

The background features a complex network of white nodes connected by thin white lines, set against a gradient background that transitions from dark purple at the top to a bright pink at the bottom. The nodes are scattered across the frame, with some forming distinct geometric shapes like triangles and polygons. The overall aesthetic is modern and digital.

Before She Was Found

Written by Heather Gudenkauf

Published by kctv7

Table of Contents

Before She Was Found	1
Before She Was Harriet	2
Before She Was Mama	3
Before She Was Found Heather Gudenkauf	4
Before She Was Harriet Summary	5
Before She Was Found Goodreads	6
Before She Was Harriet Activities	7
Before She Was Harriet Awards	8
Before She Was Gone	9
Before She Was Harriet Lesson Plan	10

Before She Was Found

By Heather Gudenkauf

Before She Was Found

A gripping thriller about three young girlfriends, a dark obsession and a chilling crime that shakes up a quiet Iowa town, from the [New York Times](#) bestselling author of [The Weight of Silence](#).

Before She Was Harriet

For twelve-year-old Cora Landry and her friends Violet and Jordyn, it was supposed to be an ordinary sleepover--movies and Ouija and talking about boys. But when they decide to sneak out to go to the abandoned rail yard on the outskirts of town, little do they know that their innocent games will have dangerous consequences.

Before She Was Mama

Later that night, Cora Landry is discovered on the tracks, bloody and clinging to life, her friends nowhere to be found. Soon their small rural town is thrust into a maelstrom. Who would want to hurt a young girl like Cora--and why? In an investigation that leaves no stone unturned, everyone is a suspect and no one can be trusted--not even those closest to Cora.

Before She Was Found Heather Gudenkauf

Before She Was Found is a timely and gripping thriller about friendship and betrayal, about the power of social pressure and the price of needing to fit in. It is about the great lengths a parent will go to protect their child and keep them safe--even if that means burying the truth, no matter the cost.

It was supposed to be a sleepover Three twelve-year-old girls, Cora, Violet and Jordyn, were having a sleepover at Cora's home. But then the trio decided to sneak out of Cora's home at midnight to go to the abandoned rail-yard. It was supposed to be a fun adventure. It turned into a nightmare.

Cora is found on the tracks by a woman walking her dog. She is covered in blood and barely alive. Violet and Jordyn are nowhere to be found. Later Violet is found and taken to the hospital and Jordyn turns up at the home she shares with her grandparents. Violet is in shock and Jordyn is moody with her mood alternating from indifference, to fear, to defiance.

Cora is found on the tracks by a woman walking her dog. She is covered in blood and barely alive. Violet and Jordyn are nowhere to be found. Later Violet is found and taken to the hospital and Jordyn turns up at the home she shares with her grandparents. Violet is in shock and Jordyn is moody with her mood alternating from indifference, to fear, to defiance.

This book is told through text messages, journal entries, therapists notes and through the perspectives of various family members. As the book progresses, the reader learns more about the girls, their relationships with each other, one's private thoughts and a school project about a local urban legend.

As the police, family members, therapist and girls themselves try to piece things together, it appears that there is more to what happened at the rail-yard than meets the eye. I love how Gudenkauf provides little spinets and clues along the way. I had several theories which changed as new information was presented. I love books which have characters who aren't always reliable - or the Author is able to make the reader question a character's reliability. This was a fun one as the young girls did not describe the events the same way. I didn't know who was telling the truth, who had something to hide, who was scared, and who had secrets. Plus, the girls were twelve years old, they had broken the rules and left Cora's home. They knew they would be in trouble for sneaking out if they were caught. So, as they shared information, I kept in mind their age and each's desire to get into as little trouble as possible.

This was a very clever and well thought out book. I was fully invested in learning the truth. The Author created characters that the reader will care for, there are some we will question and some we may be wary of but each is interesting and compelling in his/her own way. I felt for the parents just as much as I felt for the girls.

Once I got to the ending, I went back to the beginning to read it. Let me just say, I did not see that

Before She Was Found

coming! This book will not be released until 2019, so put it on your list and keep it on your radar. Fans of Gudenkauf will be delighted by this book. It's another solid book which had me enthralled from the very beginning. Those who have not read Gudenkauf, what are you waiting for? This is a great book I was glued to the pages.

Highly Recommend!

Thank you to Park Row books and Edelweiss for providing me with a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review. All the thoughts and opinions expressed in this review are my own.

