



Just What Kind of Mother Are You?

By Paula Daly



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In Paula Daly's pulse-pounding and gut-wrenching debut novel, motherhood, marriage, and friendship are tested when a small-town community is unsettled by a string of shocking events.

Lisa Kallisto is doing her best to juggle the demands of an overburdened life: she holds down a busy job running an animal shelter, cares for three demanding children, and worries that her husband isn't getting enough TLC. During an incredibly hectic week, Lisa takes her eye off the ball for just a moment, and her whole world descends into a nightmare. Her best friend's thirteen-year-old daughter goes missing, and it's all Lisa's fault. Wracked with guilt over her mistake, and having been publicly blamed, Lisa sets out to right her wrong. But as she begins digging beneath the surface, Lisa learns that everything is not quite what it first appears to be.

Gripping and fast-paced, *Just What Kind of Mother Are You?* introduces an outstanding new thriller writer with a sharp eye and terrifying imagination for the horrors that lurk in our everyday lives.

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Just What Kind of Mother Are You? By Paula Daly Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

Starred Review Skillfully working both sides of the street—crime fiction and women’s fiction—debut novelist Daly delivers a highly suspenseful tale by way of a harried housewife. Exhausted from working full-time at the local animal shelter while raising three children, Lisa Kallisto, who lives in an idyllic village in the Lake District, overlooks the fact that her daughter’s best friend, Lucinda, never arrived for a sleepover. To make matters worse, Lucinda’s parents are a very wealthy power couple who bring out all of Lisa’s insecurities over her family’s financial struggles. By the time it’s discovered that Lucinda has gone missing, a whole day has gone by. And her disappearance has come two weeks after another girl was kidnapped, drugged, raped, stripped bare, and left in the freezing rain. Told from three viewpoints, including those of the cold-blooded kidnapper and the highly competent female police detective, this intriguing blend of suspense tale and domestic drama, which has a number of delicious plot twists, will keep readers riveted. Not only is Lisa, who may be flawed but has a lot of heart, entirely relatable, but there is also much insight here into the power games that rule both female friendships and the relationships between husbands and wives. First-rate fiction from an outstanding new thriller writer. --Joanne Wilkinson

Review

Praise for *Just What Kind of Mother Are You?*

*** Named one of *Publishers Weekly*’s Top Ten Thrillers of Fall ’13**

*** Chosen as one of *O: The Oprah Magazine*’s “Five Page Turners That Will Surprise You More Than Once”**

“[A] taut novel. . . . We all need a reminder that no woman has it all under control, not even in fiction.”
—Andrea Walker, *O: The Oprah Magazine* (“Five Page Turners That Will Surprise You More Than Once”)

“What elevates this ordinary story is the extraordinary realism of the characters. As we’re pulled into her class-conscious community, we root for [protagonists] Lisa, Joe and justice.” —*Cleveland Plain Dealer*
(Grade: A)

“*Just What Kind of Mother Are You?* has all the right ingredients: cheating spouses, plotting frenemies, sinister fathers, secrets roiling just beneath the surface of everyday domestic life. . . . Her language and insights are both shrewd.” —BookRiot.com

“Daly’s first effort establishes her as a significant player, with gripping prose and a plot moving forward from the first chapter. . . . Deeply unsettling, [with] an ending to leave you reeling. Daly definitely makes her bones in this first effort. I can’t wait to read her second!” —Curled Up With A Good Book

“[*Just What Kind of Mother Are You?*] is anything but predictable . . . a true mystery thriller that takes readers down a circuitous, agonizing path.” —*Florida Times-Union*

“One of the most hypnotically gripping books I’ve read in a long, long time. Masterfully written and utterly unputdownable, this thriller will surprise and astound you with every ingenious twist and turn.” —Tess Gerritsen, *NYT*-bestselling author of *Last to Die*

“Riveting! Daly plunges straight into the heart of every parent's worst nightmare with page-turning results. You know this family. You may even be one of these moms. And you will fly through this novel, as their pain, bewilderment, and ultimately determination become your own.” —Lisa Gardner, #1 *NYT*-bestselling author of *Touch & Go* and *Catch Me*

