



The First Wife

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An idealistic young woman marries a man she barely knows only to discover his first wife disappeared under mysterious circumstances. As a child, Bailey Browne dreamed of a knight in shining armor swooping in to rescue her and her mother. As she grew older, those dreams transformed, becoming ones of a mysterious stranger who swept her off her feet and whisked her away from her ordinary existence; then, suddenly, there he was. Despite the ten-year difference in their ages and her working class upbringing and his of privilege, Logan Abbott and Bailey fall deeply in love. Marriage quickly follows.

But when Logan brings her home to his horse farm in Louisiana, a magnificent estate on ninety wooded acres, her dreams of happily-ever-after begin to unravel. A tragic family history Bailey knew nothing about surfaces, along with whisperings about the disappearance of his first wife and rumors about women from the area who have gone missing, and when another woman disappears, all signs point to her husband's involvement.

The First Wife Details

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From Reader Review The First Wife for online ebook

Joei says

I read this after Girl on the Train and I liked this one better.

Definitely a page turner, no boring chapters. Easy light read. It actually reminds me of the Fear Street Saga and RL Stine's writing. A doomed family full of secrets and curses and cliffhangers almost every chapters.

I also liked the twists and turns. Leaves you guessing until the end.

Denise Cornelius says

This is my first Erica Spindler and it may be my last. This book has a decent plot, a woman falls in love on vacation and after a whirlwind marriage moves to her new husband's horse farm/ranch. Immediately after she arrives, she meets his friends and family members that are suspicious of her intentions. Also she realizes that his first wife may not have left him like he stated but may be have murdered and that two other women in the area may have disappeared the same way. Right, so sounds like a great book.

But yeah, it's not.

First of, the dialogue is terrible. Picture the worst dialogue you have ever heard and it's even worse than that. I mean nowhere in the world do people actually speak like this. It's just awful. I can't even compare it to soap opera's because they are better written than this drivel. It was really difficult for me to take it seriously.

Then the character's names. I mean it's one thing for one character to have an unusual name but every character in this book's name is completely crazy. It was hard to take that seriously as well. There was like two people with a standard names and everyone was else was like they were named out of the Harlequin Romance baby name book.

Then the mystery, the terrible mystery, forget Agatha Christie, forget Nancy Drew, forget Murder, She Wrote, forget Matlock, forget Perry Mason, and even the one murder mystery episode of Saved by the Bell. It's pretty obvious it's not the husband even though all of the evidence (ehh no evidence just suspicion)...points to him. Honestly all of the characters were so one dimensional I didn't care who it turned out to be. It was Paul in case you care and basically he had no reason other then he hates women. And it's one of those reveals where not only did Paul do it in the conservatory with a rope but he is also responsible for Watergate, the other shooter on the grassy knoll, knows where Jimmy Hoffa is buried, etc. I mean if it happened, this guy did it kind of reveal. Stuff that I didn't even know was part of the mystery, he did. Except the first wife, yep no one killed her, she did actually leave him. WTF

This book is terrible. If a friend recommends it to you, promptly delete them from your iPhone. There are so many suspense novels that are well written that this book does not need to be part of your vernacular.

Ariel says

I picked this up because it was supposed to be a modern riff on Daphne du Maurier's novel *Rebecca*, an all time favorite of mine. Sadly this fell a little flat for me. The story starts out with the whirlwind romance of Bailey and Logan who meet while on vacation. Despite only knowing each other for a short time, the couple decides to marry and Logan brings his new wife to the family estate. It would all be wonderful except for the missing women in the town, one of whom happens to be Logan's first wife True, who also disappeared under somewhat mysterious circumstances. Add to that the murder of Logan's own mother by his father and Bailey starts to have doubts about her new husband. Logan doesn't react well to his new wife suspicion after having been judged his whole life by the town. To add to his annoyance, the sheriff is in hot pursuit of him for the disappearance of the town's women and his dedication to his job borders on the obsessive. Bailey is left to wonder who is murdering young women and if her love can survive the answer.

While I did ultimately finish the novel, I stalled out along the way. There was some time jumping that didn't really make sense to me. As is common in most thriller's, Bailey is about to make sense of some crucial piece of evidence and then she is knocked out and conveniently wakes up with amnesia. The time she is in the hospital is out of sync with the rest of the events in the book and disrupts the flow of the story. I also didn't like Logan's constant use of the word baby directed at Bailey. Baby once or twice as a term of endearment might have been okay but it's constant use was grating and quite honestly demeaning to women. Finally, the thriller part wasn't all that thrilling. I guess this was an okay enough read but ultimately forgettable. If you haven't read *Rebecca* then stick with the classic instead of this faulty and pale imitation.