Read more of my reviews at www.openbookpost.com ...more

Before She Was Harriet Summary

Addictive and thrilling!

A vicious attack at the railway. One young girl left maimed and bleeding, with another victim almost catatonic...in shock. The third...surprisingly unwilling to help the authorities!

Cora never really fit in with her peers. Her best friend moved away to another town leaving her alone and desperate to find new friends.

Violet. The new girl in town. Sweet, quiet and unassuming. Her family recently relocated here from New Mexico looking for new beginnings. Actually, the truth is her family ended up here in the middle of this God-forsaken, nowhere town after their car broke down.

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Jordyn. The popular girl. The one that rules the school, being somewhat of a bully. Make no mistake. She is always in charge. It's Jordyn's way...or the highway!

When a class project brings the three girls together it quickly spirals out of control. The girls' assignment is to research urban legends. But what if the legend is actually real? Who is safe?

Heather Gudenkauf writes an absolute edge-of-your-seat read that will keep you flip-flopping right up till the end. I was so delightfully surprised by the ending! It isn't too often I get to be shocked! This one had me! Don't miss out! Highly recommended!

As always a fun and fabulous buddy read with Susanne!!

Thank you to Edelweiss, Harlequin - Park Row and Heather Gudenkauf for an ARC to read and review.
...more

3.5 stars

Before She Was Found is a timely and gripping thriller about friendship and betrayal, about the power

Before She Was Found

of social pressure and the price of needing to fit in. It is about the great lengths a parent will go to protect their child and keep them safe--even if that means burying the truth, no matter the cost.

I loved the first half of this book and I thought it was so creepy. I was so intrigued to find out who J.W. was? Everyone is a suspect and no one can be trusted. It was a fast paced thri 3.5 stars

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I loved the first half of this book and I thought it was so creepy. I was so intrigued to find out who J.W. was? Everyone is a suspect and no one can be trusted. It was a fast paced thriller. This one has a mean girl teenager theme. There were journal entries from Cora that made it a page turner and it also had creepy social media messages that were so creepy.

There also is a mysterious school teacher. The descriptions of what happened to Cora was so awful. It was dark and disturbing and was a thrill ride.

I thought that characters were done so well and loved the writing style.

Then close to the end... It lost its fizz. I thought this was going to be a five star read but it did a complete u-turn and went south and lost its fizz. I was so disappointed and upset. I didn't like the ending at all. One thing that I can say about the ending was that this one was not implausible at all and I can see it actually happening in today's society. I thought it was realistic. I just didn't like it. I am in the minority in this one. Lots of others loved it. There are lots of 4 and 5 star reviews, so read those reviews.

This was a Traveling Sister read and we all had mixed feelings. Some loved it others didnt. I loved it until that ending.

I want to thank Edelweiss, the publisher, and the author for the copy of this book in exchange for an honest review. ...more

Before She Was Found Goodreads

Abandoned @ page 95.

Chalk my inability to finish up to reader preferenceâ€”in terms of plotâ€”not readability or writing style.

I've been much choosier when it comes to reading selections as of late, cutting ties with books I'm not enjoying, in favor of seeking out those that *demand* my undivided attention.

Heather Gudenkauf's compelling opener convinced me I had to tote her newest release home from the library. My assumptions of what the experience could be versus actuality forcing a hard-stop at Abandoned @ page 95.

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Heather Gudenkauf's compelling opener convinced me I had to tote her newest release home from the library. My assumptions of what the experience could be versus actuality forcing a hard-stop at 95-pages. Again, it's not the author's style that turned me off per se, but the numerous diary entries written from the perspective of a twelve-year-old. I'm not a middle-grade reader or much of a YA fan, and those were the vibes I was picking up on. And who knows, I might be missing out on something truly fantasticâ€”have you seen all of the favorable reviews?â€”but that's a chance I'm willing to take. ...more

Well this one reeled me in, hook, line and sinker! And no there are no actual fish in this story. Fishy occurrences yes, real fish, no. Though to be honest this author and I have a good relationship between writer and reader.

Three twelve year old girls, sneak out of the house on midnight, of the girl hosting the sleepover. One is discovered in terrible condition, clinging to life after being beaten and stabbed. Another is found covered with blood, in shock but otherwise unhurt. The third ran ho Well this one reeled me in, hook, line and sinker! And no there are no actual fish in this story. Fishy occurrences yes, real fish, no. Though to be honest this author and I have a good relationship between writer and reader.

