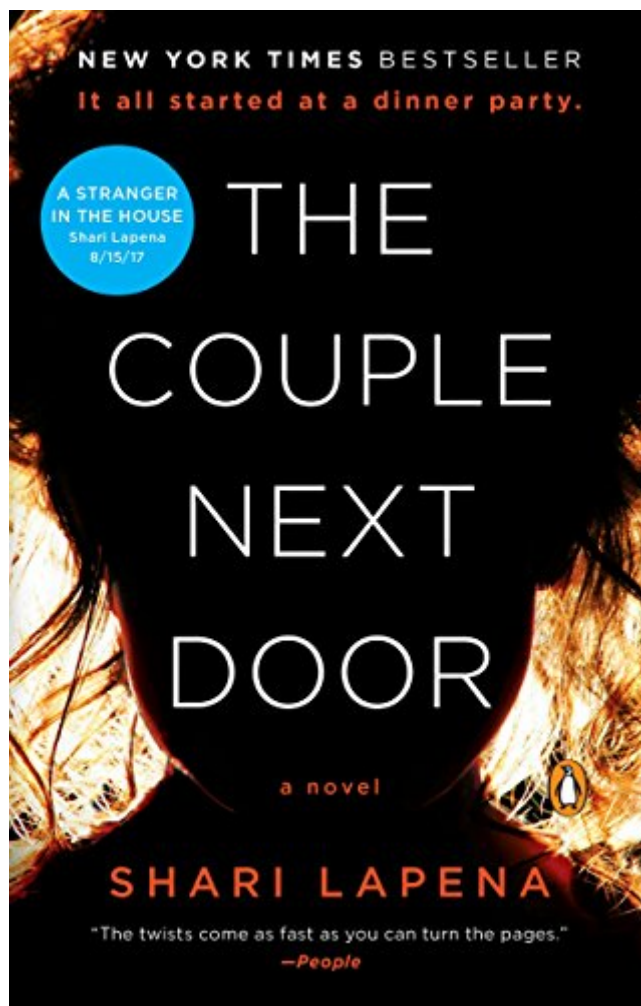


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The Couple Next Door: A Novel



Synopsis

AN INSTANT NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER
Shari Lapena's new thriller, *A STRANGER IN THE HOUSE*, is available now from Viking Books! "The twists come as fast [as] you can turn the pages." • People "Provocative and shocking." • Lisa Gardner, "A New York Times bestselling author of *Find Her*" "I read this novel at one sitting, absolutely riveted by the storyline." The suspense was beautifully rendered and unrelenting! • Sue Grafton, "A New York Times bestselling author of *X*" It all started at a dinner party. . . A domestic suspense debut about a young couple and their apparently friendly neighbors • a twisty, rollercoaster ride of lies, betrayal, and the secrets between husbands and wives. . . Anne and Marco Conti seem to have it all • a loving relationship, a wonderful home, and their beautiful baby, Cora. But one night, when they are at a dinner party next door, a terrible crime is committed. Suspicion immediately lands on the parents. But the truth is a much more complicated story. Inside the curtained house, an unsettling account of what actually happened unfolds. Detective Rasbach knows that the panicked couple is hiding something. Both Anne and Marco soon discover that the other is keeping secrets, secrets they've kept for years. What follows is the nerve-racking unraveling of a family • a chilling tale of deception, duplicity, and unfaithfulness that will keep you breathless until the final shocking twist.

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Customer Reviews

Oh my goodness, this book just blew me away! Just when I thought I'd worked it all out nicely - BAM - all change! So, with their babysitter cancelling on them, Anne and Marco leave their baby, Cora, at home whilst they "pop" next door for a dinner party. It'll be fine - they have the baby monitor with them and they go to check on her every half hour and they're only next door. What can possibly go wrong? Quite simply, they arrive home to find the front door open and the baby gone. Anne goes to pieces, Marco freezes, Anne recovers and the police are called. It is then up to Detective Rasbach to try and piece together what actually happened that night. Did the parents cover up, is one or both of them responsible, is it a third party and if so, was it an opportunistic crime or meticulously planned. With most of the suspects being inconsistent with their stories will Rasbach be able to cut through the noise, work out truth from lies, and bring the case to a close? I loved this book. It grabbed my attention from the very first page, held on tight and wouldn't let me go until the very last. I was completely enthralled by all the twists and turns, secrets and lies and some delicious family dynamics specifically between Marco and his in-laws. Characters were especially well defined and thus easy to connect to / emote with although, truth be told, apart from Rasbach, I didn't really like any of them! Plotting was excellent and very well executed. As with most books of this genre, it gets a bit convoluted, but it was easy to follow, made sense and so I never got lost. Pacing was also excellent throughout. The action was high octane most of the way through but there were calmer moments throughout which I was grateful for as they gave me chance to catch my breath before starting off again. I believe that this is a new genre for this author. If this is the quality for her first effort, I really can't wait to see what she serves up next time. I received a free ARC of this book in exchange for my honest review.

Well, the title certainly appeals to our (the readers) voyeuristic instincts; who doesn't want to know the dirt on their neighbors. In this case, the Contis, a thirty-something couple with a small baby return home after midnight from a party next door. The front door is unlocked; more importantly, the baby is missing after being

checked on only an hour before. Basically, if you have issues with financial, relationship, personality, sickness, work, school, etc, those matters will come out in a serious investigation. Slowly, discrepancies and secrets are revealed. Innocence, formerly assumed, is now in doubt. The Contis need to hope that a shred of evidence points away from them. The story is okay but every twist and turn seemed almost predictable and too convenient. Nothing special about the characters.

I read every night and I've recently read a book that I couldn't wait to get through. It was an author that I enjoyed but it was horrible. I was looking for something new, different. Up pops Shari Lapena in my suggested reads. I rolled the dice and tried this book. I was not disappointed! It was a fun read and characters that were despicable. It was great to see the way the story unfolded and everyone pretty much gets their due. The only one that I thought would be more involved was Graham, expected that character to evolve some more but he pretty much was pushed aside. I will read the next and see if that book holds my interest as much, finished this book in two days.

Truly enjoyed this book. Lot of twist and turns. I would have loved it if there had been an epilogue. The ending left me with several questions. But still a good read

If you like the Gillian Flynn type novels then this is definitely up your alley - not quite as well-written but still enjoyable! Glad I read it!

Interesting book. Some of the characters were stereotypical, but even so, the book progressed with a kind of logic. Though Cora's parents loved her in their own way, they did not love her in the child's way. Cora might have grown into a somewhat unlikable woman with issues she did not understand.

This book was really slow moving in my opinion but it was intriguing and kept me reading. The pace is slow but I felt like I was really there. Everything I felt like I figured it out new information came up that changed everything. Good read I enjoyed would recommend to those who like psychological thrillers.

Enjoyed this book. It was scary and sad ...the ending was a total surprise. Characters were certainly not likeable..Except for Anne, who was everyone's victim. A great thriller...

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