

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.

Something in the Water

Written by Catherine Steadman

Published by sanmarco-sf

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Something in the Water

By Catherine Steadman

Something In The Water

#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER - A shocking discovery on a honeymoon in paradise changes the lives of a picture-perfect couple in this taut psychological thriller debut--for readers of Ruth Ware, Paula Hawkins, and Shari Lapena.

Something In The Rain

If you could make one simple choice that would change your life forever, would you?

Something In The Water Lineup

Erin is a documentary filmmaker on the brink of a professional breakthrough, Mark a handsome investment banker with big plans. Passionately in love, they embark on a dream honeymoon to the tropical island of Bora Bora, where they enjoy the sun, the sand, and each other. Then, while scuba diving in the crystal blue sea, they find something in the water. . . .

Something In The Way She Moves

Could the life of your dreams be the stuff of nightmares?

Something In The Way Lyrics

Suddenly the newlyweds must make a dangerous choice: to speak out or to protect their secret. After all, if no one else knows, who would be hurt? Their decision will trigger a devastating chain of events. . . .

Something In The Way

Have you ever wondered how long it takes to dig a grave?

Something In The Water Book

Wonder no longer. Catherine Steadman's enthralling voice shines throughout this spellbinding debut novel. With piercing insight and fascinating twists, *Something in the Water* challenges the reader to confront the hopes we desperately cling to, the ideals we're tempted to abandon, and the perfect lies we tell ourselves.

Have you ever wondered how long it takes to dig a grave? Wonder no longer. It takes an age. However long you think it takes, double that.

Let me start by giving credit where it's due—Catherine Steadman nails the first chapter . . . hands down. Very few openers have acquired my attention as adeptly as those four simple sentences.

How could any suspense reader not be enthralled with a woman who turns to Google to learn the proper depth to bury a body or look away as she carries on, one painstaking . . . Have you ever wondered how long it takes to dig a grave? Wonder no longer. It takes an age. However long you think it takes, double that.

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How could any suspense reader not be enthralled with a woman who turns to Google to learn the proper depth to bury a body or look away as she carries on, one painstaking shovel-full at a time? Erin proves with her narrative, ridding yourself of a pesky body, in dirt, might not be as easy as the movies portray. *wink*

â€œI'm not a bad person. Or maybe I am. You decide.â€•

I think we can all agree—there's not much subjectivity allowed here, is there?—anyone who finds themselves in a situation that requires the disposal of a body, pretty much guarantees they're not a good person. What kind of reader would that make me though, if I didn't give Erin the chance to explain herself?

From Erin's declaration on her moral character, Catherine Steadman flips the calendar back three months—setting to work the events that land her leading lady in the woods committing a major felony.

Let me dip my toe in the plot here for a bit. Erin is a budding documentary filmmaker, while her soon to be husband, an investment banker, has recently found himself without a job. Less money means less of a fuss over their nuptials and a mere two weeks in Bora Bora, instead of the planned three. It's in the turquoise waters off the island, in the midst of what anyone would consider a dream honeymoon,

that the couple happens across something in the water. A few unfathomable items, just floating along, minding their own business, tucked securely away in a locked black bag. I think weâ€™d all be kidding ourselves if we said weâ€™d just leave it alone. What's that sayingâ€”curiosity killed the cat? The circumstances pose a bit of a moral dilemma, as they should; do Erin and Mark alert someone to what they found or shove the guilt down somewhere deep and live a more â€œprosperousâ€• life, instead? Any guesses at the decision the couple makes?

Things start to get a bit dicey when Erin and Mark find themselves back home in London, pretending to carry on as if nothing has changed. We all know, that scenario never holds up. What ensues is a non-stop decline in believability, a flagrant lack of storyline development and one absurd decision followed by another. From curiosity in the beginning, to waning feelings in the middle, to disdain for the crippling ridiculousness of the back half, this is one Iâ€™m labeling as a major upset. What kills me, this could should have been so much more.

The entire story is told from Erinâ€™s perspective and itâ€™s my belief, the authorâ€™s writing style will be hit-or-miss with readers. Catherine Steadmanâ€™s words are extremely choppy, but in some ways, I felt her voice fed into the suspense of the novel and lessened the impact of the drivel. If you think about it, our own thoughts are far from linear and polishedâ€”thereâ€™s a rawness, a flitting from one thought to another . . . constantly. Well, thatâ€™s the best justification I can come up with for the messiness presented on the page.

Was the story written this way intentionally? Iâ€™m not quite sure. What I am sure of, this story would have benefited from more editing. Quite a few times, Catherine Steadman wrote herself into a corner and continued to turn in circles, spewing bits of useless information, while trying to get back on track. Again, thatâ€™s just my take on the steady diet of nonsense the author chose to spoon-feed the reader.

