

The background features a complex network of white nodes and connecting lines, resembling a constellation or a data network. The nodes are of varying sizes and are connected by thin white lines, creating a web-like structure. The background color transitions from a deep purple at the top to a bright pink at the bottom. Scattered throughout the network are small, faint white dots.

# One Small Sacrifice

Written by Hilary Davidson

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# One Small Sacrifice

By Hilary Davidson

## One Small Sacrifice Book

An apparent suicide. A mysterious disappearance. Did one man get away with murderâ€™ twice?

## One Small Sacrifice Reviews

NYPD detective Sheryn Sterling has had her eye on Alex Traynor ever since his friend Cori fell to her death under suspicious circumstances a year ago. Cori's death was ruled a suicide, but Sheryn thinks Alex—a wartime photojournalist suffering from PTSD—got away with murder.

## One Small Sacrifice By Hilary Davidson

When Alex's fiancée, Emily, a talented and beloved local doctor, suddenly goes missing, Sheryn suspects that Alex is again at the center of a sticky case. Sheryn dislikes loose ends, and Cori's death had way too many of them.

## One Small Sacrifice Book Review

But as Sheryn starts pulling at the threads in this web, her whole theory unravels. Everyone involved remembers the night Cori died differently—and the truth about her death could be the key to solving Emily's disappearance.

"Instinct's not a superpower. It's made of experience and memory and belief."

Alex Traynor was a famous photojournalist known for capturing pictures of some of the world's most brutal and haunting scenes of conflict and unrest. But after he was kidnapped, he began suffering from PTSD and turned to drugs to help quell the visions he seemed to see whether his eyes were open or closed.

At the end of his rope and high on drugs, he decided to kill himself. Yet at the end of the night, Cori Stanton—his friend and drug-dealer—was the one who wound up dead. Alex doesn't remember a thing about what happened, but while there certainly were signs that something suspicious might have happened to her, the police never were able to prove that Alex was responsible for her death, so it was ruled a suicide.

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NYPD detective Sheryn Sterling has never stopped believing Alex killed Cori, and she's never taken her eye off him, despite warnings to the contrary. Even one year later, she's the Inspector Javert to Alex's Jean Valjean, waiting for the moment when she can sneak in and snag him.

When Alex's fiancée, Emily, a dedicated doctor, goes missing shortly after having a loud argument with Alex, Sterling is sure that he had something to do with Emily's disappearance. Alex's stories just don't seem to add up, or they have a lot of missing pieces, and Sterling knows all too well how much of a ticking time bomb a person with PTSD can be.

Alex doesn't understand what could have happened to Emily, but he can't understand why she'd leave him. Did she really think he was responsible for Cori's death and could no longer be with him? Was she being intimidated by someone else? Or was she somehow involved in some other scheme, and could that have put her in trouble? The problem is, Alex isn't sure where to turn to figure out the truth behind Emily's disappearance, since he knows the police don't trust him. How can a man with PTSD and a shaky

One Small Sacrifice

memory find answers?

The more Sterling and her partner investigate Emily's disappearance, the more muddled things become. Could her instincts have been wrong all this time, or is Alex better at hiding his tracks than she thinks? And if Alex wasn't responsible for Cori's death and isn't responsible for Emily going missing, who was?

Hilary Davidson's *One Small Sacrifice* is a mystery full of twists and turns, as well as fascinating characters. At first I wasn't sure if I liked Sterling's character and what appeared to be her single-mindedness, but as the story picked up I realized there was more to her—and to many of the characters—than I initially suspected.

I don't know if anything in the book really surprised me, but I still really enjoyed the way Davidson teased out the plot, throwing out lots of information that complicated my ability to figure out what really happened.

This is apparently the start of a series (the second book is due out in 2020), and I'll definitely pick up the next book, as well as check out some of Davidson's earlier work, because she created a compelling story. There were a lot of interesting side-plots in the book which made the story even richer.

Thomas & Mercer and Amazon First Reads provided me an advance copy of this book in exchange for an unbiased review. Thanks for making it available!

The book will be published June 1, 2019.

See all of my reviews at [itseithersadnessoreuphoria.blogspot.com](http://itseithersadnessoreuphoria.blogspot.com).

