



The Vanishing Season

Joanna Schaffhausen

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“A gripping debut with a plot twist readers won’t see coming.”?HALLIE EPHRON, author of *Night Night, Sleep Tight*

A chilling tale of suspense for fans of Julia Heaberlin. Fourteen years ago, teenager Ellery Hathaway was victim number seventeen in the grisly murder spree of serial killer Francis Michael Coben. She was the only one who lived.

Now Coben is safely behind bars, and Ellery has a new identity in a sleepy town where bike theft makes the newspapers. But each July for the last three years, locals have been disappearing. Then Ellery receives strange messages hinting that the culprit knows exactly what happened to her all those years ago. When she tries to raise the alarm, no one will listen, and terrified she may be next, Ellery must turn to the one person who might believe her story...

The Vanishing Season Details

Date : Published February 27th 2018 by Titan Books (first published December 17th 2017)

ISBN :

Author : Joanna Schaffhausen

Format : Kindle Edition 285 pages

Genre : Mystery, Thriller, Fiction, Mystery Thriller, Suspense

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From Reader Review The Vanishing Season for online ebook

Carrie says

Years ago Ellery Hathaway became victim number seventeen of serial killer Francis Michael Coben when she was abducted and held captive. Ellery was lucky enough that FBI Agent Reed Markham saw something other investigators hadn't and followed clues to Coben's home where he managed to rescue Ellery and put Coben behind bars making Ellery the one that survived.

Now Ellery is in law enforcement herself and finds that she may just have another serial killer on her hands but no one wants to believe her. What the other officers in the sleepy little town of Woodbury, MA don't know is that the disappearances in town are happening at the time Ellery was taken all those years ago and she's been receiving cards every year at the time but she's hesitant to tell of her past. Looking for another angle to open a case into the missing persons Ellery makes a call to the man who saved her all those years ago.

The Vanishing Season by Joanna Schaffhausen is a mystery/thriller read that takes a reader on a journey to catch a serial killer. The book is written with a small town vibe and a flawed main character that pulled me in immediately and kept my interest until the very end. Surviving a serial killer herself gave Ellery a strength behind her that she needed to survive but now puts toward helping others.

While the story had plenty of twists and turns to make this one a solid mystery I did kind of question some of the actions of the police in this small town. Perhaps not the most realistic of investigating and actions at times so I just couldn't quite bring myself to go a full five stars but the story and characters do make this worth the read.

I received an advance copy from the publisher via NetGalley.

For more reviews please visit <https://carriesbookreviews.wordpress...>

Norma * Traveling Sister says

3.5 stars rounded up to 4 stars!

Thank you so much to St. Martin's Press for granting my wish to read this book. Covers of books are usually what initially draws me into deciding which books I want to read and when I seen this cover I just knew that I wanted to read this book!

This was an intriguing, entertaining, fast-paced and suspenseful crime-mystery novel that I really enjoyed. Very impressive debut novel! Would recommend!

Brenda's full Traveling Sisters Review along with Kacey's review for THE VANISHING SEASON by JOANNA SCHAFFHAUSEN can be found on our blog:
[https://twogirlslostinacouleereading....](https://twogirlslostinacouleereading...)

Kendall says

Let's just pause for a moment to acknowledge that BEAUTIFUL cover. Not to mention how perfect it fits this cozy little mystery! Thank you to St. Martin's Press for granting my wish! What a wish this was :).

The Vanishing Season is an addicting and unique thriller that will grab you from the first page. I am pretty impressed that this was a debut novel by Joanna Schaffhausen!

Ellery Hathaway is a sole survivor of the famous serial killer Francis Michael Coben. Years later, Ellery Hathaway is living in Woodbury Massachusetts as a police officer. Let me tell you, ahem she is one strong and independent female character!

Over the last three years, three missing persons have disappeared each year around Ellery's birthday and ironically the day she was kidnapped all those years ago. Ellery just has this haunting feeling that someone is watching her and knows her secret. Ellery decides to contact FBI agent Reed Markham who saved her all those years ago from serial killer Frances Coben for help. Loved agent Markham!!!