Linda says

Although this is a decent read, I know that I have read this plotline in dozens and dozens of books. Girl meets insanely handsome guy on a trip and lets her guard down. Within weeks, they marry and she moves into his crazy rich digs. The memory of his first wife wafts into the air like yesterday's rancid bacon drippings. Girl investigates on her own.....

Bailey, the girl, flips back and forth as to whether or not she suspects her newly wedded husband. Is she or is she not? It's the usual suspects. Ironically, it's always these tiny little towns that stack up dead bodies like buttered toast. Erica Spindler forces you through a congested maze just because she can. So many contrived connections between characters.

It's simply a good book to take to the beach or read while waiting for a flight. It's entertaining to some degree and certainly not heavy lifting. Let's see what Ms. Spindler offers in the future.

Michael says

After initially thinking I may have picked up a Mills and Boon book by mistake with sappy romance a plenty in the first few chapters and the dreaded ridiculous names for characters syndrome (Raine, Roane and True) that had me grinding my teeth any times their names came up, the story would thankfully settle into a solid and intriguing thriller.

Bailey Browne has dreamed her whole life of a knight in shining armour who would sweep her off her feet. On Vacation, Bailey would meet that Knight in hunky charmer, Logan Abbott. Despite a ten year age gap and their different backgrounds the two fall head over heels for each other. Logan will reveal to her his first wife, True, disappeared sometime before and has not been seen since but despite this the two will get married(not sure how that worked, but hey it makes for good reading).

When Bailey returns to Logan's family estate, she starts to hear rumours about what really happened to True, that make her feel uneasy. These feelings will intensify with Logan being vague about his past and family and friends who all have there own guarded secrets. Local cop, Billy Ray, is convinced that Logan is responsible, not just for True's disappearance, but also a number of others. When another local girl, Dixie is reported missing, evidence comes to hand from a witness who says he seen her entering Logan's vehicle.

Could Logan be a killer or was the person responsible someone else, with there own axes to grind against his family? The anxiety Bailey goes through is palpable as she does her best to stand by her husband while finding it hard to ignore the tittle-tattle. The great thing about the story was it kept you guessing about that very question and if he wasn't then who was. Any one of Logan's family and friends along with Billy Ray were candidates and more often than not i ended up changing my thoughts. Combining romance, family drama and a fair splash of old fashioned whodunnit, The First Wife is a quality read that comes highly recommended.

Michael says

Bailey has always believed in fairy tales, a handsome knight sweeping her off her feet is a dream. Growing up, she always knew that love existed beyond her dire circumstances, she kept hope alive that there was a man out there for her. Upon meeting Logan, she is unaware what draw him to her, is it his attractive feature or his chivalry that won her over? Whatever it is, she is grateful that she has him by her side, accepting his flaws and all. Logan is madly in love with her, even though he has only know her over a couple of days, but there is no denying the magnetic attraction that she feels towards him. Suddenly she is asked to make a major commitment, that would cause her to question the quality of her relationship. Meeting his family on a farm is something that she expected, but she is swept away with their willingness to embrace her.

In contrast to Logan sister Rain who thinks that their romance is not going to last. Logan has a past that she is not too fond of and unlike Bailey, she does not believe in love. Not since she lost her siblings to a brutal death, nothing really make sense to her. It explains her abrasive attitude, also she sees way too many similarities to her brother' first love and Bailey. Yet she eventually starts to unravel the truth about what Logan true motive are. Additionally Bailey starts to question Logan's past and the peers around him. Searching for concrete evidence, Death follows Logan wherever we goes. Still Bailey is convinced that Logan is the man that she fell in love, despite what his enemies say.

Intrigue, suspense and murder collide in this epic mystery about "The First Wife."

To summarize this book, it was outstanding with rich characterization and content. Unlike the other mystery novels, it actually read like a mystery! Thrillers are my favorite genre of books so it is hard to get a four or higher, but this impressed me.

If there is ONE thing I would change, it would be the ending. It ended with a few of unanswered questions,yet it was a remarkable read!

Ashley P. says

First off, I won this book in a Goodreads giveaway but I liked the synopsis enough that I would have picked it up on my own regardless of whether or not I won it.

That said, I'm a little disappointed that the book didn't measure up to the synopsis. I covered my book with tiny post-it's to keep track of everything I wanted to mention so here we go:

---"Too much flowery language."---

Actual quote from the book: "Do you believe in fate, Bailey Browne? That two people can be destined to meet?"

"Yes, I believe it," she said, voice husky. "What about you, Logan Abbott?"

