

Name: Anonymous
School: Yorba Linda High
Grade: Senior
Book Title: It's Not Her
Book Author: Mary Kubica
Rating (1-lowest to 5-highest): 3.5

Mary Kubica's novel, *It's Not Her*, is a psychological thriller that depicts a family vacation that turns into a nightmare in no time. Just as Courtney Gray is enjoying her time at a remote Wisconsin resort, where she is staying with her family and her brother's family, she learns that her brother and sister-in-law have been murdered. On the same day, her seventeen-year-old niece, Reese, is nowhere to be found. The plot alternates between the narration in the present time by Courtney and the narration in the past by Reese. As Courtney tries to make sense of it all, many secrets and strange facts about the persons surrounding them are revealed, while the reader is left wondering who can be believed and what really happened.

The book I read turned out to be very interesting and certainly had surprises in store. My favorite part was the way the action alternated between the two main characters, Courtney and Reese; it was really cool to see the story unfold through both of their eyes. I thought it was rather surprising how complicated and relatable Reese's character was instead of being stereotypically bad or good. I liked the author's decision to gradually unveil information instead of getting straight to the point. At the same time, there were parts of the book where I found the plot to be too slow, and some moments when the number of suspicious characters and plot holes seemed overwhelming. Overall, I really enjoyed the suspense caused by the fact that something new could happen at any moment.

I would suggest *It's Not Her* to those who appreciate mysteries and psychological thrillers, especially those who enjoy guessing what happens next before it occurs. I would recommend this to anybody who enjoys family secrets, missing persons, and untrustworthy characters. Additionally, I believe that readers of Mary Kubica's other novels would find this one enjoyable as well. While I wouldn't call it my favorite thriller, the book does have its suspenseful elements and this makes it a book worth reading.