Are these missing person's somehow connected to Ellery and this serial killer Coben? Or, is there someone else out there that has a deep and sinister obsession?

Can, I just say I loved Ellery's partner in crime aka watchdog Bump! This little guy was adorable and in my opinion made the story that much better! Characterization was very strong and overall had me on the edge of my toes!! I give you props Joanna... you fooled me and didn't see the final ending coming ;).

I would definitely recommend this to my fellow mystery/suspense lovers. This was a fun mystery to watch unravel! I was staying up wayyy past my bed time to finish this one!

Overall, 4 solid stars! PUT THIS book on your radar my friends <3.

A huge thank you to St. Martins Press, Minotaur Books, and Netgalley for granting my wish!
Expected publication date is 12/5/17.

Michelle says

For a debut novel this is an excellent police procedural / mystery.

At the age of 14, on her birthday, Ellery Hathaway is kidnapped by a serial killer. After three harrowing days she is rescued by FBI agent Reed Markham.

Fast forward several years into the future we find Ellery is now a police officer in the small town of Woodbury, Massachusetts. For the last 3 years around her birthday someone in this small town goes missing. Not only that but she receives ominous birthday cards in the mail from someone who seems to know her and who she is even though she's done everything in her power to hide her identity. Not even her closest friends know who she really is. When she approaches the chief of police with suspicions that the three missing people are somehow connected to one another the chief scoffs at her idea because no bodies have been found.

Since she now hit a dead end she makes a phone call to the one person that might actually believe her, Reed Markham. He immediately grabs the first flight and is on his way to help her look into the mysterious disappearances. From here we follow Ellery and Reed through out their investigation.

I don't want to spoil anything but let's just say that who I thought the killer was turned out to be wrong. Really wrong. Well done, Joanna Schaffhausen for a genuine surprise.

Oh, and one last thing, I am in love with (and you will be too) Speed Bump her adorable bassett hound.

Thank you so much to NetGalley for providing me with a digital ARC in exchange for my honest review.

Holly B says

3.5 Stars

I'm not sure I would call this a thriller, but more of a crime, police-procedural mystery. This is a debut author and I did enjoy her writing for the most part. It started off very compelling as a kidnapping occurs, but ultimately does not keep up with the pace of the initial chapters.

Abby (the kidnapped and serial killer survivor) becomes a police officer and becomes involved in cases of three people who have disappeared/vanished at or around the same time every year. She suspects it may be some how connected to her own kidnapping case. There are some grisly details and uncomfortable descriptions, but it is a "serial killer" plot so be prepared for it if you read this one.

I didn't feel the story evolved into the suspenseful story it could have been. It ventures off into a lot of side stories that bogged down the story line and had me distracted. I would still be interested in this author and what she comes up with next.

If you enjoy serial killer plots with some twisted themes, you may enjoy this one very much!

Thanks for my wish granted- St. Martin's Press and Netgalley
Publication expected December 5,2017

Kacey - Traveling Sister says

3.5*

At the age of 14, Ellie was taken by an infamous serial killer. Close to death, she was rescued by FBI agent Reed Markham. Years later, Ellie is now a police officer in the small town of Woodbury, Massachusetts. Once again she turns to Agent Reed for help. People are suddenly vanishing in her small town. Is it even conceivable this could be tied to the monster from her past? Why is this happening again? More importantly how is this happening again?

It all boils down to trust...and trust is in short supply in this small town. No one seems to have any for anyone. Ellie's carefully crafted world is crumbling around her. Now it's a race against time to discover who's behind the disappearances, before another victim vanishes!

I've read several books dealing with serial killers lately. Though they all seem to morph from a similar theme, but this one did have an original flavor to it. Just right on the creepiness scale, and tastefully spread to make a delicious and frightening thriller. Even though I guessed the ending early on it was still an enjoyable read!

