

Books

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THE BEAR

by Claire Cameron | ★★★★★

NOVEL

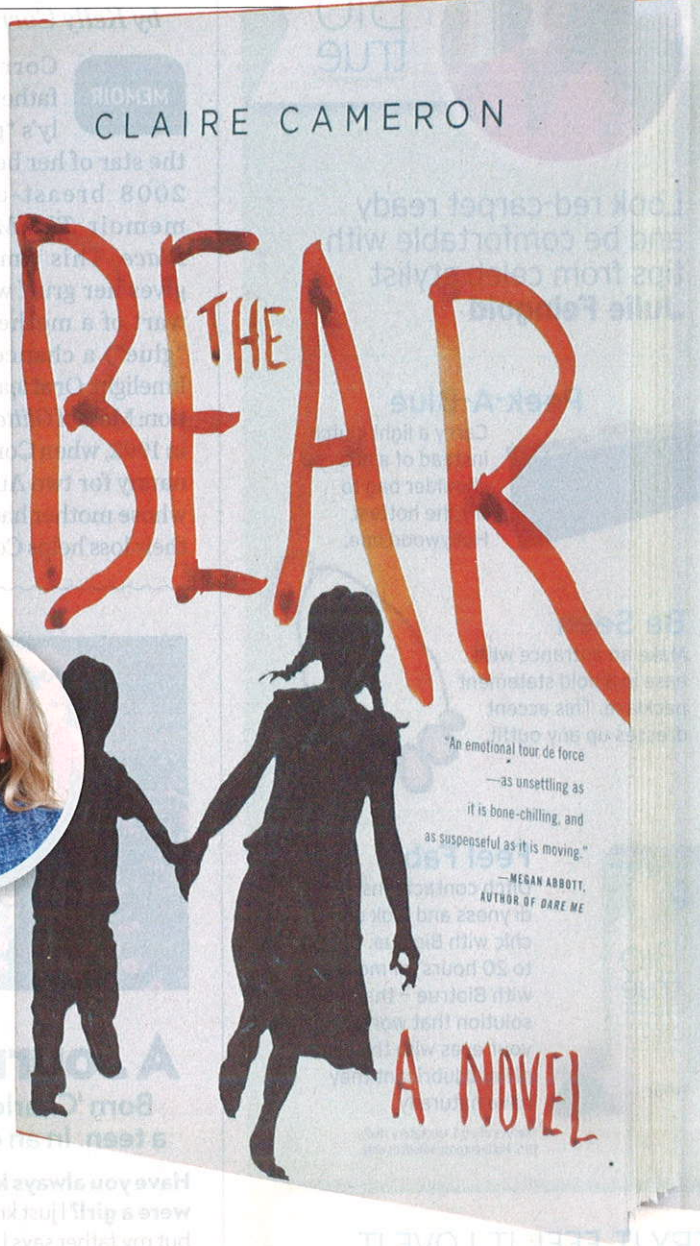
A family's summer camping trip on a remote Ontario island turns tragic when a rogue black bear kills the parents of 5-year-old Anna Whyte and her 2-year-old brother Stick. In this gripping survival thriller based on an actual 1991 incident, confused but courageous Anna must make lightning-fast grown-up decisions so the two children will get off the island and avoid their elders' fate. The first challenge: escaping from the Coleman cooler their father hid them in as the bear attacked. Former wilderness instructor Cameron unspools the adventure in Anna's twitchy voice, heightening the tension as the youngsters battle storms, cold, hunger and fear. While struggling to find their way and avoid the killer Anna calls "the black dog," brother and sister discover the magnetic bond of siblings. "My heart has shaken loose and rolled away," Anna says when Stick suddenly disappears. But this agonizing odyssey of loss and



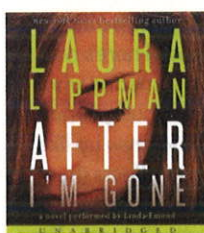
Just when you thought it was safe to go into the forest ... This expertly crafted novel could do for camping what *Jaws* did for swimming.

being lost also has humor—especially when Anna grows annoyed with her "wormy gross" brother and mothers her cherished teddy bear Gwen. The book's anguished yet hopeful ending provides a touching terminus for Anna and Stick's journey to adulthood.

—REVIEWED BY RICHARD EISENBERG

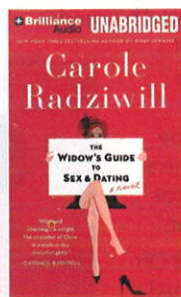


NEW IN AUDIOBOOKS

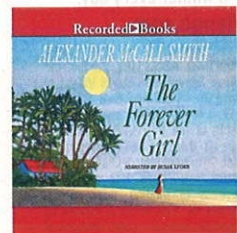


AFTER I'M GONE
by Laura Lippman
Lippman's Baltimore-based novels are as much about character

as crime, and this new one—read winningly by actor Linda Emond—is pure delight.



THE WIDOW'S GUIDE TO SEX & DATING
by Carole Radziwill
Reality star Radziwill narrates her fun first novel about a Manhattan woman's rebirth after her husband's sudden death.



THE FOREVER GIRL
by Alexander McCall Smith
A McCall Smith book must be read with an

accent. For this charming one-off love story, Australian Susan Lyons fits the bill.

ROBERTO CARUSO