



## If Ever I Fall: A gripping, emotional story with a heart-breaking twist

*S.D. Robertson*

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**'A heart-breaking tale of love, grief and devotion'** THE SUN

**'Exceptionally beautiful, emotionally charged and inspirational'**  
MIRANDA DICKINSON, Sunday Times bestseller

**'A wonderfully told tale of devastation, grief and ultimately hope'**  
KATHRYN HUGHES, bestselling author of THE LETTER and THE SECRET

**Is holding on harder than letting go?**

Dan's life has fallen apart at the seams. He's lost his house, his job is on the line, and now he's going to lose his family too. All he's ever wanted is to keep them together, but is everything beyond repair?

Maria is drowning in grief. She spends her days writing letters that will never be answered. Nights are spent trying to hold terrible memories at bay, to escape the pain that threatens to engulf her.

Jack wakes up confused and alone. He doesn't know who he is, how he got there, or why he finds himself on a deserted cliff top, but will piecing together the past leave him a broken man?

**In the face of real tragedy, can these three people find a way to reconcile their past with a new future?  
And is love enough to carry them through?**

## If Ever I Fall: A gripping, emotional story with a heart-breaking twist Details

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Author : S.D. Robertson

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## **From Reader Review If Ever I Fall: A gripping, emotional story with a heart-breaking twist for online ebook**

### **Bharti says**

Dan and Maria through their emotional struggles with marriage and grief show us how life tests us and how we do or don't fight back. Grappling with grief, a marriage having run its course and the mind dealing with it all, if ever i fall is emotional but not in the sentimental, crying manner. The issues presented are not easy to come to terms with but present beneath every relationships surface. Once you start reading don't think and let the story unfold sentence by sentence only then you will realise it's depth and resilience.

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### **Nicki Southwell says**

There are psychological twists, and there are twists. This book had me completely fooled until the end. Brilliantly written and told in an unusual and exciting way.

Dan and Maria lived in a small town and enjoy all the benefits of living close to the countryside. They have two daughters, Sam and Ruby. Or rather they HAD.

The story shifts between the now, a year before and what happens after the event. It is not clear until close to the end exactly what did happen.

Understandably they are struggling to cope with this tragedy and Dan has ready moved out of their family home and is living in a depressing flat. They are each trying to come to terms with events and have their own struggles. Maria has always had some issues with her OCD. The symptoms begin to take over her life after the tragedy but with the help of a counsellor, she begins to come to terms with everything. Their younger daughter Ruby is also struggling but it appears that her parent's separation is her biggest struggle.

It is difficult to reveal more without spoilers.

A great deal of the book is about the ending. It was a bit confusing to start with but made sense at the end.

Maria and Dan are good people and both very likeable. It is not possible to ignore their plight and sympathise with a dreadful situation.

The pace was brisk in parts, but suitably slower in others.

I have read many books of this genre, but this is something different and I highly recommend it.

I chose to read this book and all opinions in this review are all my own and completely unbiased. My thanks to Netgalley for giving me this opportunity.

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### **Susan Hampson says**

There was something very wrong, the man just knew, where was he? Nothing was familiar to him, in fact he

wasn't even familiar with anything about himself. It was like this is day one and nothing had gone before it. He only existed from the moment his eyes opened. He knew what things were but nothing about his past apart from the headache, he knew about that. With the eerie appearance of Dr. Miles the tale became even more strange. There were rules, no clocks or computers, no T.V's or newspapers, just sort of living in the moment. Eat when your hungry sleep when your tired. Simply leave the rat race behind.....But the man with no memory needed to know, one way or another he had to find out about his past and who he was. This is a very unusual story that becomes easier to follow the further you read into it, Told by three people. Jack the man with no memory, that lives in the moment , Dan whose story travels back in time to a tragic event a year before and his OCD wife Maria that spills her feelings into letters as time moves forward for her from the tragic event to present day. It feels a little bit like developing a film the more you become immersed, the clearer the picture becomes. It is beautifully written and does become intriguing as to how it is all going to fix together. I soon became aware of the outcome, so it was at matter of finding out how and why, as well as feeding my growing curiosity about Jack.