A great debut for Joanna Schaffhausen, I will be watching for her next release.

A traveling sister read with Brenda!

Thank you to NetGalley, St. Martin's Press and Joanna schaffhausen

For this review and our full traveling sister review please visit Brenda and Norma's Fantastic Traveling Sister Book Blog <http://www.twogirlslostinacouleereadi...>

Sarah Joint says

The Vanishing Season is an impressive first novel from author Joanna Schaffhausen. The cover and title initially grabbed my attention, so I was very pleased that St. Martin's Press granted my wish to read this book on Net Galley.

No one around Ellery Hathaway really knows her. They know she's a good police officer with a caring heart... but they don't know her story. She never celebrates her birthday, because it serves as an unwelcome reminder of the birthday long ago when she was kidnapped. **Ellery was kept by an infamous serial killer, and remains his only survivor while he rots in prison. She's worked hard to keep her past a secret, but it seems someone knows her better than she thinks... she's been receiving a card on the anniversary of her birth for the last three years, postmarked from the same sleepy little town she's made her home. It also happens to coincide with one disappearance each year.**

The victims seem unconnected, being of different sexes and ages. They don't seem to have much at all in common, and Ellery has had a difficult time convincing her superiors these cases are likely by the same perpetrator. She contacts the one man she thinks she can rely on: Agent Reed Markham, the man who saved her life long ago and told her to get in touch if she ever needed anything again. **She's convinced that someone else will disappear, now that it's "vanishing season" once more.** *They last saw each other when Reed was a young, determined detective and Ellery (then Abby) was a traumatized teenager. Can he live up to her expectations... and will she live up to his?*

I'm giving this one a 3.5 rounded up to a four. The characters are incredibly well-developed and the story is intriguing. There are moments that made me shudder, and moments that made me laugh. Bump, Ellery's rescue dog, was a bright spot. I loved whenever he featured. The strongest points of this book are the beginning and the last quarter or so. I did get lost with different names, leads, and side stories in the middle a bit, and I did predict a bit of the ending but not exactly how it would come to be. Still overall a great story and a really promising debut.

I received a copy of this book from Net Galley and St. Martin's Press, thank you! My review is honest and

Maureen Carden says

Ellery Hathaway is the only survivor of the notorious serial killer, Frances Michael Coben. She was to be victim 17, but FBI agent Reed Markham swept in to rescue her from the fetid, locked closet where she had been kept, the closet where the unlucky 16 who didn't survive had tried to claw their way out. No wonder she keeps the closets in her house nailed shut. Savor that image for a minute. Fourteen years later and she nails shut her closet doors.

But now, Ellery is damned sure an almost-copy-cat killer is at work. For the past three years someone has disappeared around her birthday. She knows another serial killer is at work but no one at her job will believe her since no bodies have been found and they all have reasons why they could be missing. This is extremely frustrating because Ellie is a police officer in the small town of Woodbury, MA. And she knows from serial killers. Not even her lover, the police chief takes her seriously.

Ellery is sure she could convince the police chief, but that would mean giving up a few of her secrets, such as her real name and the fact that she was the seventeenth victim. She is also holding back real evidence.

Instead she calls FBI S/A Reed Markham in to help her. He's at a new low, even though for years he found fame and fortune on the back of his rescue of Ellery. Ellery does not resent this, as she herself has managed to make some good money from her ordeal.

I found Ellery to be fascinating. She was fourteen when she was taken, but has managed to find and lead an almost normal life. She is really not one to completely admire, a welcome change with female protagonists. She is rabid about keeping her past hidden from everyone, even when it might help in establishing her case. She has turned into a bit of a user, not above using her sexual charms to advance her cause. She is also a loner with few friends. No man has ever been inside her house.

S/A Markham is a mess, struggling to reach the surface and begin again in both his professional and personal life. He is aghast at one point to realize he may not have really rescued Ellery and must try to work through his mistrust of her.

