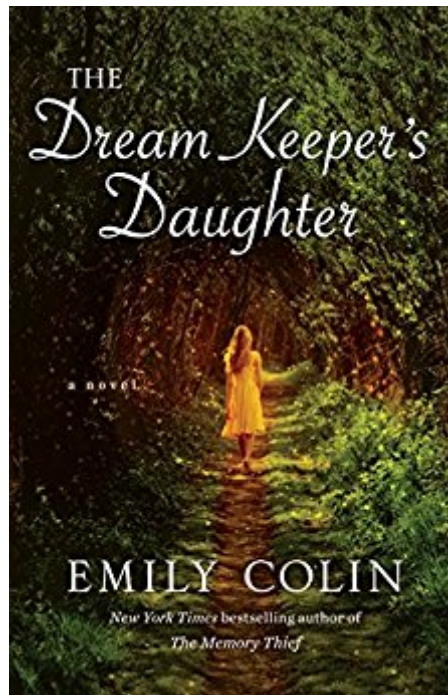




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The Dream Keeper's Daughter: A Novel



Synopsis

A woman discovers an impossible connection that transcends time and place in this stirring, unforgettable novel from the New York Times bestselling author of *The Memory Thief*. A splendid mix of time travel, romantic yearning, and moving on after grief. —Publishers Weekly

Isabel Griffin has done her best to move on since her boyfriend, Max Adair, vanished without a trace eight years ago, leaving her heartbroken and pregnant. Eerily enough, this isn't the first time someone Isabel loves has gone missing. When she was sixteen, her mother disappeared, and her father became obsessed with finding his long-lost wife at the expense of parenting Isabel. Determined not to repeat her father's mistakes, Isabel works hard to become a respected archaeologist and a loving mother to her daughter, Finn, a little girl with very unusual abilities. But while Isabel is on a dig in Barbados, she receives a disturbing phone call. The hauntingly familiar voice on the other end speaks just four words: Isabel. Keep her safe. —before they're disconnected. Isabel tries to convince herself that the caller can't possibly be Max. But what if it is, and Finn is in danger? As one mysterious event after another occurs, she can't shake the feeling that, despite what everyone else believes, Finn's father is alive and he's desperately trying to reach her.

Advance praise for *The Dream Keeper's Daughter*

Moving effortlessly between modern-day South Carolina and nineteenth-century Barbados, Emily Colin takes her readers on a passionate and sweeping tale of a woman haunted by a loss she can't explain, and a future she can't yet choose. Lavishly plotted and expertly paced, with characters as richly drawn as their settings, *The Dream Keeper's Daughter* explores what it means to follow our hearts even at the risk of losing what we hold most dear. I was captured from the first page and, like Colin's lovers who are fighting time and space to be reunited, came up for air only after the remarkable journey was complete. —Erika Marks, author of *The Last Treasure*

In *The Dream Keeper's Daughter*, Emily Colin thins out the line between present and past, dream and reality, and allows you to cross over into a haunting world that will make your heart race, weep, and celebrate things that are lost and found. This story immerses you in a time that should not be forgotten and explores the infinite rippling effect of decisions, guilt, accountability, and love. —Samantha Sotto, author of *Love and Gravity*

Praise for Emily Colin's *The Memory Thief*

Mesmerizing . . . dazzlingly original and as haunting as a dream. —Caroline Leavitt, author of *Pictures of You*

[A] richly emotional tale . . . a writer to watch. —Joshilyn Jackson, author of *A Grown-Up Kind of Pretty*

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Customer Reviews

For those who like time travel tales, *The Dream Keeper's Daughter* by Emily Colin is bound to be a delight. It blends the skepticism of modern times with extremely vivid representation of a dramatic situation. I'm not quite sure where the title comes from. One has to assume that the daughter is the two narrator-protagonists' 7-year-old child Finn. Indeed, the story is alternately voiced between Finn's parents, Isabel and Max. As the story begins, Isabel, a PhD archaeologist, is supervising a dig at the site of a 19th century plantation on Barbados when her cell phone rings. The caller ID shows the name Max, and when she answers, the voice is unmistakably that of her vanished lover even though the connection is extremely poor. The only intelligible words Isabel hears are her own name, and the phrase "keep her safe," before the connection is broken. Following this dramatic introduction, we learn that Max has been missing for eight years, having vanished into the woods behind his family home in South Carolina where he was supposed to meet Isabel the day after she told him she was pregnant with his child. Even more traumatic, six years before this, Isabel's mother Julia had disappeared in exactly the same way, in the same place. Max and Julia, it develops, have both been lured through a thin

place in space-time, and end up in Barbados in the spring of 1816, just prior to a slave rebellion. The narrative then unfolds to involve the intricacies of ancestral relationships of both protagonists. It also weaves in Finn's fey personality, as she plays a key role in the eventual return of her father and grandmother to the present time and place. Both Isabel and Max are voiced in first-person, present-tense, a narrative style which in general I tend to dislike, but Emily Colin handles it so beautifully that I find myself completely engaged. The characterizations are intricately woven, and completely authentic, as are the relationships between them. In addition to Isabel, Max, Finn and Julia, there are Isabel's father, Max's parents, and Ryan, a man with a troubled past who has become Isabel's best friend and a surrogate father for Finn. As may be surmised, the relationships are complicated, and the way in which they are worked out is, in my opinion, a masterpiece of psychological understanding. This book involves a perfect balance of modern skepticism and quantum possibility, as well as a completely gripping plot line. I loved it.

I chose this book based on the premise of the book and the promise of a good read delivered by Booklist and other reviewers. I was sorely disappointed, however, from the first switch off from the present to the past. It takes great finesse to blend present and past in one book, and this book just didn't do it for me. Each time the characters switch it is more like a jarring less-than-pleasant surprise than a smooth transfer that you find in the best time travels. The characters, to me, are undefined and though the plot drew my attention, the presentation was shallow, choppy and disorganized. Point in fact: A modern man, raised in the south, would know more about the terrors and horrors of slavery than Max seems too. His reactions to everything is over blown and over played. He wants to be a hero, but comes across more as a bumbling fool. Books that deal with slavery should be done with realism, and finesse.

a woman's life is upended after she receives a telephone call from her long lost boyfriend, Max. Max disappeared after a teenage Isabel informed she was pregnant. Seems people have a habit of disappearing from Isabel's life. Her mother also mysteriously vanished and Max was her support. But she soldiers on, having the baby, now a little girl named Finn. She also has a new love interest and a career in archeology. a dig in Barbados triggers the alternate universe/time travel answer to these mysterious disappearances. This was as dull as it was dopey. the characters a boring and one dimensional. They are either good or bad. The little girl is supposed to be "gifted" with "sight" but she comes across as a little freak. Max is a goody goody in two dimensions. Too bad he isn't a multi

dimensional character. The Barbados plantation slave story is as tiresome as the contemporary one. And Isabel's new story is equally uninteresting. the book alternates between times and perspective (Max and Isabel). It is a tired rendition filled with soppy characters and tedious activities. If your taste is for tedium, by all means go for it. The premise is promising but sadly this book is about as rewarding as a drink of warm, flat diet Coke on a hot humid day.

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