Three twelve year old girls, sneak out of the house on midnight, of the girl hosting the sleepover. One is discovered in terrible condition, clinging to life after being beaten and stabbed. Another is found covered with blood, in shock but otherwise unhurt. The third ran home and maintains she never went as far as the railroad. Plus, none are saying what happened, blaming it on a person from an urban legend who would now be in his seventies.

Before She Was Found

Have to admit I'm attracted to urban legends. We have a few in my town, one even made into the movie Munger Road. Plus, what happened to these girls? Enticing read, enticing mystery. Covers also some pertinent themes such as the harm bullying causes. How lying can ruin a person's reputation, even if the lies are proven untrue, doubt sets in. What extent a parent or guardian will go in protecting their children, and the harm of what seems at first a funny prank. So a mystery, a thriller but much more than at first meets the eye. All in all a very good read.

ARC from Edelweiss. ...more

Before She Was Harriet Activities

3.5 STARS

Some mixed feelings about this one!

My favorite element was the different formats that kept it interesting and kept the story moving forward (always a plus), It was a mix of real time, journal excerpts, different POV's , online chat room discussions and police interviews, BUT I was wanting more follow through to some of the incidents.

I wanted to keep reading on, but wasn't really "enjoying" what I was reading and kept feeling disappointed in the direction it was taking. I liked all th 3.5 STARS

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I wanted to keep reading on, but wasn't really "enjoying" what I was reading and kept feeling disappointed in the direction it was taking. I liked all the scattering of clues the author provided and I was questioning many of the characters motives throughout.

This was a quick read and had a nice pace, although the ending left me "underwhelmed" and questioning things. The ending could have "saved" this one for me, butnah

I do think a lot of thriller fans would enjoy this one and it does have a bit of a YA feel IMO. Definitely check it out if you enjoy a cast of teenagers with a mean streak!

Thanks to the pub. for my review copy! Book comes out April 16, 2019

...more

Whoa!!! This YA mystery / thriller has exceeded my expectations! See ya, book slump!

Cora is a lonely 12 year old girl, her one and only best friend moved away months ago, so when a new girl, Violet, appears in her class she is over the moon with excitement and wants nothing more than to become friends with this mysterious new girl.

Unfortunately for Cora, Jordyn (the most popular girl in class and mean girl extraordinaire) is also interested in becoming Violets friend. For Cora this poses a hug Whoa!!! This YA mystery / thriller has exceeded my expectations! See ya, book slump!

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Unfortunately for Cora, Jordyn (the most popular girl in class and mean girl extraordinaire) is also interested in becoming Violets friend. For Cora this poses a huge problem ~ Jordyn makes her life a living hell at school by taunting and teasing her on a daily basis.

Now that they have Violet in common it appears that Jordyn has accepted Cora into her circle of friends. Cora arranges a sleepover at her house for just the three of them. After midnight these young ladies make a decision that will haunt them forever.

How did it come to be that Cora was found bleeding out and nearly dead on the train tracks? How did Violet become covered in blood while walking out from the woods in the distance? And where exactly is Jordyn? You'll have to read this to find out.

I was completely gripped in this mystery from the very first page but I will admit as I neared the end I thought "OH NO, DON'T LEAVE IT LIKE THIS" (I was ready to chuck my kindle into the wall) but as I turned those final pages I had my AHA moment. I see what you did there, Ms. Gudenkauf, and I applaud your cleverness. 4 *what the hell is going on* stars!

Thank you to NetGalley & Harlequin Trade Publishing for providing me with a digital ARC in exchange for my honest review. ...more

Before She Was Harriet Awards

Gripping, chilling, & mind-blowing stuff here!

I definitely have to start my review off with a little message to you HEATHER GUDENKAUF, you are by far one of my must-read and absolute favourite thriller writers ever and this book was freakinâ€™ fantastic!!!!

BEFORE SHE WAS FOUND by HEATHER GUDENKAUF is an unsettling, dark, realistic, captivating, thought-provoking and fabulous thriller that pretty much had every aspect that I absolutely love in my thrillers. A haunting and chilling crime, a myst Gripping, chilling, & mind-blowing stuff here!

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BEFORE SHE WAS FOUND by HEATHER GUDENKAUF is an unsettling, dark, realistic, captivating, thought-provoking and fabulous thriller that pretty much had every aspect that I absolutely love in my thrillers. A haunting and chilling crime, a mysterious urban legend, fantastic storytelling that is absolutely dazzling, and interesting and complex characters to make this an all out absorbing and devouring read.

