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The Widower's Wife: A Thriller



Synopsis

"One of those rare thrillers that really will keep you reading all night."--Kirkus starred review
"In this chilling cat-and-mouse tale... Holahan keeps the action going."--Publishers Weekly
Ana Bacon, a beautiful young wife and mother, tumbled off a cruise ship into dark and deadly waters. Ana is gone--leaving behind her wealthy husband and adorable daughter--but not everything about her disappearance adds up. What secrets did she leave behind?
Investigator Ryan Monahan is a numbers man. So when his company sends him the Bacon case, which could net a ten-million-dollar payout, Monahan doubts that her death is just a tragic accident. But the husband has a substantial alibi and a number of witnesses claim to have seen Ana fall, and the official ruling seems to hold up. Still, the more Monahan uncovers about Ana's life, the more he realizes how many people would kill to keep her secrets hidden. And the closer he gets to the truth, the greater the odds grow that he, too, will take a fatal fall.

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Customer Reviews

Ana Bacon drowned after falling off the deck of a cruise ship. Her husband Tom is eagerly awaiting the 10 million dollar insurance benefit. Into this picture comes Ryan Monahan, a private investigator

for ISIS Insurance Company, the carrier for Ana's policy. Ryan's gut tells him that Ana's death is no accident. If Ana took her own life the insurance company does not need to pay out but if this is the case how can Ryan prove it? Maybe she was murdered. Tom has a good alibi for the time that Ana's body went into the water. Ryan, an ex-cop, is looking into all aspects of Ana's life and he feels sure that he'll find answers that prove Ana's death was no accident. Ryan's past is shadowy. We know he served on the police force and was shot in the leg leading to a permanent limp. His wife has left him and taken their daughter across the country. Ryan is a well-spring of statistics dealing with causes of death, reasons for divorce, financial issues, and other interesting topics. His obsession with statistics is interesting and the information he stores in his brain is shared throughout the novel. Ryan explores all aspects of Ana's life. There are her parents who live in Brazil whom Ana supported. They believe that Tom has been physically abusive to her. There is her lecherous boss who has a 'reputation'. There are several people who are serving as alibis for Tom and swear he was somewhere else when Ana went off the cruise ship. There is the additional fact that Tom has been out of work for close to a year and the Bacons are near bankruptcy. Tom and Ana had been living the posh life of a Wall Street executive until Tom was fired. Ana was trying to support Tom, herself, and their daughter on the wages of an administrative assistant.

It has been a long time since I devoured a book in just over one day, but I had trouble putting this one down! The story is told in alternating chapters from the perspective of Ana Bacon, a young mother who tumbled off a cruise ship during the night, and Ryan Monahan, the Private Investigator hired by the insurance company to ascertain whether the death was a suicide or an accident. Through many twists and turns, the attention shifts between one character and then another as Ryan unravels the mystery of why the couple was on the cruise ship and what happened in the days and hours leading up to Ana's disappearance over the rail. Tom Bacon has been out of work for a while, and their lavish lifestyle in an elegant custom home has crumbled. They are months behind on the mortgage payment and headed toward foreclosure, the credit cards are maxed out, and Ana's job as an administrative assistant doesn't come close to covering their household expenses. Tom has resorted to drinking night and day and seems to be making no effort to find a job. Ana can no longer even trust him to pick up their daughter from daycare on time. When Ana is fired from her job after refusing the sexual advances of her boss, Tom cooks up a scheme to purchase \$5 million life insurance policies and to fake a death to claim the proceeds. But of course, things don't go exactly according to his plan. Though the suspense continued to build right up until the end of the book, the conclusion felt a bit rushed and incomplete - as if the author was in a hurry

to tie up the loose ends. I didn't like the way the plot was wrapped up, but can't explain why without giving away a plot spoiler! There was some awkward phrasing and metaphors which should have been cleaned up by the editor.

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