



## What Was Mine: A Novel

By Helen Klein Ross

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### What Was Mine: A Novel By Helen Klein Ross

Simply told but deeply affecting, in the bestselling tradition of Alice McDermott and Tom Perrotta, this urgent novel unravels the heartrending yet unsentimental tale of a woman who kidnaps a baby in a superstore—and gets away with it for twenty-one years.

Lucy Wakefield is a seemingly ordinary woman who does something extraordinary in a desperate moment: she takes a baby girl from a shopping cart and raises her as her own. It's a secret she manages to keep for over two decades—from her daughter, the babysitter who helped raise her, family, coworkers, and friends.

When Lucy's now-grown daughter Mia discovers the devastating truth of her origins, she is overwhelmed by confusion and anger and determines not to speak again to the mother who raised her. She reaches out to her birth mother for a tearful reunion, and Lucy is forced to flee to China to avoid prosecution. What follows is a ripple effect that alters the lives of many and challenges our understanding of the very meaning of motherhood.

Author Helen Klein Ross, whose work has appeared in *The New Yorker*, weaves a powerful story of upheaval and resilience told from the alternating perspectives of Lucy, Mia, Mia's birth mother, and others intimately involved in the kidnapping. *What Was Mine* is a compelling tale of motherhood and loss, of grief and hope, and the life-shattering effects of a single, irrevocable moment.

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## What Was Mine: A Novel By Helen Klein Ross Bibliography

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## Editorial Review

### Review

"*What Was Mine* is an emotionally-grounded read...By giving readers the chance to examine what may be unforgivable, Ross brings an entirely new twist to the usual abduction story. **Fans of Gillian Flynn and Maria Semple will enjoy the intensely introspective *What Was Mine*.**" (Booklist )

"A compelling and moving story that asks many questions about family, love, and justice... Moving at a hard-to-put-down, breathless pace, this is suspenseful fiction at its best."  
(Library Journal (starred review) )

"Helen Klein Ross has written a truly brilliant book. I'm obsessed by the change this book made in my thinking of what is, and what is not, forgivable." (Abigail Thomas, New York Times bestselling author of *A Three Dog Life* )

"A suspenseful, moving look at twisted maternal love and the limits of forgiveness."  
(People Magazine (Best New Books Pick) )

"Helen Klein Ross--like Amity Gaige with *Schroder*, or Emma Donoghue with *Room*--takes a shocking premise and uses it to illuminate our human condition. A writer of compelling lucidity and vivid precision, she has compassion for all her characters." (Claire Messud, New York Times bestselling author of *The Woman Upstairs* )

"Not only a terrific, spellbinding read but a fascinating meditation on the choices we make and the way we love." (Elin Hilderbrand, New York Times bestselling author of *The Rumor* )

"In a tale ripe with opportunities for drama, Helen Klein Ross never puts a foot wrong. She lets the story tell itself, and in so doing heightens both suspense and emotional impact. Readers will be moved to understanding, but never to judgmentalism. A stellar performance, and highly recommended." (Ann Arensberg, National Book Award winner )

"Sometimes heartbreaking, sometimes joyous, and always riveting, *What Was Mine* masterfully makes you question where your sympathy should lie at every turn. I couldn't put down this fast-paced, fascinating psychological study of motherhood." (Lynn Cullen, bestselling author of *Twain's End* and *Mrs. Poe* )

"Ross crafts a surprisingly sensitive meditation on the definitions of family and motherhood around a ripped-from-the-tabloids story... Ross deftly creates genuinely sympathetic characters and emotionally resonant prose around what could have felt sensationalistic."  
(Publishers Weekly )

"Ross's prose is both readable and enjoyable, and she touches on interesting ideas about identity, family, and the malleability of the human psyche." (Kirkus )

"Helen Klein Ross pulled me into her intimate tale of loss, love, redemption, and forgiveness that had me turning pages long into the night. You'll fall in love with *What Was Mine*." (Marci Nault, author of *The Lake House* )

"A powerful plot told with exactly the right approach, *What Was Mine* is capable of sparking plenty of discussion, whether it is over a water cooler, in a book club or simply in the reader's mind." (Shelf Awareness )

"Helen Klein Ross writes with such emotion from all sides." (Fresh Fiction )

#### About the Author

Helen Klein Ross's fiction and poetry has been published in *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times*, the *Los Angeles Times*, *StoryQuarterly*, and other journals and anthologies. She won the *Iowa Review* Award in poetry, *Mid-American Review*'s Fineline Competition, was a finalist for the Lexi Rudnitsky First Book Prize, and was nominated for a Pushcart Prize. Like DeLillo and Ferris, she is a veteran of advertising and spent many years at global ad agencies in San Francisco and New York City. Helen created the award-winning ad blog AdBroad in 2007. Her fictional Twitter handle @BettyDraper has earned press coverage in *Time* and *The Wall Street Journal*, a Shorty Award for innovation, and 35,000+ followers.

## Users Review

### From reader reviews:

#### Kori Pierson:

Hey guys, do you really wants to finds a new book to see? May be the book with the title What Was Mine: A Novel suitable to you? Typically the book was written by renowned writer in this era. The actual book untitled What Was Mine: A Novelis the main of several books this everyone read now. That book was inspired a lot of people in the world. When you read this book you will enter the new dimension that you ever know prior to. The author explained their idea in the simple way, so all of people can easily to comprehend the core of this reserve. This book will give you a large amount of information about this world now. In order to see the represented of the world on this book.

#### Phil Garcia:

Typically the book What Was Mine: A Novel will bring one to the new experience of reading a book. The author style to clarify the idea is very unique. Should you try to find new book to learn, this book very appropriate to you. The book What Was Mine: A Novel is much recommended to you to see. You can also get the e-book in the official web site, so you can more easily to read the book.

#### Ricardo Bishop:

This What Was Mine: A Novel is great reserve for you because the content that is certainly full of information for you who else always deal with world and also have to make decision every minute. That book reveal it data accurately using great arrange word or we can claim no rambling sentences included. So if you are read this hurriedly you can have whole data in it. Doesn't mean it only provides straight forward sentences but hard core information with lovely delivering sentences. Having What Was Mine: A Novel in your hand like finding the world in your arm, info in it is not ridiculous one particular. We can say that no guide that offer you world with ten or fifteen tiny right but this guide already do that. So , this really is good reading book. Heya Mr. and Mrs. busy do you still doubt this?

**Avis Marguez:**

This What Was Mine: A Novel is brand-new way for you who has intense curiosity to look for some information mainly because it relief your hunger associated with. Getting deeper you on it getting knowledge more you know or you who still having little digest in reading this What Was Mine: A Novel can be the light food for yourself because the information inside this specific book is easy to get simply by anyone. These books acquire itself in the form which can be reachable by anyone, yeah I mean in the e-book contact form. People who think that in guide form make them feel drowsy even dizzy this e-book is the answer. So there isn't any in reading a e-book especially this one. You can find actually looking for. It should be here for an individual. So , don't miss the idea! Just read this e-book variety for your better life as well as knowledge.

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