HEATHER GUDENKAUF delivers quite the clever, intriguing, suspenseful, engaging, and well-written story here that starts off with quite the bang and never lets up to make this quite the tense and edge-of-your-seat read. I absolutely loved the way that this story unfolded in multiple character perspectives and formats including journal entries in Coraâ€™s perspective. I find that this technique is always quite effective, appealing and very suspenseful with slow-burning reads.

There is lots going on behind the scenes in this story that is quite thought-provoking and an important message for us to ponder. In the end I was totally taken by surprise and would have never of guessed the outcome.

Normaâ€™s Stats:

Cover: Although I totally find this cover to be quite appealing and an effective representation to storyline it isnâ€™t the sole reason for wanting or picking up this book. HEATHER GUDENKAUF is a must-read author for me regardless if I find the cover to be attractive or not. Whatever she writes, I will read!

Title: Clever, intriguing, fitting, impactful and a fabulous representation to storyline where the meaning is revealed to us as the story progresses. Love these meaningful titles!

Writing/Prose: Well-written, fluid, mesmerizing, beautiful and engaging.

Plot: Engrossing, clever, suspenseful, thought-provoking, believable, interesting, heartfelt, fast-paced,

Before She Was Found

and entertaining.

Ending: An ending that left me speechless and totally took me by surprise! Loved that I didn't figure out the outcome until it was revealed to us.

Overall: The story was so darn thrilling, entertaining and absolutely un-put-down-able!!!! Would highly recommend!

Thank you so much to Edelweiss, Park Row & Heather Gudenkauf for the opportunity to read an advanced copy of this book to read and review.

Review can also be found on our blog:

<https://twosisterslostinaCoulee.com/> ...more

Three Girls, an urban legend, a dark obsession and a chilling crime

Before She Was Found is a chilling, unsettlingly realistic, thought-provoking story that explores some teenage drama here with bullying, popularity, fitting in and approval. It goes a little deeper than just mean girls. It also explores friendship, betrayal and the power of social media and the impact it all can have on family dynamics.

Before She Was Found starts off with an unsettling, disturbing and grisly scene and I was turned Three Girls, an urban legend, a dark obsession and a chilling crime

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Before She Was Found starts off with an unsettling, disturbing and grisly scene and I was turning those pages as fast as I go to unravel what happened. We learn of an urban legend and I was intrigued by it and enjoyed how that played into the story. The suspense and tension in the story increases with each page until that unsettling realistic ending that left me quite upset. I have not had a reaction to a story like I did to this one. I really dislike the ending and had mixed feeling with the way it all came together but I loved the story and the themes and messages that Heather Gudenkauf explored in this story.

I read this one in the Traveling Sister group and it left us with different feeling with that ending. The ending worked for some of us but not for all of us. It really made for an interesting discussion. I highly recommend for book clubs as there is plenty to talk about and explore here.

Thank you to Park Row, EW and HarperCollins Canada for a copy to read and review. ...more

Before She Was Gone

If Mean Girls and Slenderman had a baby, Before She Was Found would be that baby.

An attempted murder scene, three preteen girls, one missing, one covered in blood and one clinging to life. And all three are utterly unreliable narrators. I mean, what's not to love about that?

The best word I can find to describe this book is gripping. I read it in one sitting, though technically I was lying but whatever, tomayto-tomahto.

Having never even heard of Heather Gudenkauf I had no idea what to expect from If Mean Girls and Slenderman had a baby, Before She Was Found would be that baby.

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Having never even heard of Heather Gudenkauf I had no idea what to expect from this book and oh mylanta was I ever unprepared for what lay ahead. I was completely absorbed from beginning to end with not only the mystery, but with the perfectly fleshed out characters.

It takes a pretty clever resolution for me to not have a mystery figured out before the reveal but this one got me. Hook, line and sinker. Never saw it coming, never even considered it for one tenth of a second. I challenge anybody that figures out the culprit to reveal themselves so I can call them a liar, liar, pants on fire.

4.5 Stars - rounded up because it was unputdownable.

I received an ARC from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. ...more

3.5 stars. A haunting crime in a small town community.

Twelve-year-old classmates, Cora, Violet and Jordyn sneak out one night to visit the abandoned train yard at the edge of town. A night of sneaky mischief ends with Cora hospitalized with several stab wounds and Violet and Jordyn in shock and confusion as to what happened. Small town secrets are uncovered as the police question everyone connected to the three girls. Were all three girls victims of this brutal attack? Could one of the girls be 3.5 stars. A haunting crime in a small town community.

