine. But as the day goes on even he starts to get concerned. They start to investigate on their own. They don't think that calling the police will help them find Laura, in fact, they worry that it might even make things worse.

Where is Laura?

Once I started this book, it was difficult to stop...very difficult. I thought this was a great read!!

The story is told from Laura and Rosie's point of view, and takes place in the present but includes flashbacks from the past. Some of Laura's therapy sessions are interspersed throughout the novel.

“The Night Before” is a smart and compulsively readable psychological suspense novel. With an original and engaging plot and a fascinating cast of characters, I was hooked from the start. I enjoyed the story and really liked how it all came together in the end.

I'm THRILLED to say that I'm now three for three with Wendy Walker, and as I've said before!

I CANNOT wait for more!!

I'd like to thank St. Martin's Press for giving me the opportunity to read this book in exchange for my honest review.

...more



## The Night Before Kindergarten

I do believe I'll be keeping this one brief for now, as it's not released until mid 2019, but I wanted to get a few thoughts down first while it's still fresh in my mind. I believe keeping the synopsis brief in the description above is brilliant; I truly hope the publisher keeps it as vague as possible because it was so helpful going into this one knowing as little as possible.

I'll admit, I was getting a bit nervous around the halfway point because I had figured out all of the "reveals" up until that point, but I should have known that the obvious, cliché answers simply aren't Wendy Walker's style. I was genuinely shocked by two separate outcomes in the conclusion, which was such a relief and enjoyable predicament to find myself in!

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The Night Before was a compulsive suspense novel that was easy to breeze through in a single sitting. I had all but given up on the almighty psychological thriller, but Ms. Walker has revived my love of all things devious and twisty in less than 300 pages. I have no way of knowing if the opportunity to read this one SO early (meaning the lack of hype to affect my expectations) made it a more desirable read than it could have otherwise, so I'll just have to wait until YOUR reviews come in to compare our thoughts! &lt;3

\*I received a bound, uncorrected manuscript via the publisher for review. ...more

5 Frakking Awesome Stars!!

If you thought Wendy Walker hit it out of the park with her earlier novels: "All is Not Forgotten" and "Emma in The Night," well Fuggedaboutit folks! She just won the World Freakin Series with her latest novel: "The Night Before."

So what is this one about you ask?:

Twelve hours earlier, she was...

Hopeful.

Excited.

Safe.

Now she's gone.

## The Night Before

Thatâ€™s it. Thatâ€™s all you get!!  
Ok, ok, I lied, thatâ€™s not ALL you get..

Hereâ€™s a little teaser:

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Ok, ok, I lied, thatâ€™s not ALL you get..

Hereâ€™s a little teaser:

Imagine that thereâ€™s something youâ€™ve desperately wanted .. something youâ€™ve needed throughout your life and it has always been just out of reach and your emotions canâ€™t help but rise up when you watch what you wanted simply slip away, time and again, yet you keep going for it..

Then thereâ€™s that gnawing feeling in the pit of your stomach, that nervousness you feel, when something just isnâ€™t right and yet youâ€™re too scared to speak your mind. The doubts seep in and you push, push, push them away and then you realize what a bad decision that was. Can you say ruh-roh?

Yep, those are the themes that creep up in â€œThe Night Beforeâ€• - creep being the operative word. Is your stomach in knots? Are you sick with anticipation? I sure hope so! Iâ€™m afraid I canâ€™t say more as I donâ€™t want to divulge any secrets, at least, not yet. Though there may have been one or two things I guessed, it didnâ€™t take away from my enjoyment in the least as I simply couldnâ€™t tear through my copy of this one fast enough.

What I loved about this psychological suspense, versus Wendy Walkerâ€™s other novels was that it felt

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believable and fairly realistic, as if parts of it could happen to me. Like the author, I am also from Connecticut, where all of her novels "take place," thus our backyards are basically one and the same... and this time, for the first time, I'm actually afraid to go outside and play. Thanks for scaring the bejesus out of me, Ms. Walker, I look forward to the next time!

This was a buddy read with Kacey! Loved reading this with you as always!

Thank you to Jordan at St. Martin's Press and to Wendy Walker for providing me with galley of this novel in exchange for an honest review.

Published on Goodreads, Twitter and Instagram on 9.16.18.

\*Will be published on Amazon in the Summer of 2019. ...more

## The Night Before Movie

\*3 Stars\*

For me, this was a middle-of-the-road psychological thriller with a twisty plot and enough back and forth structural-juggling to make my head spin. (In a good way;)

I did enjoy it however, I wasn't entirely pulled in or convinced, and I unfortunately felt this story was a bit hollow and consisted largely of dramatic build-up that yielded a decent though not particularly gratifying finish.

But that's just me, and sometimes I'm a weirdo. I loved All is Not Forgotten, and many readers are \*3 Stars\*

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But that's just me, and sometimes I'm a weirdo. I loved All is Not Forgotten, and many readers are loving this one. I hope you'll fall into their wheelhouse!

\*Sister Read\* ...more

I always love to approach my books by going in with blinders on!