The academy award for best supporting actor goes to Bump, Ellery's basset hound. Oh wait, I'm mixing my media. Oops doing it again. Anyway the dog is an award winner.

The Vanishing Season is deftly plotted. It begins with a chilling prologue that stays with the reader and continues the thrills with a cold logic. The serial killer who took Ellery was one of the most chilling I've come across. I think by this time it must be hard for authors to be original in mining the serial killer plot.

Joanna Schaffhausen has succeeded admirably with her cops, killers and story in *The Vanishing Season*

This is Schaffhausen's first book as she was the award winner for the Minotaur/Mystery Writers of America First Crime Novel Competition. I hope she continues to find success as she is off to a fine start. I wonder though, if this is the beginning of a series, and if so, whose series, Ellery or S/A Markham?

Thank you to NetGalley for an ARC in exchange for a fair and honest review.

Cindy Burnett says

The Vanishing Season kept me on the edge of my seat the entire time I was reading it. It's a highly entertaining read with a sympathetic, likeable protagonist and a clever mystery with a satisfying and realistic resolution. As the story careens towards its ultimate thrilling conclusion, Schaffhausen includes lots of twists and turns and several red-herrings which add to the building tension. It wasn't too hard to figure out who the murderer was but that didn't take away from my enjoyment of the book. The book is pretty creepy which I

would have preferred to know going in, but it wasn't so creepy that I had to stop reading it.

My favorite thing about the book is that it is a page-turner. I didn't want to set it down to do anything else. The two small things that did not appeal to me as much were the amount of graphic detail included (it is fairly gruesome at times and the bizarre cover – the girl looks pregnant. I had to look at it for a long time to finally make sense of the picture. I am a firm believer that a good cover is invaluable to a book, and this one just doesn't hit the mark.

The Vanishing Season is an entertaining and thrilling debut, and I look forward to Schaffhausen's next book. Thanks to Minotaur Books and NetGalley for my copy. All opinions are my own.

Carol says

3.5 Stars. Enticing prologue! Entertaining debut!

WHO saw it happen 14 years ago and kept it a secret?

Ellery Hathaway is a police officer with a scarred past working in the small town of Woodbury, Massachusetts, and she'll do just about anything (*and has*) to convince Police Chief Sam Parker that their missing person's cases may indeed be connected and the work of a serial killer....but he's not biting....so she calls in a trusted FBI agent who knows the horrific secrets of her past to give a fresh perspective. And then....the package arrives.

THE VANISHING SEASON is a fine crime-mystery with just enough suspense and scattered clues to keep the reader guessing while keeping the gore at bay....despite a killer with a weird fixation. As for Speed-Bump the dog....NICE addition to the cast of characters.

Joanna Schaffhausen....another new author to keep an eye on.

Many thanks to St. Martin's Press via NetGalley for granting my wish to read **THE VANISHING SEASON** in exchange for an honest review. Enjoyed it!

Jasmine from How Useful It Is says

About: The Vanishing Season is a mystery thriller written by Joanna Schaffhausen. It was recently published on 12/5/17 by Minotaur Books, an imprint of St. Martin's Press, hardcover, 288 pages. The genres are mystery, thriller, suspense, and fiction. This book is the author's debut.

My Experience: I started reading The Vanishing Season on 1/2/18 and finished it on 1/8/18. This book is an excellent read! I love following Ellery and Reed's thought processes and their detective work. I like seeing them connecting the dots to little clues available to what seems like dead end cases. I like how the evidence points to many people and each of them could be the suspect. My brain is so busy trying to solve the case and I couldn't read fast enough to find out what will happen. It was tough to put down after each read.