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I was pulled into this chilling story right away. There were some gruesome scenes at the start that were hard to stomach, but the writing kept me intrigued and curious to find out what happened. It was an addictive, quick read that had me making excuses to find time for "just one more chapter".

The novel unfolds through multiple characters perspectives. I did find myself slightly confused near the beginning trying to keep track of who was who, but as the story progressed, it became much clearer and easier to follow. I found Cora's journal entries distracting which took away from my enjoyment. Her perspective had a lot of childish behavior and mannerisms that felt overdone. The "mean girl" scenes were a bit much. I think I would have enjoyed the novel more had those scenes been toned down.

Overall, I enjoyed this novel and look forward to reading more from this author. This was a Traveling Sister read.

Thank you to Edelweiss and Park Row for providing me with an ARC to read and review!

Expected date of publication: April 16, 2019. ...more

Before She Was Harriet Lesson Plan

Twelve year old Cora is found at an abandoned train depot, lying near the railroad tracks, with a broken arm, a stab wound in the torso, and lacerations and blunt trauma to her face. She had been at a sleepover with two other 12 year old girls, Violet, who was found covered in blood, in the same area as Cora and Jordyn who showed up at home not long after Cora was attacked. Cora can't talk and the other two girls are too scared to or don't want to talk.

This is a living nightmare for law enforce Twelve year old Cora is found at an abandoned train depot, lying near the railroad tracks, with a broken arm, a stab wound in the torso, and lacerations and blunt trauma to her face. She had been at a sleepover with two other 12 year old girls, Violet, who was found covered in blood, in the same area as Cora and Jordyn who showed up at home not long after Cora was attacked. Cora can't talk and the other two girls are too scared to or don't want to talk.

This is a living nightmare for law enforcement, parents and guardians, the preteens and teens who like to hang out in dark and lonely places, and the city. We learn what led up to the attack from the point of view of Beth, Violet's mom, Thomas, Jordyn's grandfather, Cora's diary, and texts between various kids and others. Social media and bullying adversely affect the lives of the community and there is also an urban legend that is rumored as having something to do with the attack.

I was so interested in finding out what happened to Cora but reading this book is hard to do, knowing the injuries Cora received and the sad way the preteens and teens treated each other. Many things led to this attack, including what the parents and guardians chose to ignore about their children and their community.

Thank you to Park Row/HarperCollins and Edelweiss for this ARC. ...more

4.5 Stars

All actions have consequences. When you are twelve years old however, you have absolutely no idea what they are going to be!

Cora has always had trouble making friends. She gets teased and bullied constantly at school, though her parents would never know it. When a new girl named Violet moves to town, Cora has high hopes, especially when they are paired up in class. That is, until Ms. Popular and Cora's least favorite person, Jordyn, is paired with them. Then all of a sudden things seem 4.5 Stars

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Before She Was Found

her parents would never know it. When a new girl named Violet moves to town, Cora has high hopes, especially when they are paired up in class. That is, until Ms. Popular and Cora's least favorite person, Jordyn, is paired with them. Then all of a sudden things seem a bit better. Even Jordyn starts being nicer to Cora. Be wary however, as no one, absolutely no one, can be trusted.

One night, during a sleepover, the three girls sneak out, going to an abandoned trainyard - eager to investigate for their school project about an urban legend. Two come out unharmed. One girl has significant injuries and it appears as though the other girls may be guilty.. at least of something.

“Before She Was Found” by Heather Gudenkauf is told through several different medium, including text messages, psychologist notes and journal entries as well as several different POV's - all of which are very effective. Clues are hinted at throughout the book, but I for one, was shocked when all the cards were left on the table. Having read all of Ms. Gudenkauf's prior books I can emphatically state that this is one of her best. The dynamics between the characters, the build up of the suspense, the emotional roller coaster and the ending! Wowza, what a crazy ride! My heart was thump thump thumping at the end of this one guy and gals!

I highly recommend this one to all fans of fiction and mystery/suspense.

This was a buddy read with Kacey! We loved it! Thanks for reading it with me Kacey!

Thank you to Edelweiss, Harlequin - Park Row and to Heather Gudenkauf for an ARC of this novel in exchange for an honest review.

Published on Edelweiss and Goodreads on 1.13.19.

Will be published on Twitter and Amazon on 4.16.19.

Except to be published on Instagram.

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