I'm going to end things on this note: when writing a story, or heck, even in real life, simply thinking about something, doesnâ€™t necessarily breath it in to fruitionâ€”regardless of how many times this plot tries to persuade you otherwise. If that was the case, the ending of this book would have been something else entirely.

Thank you to Ballantine Books and NetGalley for providing a review copy. ...more

Something In The Water Lyrics

The story was just a gem for me. The audio was incredible. The author is an actress from Downton Abby. If you don't read a lot of thrillers you might enjoy this. If you do read a lot of thrillers you might find it just ok.

I'm still in a rut. On to the next!

5 THUNK THUNK THUNK Stars 5/5!!!

A slow build to a shocking discovery, this book will have you wondering what you would do!!! See my review here!

What an incredible debut novel this is for Catherine Steadman! While the book starts with a bang, the next 30% is a slow build as you get to know the characters. Then at about 35% the story takes a turn and readers will find themselves holding on for the ride, unsure of where they'll end up!!! I was unsure about this book at first, but I have to say I 5 THUNK THUNK THUNK Stars 5/5!!!

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I don't even know what I'd compare this book to! Its really quite unique from other psychological thrillers, though I'm sure some comparisons (Ruth Ware, Paula Hawkins) are bound to come up. I don't want to make those though because I don't think readers should go into this book expecting something similar to what they've already read. Enjoy this one on its own merit!

Erin and Mark are about to embark on their dream honeymoon...

Erin is a documentary filmmaker and is engaged to handsome, successful, financial advisor Mark. The two have a nearly perfect relationship—each balances the other out, and is able to cheer the other up when down. Erin is creating a documentary about prisoners reintegrating into society after their release, when she takes a break and she and Mark leave grey-skied England for a dream honeymoon in Bora Bora.

Something in the Water

Mark and Erin spend their days hiking, eating exotic meals, basking in the sun, and making love in their room—a perfect honeymoon! Erin is even facing her fear of scuba diving to see the oceans with Mark. But after a big storm makes the waters cloudy, they are forced to change their dive location to a different island about an hour off the shore of Bora Bora.

And then, out in a boat in the middle of the ocean, they hear it....

THUNK THUNK THUNK

There's something in the water, and nothing will ever be the same again!

I cannot believe this is a debut novel! Catherine has a way with vivid characters, settings, and vernacular, probably from her career as an actress. I found Erin and Mark so compelling, both as individuals and in their relationship dynamic. Mark is calculating where Erin is creative. Erin is action-oriented where Mark is strategic. Both are open to understanding when they've misunderstood the other.

But I don't want to forget to mention the other characters! The three prisoners—Holli, Alexa, and Eddie—are fascinating each in their own way. Steadman shows the incredible diversity of those who are convicted. Some may deserve worse than they got, and others you might empathize with, or even see a bit of your own decision-making in. Each has their own story, peppered throughout the book in Erin's interviews with them.

And the mystery!!! The "something" that is in the water!!! It sets a chain of events in motion that are twisty and heart-pounding in their rapid succession. From the time the boat hits the THUNK THUNK, readers will NOT be able to put this book down! Erin and Mark both handle the situation so differently. Erin surprises even herself with her boldness, which was wonderful to read about. Erin was a great narrator, even if I did want to shake her at times and tell her to stop, JUST STOP!

The series of tiny decisions that could lead them on different paths each step of the way was extremely well-written. I found myself unsure at each stage what I would choose. Would I follow the same path that Erin and Mark did? What would I do, if I were the one to find something in the water? I wanted to avoid saying much about the plot beyond the discovery, because readers will absolutely love the ride this book will take them on! I look forward to more from this author.

I want to sincerely thank Netgalley, Catherine Steadman, and Ballantine Books at Random House Publishing for an opportunity to read this book in exchange for an honest review. It was my pleasure!
...more

Something In The Air

5 Tension Filled Stars ⭐️⭐️⭐️⭐️⭐️

Well HOT damn this book was just... brilliant! Full disclosure I was running behind on my reviews so I purchased this on audio on release day and I was even a little hesitant because I saw the author was narrating.... not always a good thing, but I had no idea that Catherine Steadman is an actress.... and after finishing this book I now know she is also a fantastic author and audiobook narrator!!! Simply amazing! Seriously if I could I would give her narration six stars 5 Tension Filled Stars ⭐️⭐️⭐️⭐️⭐️

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Erin and Mark are a happy newly married couple on their honeymoon in Bora Bora... they are having a wonderful time in this tropical paradise until...thunk thunk... there is something in the water.... and what it is will alter this couple's lives.... from this point on the tension is ramped up and I felt as though I was on the edge of my seat throughout... so many thoughts... what would I do in this situation? What is the ethical thing to do?