In this case, that was a very good thing.

The publisher's blurb was purposely vague to draw in the reader. Well, it worked! I couldn't wait to read this one, and I know I'm not the only one who had the same reaction!! If you're looking for the next truly top-notch thriller, pull up your chair! You've found it!

Laura has a past, to say the least. One that all these years later, continues to haunt her...

It's one innocent evening out, I always love to approach my books by going in with blinders on!

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It's one innocent evening out, a first date. All arranged conveniently through a trusted online site. So what could go wrong?

Told from different timelines and POV's, the tension continually ramps-up as the book progresses. (Just the way we like it!) With every page I was pulled more deeply into the mystery, white-knuckling my copy!

This is the third book I've read by Wendy Walker, and was by far my favorite! I was immediately dropped into the action and story-line. All without ever losing momentum at any point. I couldn't read it fast enough! When I wasn't reading it, it would just stare at me, taunting me from across the room whispering "read me!" Lol! I didn't stand a chance!

I may have guessed some of the twists along the way but others were just complete shockers, with more than a few jaw-dropping moments! The twists and switch-backs just kept coming!

Like the publisher, I'm staying vague regarding the story-line. Wouldn't want to chance giving any spoilers away! Sorry! You'll just have to read it yourself to see what the buzz is about!

Highly recommend to all thriller fans.

A buddy read with Susanne! One of our favorites! (Thank you Susanne)☺

Thank you to Jordan Hanley at St Martin's Press for my galley copy to read and review. ...more

## The Night Before Beatles

Part One--choose a man who can't love you.

Part Two--reconstruct him into a man who will love you.

Part Three--make him love you by any means.

Run of the mill psychological thriller about a blind date that goes awry.

The premise is intriguing. Laura is getting ready to go out on a first date with a man named Jonathan she met on a dating website. Laura builds a fantasy around Jonathan and this date. She craves love, and as result, she has a tendency to fall for the wrong men. You see, Laura has a dark and dangerous past: Part One--choose a man who can't love you.

Part Two--reconstruct him into a man who will love you.

Part Three--make him love you by any means.

Run of the mill psychological thriller about a blind date that goes awry.

The premise is intriguing. Laura is getting ready to go out on a first date with a man named Jonathan she met on a dating website. Laura builds a fantasy around Jonathan and this date. She craves love, and as result, she has a tendency to fall for the wrong men. You see, Laura has a dark and dangerous past: She may or may not have killed her first love when she is a teenager. Dark rage is buried inside of her, and her anger can come out at any time. She is determined to squash her past and find true love. In order to do so, she creates stories inventing the perfect man. Unfortunately, her stories make her vulnerable to those who can hurt her most.

The guys she is on a date with may be deadly. But not to worry, because Laura can fight back.

When she doesn't return home the night of the date, her sister Rosie investigates.

The narrative switches perspective between Laura and Rosie. Also, we get some insight into Laura by reading her past sessions with her psychologist.

The Night Before held my attention and had me flipping the pages. It is a fast-paced and easy read--I was able to get through it in one sitting. On the other hand, I found Laura and Rosie's voices to be flat. While both had some layers to their characters, they didn't have enough depth to hold my curiosity. I really was hoping to witness an evolution to Laura's character but it never came. My biggest issue was that there was too much telling and not enough seeing. It was only the idea of what Laura might be that kept me interested. I was waiting for the payoff but none came.

I went into this with high expectations. I love Wendy Walker's previous work and I had read a slew of rave reviews. Sadly, I found The Night Before to be a letdown. It has the right elements, but the premise

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didn't match the execution.

I received an ARC of this book from NetGalley and St. Martin's Press in exchange for an honest review.  
...more

Updating to comment on that cover!!!

Ingenious, enthralling, & brisk!

When Brenda and I got the opportunity to do an early group read for Wendy Walker's new book with our Traveling Sisters we were absolutely thrilled. Wendy Walker has quite a few fans in our Traveling Sisters group including myself.

If I were to give you one piece of advice while reading this book would be to put all your other books aside so you can totally be immersed in this tale. This book needs to be read without any interruptions.  
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If I were to give you one piece of advice while reading this book would be to put all your other books aside so you can totally be immersed in this tale. This book needs to be read without any interruptions and quickly because the intensity level is all in the execution here and to even let it go for a few hours loses that appeal of needing to know what the heck is going on. Now I wouldn't necessarily say that you actually need to do that but boy do I ever wish that life didn't get in the way of this book!

THE NIGHT BEFORE by WENDY WALKER is an intense, thrilling, suspenseful and compulsive psychological thriller novel that was quite the entertaining and enjoyable read for me. I was actually quite stunned and very impressed in the end with how well a seemingly straightforward story turned into something that was so much more complex and felt nothing but new and original.

WENDY WALKER delivers an intriguing, clever and engaging read here with quite a few surprising twists and turns. The story is told in multiple timelines with alternating points of view between two sisters, Laura and Rosie and therapy sessions between Laura and her therapist. The intensity level of the story increases slowly as the story progresses and had me guessing and questioning almost everything that was happening in this book. I absolutely love that feeling of not knowing where a story is headed and when the reveal brings everything together in the end it is just so satisfying to me.

