

“Come and Find Me” by Hallie Ephron. HarperCollins, 2011. \$24.99, 276 pages.

Diana Highsmith has barely left her house in fifteen months. Occasionally, she ventures out her front door and down to the street, but it’s inevitable that the crushing sense of panic overwhelms her and she must return to the safety of her home. After the tragic climbing death of her husband Daniel in the Swiss Alps more than a year ago, grief has transformed Diana into a recluse, whose only human contact comes in the form of her younger sister Ashley and the occasional UPS driver.

But despite Diana’s panic attacks and fears of leaving the high tech defenses of her well protected home, she runs a thriving business with her deceased husband’s best friend Jake. Through a virtual world on the internet, Diana and Jake, both former computer hackers, run Gamelan, a computer security company that detects hackers and prevents them from accessing sensitive information. In OtherWorld, the virtual world Diana works in, she is not an isolated loner, terrified of her own shadow, but a confident business woman named Nadia, highly sought after for her ability to track down hackers and prevent further security breaches.

When a series of incidences leads to Ashley attending an event under the name of Nadia, Diana is alarmed when her sister disappears without a word to anyone. Forced to face her fears, Diana must risk leaving her house if she wants to find her sister. She turns to an online friend, who she has previously only interacted with over the internet, for help. Together, they trace Ashley’s movements and are stunned to discover that there is more behind her disappearance than they ever believed possible. As they search deeper and deeper into the mystery, Diana uncovers a deception that shakes her to her core. Soon, it’s not just her sister’s life that she must protect, but her own as well.

“Come and Find Me” is a well-plotted and entertaining mystery. Diana’s fears of the outside world engulf you in a way that makes her every step outside painful to endure, but you can’t help but root for her to overcome the grief and paranoia that have kept her locked inside her own little universe for so long. “Come and Find Me” is a lightning quick read, and the suspense will keep you turning the pages from the first to the very last.

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