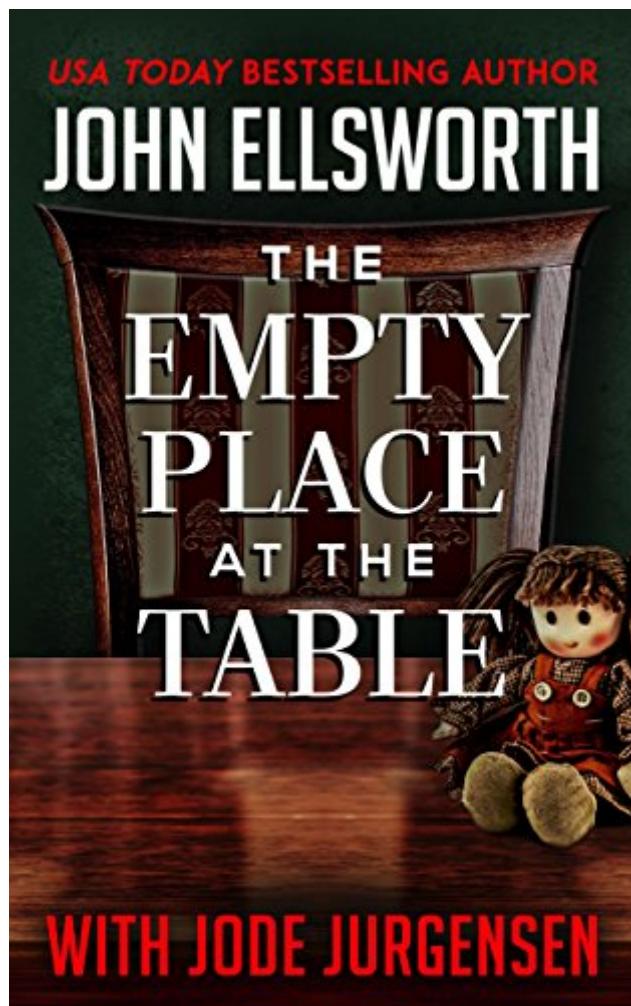


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The Empty Place At The Table



Synopsis

From USA TODAY Bestselling Author John Ellsworth It was just a quick sandwich in the hospital cafeteria...But when she returned to her daughter's room...Whatever happened to Melissa's daughter is anyone's guess. The police seal the hospital doors; a search proceeds but the four-year-old is nowhere to be found. The girl is gone, vanished without a ransom note, without a body being found, without a trace. The detectives believe she has most likely been sold into human trafficking. No matter, Melissa is determined. She is also very, very bright, a woman who refuses to give up, a woman who knows what motherhood means. She journeys to Mexico in search of her missing child. She confronts the Tijuana Cartel. Do they have her daughter? Twelve years have passed by and she no longer has any idea what the little girl even looks like. Then...two unmistakable eyes peer out at her from a passing van. But was it Melissa's daughter? Watch one desperate woman and one lost child try to reach across time and connect. A story to please you to the very end. A psychological thriller you'll want to read in one sitting...

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Customer Reviews

First and foremost, this book is SADLY in need of an editor. And if it had passed through the hands of a reputable editor, it would never have seen the light of day, or would at least have been unrecognizable as a derivative of this manuscript. The author left suspension of disbelief in another hemisphere. A little girl is kidnapped. The police, FBI, and ex-military PIs have a name but are unable to close the case. Twelve years after the girl disappeared, the mother is able to google the name and find it connected to a Mexican drug cartel. (Google's good, but ... really!?) That's just the beginning. Follow page after page after page of improbable events, names changing from page to page, unbelievable characters, inexplicable motives. I can't complain about wanting those few hours of my life back, as I kept reading to see if at all possible the book would improve. It did not.

And yet again, John Ellsworth delivers a can't put it down adventure. I have read every one of his books and can say that not one of them has disappointed me. Great story, characters you care about and twists and turns from start to finish. Bravo, Mr. Ellsworth, you've done it again!

I loved the book kept me on the edge of my seat. John Ellsworth did it again. Her four year old daughter very sick in the hospital. She leaves to grab a sandwich. Upon her return her daughter is missing. The hospital is searched but her daughter is nowhere to be found. Melissa never gives up and never stops looking for her daughter who has been missing for 12 years. Melissa is remarried and has a new family, but still never forgets about Lisa who was taken from her years ago. She is a very determined woman and never gives up. I am not going to say anymore about the book, I strongly suggest to get the book and read it you will not regret it.

The Empty Place at the Table is the story of incredible grief endured by a woman whose little girl is kidnapped from her hospital bed when Mom took a fifteen minute break! Her grief had been further compounded by the loss of her husband in the Afghanistan war. Her life advanced years with her remarriage and birth of another little girl. This is where things become a bit too incredible: suddenly her supposedly dead spouse returns, a convert to the Muslim faith, and he becomes seriously involved in the quest to reclaim the lost daughter, Lisa, from the drug cartel responsible for her ongoing imprisonment. Things get even more intense when it is learned that Lisa has a three year old girl who is still held by the captor. Life gets even more complex when the Mexican cartel sends men to kill Melanie, Lisa's mother. But they end up wounding her but killing her back- from- the-dead husband. This novel never seems to give the characters (or the reader, for that matter) a

break. The story continues with a relatively happy ending, but the sadness never quite leaves the reader. A bit TOO intense at times with some less than realistic turns. All in all, a pretty good read.

I have discovered that John Ellsworth does not disappoint! The Empty Place at the Table was an all engrossing, wild ride through an emotional mine field. Of course, after reading the reviews and authors blurb, I knew eventually Melissa's daughter would be taken from her. When it happened, I still felt the mind numbing shock of the mom - and that was only the beginning. I cannot wait to start reading John Ellsworth next thriller. This will not disappoint. (There were, as reported by other reviewers a few typos and I found a few editorial errors that had me going back to reread earlier sections but don't let those hold you back. A great recreational read!)

This book grabbed my attention immediately. I was invested in the story from the first page and although one wanted to read it straight through without putting it down, life happened so I had to take breaks. But when I wasn't reading the book, I was thinking about it, wondering what would happen next, and looking forward to getting back to reading it. It has a little of everything: suspense, mystery, family, international affairs, etc. If you love to read suspense stories, I highly recommend this book!

I don't feel like this is John Ellsworth's best writing....and to be fair, he didn't write this alone. Another reason why I thought it was just okay. The story starts out okay, then it spirals into things that to me, didn't make sense and just really wouldn't happen in real life. I don't know which author wrote what, but when I pick up a John Ellsworth book, I expect more than what this book delivers.

I can't even begin to articulate how ludicrous this plot is. The conversations between people are not anywhere close to anything real people would say. This book desperately needed an editor. The people who rated it 3 or more stars really need to read some better authors and see what good storytelling is all about.

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