This book is told in the third person point of view following Ellery (Ellie) Hathaway, a patrol officer in a small town of Woodbury, MA and Reed Markham, an on-leave FBI Agent who is famous for his rescue of #17 victim to the Coben serial killer. Ellery harbor a big secret and has been living life under the radar. She deals with domestic disturbances on her job but what she really wanted was to solve the three missing person cases before another person becomes a victim. It has been three years and the victims have remained missing, Ellery decided to recruit Reed Markham to help solve the cases. As soon as Reed arrived into town, a severed hand of one of the missing victims arrived at Ellery's doorstep gift wrapped. The news connected the dots and discovered Ellery's darkest secret. Time is running out before another person goes missing and whether there is a copycat out there or if the serial killer from 14 years ago is acting out from death row.

This book is very well written and carefully organized. I love the mystery and suspense. I like the chilling postcard and its mysterious background. I like Ellery and how she cared to make a difference as a police officer when she couldn't protect Rosalie. I like Ellery's name because it's the first time I have come across. It's unique, original, and easy to pronounce. I like the reminder about Reed's life. His struggles to maintain his time for work and family is a good reminder to us all that we shouldn't take family time for granted. I was able to guess the name of the killer but the reason behind it is surprising. It's definitely interesting how people actually want to go down in history as killers instead of hero or inventor. Too bad there isn't much romance, but that's alright because the read is still fantastic and I highly recommend everyone to read it!

Pro: mystery, suspense, page turner, fast paced, serial killer, abduction, connecting the dots,

Con: none

I rate it 5 stars!

***Disclaimer: Many thanks to Minotaur Books for the opportunity to read and review. Please be assured that my opinions are honest.

xoxo,

Jasmine at www.howusefulitis.wordpress.com for more details

Brenda - Traveling Sister says

3.5 stars

The Vanishing Season was another Traveling Sisters read that I squeezed in with Kacey between our Sister reads.

The Vanishing Season is a haunting, enjoyable, fast-paced and suspenseful crime mystery thriller with a little creep added to it that had us intrigued but was a bit of a slow start for us. However, once we got to know our main characters Ellery and Agent Reed we loved the dynamics between them and we wanted to know more about them.

Joanna Schaffhausen does a good job creating a strong and interesting yet flawed character here with Ellery and we liked her right from the start. We were intrigued by her tragic past and how her past tied to her present life.

The suspense builds as clues and hidden secrets are revealed and the tension rises between Ellery and Reed leaving us questioning who to trust and not to trust. We loved discussing this between us and Kacey figured a few things out that I, of course, didn't. We thought Joanna Schaffhausen weaved the past with the present well for a satisfying ending.

We can't leave this review without mentioning one of our favorite characters Ellery's dog Speed Bump and we loved the humor, love, and devotion he brought to the story. We hope to see more of this furry character in the future. We recommend.

Thank you to NetGalley, St. Martin's Press and Joanna Schaffhausen for a copy to read and review.

All of our Traveling Sisters Reviews can be found on our sister blog:
<https://twogirlslostinacouleereading....>

Schizanthus says

I've done it! I've finally done it!! I've found an author whose writing is worthy of being compared to Tess Gerritsen in a sentence like "I've finally found an author as good as Tess" or "This book had everything I love about Tess books and more, and it's not even written by Tess!"

Friends, please allow me to introduce you (if you haven't already discovered her) to Joanna Schaffhausen. I'm going to go out on a limb here and call it early ... remember this name because Joanna's ability to immerse you in her character's world has *bestseller* written all over it. I feel as though nothing I say here can possibly do justice to her debut but I'll give it a shot and encourage you to read it yourself so we can gush together about how much we loved it.

Ellery Hathaway is the sole survivor of infamous serial killer Francis Michael Coben. Saved by Agent Reed Markham before she became Coben's seventeenth murder victim, Ellery now works as a police officer in a quiet town where no one knows who she really is. She is the only one who believes there's a link between three seemingly unconnected disappearances in three years in her town, which all occurred around her birthday, the day she was abducted fourteen years ago. Ellery's next birthday is approaching and she calls Reed, knowing he is the only one who will believe her.

