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A Fragile Thing



Synopsis

The gripping new thriller from the bestselling author of *A Death in Sweden*. Max Emerson is rich and powerful: a patron of the arts and the owner of a multinational business. But Max's business is money laundering, and, for the first time in his fortunate life, he's in trouble. Hackers are targeting his company. The FBI is pressuring him to betray one of his crooked clients. A dark secret from his own past looks in danger of resurfacing. When his parents are killed in a tragic accident, the whole world Max has built for himself seems to be on the brink of collapse. Just as he's drawn back into the heart of his estranged family, he receives a letter from beyond the grave—a letter that turns everything he thought he knew on its head.

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Customer Reviews

Excellent story and very well written. Characters for the most part have depth and are believable. Each of his novels has been exceeded by his next one. A fine author.

Not quite up to the level of Wignall's previous books. The suspense builds, and then it peter out suddenly as if he was suddenly tired of writing.

A very skilled writer. Need more of his work!

Kevin Wignall is a great story teller.

I love this book, but I honestly can't tell you why. Wignall is a fantastic stylist, but his earlier books were a bit bloody and dark. Not this one. This book gives me great hope for his future. I look forward to his next one.

This is the first book that I've read from this author, and I was really impressed, so I'll probably check out some of his other works too! I'll start by saying that, in general, this was a very enjoyable book! The synopsis describes it as gripping and thrilling. I can agree with gripping, because I read it in one sitting and found the details and plot line intriguing enough to hold my constant attention. However there weren't any thrilling moments, as I never had that edge-of-your-seat feeling, nor was I ever speed reading to keep up with what's about to happen next (not even near the end when the pieces all come together). This story follows the life of Max, who doesn't really fit in anywhere. He has an outrageously successful yet shady career with loyal employees, but no close friendships with any of them. He's an outcast in his family, and has only had one or two mildly significant relationships. It was hard to feel anything toward this character at first, due to this level of detachment with his world. However, I ended up really enjoying his nonchalant perspective. I'm used to following either a good guy or bad guy as a main character, so it was refreshing to see someone who's morals walked the line a little, as he mainly focused on good business and strategic profit growth. The side characters were well developed and I enjoyed how they changed and interacted with Max. My one qualm is that I was annoyed by the frequent hints at romantic interests, yet nothing would seem to grow from them. I wasn't looking for a romance, but the back and fourth possibilities were tedious. That's the main reason I would have taken half a star away. It's a minor issue that I had, and I guess it's based on my personal preferences in books, as I usually like to read about a strong female influence. This was a quick read, and developed into a well thought out mystery. I'm usually good at this, but I definitely didn't predict the couple of very amusing and pleasant twists at the end, so that was a really nice surprise!! Nothing thrilling, but very entertaining! The ending is a bit vague, but there's luckily no major cliffhangers or loose ends. I think

a sequel would be nice though, because I am interested in knowing how things continue to work out. I recommend this book for someone who's interested in a mystery. Keep in mind, I stand by my refusal to call this a thriller, but it was still addicting to read. While some parts are slow, I couldn't help but wonder what would happen next!

Max Emerson is a man committed to his company, an international financial services company that works on behalf of clients around the world. While some of Max's clients may skirt the laws here and there (or disregard them altogether), Max declares that he and his company do not break any laws. That's not enough for his older brother though, so he is estranged from much of his family and can only visit his parents when his brother and sister aren't around. And then comes the bad news that punches Max in the gut. His parents are killed in a car accident. Suddenly, Max has to deal with the grief of his loss, his broken relationships with his siblings, family secrets, and the choices that he's made to be so successful. Facing his loneliness, his isolation, and his fear of having been a disappointment to his parents, Max is forced to take a hard look at his life, from his childhood on, and comes to see things in a different light than he ever expected. Kevin Wignall has been a bookstorehold name (it's like a household name, but with more books) since his novel *A Death in Sweden*. I've had that one on my TBR for ages, so when I got the chance to read his new novel, *A Fragile Thing*, I jumped at it. And now I understand just why people talk about his books like they're fantastic. Because *A Fragile Thing* is fantastic. And *A Death in Sweden* just got bumped up higher in my list. I definitely want to read more of Wignall. *A Fragile Thing* is being marketed as a "gripping new thriller," but you should know that it's not. It's not a thriller, and I'm not sure I would call it gripping either. What it is is a solid story with interesting characters and an even amount of reveals and surprises that keep you digging in deeper. It makes for a lovely reading experience, not too stressful or scary or creepy. It's just a really good book that's easy to read, and what's better than that? I definitely recommend this one. Perfect for a rainy afternoon or for the cooler weather that's no doubt coming our way before we know it. Galleys for *A Fragile Thing* were provided by Thomas & Mercer through NetGalley.com, with many thanks.

One of my favorite books this year. Understated tension, and so well written. Can't wait until his next great book!

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