Erin and Mark were both fabulous characters... they both handled the situation so differently and I found that part so compelling and true....Erin was very bold about it all and didn't always think things through, in fact sometimes she did some really stupid things... Mark on the other hand was more cautious, not much of a risk taker, although he was usually fine with his wife taking a risk.... I have to say I was both surprised and a little disappointed by both of these characters at points in this book....

There is also a very fascinating side story in this book... Erin is filming a documentary about prisoners about to be released.... Eddie, Holly, and Alexa were all strong, interesting, and well-developed characters.... I found each of their stories compelling and unique.... definitely added another layer to this already wonderful book.... and the voice of eddie is absolutely the best in this audio!

This really was a book unlike any other I have read before... it was very refreshing.... absolutely recommend to everybody regardless of your reading preferences!

*** thank you to the publisher for my copy of this brilliant book *** ...more

I had a really hard time rating this one.... do you ever have books where you get so frustrated with the

Something in the Water

characters that you just want to scream? Well.. this is definitely one where I was super frustrated and wanted to throw my kindle at times lol.

Erin and Mark are a newly married couple that don't have the best honest relationship. I noticed that Erin and Mark both have been keeping secrets from one another. Erin is trusting Mark a little more than she should despite all the red flags. But, Erin I had a really hard time rating this one.... do you ever have books where you get so frustrated with the characters that you just want to scream? Well.. this is definitely one where I was super frustrated and wanted to throw my kindle at times lol.

Erin and Mark are a newly married couple that don't have the best honest relationship. I noticed that Erin and Mark both have been keeping secrets from one another. Erin is trusting Mark a little more than she should despite all the red flags. But, Erin isn't so innocent either and has been keeping just as much from her husband Mark. Seems like a disaster waiting to happen..eek!

Erin is a filmmaker who has an interest in the world of crime. She begins a filming project about three people who are being released from prison. The documentary examines closely the lives of these three individuals and starts out as a project but ends up taking a sinister turn. While on their honeymoon, Mark and Erin find a mysterious black bag in the ocean. Let's just say... the items in the bag are not in the least bit innocent. This of course.... adds intense moments and leads to a show of an ending.

I had some issues with this book which is why I only gave it three stars. One, my god was this book slow up until 50 percent for me. I felt like nothing was happening and I was struggling to complete chapter after chapter. Finally it picked up half way through! I felt that some of the events that transpired from Mark and Erin's decisions were just too unbelievable. I felt that it would be almost impossible to get away with some of the things that Mark and Erin got away with. Too much security etc currently.

I feel like this was an overall average thriller for me with a decent ending :).

3 stars

Thank you so much to Netgalley and Random House Ballantine for an advanced arc in exchange for my honest review.

Published to GR: 5/23/18

Publication date: 6/5/18 ...more

Something In The Water Tickets

Something in the Water by Catherine Steadman is a 2018 Ballantine publication.

Slightly predictable morality tale with a nice hook and a few clever twists-

You just got married, you're in financial straits, looking at a drastic change in your quality of living standards, but you've already got a nice honeymoon planned in Bora Bora- so why not enjoy every minute of your vacation? That's what newlyweds Erin and Mark plan on doing before they head back to reality and an uncertain future.

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You just got married, you're in financial straits, looking at a drastic change in your quality of living standards, but you've already got a nice honeymoon planned in Bora Bora- so why not enjoy every minute of your vacation? That's what newlyweds Erin and Mark plan on doing before they head back to reality and an uncertain future.

But, on a standard scuba dive they discover something in the water, a discovery that puts them in a very prickly position. However, the bottom line is they probably hit the Motherload. But, they also make another, very grisly discovery, and in their paranoid horror and glee, make a few whopping mistakes that could come back to haunt them.

Can they get away with keeping something that doesn't belong to them? Should they? What if someone finds out?

The pressure they were under before is nothing like the pressure they are under now. As they work to cover all their bases, they face one moral dilemma after another, as lies and rationalizations take over and they slide further into moral bankruptcy every day.

Erin, a documentary filmmaker, is our narrator, laying out the full story going back to when she and Mark first met. Mark's job as an investment banker, ended abruptly and quite unexpectedly, forcing Mark to face the dismal prospect of having to take any job he can find, in an economic downturn.

The treasure they find is the answer to all their problems, but they aren't prepared for the lengths they will have to go to to profit from their discoveries, while trying not to get caught. They soon find themselves rubbing elbows with less than trustworthy people, justifying their moral compromises and keeping secrets from each other.

