



I Will Never Leave You

S.M. Thayer

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For one couple, getting what they want comes at a devastating price in this gripping debut thriller.

Banking heiress Trish and her husband, James, seem to have it all, from a lavish lifestyle to a historic mansion in the nation's capital. The only thing that's missing to make their family complete is a baby, so when Trish holds Anne Elise in her arms for the first time, it's no surprise that she falls deeply in love. There's just one problem: Trish isn't the mother.

The baby belongs to Laurel, James's young mistress. And more than that, James and Laurel want to start a new life together—despite an ironclad prenup standing in their way. When Trish becomes dangerously obsessed with making Laurel's baby her own, the lovers' plan to break James's marriage quickly goes awry. How far is each of them willing to go for happiness?

I Will Never Leave You Details

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Darcia Helle says

This book starts with an intriguing premise, but the execution is a disaster.

Right at the beginning, we witness James introducing his wife to his mistress and new daughter. The way it's done is ridiculous, and the characters' reactions are laughable. This whole scene is more parody than realistic fiction, but I persevered, hoping it would all make sense as the story goes on. It doesn't.

James, Trish, and Laurel all have narrating parts, and all three characters are wholly unlikable. This in itself isn't the problem. Bad guys/girls and sociopaths can make for interesting narrators. But all three of these characters consistently grated on my nerves. They're shallow, one-dimensional, overly dramatic, and their behavior is absurd. In fact, even the minor characters, such as Trish's father, Laurel's parents, and the private investigator are completely unlikable. I couldn't find one redeemable or even interesting trait in any of these characters. They're a dysfunctional mess who seemed to deserve one another.

Dialogue is stilted and unrealistic. People don't speak to each other the way these characters do. I just kept shaking my head at the odd conversations.

The details are in desperate need of fact-checking, particularly in regards to the hospital scenes. Patient privacy evidently doesn't exist here, and assumptions abound with the nursing staff. Yet Laurel, the patient who'd just given birth, makes no objections to her personal information being tossed about freely.

As the story progresses, the plot becomes more and more ludicrous. I wanted someone to step up and be an adult. I wanted someone, somewhere to behave reasonably. Honestly, I wanted all the adults to die and the baby to be adopted by a loving, normal family.

I managed to read about half, at which point I decided the clenching of my jaw was a good indicator of the kind intense irritation I'd have during a root canal, and I gave up.

This book was my Kindle First choice for August.

RedRedtheycallmeRed says

It got off to a strong start, but really went downhill from there.

The story is told from three POV: Trish, James and Laurel. All three suck, but James is the worst. I kept wondering why two grown women are fighting for this knob? The only likable character was the baby, and I was worried the poor thing wouldn't survive those three idiots.

Trish was initially a sympathetic character (12 years of trying to conceive), but then the author couldn't seem to decide if she was cold and calculating or in the midst of a complete mental breakdown. She kept swinging back and forth, but I found neither believable.

James was all over the place: in love with Trish, in love with Laurel, happy-go-lucky one minute, despair

ridden the next. But I never felt an ounce of sympathy for him, he had no redeeming attributes.

The further I read, the more ridiculous it became.

Geralyn says

As I read this book I couldn't help but wonder if it had been written by aliens from Mars or by AI. The characters, dialog, and plot were written as if by someone who didn't quite understand human nature or human conversations. I almost stopped reading it 25% of the way through, but I felt the need to keep going to see if the author ever got it right. He didn't. It was as if he were trying to combine the styles of Fitzgerald and Chandler with a contemporary spin, but it ended up being jumbled, distracting, unbelievable and laughably bad. Whoever edited the book did the author, and readers, no favors. A decent editor would never have let something so bad go to publication.

While there were many bizarre bits of dialog, this one is one I made note of. It was delivered by a hospital security guard who was dealing with a possible child abduction situation. He was speaking, I believe, to the grandfather of the child, a coarse, shady character: "Sir. Sir. Do you wish us to call the police on you?" Who talks like that?! Again, this is just one example. The book is full of them.

I realize this is fiction, but the characters acted like no human beings I have ever encountered. They went from love to hate to love in the matter of mere sentences. The engaged in behavior that made no sense whatsoever. The characters were poorly developed, but even so, my imagination can't conjure up reasons for them to behave as they did.

