

Book Review: The Wrong Sister
By Claire Douglas

Thanks to NetGalley and Harper Perennial and Paperbacks for this advance reader's copy, in exchange for an honest review. "The Wrong Sister" has an expected publication date of August 5, 2025.

As the story unfolds, Tasha and Aaron, who live in a suburb of Bristol, England, are about to engage in a lifestyle swap with Tasha's older sister, Alice, and her husband Kyle. Alice and Kyle, both very well-to-do, will be staying in Tasha and Aaron's house to watch the twins while Tasha and Aaron jet off to Alice and Kyle's apartment in Venice for a well-needed vacation.

Hanging over the sisters' lives is their youngest sibling, Holly, who was abducted at six months old and never found. The sisters, as well as their mother Jeanette (who now lives in France), have never given up hope of one day finding Holly.

All goes well with the lifestyle swap until Tasha receives a call that there was an apparent break-in at their home. Kyle is dead, and Alice has been taken to the hospital with a severe head injury.

So, what happened?

As the story progresses, it becomes clear that more than one family member is lying, big time. No little white lies here. The chapters are written from different character's perspectives – Tasha, Alice, Jeanette, and eventually someone named Bonnie – which adds an interesting touch to the narrative. It also keeps the reader wondering whose version of events is accurate, since they all seem at least somewhat plausible.

Eventually, though, too many parts of the narrative become implausible. It's not that these events *couldn't* happen, or people *wouldn't* behave in the identified manner. It's just unlikely.

And that, combined with sections where the dialogue is stilted and the pacing slows, takes away from what starts out as an interesting storyline.

There are also several major plot twists, most of which you likely won't see coming. But that's largely due to, in my opinion, the twists being a bit far-fetched.

"The Wrong Sister" is certainly worth a read. Just be prepared for a bit of a letdown after an opening that seemed more promising. I'll give it 3.5 stars.