"I didn't. Not until..."

Tonight. Until you.

Me: 0_o Don't no one actually talk like that unless they're on a soap opera.

---"Doesn't listen to gut. Desperate."---

We had to hear over and over how Bailey was frightened of Logan or distrustful of something he said or did and then the very next thought would be "But he's my husband and I need to trust him." No. NO girl. Listen to your gut I don't care if you're married to Jesus. If you don't trust someone don't forget all of that the second they put their tongue in your mouth.

---"Keeps repeating old statements. Needs italics."---

This was probably one of the two things in the book that bothered me the most that might not be completely the author's fault. But when you're repeating something that someone said several chapters ago then it needs to be in italics so the reader picks up on that. Several times I had to go back and reread something because there would be something in quotation marks but it wasn't actually said out loud. Also this happened a lot. Bailey seemed to repeat stuff to herself pretty much 24/7.

---"Naive idiot."---

Not sure if this was a particular section or if the first post-it just needed to be repeated. Probably the latter.

---"Asks about wife too much."---

We get it, Bailey. You're jealous Logan was married before you. But when you start just blurting her name out in every conversation it starts to get a little old. I imagine her days went a little something like this:

"Honey are you hungry?" "Was True hungry a lot?" "Did you get enough rest last night?" "How many hours of sleep did True get?" "Let's watch a movie after supper!" "What genre of movie was True's favorite? Did she prefer comedy over romcom?"

---"Goes outside in middle of night knowing there's a crazy person running around somewhere."---

Seriously. Common sense. This scenario happened several times with several characters and I rolled my eyes each time. Hey there's a mass murderer somewhere on the loose but let's go meet with X person all by ourselves and confront them anyways!

---"I suspect you of murder but DAMN you're a great kisser!"---

Goes back to needing to trust your gut. You don't forget all of your misgivings just because you got the yippee yippee in your vajippie.

---"Say something. New line. Keep talking."---

THIS was my biggest complaint about the book and once again, I am not completely blaming the author because it might have been editing. When a character speaks then I expect the paragraph to keep going until they finish. Or at least end with no quotation marks and then begin a new paragraph. But over and over and OVER (literally on every single page) a character would say something and then start in again in a new paragraph and it drove me bonkers. I would be confused on who was speaking and have to reread to understand what was happening. For example:

"Logan you give me the greatest yippee in the whole universe!!11!"

Bailey spun around in a field of wildflowers and squealed. "I love you fluffernutter!"

WHY DID IT NEED A WHOLE NEW PARAGRAPH WHEN IT COULD HAVE BEEN CONTINUED ON AFTER THE FIRST SENTENCE.

I'm sorry I'm anal and little things like that take me out of the story.

---"Too many pop culture references."---

Again, another personal pet peeve of mine. Others may not be bothered by it. I don't mind real world references when it's a period piece. If your story is set in the eighties I would expect Madonna or Cyndi Lauper to pop up if necessary. But stories set in today's time I think don't need them. Because in ten years they will be outdated. Now if in ten years someone writes a book set in 2015 then I think it's okay to use them. I'm weird like that.

Needless to say this book had so many post-it's that I think they need to sponsor me.

If you're a fan of Gone Girl and other mystery whodunit husband/wife books then this is another one for you. Even though I wasn't a huge fan of it I didn't hate it at all and it was a pretty easy read. I went back and forth between two and three stars but ultimately decided on two because I think three stars means "might want to reread some day" and unfortunately that wasn't the case here.

Thank you to Goodreads and St. Martin's Press for the ARC of this book.

Jennifer says

The First Wife is a mystery novel written by Erica Spindler. This is the first book I have read by Ms. Spindler and I enjoyed it overall. The story features a mixture of mystery, suspense, romance, and family drama. The characters are interesting and their secrets are plentiful which provided some authentic intrigue to the mystery element. However, typically when I read a mystery novel, I like to react with an, "OMG!" at the end. I didn't react that way in this one. I wouldn't say the resolution was necessarily predictable; in fact, I considered almost every character as the guilty party at some point in this book, and there were some twists at the end that had me cocking my head and rethinking my initial theories. But during the big reveal(s), my response was more like, "Oh, OK." I don't mean that as a bad thing, but it does explain my personal rating. If you enjoy mystery novels, check this one out. After all, family secrets are to die for (insert evil laugh).

My favorite quote:

"Funny how you can be friends with someone, work with them for years, and never really know them at all."

Tez says

I've only managed to stay up-to-date with a few crime authors, and Erica Spindler is one of them. Her books are mostly standalones (though some have the odd recurring character), so readers can jump in any time, without having to catch up.

