

Fragile (Jones Cooper)

By Lisa Unger

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***New York Times* bestseller, *Good Morning America* Top Book Pick, Walmart Bookclub Pick, and Unger named an "Emerging Author" by Target!**

Everybody knows everybody in The Hollows, a quaint, charming town outside of New York City. It's a place where neighbors keep an eye on one another's kids, where people say hello in the grocery store, and where high school cliques and antics are never quite forgotten. As a child, Maggie found living under the microscope of small-town life stifling. But as a wife and mother, she has happily returned to The Hollows's insular embrace. As a psychologist, her knowledge of family histories provides powerful insights into her patients' lives. So when the girlfriend of her teenage son, Rick, disappears, Maggie's intuitive gift proves useful to the case--and also dangerous.

Eerie parallels soon emerge between Charlene's disappearance and the abduction of another local girl that shook the community years ago when Maggie was a teenager. The investigation has her husband, Jones, the lead detective on the case, acting strangely. Rick, already a brooding teenager, becomes even more withdrawn. In a town where the past is always present, nobody is above suspicion, not even a son in the eyes of his father.

"I know how a moment can spiral out of control," Jones says to a shocked Maggie as he searches Rick's room for incriminating evidence. "How the consequences of one careless action can cost you everything."

As she tries to reassure him that Rick embodies his father in all of the important ways, Maggie realizes this might be exactly what Jones fears most. Determined to uncover the truth, Maggie pursues her own leads into Charlene's disappearance and exposes a long-buried town secret--one that could destroy everything she holds dear. This thrilling novel about one community's intricate yet fragile bonds will leave readers asking, How well do I know the people I love? and How far would I go to protect them?

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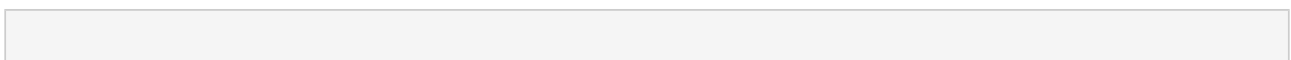
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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Set in the Hollows, a secluded town about 100 miles outside New York City, Unger's contemporary thriller offers solid entertainment, but lacks the tension of her 2008 stand-alone, *Black Out*. Psychologist Maggie Cooper and her husband, Det. Jones Cooper, disagree on how to handle their rebellious son, 17-year-old Rick, who prefers to spend time with his band or holed up with his girlfriend, Charlene Murray. When Charlene disappears one night after a fight with her mother, Maggie and Jones wonder if she ran off to Manhattan, but are reminded of the disappearance 20 years earlier of Sarah Meyers, whose mutilated body was found after she vanished on her way home from school. Though the alleged killer confessed, there are still unanswered questions, and Maggie and Jones find themselves forced to revisit the past as suspicion falls on Rick. Since the Hollows is so small, characters continually rehash secrets--and rumors--so that Unger relies too heavily on the community's interconnectedness to bolster her plot.

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From [Booklist](#)

History repeats itself in the cozy suburban enclave of the Hollows when a teenage girl goes missing. Charlene's disappearance strikes uncomfortably close to home for psychiatrist Maggie and her policeman husband, Jones, opening wounds that go back 20 years to when they, and Charlene's mother, Melody, were high-school classmates and Maggie's best friend, Sarah, was found brutally murdered. Jones and Melody carry a secret from that time, one that involves school bully turned town cop Travis Crosby. Now both Maggie and Jones' son, Ricky, and Travis' son, Marshall, are prime suspects in Charlene's disappearance; and while Jones harbors unsettling opinions about Ricky, Maggie knows other disturbing facts about Marshall. As tensions mount with each passing hour that Charlene is gone, the parents must face the truth about the teenagers they were if they are to help the children they themselves have raised. Unger's taut and edgy tale stealthily plumbs the depths of desperation that grow more dangerous with the passage of time. -- Carol Haggas

Review

"A nail-biting, nuanced whodunit." —*People*

"Intriguing, downright frightening. . . . [It] will keep readers on the edge of their seats until the very last sentence." —*Las Vegas Review-Journal*

"A thrilling story that affects complicated and nuanced people. . . . *Fragile* delivers everything that Lisa Unger's readers have come to expect." —**Laura Lippman, author of *I'd Know You Anywhere***

"Unger keeps the energy level high . . . [and] the tension taut." —*Sun Sentinel*

"If you're a fan of Jodi Picoult's family chronicle storytelling, you'll enjoy *Fragile*, too. . . . Unger balances nicely the suspense of her missing person story . . . with deeper sentiments." —*Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*

"In the style of Jodi Picoult, *Fragile* tells its tale through the real-time action and freighted recollections of a diverse cast of characters." —*Boston Globe*

"All of Unger's characters in *Fragile* are keeping secrets, some of them truly dangerous. The ending is gripping, almost painful to read." —*Fredericksburg Freelance Star*

“Unger skillfully builds suspense. . . . Much of the emotional weight and considerable tension of *Fragile* have to do with families.” —*St. Petersburg Times*

“[An] entertaining and extremely readable mystery.” —*Florida Times-Union*

“Lisa Unger brings this little town alive with flourish. . . . [She] has a rare talent for exploring the vast pallet of human emotions, and she wraps that talent around a highly intriguing story.” —*Bookreporter.com*

“Unger specializes in thrillers involving family life, and she steps back from her suspense roots this time to tell a slow, simmering, tragic tale. Fans of authors like Jodi Picoult will want to read this one in a nice comfortable chair.” —*Associated Press*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Luther Roberts:

Here thing why this specific *Fragile* (Jones Cooper) are different and dependable to be yours. First of all looking at a book is good but it really depends in the content of it which is the content is as delicious as food or not. *Fragile* (Jones Cooper) giving you information deeper including different ways, you can find any book out there but there is no guide that similar with *Fragile* (Jones Cooper). It gives you thrill examining journey, its open up your eyes about the thing which happened in the world which is maybe can be happened around you. You can bring everywhere like in playground, café, or even in your means home by train. For anyone who is having difficulties in bringing the printed book maybe the form of *Fragile* (Jones Cooper) in e-book can be your alternate.

Arthur Lee:

Typically the book *Fragile* (Jones Cooper) has a lot of knowledge on it. So when you make sure to read this book you can get a lot of profit. The book was published by the very famous author. The writer makes some research ahead of write this book. This kind of book very easy to read you may get the point easily after reading this book.

Donald Noble:

Fragile (Jones Cooper) can be one of your beginner books that are good idea. We all recommend that straight away because this publication has good vocabulary which could increase your knowledge in language, easy to understand, bit entertaining but delivering the information. The author giving his/her effort to get every word into satisfaction arrangement in writing *Fragile* (Jones Cooper) yet doesn't forget the main stage, giving the reader the hottest and also based confirm resource data that maybe you can be among it. This great information may drawn you into brand new stage of crucial imagining.

Thomas Pilcher:

Your reading sixth sense will not betray anyone, why because this Fragile (Jones Cooper) guide written by well-known writer who really knows well how to make book that could be understand by anyone who also read the book. Written in good manner for you, still dripping wet every ideas and creating skill only for eliminate your personal hunger then you still doubt Fragile (Jones Cooper) as good book not just by the cover but also with the content. This is one guide that can break don't ascertain book by its cover, so do you still needing a different sixth sense to pick this!? Oh come on your examining sixth sense already alerted you so why you have to listening to yet another sixth sense.

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