

Troll

D. B. Thorne

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Troll is a fast-paced psychological thriller about what we choose to pursue and what we leave behind. Fortune made his livelihood in international banking; his determined focus on his career left his personal life in ruins. He abandoned his difficult daughter and a wife who deserved so much more, burying himself in work in Dubai. When the call comes that his now-adult daughter Sophie has disappeared, Fortune can no longer escape the ghosts of his past.

Returning to the US, he begins a frantic search for the girl he gave up on years before. Though everyone else involved in the search believes that troubled Sophie has finally followed through on her many suicide threats, Fortune knows there has to be more behind the story. As he searches for answers, his health and career begin to fail. Fortune won't stop until Sophie is found.

Pinballing back and forth between Fortune's thoughts, Sophie's blog, and Sophie's memory, *Troll* is a furiously paced mystery that takes an unflinching look at a failed father's hope for redemption. Clues are dropped at just the right pace; as the story unfolds, it comes with the heartbreaking truth about how Sophie and Fortune were ripped apart by their own flawed natures. The contrast between the past and the present works well and allows for empathy toward the often unsympathetic Fortune.

Written in spare prose that wastes not a single word, *Troll* is a hard-hitting cat-and-mouse game that never lets up; it is as emotionally affecting as it is chilling.

ANGELA MCQUAY (May/June 2018)

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