Right now, psychological thrillers are so popular publishers are rushing subpar novels with interchangeable plotlines into the marketplace in record numbers.

It's so bad I've begun removing PTs from my TBR pile, before I burn out completely. (Sort of reminds me of the fever pitch PNR and Urban Fantasy reached back at the peak of 'Twilight's' popularity- thank God that's over! Maybe Fifty Shades of Grey knockoffs are on the way out too- one can only hope!) But- I digress.

This book, however, had a very intriguing synopsis and the ratings were mostly favorable, so I had to see why it was popular. While I was hopeful, I also approached the book with cautious optimism.

Thankfully, despite my having picked up on a few "tells" early on in the novel, I found myself caught up more in the character's fear, guilt and self-loathing, their guilty consciences- or lack thereof- battling against the need to cover their butts and pull off the caper of the century, all so they can maintain a lifestyle they had grown accustomed to. It was an interesting journey, from that standpoint. The parallels between Erin's documentary subjects and her own life didn't go unnoticed and the role they played in the story was ironic.

However, the characters were often so naïve, so utterly clueless, I wanted to scream- or maybe I didn't give them enough credit. You'll have to be the judge on that one.

Overall, the story is a little predictable, but I was very engaged, and very interested to see how everything would turn out in the end. It's an addictive read, with some well- timed twists, that are every effective. Overall, I ended up enjoying this one for the most part. It has a few flaws but didn't feel like a book written just to cash in on a trend. Perhaps, Steadman will try her hand at this more often- in between her acting roles, of course.

4 stars ...more

Full review here

This might seem harsh but I really don't understand how this book got published in the way it is.

THIS REVIEW CONTAINS SPOILERS.

STYLE AND WRITING

Steadman's writing, is not steady. Well. There is A LOT in this book. A LOT. In the beginning I thought: hey, she must be going into these details for a reason. Then the more I read, the more I became sure: there is no reason for us reading a wedding reception 3 course menu, and prices, for pages, OR how our character interprets a pregnan Full review here

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THE PLOT

I won't lie. The first 30% wasn't that bad. Then it just started tumbling down to the cliff into the water!

The plot is absurd. (view spoiler)[Our protagonist, Erin is engaged with an investment banker, Mark, who mysteriously gets fired from his high-paying job days before their wedding. They go to honeymoon. They find SOMETHING in the water. Then hell breaks loose. It's alright. Erin is an idiot, I understand. Mark is as flat as an A4 paper but he does the job. Then there is a whole storyline of 3 prisoners, Holli, Eddie and Alexa. Erin meets and interviews them to make a documentary and it looks like they're just thrown in to spice it up. Oh wait, one of the prisoners, Eddie the dangerous criminal, becomes Erin's fairy-gangsta-mother, so that must be why they're in. Every time Erin has a criminal problem, she rings Eddie. Uh, oh, I think HMP Pentonville must be operating as a call center. I can't see how else Eddie can take so many calls from Erin. So here is a tip, if you have a body to dispose, some illegal diamonds to sell, you ever need a gun, or encrypt some illegal documents, I don't know, just ring HMP Pentonville and I am sure they can put in contact with the right sort of criminal. There are so many silly things about the plot that makes your eyes roll : like Mark and Erin smuggling loads of diamonds and millions of dollars to the UK without any problems in their luggage- which I honestly think British Border Force should take as a wake up call if this is the case with first class passengers never being searched-, or Erin trying to sell the diamonds almost in the open market next to vegetables and the criminals still can't spot them, silly criminals! Did I mention Holli suddenly running wild to Isis- what the heck was this for we'll never know) (hide spoiler)]

It felt like Steadman had a wild dream and decided to write this into a novel.

THE INATTENTION TO DETAIL

Something in the Water

I am very frustrated to the fact that Steadman (and the editor) never realised these mistakes about Turkey / Turkish in the book. First Gaziantep, a big city in Turkey with nearly 2 million inhabitants is told as : "a small village". Yes, with this exact words.

Also Steadman invents a Turkish guy called Ashar Farooq. Which is CLEARLY Arabic. I found this very offensive, to be honest. Turks and Arabs don't share a language and a culture. They share a religion in a way Catholics and Protestants share theirs. This is a bit like saying: Oh well, if these countries are next to each other, why not. Who cares it's a Turkish or Arabic name/man, they're all the same.

Verdict:

1 star. Will I read again from Steadman? No. #SorryNotSorry

Thanks for Netgalley and publisher for a free copy of the book in exchange for an honest review.

...more