I feel bad for the author. Perhaps there is a germ of a good book in what was published, but it needs a great deal of rethinking and rewriting before it could ever been considered worth a reader's time.

Roma Sharma says

I'm conflicted on the rating I want to give this book. But I was highly engaged with the story and hence I've rated it a 4. All the characters are highly dislikable; flawed, selfish and creepy. The characters make your skin crawl at times. The book shows you that nastiness exists across different social strata. There are a few twists and turns throughout the book that keep you engaged. The story is interesting and you want to see how it plays out. As the story progresses you realize that there is no real happy ending possible to this tale. When all the characters finally come together and collide destruction is the only possible outcome. All in all it's a good easy read and I enjoyed it.

This book was a free book of the month via amazon prime.

Deborah says

How does something this poorly-written even get published?

Ninoska Goris says

English – Español

It starts perfect and intriguing. Trish carrying the newly born Anne Elise and thinking that her eyes are very similar to hers, and then we find out that she isn't her daughter but her husband's lover.

Unfortunately it goes from madness to madness, falling into boredom. Once I fell asleep and my brain continued with the book and when I woke up I had imagined pieces to the story. It never happened to me!

Trish Riggs is the daughter of billionaire Jack Riggs, who was forced to leave the country and retire from business because he was accused that his bank was financing the operations that led to the 9/11 attacks. Trish's greatest desire is to be a mother, but as much as they have tried and for more treatments to which they have submitted they have not succeeded.

James was a very poor man when he met Trish, but with his joy of life and always thinking about good karma he won the heart of Trish with whom he manages to get married. Of course, tied to a prenuptial agreement. So even though he lives a great life, he lives in a historic house and enjoys his wife's money, basically he's still poor.

Laurel is James's lover, who gets pregnant. She believes that James is a millionaire and believes that she is very lucky to have him and James never takes her out of her mistake. James has made her believe that he will divorce Trish to marry her and start a family with her new baby girl Anne Elise.

What Laurel doesn't know is that there is a clause in the prenuptial agreement that is more powerful than the wishes of the three interested parties and that will allow this story to end as it ends.

The protagonists of this book are all crazy.

Comienza perfecto e intrigante. Trish cargando a la recién nacida Anne Elise y pensando que sus ojos se parecen mucho a los de ella, para luego enterarnos que no es su hija sino la de la amante de su marido.

Lamentablemente va de locura en locura, cayendo en aburrimiento. En una oportunidad me dormí y mi cerebro siguió con el libro y cuando me desperté le había imaginado pedazos a la historia. Nunca me había pasado!

Trish Riggs es la hija del multimillonario Jack Riggs, quien se vio obligado a irse del país y retirarse del negocio porque estaba acusado de que su banco estaba financiando las operaciones que llevaron a los atentados del 9/11. El mayor deseo de Trish es ser madre, pero por mas que lo han intentado y por mas tratamientos a los que se han sometido no lo han logrado.

James era un pobretón cuando conoció a Trish, pero con su alegría de vida y siempre pensando en el buen karma se ganó el corazón de Trish con quien logra casarse. Claro que atado a un acuerdo prenupcial de separación de bienes. Así que, aunque se da la gran vida, vive en una casa histórica y goza del dinero de su

esposa, basicamente sigue siendo pobre.

Laurel es la amante de James, quien queda embarazada. Cree que James es millonario y cree que se ha sacado la loteria y James nunca la saca de su error. James le ha hecho creer que se divorciará de Trish para casarse con ella y formar una familia con su nueva niña.

Lo que no sabe Laurel es que hay una clausula en el acuerdo prematrimonial que es mas poderoso que los deseos de los tres interesados y que dará pie a que esta historia termine como termina.

Creo que está de mas, de todos modos lo dire: los protagonistas de este libro estan todos locos.

Sara says

First, I'll be totally honest. I don't really like thrillers. I don't read them as a rule. I am not crazy about books that make me anxious. I get enough of that in the real world. But I had read short stories by this author. His work is distinctive and often rather haunting, even disturbing. I was interested in seeing what he did with this novel. I'm glad I did.

