

## AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY



Lisa Unger is the New York Times and internationally bestselling author of twenty-one novels, including *THE NEW COUPLE IN 5B*. With books published in thirty-three languages and millions of copies sold worldwide, she is regarded as a master of suspense.

Unger's critically acclaimed novels have been featured on numerous "Best Book" lists. She has been nominated for, or won, numerous awards including the Strand Critics, Audie, Hammett, Macavity, ITW Thriller, and Goodreads Choice. In 2019, she received two Edgar Award nominations in the same year, an honor held by only a few authors including Agatha Christie. Her short fiction has been anthologized in *The Best American Mystery and Suspense*, and her non-fiction has appeared in *The New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Daily Telegraph*, *NPR*, and *Travel+Leisure*.

Lisa is the current co-President of the International Thriller Writers organization. She lives on the west coast of Florida with her family.

[lisaunger.com](http://lisaunger.com)

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What do you know...and when do you know it? At what point in the book do you begin to piece together what happened?
2. Talk about the characters, both good and bad. Describe their personalities and motivations. Are they fully developed and emotionally complex? Or are they flat, one-dimensional heroes and villains?
3. Good crime writers embed hidden clues, slipping them in casually, almost in passing. Did you pick them out, or were you...clueless? Once you've finished the book, go back to locate the clues hidden in plain sight. How skillful was the author in burying them?
4. Good crime writers also tease us with red-herrings—false clues—to purposely lead us astray? Does your author try to throw you off track? If so, were you tripped up?
5. Talk about the twists & turns—those surprising plot developments that throw everything you think you've figured out into disarray. Do they enhance the story, add complexity, and build suspense? Are they plausible or

implausible? Do they feel forced and gratuitous—inserted merely to extend the story?

6. Does the author ratchet up the suspense? Did you find yourself anxious—quickly turning pages to learn what happened? At what point does the suspense start to build? Where does it climax...then perhaps start rising again?
7. A good ending is essential in any mystery or crime thriller: it should ease up on tension, answer questions, and tidy up loose ends. Does the ending accomplish those goals?
8. The book is a mix of genres. A mystery mixed with thriller, mixed with the paranormal. Did you enjoy this blend of genre?
9. There are many odd going-ons at the Windermere. What was more frightening; the high level of surveillance, the people who lived and worked at the Windermere, the mysterious deaths or the ghosts?
10. Point to passages in the book—ideas, descriptions, or dialogue—that you found interesting or revealing, that somehow struck you. What, if anything, made you stop and think? Or maybe even laugh.
11. Overall, does the book satisfy? Does it live up to the standards of a good crime story or suspense thriller? Or does it somehow fall short?
12. Compare this book to other mystery, crime, or suspense thrillers that you've read. Consider other authors or other books in a series by the same author.

## BOOK REVIEWS

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### Kirkus Reviews

Although a surprise inheritance sounds like good luck, it turns out to be anything but in a tense, twisty thriller. New Yorkers Rosie and Chad Lowan have spent most of the first year of their marriage caring for his dying uncle Ivan. Rosie, the novel's engaging narrator, expects Ivan's long-estranged daughter, Dana, to inherit his dreamy Park Avenue apartment, so she's shocked to discover after his death that he's left it to her and Chad. It's a huge boon--Chad is an aspiring actor, and Rosie has published one bestselling true-crime book but is struggling to start a second, so money is always tight. The apartment in the elegant, century-old Windermere is not just a place to live but a multi-million-dollar asset. Dana, however, is not just surprised to be cut out of Ivan's will but furious. The couple's joy is marred not only by her rage but by odd goings-on in the building. At the behest of her editor and BFF, Max, Rosie focuses her next book on the Windermere's grisly history of residents who died in murders, suicides, and bizarre accidents. Does the building bear some sort of curse--and if so, is it all in the past? As first one person in Rosie's orbit and then another die, she becomes suspicious of people like the Windermere's longtime doorman, Abi, and the kindly old couple across the hall, Charles and Ella Aldridge, who have lived there for decades and take much interest in Rosie's efforts to get pregnant. And is Chad, a golden-haired charmer, as perfect as he seems? If all this reminds you of Rosemary's Baby, it's meant to--the book is salted with references to that classic

melding of mystery and horror, and it vibrates with the same sense of escalating dread. But Unger builds her own fast-moving, creepy combination of thriller and horror in one of her best books yet. This propulsive, haunted thriller proves that competition for New York City real estate really can be deadly.

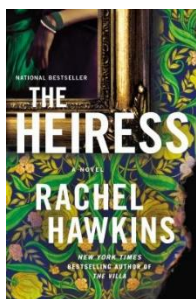
## READALIKES

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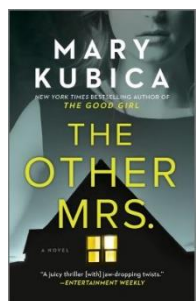
### ***The Writing Retreat* by Julia Bartz**

Alex has all but given up on her dreams of becoming a published author when she receives the opportunity to attend an exclusive, month-long writing retreat at the estate of feminist horror writer Roza Vallo. Then Roza drops a bombshell: participants must all complete an entire novel during the next month, and the author of the best one will receive a life-changing publishing deal. Determined to win the contest, Alex tries to ignore Roza's erratic behavior, Wren's cruel mind games, and the alleged haunting of the mansion itself.



### ***The Heiress* by Rachel Hawkins**

When Ruby McTavish Callahan Woodward Miller Kenmore dies, she's not only North Carolina's richest woman, she's also its most notorious. Ten years later, her adopted son Camden and his wife Jules are summoned back to the family estate, Ashby House bringing questions about the infamous heiress to light. Was there any truth to the persistent rumors following her disappearance as a girl? What really happened to those four husbands, who all died under mysterious circumstances? And why did she adopt Cam in the first place?



### ***The Other Mrs.* by Mary Kubica**

Sadie and Will Foust have only just moved their family from bustling Chicago to small-town Maine when their neighbor Morgan Baines is found dead in her home. The murder rocks their tiny coastal island, but no one is more shaken than Sadie. But it's not just Morgan's death that has Sadie on edge. And as the eyes of suspicion turn toward the new family in town, Sadie is drawn deeper into the mystery of what really happened that dark and deadly night.

## OTHER MATERIALS

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Only include materials in this section if they are essential to understanding the book as a whole, or offer an important, additional perspective.