Check out my list of the best books I read in 2018 at <https://itseithersadnessoreuphoria.blogspot.com/2019/01/the-best-books-i-read-in-2018.html>.

You can follow me on Instagram at <https://www.instagram.com/the.bookishworld.of.yrralh/>. ...more

## One Small Sacrifice (shadows Of New York)

What a terrific novel One Small Sacrifice is. I picked this as my Kindle First Read book, but still worried I had made a wrong choice. I am so happy to report that I had nothing to worry about.

One Small Sacrifice is mainly told from 2 different POVs: Alex Traynor and Detective Sterling. Alex, is a photojournalist and suffering from PTSD. He is also suffering from guilt over the suicide of his friend, Cori. Detective Sterling worked Cori's suicide case and believes Alex got away with murder - or What a terrific novel One Small Sacrifice is. I picked this as my Kindle First Read book, but still worried I had made a wrong choice. I am so happy to report that I had nothing to worry about.

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As the book progresses we see both Alex and Detective Sterling try to piece together what clues they have to go on, but each in their own way and methods. Typically, we expect detective stories to go along a certain path: go to crime scene, talk with witnesses, establish timeline, etc. It does do that, but what I really came to appreciate is how this book handles Alex's sleuthing journey and how it is interwoven within the detective portions. Alex doesn't automatically become a great amateur detective, or PI. Instead he just took the knowledge he had and acted like a regular human would. As the story weaves in and out of both sleuthing journeys, we begin to see a full picture of who all the players are and what their motives might be.

The story is interesting with the mystery plot well told and constructed - we're always given information, but never enough to fully answer all the questions that we might have. The pace was even throughout the book, never slowing down, but never too frantic. Every character has various shades to their nature and as a result a lot of motive for not always telling the entire truth. In fact, as the story progresses, one theme that seemed to keep showing itself was how each one of them were impacted by the flaws of others.

Final Thoughts: Well-rounded characters, consistent plot pacing, and a story that is entertaining and then ends with a hopeful message.

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One Small Sacrifice by Hilary Davidson \*

Alex Traynor had been a war photojournalist and worked in the world's most dangerous

## One Small Sacrifice

environments. After being shot during one of his battlefield forays, he came home with a damaged leg, a case of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), a drug addiction, and a fiancée, Dr. Emily Teare, Emily operated on his wound in the field and gave him his single purpose he has to go on living.

It wasn't always so cut and dried, though. A year earlier, at a low point in his life, a close friend, Cori Stanton, had fallen off the roof of Alex's building and the circumstances were never clear. Alex blamed himself for not preventing it. Cori's father and Sheryn Sterling, the investigating detective on the case, believed Alex had a more direct role in Cori's death.

Now, a year later, Emily has disappeared, leaving behind a type-written note and many questions. Detective Sterling believes that once again Alex is the prime suspect in a woman's disappearance, and she's determined not to let him slip through her hands this time.

In *One Small Sacrifice*, Hilary Davidson has combined the best aspects of a police procedural with a suspense novel. As the reader we follow both Alex and Detective Sterling as they try to solve the puzzle of what happened to Emily and who is responsible. We see things that each of them sees that the other doesn't, but never everything, and that helps ramp up the narrative tension.

Davidson's plot is tightly written, but nuanced, the story seeded with enough alternatives to keep the reader guessing throughout. Characters are complex and interesting, with each of the main characters being given a suitable backstory that drives their actions. Davidson writes with a confidence and assuredness that will convince you that every line was written with extreme care. *One Small Sacrifice* is a novel written by a writer at the top of her game.

\* I received a complimentary copy of this novel to provide a review.

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## One Small Sacrifice Hilary Davidson Review

This was my Kindle first reads pick. It didn't really grab me, probably partially because I didn't have a lot of respect for any of the characters. I could see no logical reason for the actions of Emily and Alex, nor why they were even together.

I've been meaning to read Hilary Davidson's works for a couple years but something always seemed to jump ahead of her in my to-be-read stack. That mistake won't happen again.

I'll leave it to other viewers to detail the plot. But, I must say that if you like crime fiction, give this book a shot. There's an excellent mix of interesting characters, a really crisp story without a lot of fluff, and excellent pacing throughout. 4 stars.