SM Thayer's writing is strong, more literary than the few page-turner, plot-driven novels I've read in recent years. If you want to get a taste of it before you buy the book, jump on Amazon and read the first eight pages that are offered for free. The descriptions are vivid and original -- sometimes more than a bit troubling. (A woman's reaction to a newborn baby--not the usual cuddly baby talk.)

Generally, with mysteries and the like I feel like I am one step ahead of the writer. The plot points often seem predictable and formulaic. I was surprised more than once where both the characters and the story arc went in this book.

In the end, I can't say that I really liked any of the key characters. I had moments of sympathy and understanding as each one told his/her story in alternating chapters. But, ultimately, as human beings they were too flawed and too quick to betray, well, everyone. Of course, that's part of what keeps this book interesting. People who are kind and happy and make good choices would make for a pretty dull storyline.

Pamela Beckford says

What a stupid book. If it was a movie, it would have been a parody. I should have quit reading this at the beginning and not wasted my time. The premise was laughably far fetched.

PinkAmy loves 'books', cats, and naps; says

I've had horrible luck choosing Kindle First books lately, or perhaps the quality of the choices has deteriorated. The best thing about this book was that it was free. I'm not in the mood to write a negative review, so I'll stop here.

Emily says

I'm setting this aside. I've read 50 pages, and nothing has happened to catch my interest. There's just a whole lot of talking in circles. I was really looking forward to this one because it sounded like it would be right up my alley, but it just didn't work out.

Joey R. says

1.5 Stars—I just finished S.M.Thayer's first book, "I Will Never Leave You" and I cannot recommend it. This is a book I felt I should like as the writing style and ability of the author is good and the premise is intriguing: infertile wife of adulterous husband becomes obsessed with her husband's lover's newborn baby and comes up with a plan to make the baby her own. But, even though the premise is interesting, the story itself is ridiculous from beginning to end. The author is clueless on how a wife would react to finding out her husband is cheating with another woman and that woman is pregnant. Tricia, the wife, is so strange and unlikable that she is impossible to understand or relate to. The husband, James, and the lover, Laurel, although a bit more likable, are just as unbelievable and don't act or react like a normal human. You are left with no one to root for — not even the baby —who acts nothing like a 2 day old in that she smiles, giggles etc. With no character to root for, numerous ridiculous subplots, jaw droppingly stupid main plot points and an ending that is unsatisfying, the only thing keeping the book from an even lower rating is that I wanted to see how this train wreck ended. This is one of those books when you finish you are relieved that you can move on to your next book.

Katie B says

Truly a dysfunctional cast of characters to put it mildly. Trish wants nothing more than to have a baby with her husband James. But even her wealth and privilege can't get her pregnant. James meanwhile has been naughty and got his mistress, Laurel, knocked up. When he tells Trish she should divorce him so he can be with Laurel and his newborn daughter, that doesn't go over well. Trish becomes obsessed with the baby and thinks her dream of having a family with her husband has finally come true.

I'll admit this book pretty much grabbed me right from the start. I was highly entertained at this messy love triangle. However, by the second half of the book the story line just becomes over the top and ridiculous. What had been a fun read just became frustrating and too much. I do appreciate though how this book was different and pretty unique in the fact that all of the characters minus the baby are really messed up individuals and you don't want to root for anyone other than the poor child.

Basically avoid this book if you can't handle a story with unlikable characters. If you don't mind that and are in the mood for a crazy but different plot, than maybe give this book a shot.

This was my free selection as part of the Amazon First Reads program.

Anna Maria says

Worst load of ridiculous tosh I have read in a long time. It may suit other readers it did nothing for myself. If that is a debut novel, I best write one myself.

Tracey says**Worst book I've read in years**

I thought first reads books were supposed to be good...But this one which is billed a Thriller is so very bad. It's written like a kid wrote it, and there was never a mystery or thrilling but ever!! I kept going hoping it'd improve. But sadly it got sillier.

The Drowsy Bookworm says

3.5

Wow!! This book totally came back after a slow first half and sucked me in. The characters are all insane but there's an innocent baby at the center of everything. It made my stomach twist with anxiety!! And that ending gave me chills. Sheesh...

Previous: 1.99 Kindle first book....excited to get to this after my current read. Blurb sounds delightfully twisted.