The First Wife is another gem. It may be marketed as mystery/suspense/thriller, but it feels Gothic: a fish out of water learns that her new husband and his family have a LOT of secrets. The author's no stranger to Gothics (check out her novel Fortune), and she again does it well here.

However, usually the author's heroines have more back-story, so except for the fact that Bailey's only family member was her mother, she comes without baggage. And it's in her grief-stricken and distraught state that she meets Logan Abbott, extends her holiday...and they marry not long after.

Logan's ten years older, and he's been married before. It definitely feels like he rushes Bailey into marriage, and with her mother dead she's not really leaving anyone or anything behind when she moves interstate. So she's rather alone when she first arrives at Abbott Farm, but makes friends with the staff easily.

Logan, meanwhile, is bloody annoying. He's the king of emotional manipulation, shutting down and playing the victim when Bailey tries to get him to open up about his past - namely all the things she should've found out BEFORE they were married, but she's vulnerable with grief when they first meet, and Logan pounces on that.

He knows when Bailey's been using his laptop, so he takes it away from the house every day. Whenever Bailey asks questions, he's all "now you're against me, too," when she wouldn't even HAVE questions had Logan been more honest and upfront from the start. His reasons for keeping secrets are the usual bollocks of "I'm trying to protect you" and "I didn't want to upset you." WE ARE NOT AMUSED.

But it's okay - we're SUPPOSED to think Logan's shifty; we're meant to suspect him of serial killing. That's the story's premise: Did Logan kill his first wife, and what about these other missing women from the area?

As a result of traumatic brain injury (via a physical blow - or is it psychological?), Bailey has retrograde amnesia. The author deals with it well: Bailey has several headaches, particularly when she tries to remember, and her memory doesn't return all at once - just little clues along the way.

But really the drawcard here is the messed-up family and their MANY secrets. Also, the side characters are great for some snide comments - Raine and August are particularly fabulous during the wonderful soap opera-style dinner.

Even though I peeked at the last page, there were still plenty of surprises in store. I've always enjoyed Erica Spindler's thrillers, and she's in even better form with this Gothic suspense. The First Wife is totally binge-read-worthy, and goes down a treat. Now eagerly waiting whatever the author has in store next.

Lindsey Lynn says

2.75/5 Stars!

Won this from a Goodreads, First Reads Giveaway

Summary:

Bailey is on a tropical vacation after just losing her mother, meets a man and they fall in love. Spontaneously get married. But then, things start happening in the small town he's from. She has to get use to a whole new life and all its mysteries.

Dislikes:

Used the line, "I released a breath I didn't even realize I was holding" I hate that overly used line!!!!!!
The characters, I just didn't feel connected with anyone and frankly a lot of them annoyed me. I felt like some of the characters were written in last minute so the story didn't tie in well.

Likes:

The plot was interesting and I thought that was a great idea. The mystery aspect works out well, especially for fans of crime dramas. Y'all would really like this.

Overall:

I'm not sure this book was for me. The frustration I had with the characters distracted me from liking the plot more. I feel like I would have liked this better had it been on TV or a movie adaptation. Enjoyed the plot twist at the end.

Alex is The Romance Fox says

The first half of this book reminded me a lot about the book, Rebecca by Daphne du Maurier
<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/1...>

Short summary of Rebecca - Heroine is the companion and working slave to a rich woman holidaying in the south of France, There she meets a mysterious and rich older man, falls in love and believing that he's the knight in shining armor that will take her away from her lonely existence, agrees to marry him...after just a few days.

Hero is a dark and tortured man, who uses a naïve and innocent woman's feelings from him as a way to overcome the demons in his life.

Taking her to his palatial home, she soon discovers that there are some very dangerous secrets about her husband's life and his first wife's death that he had never revealed to her.

In Erica Spindler's First Wife, the heroine, Bailey Browne believes in love and fairy tales. Lonely after her mother's death, she's vacationing in one of the Caribbean islands, where she meets the handsome and mysterious Logan Abbot. She falls in love with him and within days of meeting each other agrees to marry him. They return to his beautiful horse farm in Louisiana.

There are a lot of things Logan never revealed to Bailey, especially that he had been married before and that his wife, True, had disappeared and has never been found. Logan tells her that True had wanted out of their marriage but others in the community, in particular the local police chief believe that Logan had murdered his wife and even some of the other women who had disappeared from their town.

Bailey is now totally freaked out!!! Yes, you should have spent more time getting to know more about the man of your dreams before marrying him!!!

Logan continues hiding secrets from Bailey...oh yes, the poor man doesn't want her to be "swamped" with all the bad things in his life!!! Right!!! Idiot....Why not???