I wanted to both rush through *The Vanishing Season* and read as slowly as possible to draw the experience of the first read out for as long as possible. I became immersed by about paragraph 3 and each time I came back to where I'd left the story I got sucked straight back in. I wound up so engaged that I didn't realise I'd said, not thought, "I **knew** it!" until one of the people that had been respectfully honouring my 'don't you dare interrupt me until I finish my book or there will be dire consequences' look came from the other side of the house to find out what my outburst was about. Oops!

I know a book has its hooks in me when I start repeating a phrase to myself while reading, as if the number of times I repeat it can magically increase the likelihood of my being able to influence the outcome. Yes, in my mind I wield that much power! In this case I had two magical phrases:

1. "Please don't let Bump die!"
2. "Let the killer be **anyone** but ?." (And, no, I'm not telling you who the hand represents but it seemed an appropriate substitute given the content of the book.)

I **adored** Bump. The loyal and trustworthy male in Ellery's life, Bump is a basset hound who loves walks and rides in the car, liberally distributing slobber over humans he likes and dreams of the day when someone will accidentally drop a piece of chocolate in his vicinity. Also, the story surrounding the choice of his name is wonderful and dog owners everywhere will relate and wonder why they didn't think of naming their dog Bump.

I loved the people characters as well. No one was perfect. All of the major players had pasts which influenced the way they thought and acted in the situation they found themselves in. There were questionable ethics and life choices, secrets galore and issues surrounding trust were hiding beneath the surface, and shame and guilt were both explored.

I really enjoyed Ellery and Brady's banter. Their friendship felt comfortable and their bond over 80's music and quips about what they disagreed on made me feel like I was being included. I almost wanted to add my own opinion a couple of times. I'm looking forward to reading Ellery and Reed banter in future books. There were hints of it here but good banter takes time to develop in a friendship so I'm thankful it didn't happen immediately.

Coben gave me a *what a fantastic yet disgusting and interesting in a disturbing way* vibe that was similar to the way I felt when reading about Hannibal Lecter. Which brings me to the gore. It was gruesome enough to satisfy the disturbed side of me that watches B grade movies in part to cheer when the gigantic shark leaps out of the water and takes down a plane, yet it wasn't so focused on the brutality of the murders that it detracted from the interactions between characters and the mystery of who was behind the murders and why.

Trigger warnings include domestic violence and sexual assault.

The references to sexual assault are not gratuitous by any means but I felt the character directly affected was so realistic that if this has been your experience you are likely to see parts of your own response mirrored back at you (which incidentally I applaud because life after sexual assault is rarely written well). I wasn't personally triggered while reading, instead feeling hopeful when I encountered 'me, too' moments.

I'm always interested, when someone is rescued after being kidnapped or otherwise traumatised, in what happens next. What becomes of the survivor? What does their life look like now compared to what it looked like prior to whatever happened to them? How do they cope? Do they think they're a victim or a survivor? So many books that explore the effects of sexual assault portray the person who experiences it as either a victim hiding from the world in a corner or someone who's taking on the world and has no residual physical or psychological impacts in their life.

The character in *The Vanishing Season* who's been sexually assaulted was irrevocably changed by their experiences and is a wonderful mix of strength and vulnerability. They've overcome so much but there are still physical reminders on their body and in their home that speak to the pain they carry with them. They're at a point in their life where they've worked so hard to no longer be the victim yet they still feel the need to hide. I loved the dichotomies and the implication that healing from sexual assault isn't a one size fits all process.

If I were to nitpick I'd tell you that I wanted more details of the Big Bad's background. It's not as though we don't know some pivotal moments in their life that help set their particular brand of crazy in motion and we're given access to the twisted way they think, but I wanted more. To be fair, I have an ~~obsession~~ interest in what causes people with similar genetic and environmental factors to take drastically different paths in life, so my need to know more says more about me than it does about this book. I was also left wanting to

know what happens to Anna after the book finished.