We are all individuals that deal with personal tragedy in very different ways and S. D. Robertson captures this beautifully, even if he uses extremes to show it. I really liked Ruby that at times was a little lost soul having to deal with mum and dad's inability to cope. Her frustration was so evident, bless her. This book has those difficult to blink moments because if you do you will release that tear.

I wish to thank Netgalley and Avon an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers for this novel that I have chosen to review.

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### **Agi says**

I tried. Oh my God, how much I tried.  
Not a book for me. DNF.

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### **Shirley says**

Absolutely brilliant such an unputdownable read!!

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### **Denise says**

If I Ever Fall is a compelling novel, it's not a heavy read but intelligent and insightful and a real page turner. This is a wonderfully constructed novel with an element of mystery to the storyline which was quite sad in places but I did find it to be very enjoyable and I read it quickly as I was desperate to know what happened.

I love the way the author draws you in to his believable characters and their lives. S.D. Robertson has written a superb book and I think it's one of those books that will stay with you long after turning the final page.  
Brilliant.

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### **MetLineReader says**

I was enjoying this book and found it interesting engaging and intriguing... BUT as the threads started to come together I found it just didn't work for me.

The ending was too contrived with too many loose ends... very disappointed as until about 80- 85% it was looking like a 4\* book.

Others have loved it, but it just didn't float my boat.

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### Claire Wilson says

If I ever fall by SD Robertson is an emotional read which if you're like me then you'll need a good pack of tissues to accompany this story. The book is easy to read but is a sad one surrounding bereavement and grief. It was enjoyable though

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### Emer says

This book was one of those reads that was designed to slowly unfurl its secrets to you. The book followed three characters and their seemingly disparate storylines.

Maria's chapters were told in a letter format to a person named Sam: unfortunately to me the writing felt very stilted and unnatural; these chapters were often used as unimaginative info-dumps to get the storyline across. Dan's storyline started in the present and worked its way back from there. His chapters were probably my favourite as he seemed to be the most rounded of the characters.

And Jack's chapters were the most peculiar as he was a man who did not know his own story. His chapters read as if they wanted to be a lite-psychological thriller but they really did not fit with the overall tone of the book.

I'm sorry to say that overall this format did not work for me. I loved the premise and I really liked the idea that this book was kinda like an oil painting: up close (aka at the beginning) it's all blobs on a canvas and hard to decipher the full picture, and then move further back (aka the further the storyline is unraveled) and suddenly things come into focus....

However, there was something off for me in the execution.

There needed to be more cohesiveness between the differing chapter styles. I liked how they each felt different but it did greatly affect the flow of the book. There needed to be a common yet subtle writing motif linking the chapters; this in my opinion would have helped me as a reader to feel a greater connection to this book instead of getting irritated by the choppy 'stop-start' nature of the separate plots.

The characters felt incredibly wooden and one dimensional. There was an awful lot of telling in this book and no showing. I needed to be made to feel what the characters were feeling and not simply just be told. This could have been a wonderfully engaging and emotional read but sadly in my eyes it never reached its full potential.

Unfortunately it's just **two stars** and the sadness of missed promise

*\*A copy of this book was kindly provided to me by the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.\**

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## **Vicki says**

If Ever I Fall is boldly recommended for fans of Jojo Moyes -an author I really enjoy. And it was that claim which first drew me to the book. Well ok, the cover too, because yeah. I'm a sucker for a pretty cover. Anyway, after investigating further I was convinced, this did indeed sound like a book that would be right up my street.

I picked it up to read last Saturday morning. Typically, I had woken up early on my day off (why does that always happen?) and even though I had a list as long as my arm of things to do, it was early enough to have a relaxing morning and squeeze in a bit of reading first. BIG mistake. I ended up glued and pretty much lost my entire morning, and some of the afternoon. But it was worth it.