What really made this novel for me was Laura's character and the ending. She was a complicated,

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relatable, believable and realistic character. I did have a suspicion early on about one of the reveals, but having guessed that did not take away any of the shocking reveals in the end. I was genuinely impressed with how emotionally attached I got to Laura's character and the ending for me was absolutely beautiful and very touching.

Expected Publication Date: May 14th, 2019

## Norma's Stats:

Cover: I just noticed the cover for this book and it immediately grabbed my attention! My first thought was WOW what an absolutely gorgeous and striking cover, very eye-catching and an impactful design!

Title: Intriguing, suspenseful, and a simple, but yet an impactful title which represented the story very well.

Writing/Prose: Well-written, mysterious, gripping, stirring and effective.

Plot: Complex, suspenseful, twisty, action-packed, compelling, fast-paced, held my attention and entertaining.

Ending: Shocking, pleasing, impressive, and I was completely satisfied.

Overall: Even though I lost a little of the momentum to the story with having to put it aside it definitely did not take away how appealing and brilliant this story was. I devoured every single word! Would highly recommend!

Thank you so much to NetGalley, Wendy Walker and St. Martin's Press for the opportunity to read a free, electronic ARC of this novel in exchange for a review.

This review will be posted on our blog closer to the publication date. To check out a sneak peek of the Traveling Sisters discussion and Group thoughts, please visit our blog at:

<https://twosisterslostinacoulee.com/2...> ...more



## The Night Before Easter

This was such an addictive and gripping read that I could not put it down! I was glued to his book and read most of the book in one day. I just had to know what was going to happen next. Walker did not disappoint; the action was consistent and the twists and revelations came at the right intervals to keep me on the edge of my seat wanting more!

I love that the book blurb does not give a lot of information - just enough to pique the readers interest! This book is cleverly told through both Laura and her sister, Rosie's points of view using differing timelines which are clearly dated and labeled. This was a HUGE plus. I never felt lost and experience no confusion when the timelines jumped around. The book blurb teases the reader with the fact that a woman is missing. I will only tell you that Laura has gone on a date with a man she met on an internet dating site and Rosie, her husband, Joe and their childhood friend, Gabe, become worried when Laura does not show up the next day.

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I loved that there is never any downtime in this book. The pacing is consistent and adds to the feeling of dread, suspense and mounting anxiety of the characters (and me while reading). I loved how the Author gives bits and pieces about the main character's past throughout the book. I loved that I never knew the entire story, so I was continuously guessing and creating theories. For most of the book, I kept wondering who was reliable, who was unreliable, what is real, what is the truth, is anyone lying, and where is Laura?

I love putting on my super sleuth hat while reading! I love when an Author can fool me. I found the storytelling to be clever, extremely well thought out, and riveting. By the time the book concluded, I had experienced so many feelings - anticipation, dread, anxiety, happiness, hope, shock, surprise and although my theories were wrong, the Author tidied everything up so nicely that I was not only happy I was wrong but was thrilled by it. Nothing really came out of left field, one does not really need to suspend disbelief while reading. What you do need to do is find a comfortable reading spot and dive in!

This was my first book by Walker, but it will not be my last.

Highly recommend!

Thank you to St. Marin's Press and NetGalley who provided me with a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review. The thoughts and opinions are my own.

The Night Before

Read more of my reviews at [www.openbookpost.com](http://www.openbookpost.com)

...more

What a wild ride! I was totally gripped - The Night Before was such a page turner!

Laura is unlucky in love and haunted by a teenage tragedy that has defined her life. She always seems to choose the wrong men. Determined to give love (and herself) one more chance, Laura returns to her childhood suburb and joins an internet dating site. She has an immediate connection with one man from the site and decides to meet him for a blind date. Nervous and excited, Laura walks out of her sister Rosie's ho

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Laura is unlucky in love and haunted by a teenage tragedy that has defined her life. She always seems to choose the wrong men. Determined to give love (and herself) one more chance, Laura returns to her childhood suburb and joins an internet dating site. She has an immediate connection with one man from the site and decides to meet him for a blind date. Nervous and excited, Laura walks out of her sister Rosie's house to meet up with her date and doesn't return. Rosie begins a frantic search to find her sister and uncover what really happened to Laura the night before.

Told from the alternating perspectives of both Laura and Rosie, The Night Before gripped me from the onset and never let go. The more you read, the more you question everything and everyone. The pacing of the book left my pulse racing as the suspense (and my anxiety) mounted. I found myself weaving plausible (and implausible) theory after theory. Wendy Walker definitely kept both the tension and suspicion levels high throughout the book!

The Night Before is a well crafted, riveting and thoroughly entertaining thriller that I have no hesitation in recommending! Cozy up, grab snacks and dig in my friends - this is one you won't want to miss. ðŸ™°

Thank you to Wendy Walker, St. Martin's Press and NetGalley for the opportunity to read and review an arc of this book. ...more