“[A] strong debut . . . fiendishly addictive as well as perceptive about guilt and social class.” —*The Guardian*

“It’s almost impossible, if you have a heart of any size, to not get wrapped up right away in Lisa Kallisto’s plight. . . . It is a page-turner.” —Three Guys One Book

“Cracking page turner . . . a highly enjoyable read that straddles crime and commercial women's fiction.” —*The Bookseller*

“[An] emotionally complex tale of teenage abduction . . . in Daly's distinctive first novel.” —*Publishers Weekly* (“Big Books of the Fall”)

“Skillfully working both sides of the street—crime fiction and women’s fiction—debut novelist Daly delivers a highly suspenseful tale. . . . This intriguing blend of suspense tale and domestic drama, which has a number of delicious plot twists, will keep readers riveted. . . . There is also much insight here into the power games that rule both female friendships and the relationships between husbands and wives. First-rate fiction from an outstanding new thriller writer.”—*Booklist* (starred review)

“A distinctive voice, masterful plotting, and pitch-perfect characterizations mark British author Daly’s superb debut. . . . Daly’s detailed, richly imagined world and surprising plot twists bring fresh life to the familiar theme of child abduction. In the end, the novel is not just an intriguing puzzle but also a nuanced exploration of friendship, motherhood, fallibility, and the mystery of human relationships.” —*Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

“Daly’s debut novel explores how interpersonal relationships wax and wane following the disappearance of a local child . . . The storytelling and Daly’s voice are top-drawer.” —*Kirkus Reviews*

“*Just What Kind of Mother Are You?* is an intricate, absolutely absorbing account of a series of chilling events that once unleashed will keep the reader riveted to the pages. A grave reminder of the heavy responsibility of being a mother, a wife, a friend. Hypnotic and harrowing right up to the pulse-pounding end. Unforgettable.” —Heather Gudenkauf, *NYT* and *USA TODAY* bestselling author of *The Weight of Silence* and *These Things Hidden*

“A crackling good read, *Just What Kind of Mother Are You?* is a remarkable domestic thriller debut. Fueled by every parent's worst nightmare, Paula Daly takes you for an intense, gritty and heartbreaking roller-coaster ride. A writer to watch.” —Julia Spencer-Fleming, *NYT* bestselling author of *One Was A Soldier*

“With crackling dialogue, compelling characters and a page-turning plot . . . this is a truly promising debut by Daly. She writes with a singular voice and a fierce passion that roars off the page, while also displaying a visceral understanding of the betrayals and humiliations of domestic life . . . With a sharp, double-twist ending, it announces Daly as a potential star, and one with the courage to take risks.” —*Daily Mail* (UK)

“This taut page-turner of a novel, set in England’s fabled Lake District, home to twee villages, Beatrix Potter bunnies, and dreamy Wordsworth poetry, torques every parent’s nightmare . . . Daly has a gift for realistic,

snappy dialogue . . . This story is as much about cornering a criminal as it is about aiming a light on the human knack for acquiring martyr complexes, an affliction that sticks to all the characters in varying degrees.” —*Macleans*

“A pacy psychological thriller that perfectly captures the voice of a stressed-out working mum.” —*The Sunday Mirror*

“Here’s reason for celebration: a first novel that lives up to the billing, with italics and asterisk, page-turner! . . . Daly describes the crimes and the characters with prose that never pauses for breath and leads us through stunning mini-climaxes until we reach the big whammo.” —*Toronto Star*

“*Just What Kind of Mother Are You?* is the very definition of a page-turner – the sort of book that causes you to lose half a day without even noticing. Savour every page, because this will probably be your book of the year. With characters so real they can’t possibly be made up, it’s a brilliant, thrilling story of friendship, families and the sort of terrifying betrayal that can only happen to those closest to us.” —Elizabeth Haynes, author of *Into the Darkest Corner*

“A terrifying story that strips away all our preconceptions about love, loyalty, and friendship. Paula Daly writes so compellingly and convincingly about one mother’s descent into the darkest of places, that we can’t help but be dragged along with her. A fantastic debut.” —Carla Buckley, author of *Invisible*

