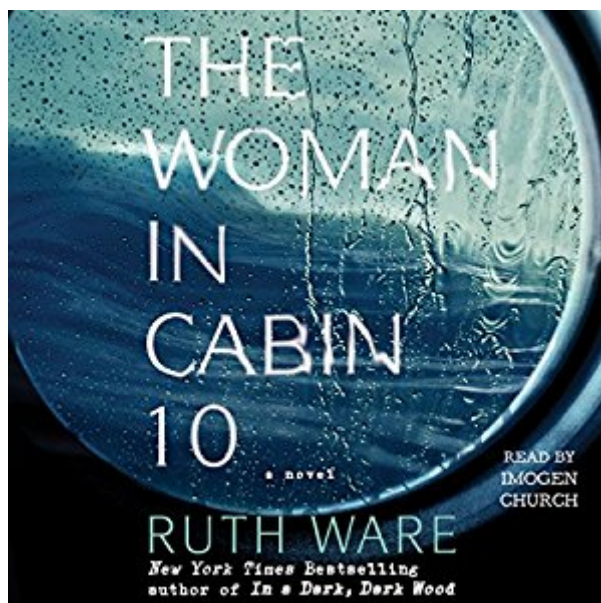


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The Woman In Cabin 10



Synopsis

From New York Times best-selling author of the "twisty-mystery" (Vulture) novel *In a Dark, Dark Wood* comes *The Woman in Cabin 10*, an equally suspenseful and haunting novel from Ruth Ware - this time set at sea. In this tightly wound, enthralling story reminiscent of Agatha Christie's works, Lo Blacklock, a journalist who writes for a travel magazine, has just been given the assignment of a lifetime: a week on a luxury cruise with only a handful of cabins. The sky is clear, the waters calm, and the veneered, select guests jovial as the exclusive cruise ship, the *Aurora*, begins her voyage in the picturesque North Sea. At first Lo's stay is nothing but pleasant: The cabins are plush, the dinner parties are sparkling, and the guests are elegant. But as the week wears on, frigid winds whip the deck, gray skies fall, and Lo witnesses what she can describe only as a dark and terrifying nightmare: a woman being thrown overboard. The problem? All passengers remain accounted for - and so the ship sails on as if nothing has happened, despite Lo's desperate attempts to convey that something (or someone) has gone terribly, terribly wrong. With surprising twists, spine-tingling turns, and a setting that proves as uncomfortably claustrophobic as it is eerily beautiful, Ruth Ware offers up another taut and intense listen in *The Woman in Cabin 10* - one that will leave even the most sure-footed listener restlessly uneasy long after the last minute ends.

Book Information

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Fiction > Literary

Customer Reviews

I should have read the reviews. How did this book get on the best sellers list? Is every heroine from the UK a drunken, whining, "unreliable" witness? The author even goes so far to tell us numerous times that her heroine is a drunken unreliable witness as if we couldn't figure this out by ourselves.

There are so many things wrong with this book, and yet to my own frustration it becomes a best seller. Are we as readers so numb to bad writing that we accept the rave reviews by the publisher? The protagonist whines, drinks heavy, and mixes it with anti-depressants. She is a confused woman; one moment she is in love and the next she is breaking up. She repeats herself often, giving the reader no credit and a headache. She repeats herself...oh, I already said that. She curses for drama. The F bomb is used often as a one word sentence. She breathes and proves to us that she can count, one...two...three...breathe. The entire first portion of the book is long and drawn out about how she really doesn't deserve being on a cruise to write a review. She's right, Lo doesn't deserve to be on this ship. She is a complete idiot. Most of her vocabulary is "Um...I...uh..." This is not the type of story that gets my heart pounding. Once we ride over the hump of someone being murdered, the story DOES become somewhat readable. I remember thinking, here we go! But the story never produces anything more than a snore. For the remainder of the book we are led to believe that anyone on the cruise could have murdered someone that we don't even know other than the woman in cabin 10. The characters are flat. Each one of the characters kind of mesh together as the same. There is no emotional attachment to any of them. There is little show and all tell.

Your friend-- let's call her Debbie Downer-- is a claustrophobic, alcoholic, neurotic insomniac. She's also a total screwup at her job, and honestly, not very bright. Her house was just broken into so you're trying to cut her a break, but her nonstop complaining "it's too hot, it's too cold, the ceilings are too low, the room's too small, my clothes smell, I'm too sleepy, I'm too hungry, I'm not hungry, I'm hungover, etc." is getting to you. Plus there's the counting to herself (One, Two, Three!) and the constant, random weeping. She's a hot mess. Would you want to spend a lot of time hanging around her? Well, if you can stand to spend 352 pages with her, then you'll love Lo Blacklock, the protagonist of this book. I won't go into a plot synopsis, others have done that already. I managed to solve the "mystery" 66% into the book (I'm on a Kindle), so kudos to the author for making the plot two-thirds difficult. As a reader it's no fun being more clever than the protagonist. The only mystery to me was how the author was going to fill the other 33% of the book. Some weird things in this book:--In an early chapter, which I can only guess is used as a plot device by the author to introduce the boyfriend, Lo has a nonsensical argument with him on par with: "You did it" "No you did it" "No you" "No you" "I love you" and breaks up with him. I sat there thinking "What the hell did I just read?" At another point, during the cruise Lo locks herself in her cabin and spends a number of

chapters trying to figure out how to get out. Ok, I made that up, but if it had happened, it wouldn't have been out of place.

Thank you Netgalley for my copy in exchange for a fair and honest review. I should start by saying I ended up not reading the author's first book, *In a Dark, Dark Wood*, because someone I know spoiled the whole "big twist" for me. I also should say I wasn't very disappointed as I wouldn't have enjoyed spending all the time invested reading it for another *Gone Girl* wannabe. I'm getting a little tired of everyone wanting to write the next big hit in the genre, but writing THE EXACT same story with differently named characters. I'll also say that, while comparing the plots of her two books, this one was loads improved and I was interested to see what she wrote next, as I felt it would be more a show of her own work instead of trying to be the next big thing. You can read the plot for this one on the book page, but basically, Lo is a journalist who has the opportunity to cover a story aboard a swanky new cruise ship where things start to go awry. Because so few people have read this so far, I'm not going to hash out every problem I had with this book, but I'll give some very vague generalizations as to not ruin the experience for someone else. I had big problems with the very beginning and the last 20% of this book. The middle 60% was honestly spot on, and if the entire book had been written with that sense of excellency it would have been a 5 star read. THINGS I LIKED: Another reviewer named Denise brought this up first, but I liked how she described the format of this book reading like a classic Agatha Christie novel. Group of people confined in a small area surrounding a murder. This is always a plus for me. I fangirl over any and all things reminiscent of Christie. The pacing, after the first 25% was great!

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