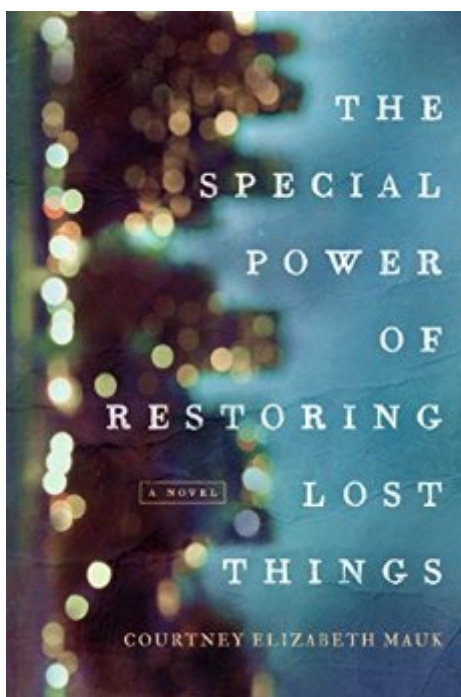


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The Special Power Of Restoring Lost Things



Synopsis

Set against a layered Manhattan landscape, *The Special Power of Restoring Lost Things* explores a fractured family through the alternating perspectives of the mother, father, and brother of a young woman during the aftermath of her disappearance. A year of silent but collective anguish culminates in the fateful thirty hours after a body with a striking resemblance to hers is found, and we see her buttoned-up Upper West Side family spiral in different, dangerous directions: Her mother, Carol, nearly comatose by day, comes alive at night in a vigilante-like attempt to track down her daughter's killer. Her brother, Ben, once the "good kid," adopts her bad habits along with her former friends who may have been complicit in her death. And after failing to keep his family from splitting apart, her seemingly stoic father, Drew, finally allows himself to crack. In her third novel, Courtney Elizabeth Mauk presents a nuanced character study and offers a jolting and unforgettable portrait of a family's struggle to survive.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Phew, talk about a downer. Everything about this book is joyless, hopeless. It really fits in the mood of the subject matter, but for the time frame, a year after a girl's disappearance, I thought there

could be SOME lightheartedness, but there wasn't really anything for this book. Like zip, zero, AND zilch. All right, I'll try not to spoil anything crucial, but yeah, this is a more detailed review so there's bound to be one or two things that get ruined. My apologies. Writing Style: I like the short sentences, always thought they helped the pacing and the mood. What I don't care for, and maybe I'm in the minority these days, is present tense. I think it's limiting, and doesn't draw me into the moment like it's designed to. But with most of the books I've read lately in present tense, I'm starting to slowly, cope. The issue here is that Mauk likes to swap between past and present tense, as well as past and present moments. And there's not much indication of the change. Like, "Whoa, this chick's here with them?" Oh wait no, that's the past. I caught on towards the end, only because I think the entire book from the "present" on takes place over 24 hours. So anything that doesn't directly come after the last part must be in the past. It's confusing, and not in the good way. For the most part, I got over it after I realized what happened, except one part where I have no idea how all the characters got together. Seemed very forced. Which reminds me... Characters: I can't argue that these aren't developed characters. They are. But they're the unlikable kind of developed, not like Jack Sparrow who's kind of a dirtbag but in a cool way, but like Eeyore mixed with Marvin from Hitchhiker's. True, these people are dealing with a very depressing situation.

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