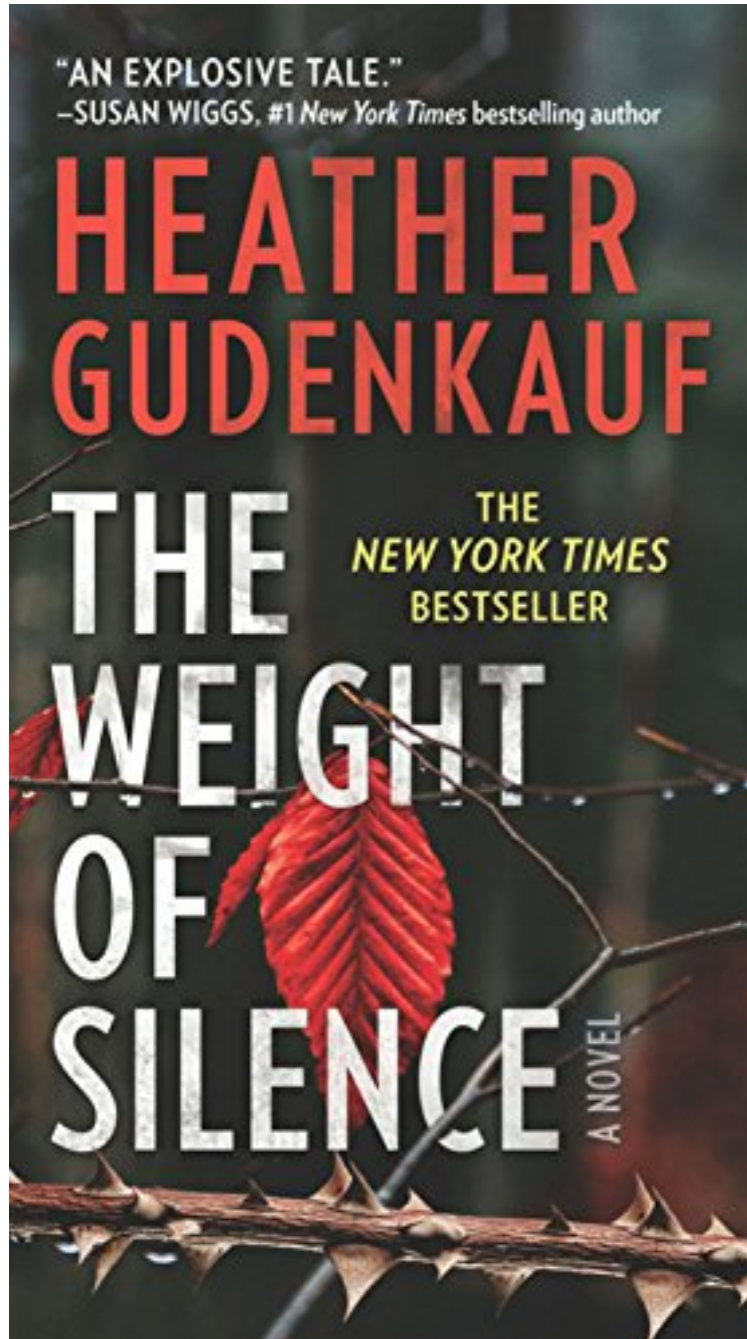


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The Weight of Silence: A Novel of Suspense

Von Heather Gudenkauf

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Von Heather Gudenkauf : The Weight of Silence: A Novel of Suspense before purchasing it in order to gage

whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *The Weight of Silence: A Novel of Suspense*:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen7 von 7 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich.
Profound Silence Von BeatleBangs1964Calli, 7 is an elective mute. The cause of her self-imposed silence is her abusive father who drinks too much. Her brother Ben, 12 is a loving and protective brother who, along with Calli's best friend Petra, act as her "voices" and help her navigate socially. Petra is especially attuned to Calli's needs and sticks by her side at all times, ready to defend her from cruel peers. Calli's other allies include a very kind school counselor who makes it clear it is up to her when and if she chooses to speak. He provides her with notebooks so she can draw events and communicate through art. The story opens with a bang. Calli awakens in the early hours of the morning, afraid to leave her room to go to the bathroom as she will have to pass her father. As it turns out, Calli does leave her room and her father absconds with her into a nearby forest. Meanwhile, Petra slips out of her house as she sees her friend being taken into the woods. She searches for Calli, only to be found hours later severely injured. Calli escapes her father and hides in the woods, also eluding the search party. Once she is found, it is Ben and Petra who come to her aid along with kind hospital personnel. It is Ben who helps direct Calli back to her voice and the sound is ... intense and shattering. Simon Garfunkel's "The Sound of Silence" could easily be the soundtrack for this book. An excellent book where there is no clear cut villain, although Calli's father is a truly reprehensible and abusive man. One has to wonder at Calli's mother who, knowing the man's cruel tendencies and having been the recipient of his abuse (with devastating results), why continue to stay in that relationship and risk the safety of her children. It bothers me that she condones the man's actions to her children and does not question Ben more closely, as Ben, also has been severely abused on more than one occasion. Still, I recommend this book and find it an intensely excellent read. An ideal companion book to this one is "After You: A Novel" by Julie Buxbaum.

KurzbeschreibungMasterfully written and beautifully told, Heather Gudenkauf's debut is a stunning novel of family devotion, honesty and regret that will linger long after the last page is turned. It happens quietly one August morning. As dawn's shimmering light drenches the humid Iowa air, two families awaken to find their little girls have gone missing in the night. Seven-year-old Calli Clark is sweet, gentle, a dreamer who suffers from selective mutism brought on by a tragedy that pulled her deep into silence as a toddler. Calli's mother, Antonia, tried to be the best mother she could within the confines of marriage to a mostly absent, often angry husband. Now, though she denies that her husband could be involved in the possible abductions, she fears her decision to stay in her marriage has cost her more than her daughter's voice. Petra Gregory is Calli's best friend, her soul mate and her voice. But neither Petra nor Calli has been heard from since their disappearance was discovered. Desperate to find his child, Martin Gregory is forced to confront a side of himself he did not know existed beneath his intellectual, professorial demeanor. Now these families are tied by the question of what happened to their children. And the answer is trapped in the silence of unspoken family secrets. Pressestimmen "Deeply moving and exquisitely lyrical, this is a powerhouse of a debut novel." -Tess Gerritsen "Beautifully written, compassionately told, and relentlessly suspenseful." -Diane Chamberlain "Gudenkauf moves the story forward at a fast clip and is adept at building tension." -Publishers

Weekly "KurzbeschreibungMasterfully written and beautifully told, Heather Gudenkauf's debut is a stunning novel of family devotion, honesty and regret that will linger long after the last page is turned. It happens quietly one August morning. As dawn's shimmering light drenches the humid Iowa air, two families awaken to find their little girls have gone missing in the night. Seven-year-old Calli Clark is sweet, gentle, a dreamer who suffers from selective mutism brought on by a tragedy that pulled her deep into silence as a toddler. Calli's mother, Antonia, tried to be the best mother she could within the confines of marriage to a mostly absent, often angry husband. Now, though she denies that her husband could be involved in the possible abductions, she fears her decision to stay in her marriage has cost her more than her daughter's voice. Petra Gregory is Calli's best friend, her soul mate and her voice. But neither Petra nor Calli has been heard from since their disappearance was discovered. Desperate to find his child, Martin Gregory is forced to confront a side of himself he did not know existed beneath his intellectual, professorial demeanor. Now these families are tied by the question of what happened to their children. And the answer is trapped in the silence of unspoken family secrets.