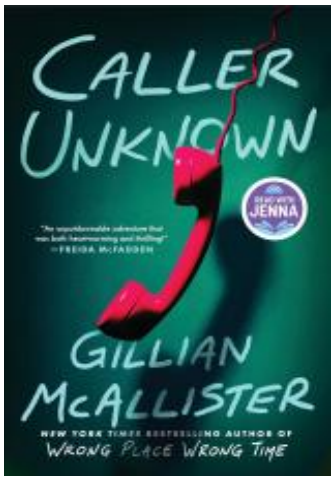
Caller Unknown

by Gillian McAllister



About the Book

How far would you go to rescue your child? A mother races against the clock --- and finds herself on the wrong side of the law --- in a desperate fight to save her teenage daughter in this pulse-pounding thriller from the author of Reese?s Book Club pick and *New York Times* bestseller WRONG PLACE WRONG TIME.

There is nothing that Simone won?t do for her daughter, Lucy. The two have always been close, and with Lucy about to leave home for university, they depart the UK for a vacation to Texas to spend some quality time together. But when Simone awakens on their first morning in the desert, Lucy is gone, missing from their rental cabin. In her place is a cell phone, and a voice on the other line issues a shocking ransom demand. *Don?t tell the police. Come to this location. And be prepared to do a deal.*

Though Simone?s husband urges her to bring in the authorities for help, she knows she can?t take any chances. The kidnappers might kill Lucy if she tells anyone. No mother would take that risk. Instead, that night, she drives to the isolated meet-up.

What she finds there changes everything. The mysterious kidnapper doesn?t want money. They want Simone to do something. The unthinkable.

A catastrophic chain of events is set in motion, with chilling consequences that extend beyond Simone and her family. What follows is a heart-pounding journey through the small towns and punishing deserts of remote Texas, in which Simone?s courage --- and morality --- is pushed to the brink as she discovers what it truly means to be a mother.

Unbearably tense, compassionately told, and full of well-crafted moral dilemmas, CALLER UNKNOWN proves once again why Gillian McAllister?s thrillers are ?the best of the best? (Lisa Jewell).

Discussion Guide

1. How does the book explore the theme of familial sacrifice? Do you think Simone?s actions were justified, given the circumstances?

2. Who was your favorite character? Did you connect with one over the others? Which character?s actions surprised you the most, and why?

3. How does the setting of the novel inform the story and its themes?

4. Which twist surprised you the most, and why?

5. How does the alternating perspectives affect your experience of the story? How did hearing the kidnapper?s perspective influence your understanding of the crime and its impact?

6. Take a look at Lucy and Simon?s relationship. How does it change and evolve through the novel? What does this book say about mother-daughter relationships in general?

7. What did you think about Damien?s role in the story? How is his role as a father different from Simone?s embodiment of motherhood?

8. Simone and Lucy face numerous moral dilemmas and make complicated choices. How would you have handled these situations? Would you have acted differently?

9. How did the book challenge your views on morality, justice and the role of family? Do you think the ending feels just?

10. What do you imagine happens to the characters after the novel?s end? How will their experiences shape them and their relationships going forward?

Author Bio

Gillian McAllister is the *New York Times* bestselling author of the Reese's Book Club Pick WRONG PLACE WRONG TIME, CALLER UNKNOWN, FAMOUS LAST WORDS, JUST ANOTHER MISSING PERSON, EVERYTHING BUT THE TRUTH, THE CHOICE, THE GOOD SISTER, THE EVIDENCE AGAINST YOU, HOW TO DISAPPEAR and the Richard & Judy Book Club pick THAT NIGHT. She graduated with an English degree before working as a lawyer. She lives in Birmingham, England, where she now writes full-time. She is also the creator and co-host of the popular "Honest Authors" podcast.

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