Instead Bailey begins to doubt his innocence....but she still loves him!!!

What didn't work for me in this story –

Characters - I just didn't care for any of them.. Quite honestly I didn't give a "fig" what happened to them!!

Romance? Not much seen here.....felt no real chemistry between Bailey & Logan.

Suspense? Never felt it grip me.

Secrets revealed? So disappointing really!!!

This wasn't exactly a bad or terrible book.....but just never excited me or pulled me in. I have read much better books by this author.

Linda Strong says

Bailey Browne meets her knight in shining armor, Logan Abbott. It's a whirlwind courtship and she's deliriously happy ... at least for the moment.

Logan hasn't been exactly forthcoming with his new bride. There are things like ... his father murdered his mother and then died in prison. His sister is really only a half-sister and her twin brother hung himself. Oh yeah .. he was married before and his wife disappeared.

Billy Ray is the sheriff and has a real thing for Logan. Several women have disappeared over the years and he truly believes that Logan is a serial killer who is burying women on his huge farmland.

Bailey is starting to fear for her own life ... how well does she know this man she married?

There's no graphic violence but the suspension starts as they approach his family home and it doesn't let up until the final curtain drops.

I have to confess I did not like Logan very much. He came across as needy and manipulative. Bailey is a waffler .. one day she thinks her husband is a killer, the next she's defending him to everyone who will listen. The secondary characters all lend an air of believability to this story.

Mandy says

This is the story of Bailey, who meets Logan whilst on holiday and marries him. She moves to his farm to start a new life but soon starts having reservations. Young women are going missing, including Logan's first wife, True.

I enjoyed this book. It was an entertaining, fast-paced read, and I wanted to keep reading to find out what was going to happen.

I've read this author before and do enjoy reading her books.

Monnie says

After the first couple of chapters, I was afraid I'd gotten myself into a sappy bodice-ripper - definitely not my cup of tea. The earmarks were there: Instant falling in love (forever, of course), gazing so deeply into each others' eyeballs that each could see what the other had for dinner and character names somebody must have stayed up all night to come up with (twins Raine and Roane, for instance). But hey, the setting is South Louisiana, so maybe the name game is different in that neck of the woods.

Bailey Browne, a lonely young woman who's prone to dreaming about a white knight who will sweep her off her feet, goes on vacation and finds him in older hunka hunka Logan Abbott. He confesses that his first wife True, (another of those crazy names), disappeared one day and hasn't been heard of since. Relatively unfazed, Bailey agrees to marry Logan (since his first wife hasn't been found, I'm not sure how he managed a second marriage without becoming a bigamist - but then again, this is South Louisiana). At any rate, the couple returns to Logan's expansive horse farm, expecting to settle down and live happily ever after.

Of course, life rarely goes as planned. Early on, Bailey learns that all isn't what it seems in LA-la land, and there's even a rumor that her gorgeous husband may have been involved in his first wife's disappearance as well as in that of other women from the area who have gone missing over the years. At first, Bailey begins to doubt Logan's love for her, flipping between "How can I live with someone who won't reveal his innermost dark secrets to me?" to believing with all her heart that he's being railroaded.

Emotional histrionics aside, it was at this point that the plot really begins to thicken and the book turned into one I had trouble putting down (I read the last few chapters while watching the 40th anniversary of "Saturday Night Live" on TV, just to show how intent I was on finishing it). There are several intriguing characters (a couple of whom have relatively normal names), and the backgrounds of each are fleshed out as part of the race to unearth what really happened to all those missing women. Along the way, Bailey's life is threatened (more than once), there's a lot more horsing around as other bodies pile up.

And, finding out whodunit kept me reading with gusto to the very end. I will say that almost from the beginning I had two characters in mind for that role, and by golly, I was right (well, one of them was) - but really, that only added to my enjoyment of the book. If you like romance mixed with mystery, don't hesitate to give this one a go.

Bj says

I gave this audiobook an A for Tavia Gilbert's narration and B- for the story at AudioGals

If you're looking for something a little different, and enjoy suspense/thrillers with romantic elements, then *The First Wife* may be a title worth exploring. In a classic "who done it" style, Erica Spindler will keep you guessing the identity of the ultimate culprit as she slyly drops hints that could implicate just about every character. In the end, uncovering the true cause of the hero's first wife's death will make you feel like you are playing the board game Clue, as you slowly rule out the potential murderers. But if you are a true

romance die-hard, please note that this title is heavily weighted towards the suspense/thriller angle, with a very minor romance subplot, and therefore may not be your primary preference.

To see the full review, please visit [AudioGals](#).