And now for your chance to laugh at **and** with me, I'll tell you my favourite *How Stupid Am I* moment I encountered while reading. Initially when I read the town's name I got Woodbury confused with Woodsboro and for a while I was thinking of how funny it would be if there was a cameo of some random person in a *Scream* mask running through a scene. ?

I love debut novels but I often wind up disappointed by a feeling of knowing how good a book could have been if only that brilliant idea had the execution you usually only expect with experience. Joanna's debut had the excitement of a first time author's passion but was written with the character development, story arc, backstories, delightful twists and sucked into a reading black hole ability I only expect of the greats once they've found their feet. There were some sentences where the imagery made it feel like I was reading poetry.

I don't even know Joanna yet I feel proud of her for writing such an impressive debut. If this is what she can accomplish with a first novel I can only imagine how much fun it's going to be to read her future novels. If anyone has any spare stars I'd love to borrow some because ?????????? aren't enough.

I received a copy of this book from NetGalley (thank you to NetGalley, Minotaur Books and St. Martin's Press for ? granting my wish ? and giving me this opportunity) in exchange for honest feedback. I don't know if I can wait for the next Ellery/Reed/Bump book to be released. I've found a new author whose books will be added to my to be read list sight unseen.

Diane S ? says

This was a novel that suffered an identity crisis, not sure what it wanted to be: a thriller, police procedural or character study. Contained elements of all three, but for me this worked. There were a few instances where I had to suspend belief, but it also gave me some strong characters that I wanted to root for, and a wonderful little dog named speed bump, bump for short. Plus, the happenings, the case was addicting.

Ellery is a police officer in a small town where three people have gone missing, three years in a row. She knows there is more to this, but she can't get the Captain or other officers to tie them together, and investigate more fully. Of course, there is much they don't know about Ellery, the special knowledge she has that they don't. She calls Reed, an FBI agent she has connections with, a man who is now on official leave. Things start ramping up, and secrets to Ellery's identity will be revealed as well as new clues and terror unleashed on this town. I guessed the who done it, but not until I had read over 80% of the book. Not that I have a great track record in figuring these things out quickly, and I quite like it that way, makes the denouement more interesting.

Think this writer will figure out her writing identity, and go on to write some stunning whatevers. Whatever she does next, as long as she can produce characters like these, she should have a stunning future. A good, solid read with a memorable little pup.

ARC from Netgalley.

Kelly (and the Book Boar) says

Find all of my reviews at: <http://52bookminimum.blogspot.com/>

“It’s not up to you to stop it, not by yourself. You’re just one person, Ellie.”

“Yeah, but I’m the one he wants.”

The Vanishing Season would most definitely **NOT** pass the Ron 2.0 smell test . . .

Some of the reasons include:

1. Our leading lady was the “one who got away” from a serial killer . . .
2. Who then grew up to become a cop . . .
3. And yet somehow no one knows who she was . . .
4. In a sleepy little hamlet where she has decided three missing persons cases are somehow linked to a copycat killer.
5. Our leading male was the FBI agent who saved our leading lady when she was a kid . . .
6. Who flubbed his last case and is now on leave . . .
7. But has decided to be all mavericky and lend a hand when it comes to solving these new cases . . .
8. And of course no one stops him and he calls in favors and they send him files he needs and whatever else would never happen.

Guess what? Ron is totally right . . .

For whatever reason, however, I kinda have a great time with these “Lifetimey” selections of whodunits. They are my version of the cozy mystery and . . .

I enjoyed that Ellery was flawed (to the extent some readers might not even be able to sympathize with her character). I appreciated Reed and Ellery’s relationship in that they worked together, as equals, and there was never even a hint that things would turn sexual. I liked their dialogue . . .

“I did not cheat on my wife with any live women.”

“That’s a creepy way to put it.”

The storytelling here was captivating and the page count was spot-on without a bunch of filler. Really, the only downside was I immediately knew “whodunit” – but when there are like four characters being focused on and you know three **didn’t** do it

It didn’t even matter, though. This was the perfect read for a rainy Sunday.