“I read the book in just a few hours, gripped by the believable characters and switchbacks of the plot. Everyone will recognize the dilemmas in this book and hold their breath for the finale.” —Claire McGowan, author of *The Fall* and Director of the CWA

"A unique and utterly gripping thriller. Lisa Kallisto is a very real character, thrown into a situation we've all had nightmares about. A compelling read." —Alison Gaylin, bestselling author of *Into the Dark*

“Paula Daly's finely-wrought debut thriller deals with overburdened working women who are doing their best but are in danger of being swamped by the conflicting demands being placed upon them. Daly's characters are well-drawn, complex individuals who oftentimes are not what they seem to be, and her small-town settings seethe with twisted dynamics lurking just below the bucolic surfaces.” —Lisa Brackmann, author of *Hour of the Rat* and *Rock Paper Tiger*

“An assured and nail-biting debut which gives an authentic portrayal of modern family life and the pressures of being a working mother. Daly writes eloquently about an ordinary family plunged into a nightmare and sets her story in the wintry landscape of the English Lakes. A tense and satisfying read.” —Cath Staincliffe, author of *Split Second* and *Dead to Me*

“A terrifically assured debut—a compelling read with a wholly appealing protagonist and great doses of humor along with the suspense.” —Kathleen George, author of *Simple* and *The Odds*

“This is a superb debut novel, which engages the reader from the first page and doesn't let up until the final twist at the very end. An unsettling portrayal of just how easily lives can unravel amid the pressures of modern life. Close the curtains, stoke up the fire and prepare for an excellent read.” —Diane Janes, author of *Why Didn't You Come for Me?*

“I read it all in one sitting. It's unputdownable: exactly the kind of book I love—a slow burning psychological suspense with lots of twists. As well as being full of suspense, it is rich in domestic detail and

brilliantly examines the pressures that working parents—specifically working mothers—are under to be perfect in every way. Particularly satisfyingly I didn't see the end coming until the moment it appeared.”
—Julia Crouch, author of *Cuckoo*

About the Author

Paula Daly is the author of *Just What Kind of Mother Are You?* She lives in North West England with her husband, three children, and dog Skippy.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Debbie Brown:

The book *Just What Kind of Mother Are You?* can give more knowledge and also the precise product information about everything you want. Why then must we leave the good thing like a book *Just What Kind of Mother Are You??* Several of you have a different opinion about publication. But one aim that will book can give many data for us. It is absolutely proper. Right now, try to closer along with your book. Knowledge or facts that you take for that, you can give for each other; you can share all of these. Book *Just What Kind of Mother Are You?* has simple shape but you know: it has great and massive function for you. You can appear the enormous world by available and read a publication. So it is very wonderful.

Irma Hughes:

The experience that you get from *Just What Kind of Mother Are You?* is a more deep you looking the information that hide inside the words the more you get considering reading it. It doesn't mean that this book is hard to recognise but *Just What Kind of Mother Are You?* giving you enjoyment feeling of reading. The writer conveys their point in selected way that can be understood through anyone who read the item because the author of this reserve is well-known enough. That book also makes your vocabulary increase well. That makes it easy to understand then can go along, both in printed or e-book style are available. We highly recommend you for having this specific *Just What Kind of Mother Are You?* instantly.

Theodore Parish:

The reason? Because this *Just What Kind of Mother Are You?* is an unordinary book that the inside of the guide waiting for you to snap it but latter it will jolt you with the secret this inside. Reading this book adjacent to it was fantastic author who also write the book in such awesome way makes the content on the inside easier to understand, entertaining approach but still convey the meaning entirely. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this anymore or you going to regret it. This book will give you a lot of advantages than the other book include such as help improving your talent and your critical thinking approach. So , still want to hold off having that book? If I were being you I will go to the reserve store hurriedly.

Cheryl Lopez:

Many people spending their time by playing outside with friends, fun activity having family or just watching TV all day long. You can have new activity to spend your whole day by reading a book. Ugh, do you consider reading a book can actually hard because you have to bring the book everywhere? It ok you can have the e-book, having everywhere you want in your Touch screen phone. Like Just What Kind of Mother Are You? which is finding the e-book version. So , try out this book? Let's observe.

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