

Eleven Hours

By Paullina Simons

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Didi Wood, eight and a half months pregnant with her third child, heads to a mall to get out of the oppressive Dallas heat and get some shopping done. She is supposed to meet her husband for lunch at one o'clock. By 1:45, she still isn't there-she's riding down the highway at breakneck speed with a madman at the wheel. His name is Lyle, and he has abducted her from a department store parking lot. But why he's done this, and what he wants, are anyone's guess. Now the police and the FBI have to somehow track him down. And a very pregnant Didi must keep herself and her unborn child alive at any price-even as they ride closer and closer into the darkest chamber of a psychopath's mind...

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Eleven Hours By Paullina Simons Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly
Continuing to hone her style, Simons follows the logorrheic Tully and the pensive Red Leaves with a sparely written, blatantly shocking page-turner. Nine months pregnant with her third child, Desdemona (Didi) Wood basks in the adoration of her husband, Rich, national sales manager for a Dallas-based religious publisher. Didi's only sin is that she's a compulsive shopper, blowing her husband's hard-earned cash at a Dallas mall. A nondescript young man approaches Didi inside the mall, then follows her and forces her into his Ford minivan. Terrified, Didi wonders if God is punishing her for not going to church often enough or for being a shopaholic. She soon learns that the kidnapper, Lyle Luft, is enraged at God for allowing his wife and child to die. He wants a baby, and he doesn't care how he gets it. Rich deduces that his missing wife was abducted in the mall parking lot, but police are skeptical until tough black FBI officer Scott Somerville joins the chase. Simons's pacing is pulse-racing as she cuts from the pursuers to the pursued with nightmarish speed, evoking with economy and style Didi's terror, pain and sheer physical discomfort. As the road chase continues, news bulletins about Didi's abduction prompt Lyle into homicidal fury. Once he kills a cop, he has nothing left to lose. Meanwhile, Didi tries to persuade Lyle that he's "acting against God," but it's not surprising that her sermon falls on deaf ears. Despite the blatant overlay of born-again religiosity, the momentum of the chase sustains the narrative, and Simons renders some final stomach-churning scenes of violence with unsparing detail. While the psychological explanation of Lyle's sociopathy is superficial, and Didi's transformation from suburban housewife to tough and cool avenger is less than plausible, the atmosphere of panic never abates until Simons brings her suspenseful tale to a close. Mystery Guild selection; Literary Guild and Doubleday Book Club alternates; author tour.
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From the Publisher
"*Eleven Hours* is a harrowing, hair-raising story that will keep you turning the pages late into the night." --Janet Evanovich, bestselling author of *High Five* and *Four to Score*

"*Eleven Hours* reminded me of Steven Spielberg's *Duel*--a story with minimalist style and a powerful scare." --Martin Cruz Smith, author of *Gorky Park*

"Simons does a wonderful job pulling you into the story...it's a ticking time bomb!" --Adrianne Lee, author of *Little Girl Lost* and *Night Terror*

About the Author
PAULLINA SIMONS is the author of the acclaimed novels *Tully* and *Red Leaves*, both published by St. Martin's Paperbacks. Born and raised in St. Petersburg, Russia, she graduated from Kansas University in Lawrence, Kansas, and has lived in Rome, London, and New York. She currently lives in Dallas, Texas, with her husband and three children.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Arnold Grigg:

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