If Ever I Fall is a story told from three perspectives. Dan is struggling with the break up of his family, living alone in a flat he hates and missing his wife and daughter. Maria, Dan's wife, writes letters to someone who she know's will never answer, in an attempt to make sense of events which have devastated her family's life. Then there's Jack. He doesn't know who he is....he's suffering from amnesia. One thing's for sure though...something is certainly not right about his surroundings. How can he find out the truth when he can't even remember who he is?

Wow! When I thought this was a book that would be right up my street I was right. I quickly became engrossed in all three character's lives and felt I was taken on an emotional rollercoaster alongside them. I loved the way that Dan and Maria's story unfolded throughout the book, so that as a reader, when realisation about their situation slowly dawned and pieces of the jigsaw were put together in my mind, I could really understand and empathise with them. I especially loved the addition of Jack....I had absolutely no idea how he related to the story at first and was intrigued by his situation. When I did realise, I was blown away. It's not something I've come across in this way before and gives the whole book an interesting and unique twist.

If Ever I Fall is an emotional read which had me wiping away tears and holding my breath. It's a tale of grief, loss and despair-but there's also hope and the underlying sense that strength comes from those we love, if only we can realise this and reach out. I finished this book feeling that I'd been on a real journey with the characters and thought about it for hours after. It is a beautifully written, engrossing and unique story, and I loved it.

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## **Michael Cayley says**

A powerful portrayal of grief, and the way it can destroy relationships, following a family tragedy. The novel is told in three strands - Dan, newspaper editor, partly set before the tragedy happened; his wife Maria, unable to handle her sorrow - this strand is given in letters by her that will never reach their recipient; and an amnesiac who may be called Jack, who finds himself in a surreal and sinister world, unable to discern what is real. I found Maria's letters the least satisfactory part of the novel - I would have preferred her strand to have been told directly rather than in letters she wrote. The book is not a comfortable read, but is overall

compelling.

With thanks to NetGalley and the publisher for letting me have an ARC in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Tina says**

I received a copy of this book via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review. I didn't know much about this story before I started to read it. It is better to go into this story blind. The story is somewhat a mystery. We meet Jack who has amnesia after an accident who is being looked after by a retired doctor called Miles. We also meet Maria through letters that she is writing to Sam. Very slowly the mystery of what is really going on unfolds through Jack and Maria. I knew from the blurb that it was going to be sad, and it was, but overall it was a lovely story.

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### **Laurel says**

I was given an ARC from NetGalley in exchange for an honest and independent review.

I really liked the style in which this was written - part normal narrative and part told through letters written. It therefore took a while to get to know the individual stories and how it all linked but the "journey" there was interesting.

Without being sexist I have to say that I was surprised that the author is a man. His ability to deal with a lot of the sensitive subject matter with so much empathy and emotion, was noteworthy and for me was the strength of the book.

Not giving any spoilers away, all I can say is that this is a great read with a well developed plot and very strong characters and I would recommend it highly.

4.5 \*\*\*\*

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### **Rachel Gilbey says**

I have no idea what I was expecting before I read this book, apart from the need for some tissues...well I didn't find the book that emotional at all, but I did think it was a beautifully written story that was incredibly easy to follow and that I was absorbed in completely from the first few pages.

There are three very distinct story threads in this book, and it took a while for me to see just how they were completely connected.

We have Maria who is writing letters to Sam, mainly streams of consciousness as to what is happening in her family's life, and takes place in the now, and time moves forward each time we get to a new letter. Maria is also amongst other things in the grip of OCD and it gave me a new way to think about how OCD sufferers behave and just how compulsive the behaviour really is.

Then there is Dan, each time we meet him, time is going backwards leading up to a very specific event that happened a couple of years ago. Maria and Dan are married, and both coping with the same thing in very different ways.

Also we have a man, who is suffering from amnesia, and only knows what the retired Dr. Miles who he is

staying with tells him. He does get flashes of memory, but on the whole it shows just how scary full blown amnesia can be when you don't know yourself, why you are where you are, and just have to trust what a complete stranger is telling you.

This is a very well written story by a clearly talented storyteller, I read the book pretty much in one go in a five hour sitting, with very few real life distractions. It was a perfect way to spend a Sunday afternoon on the sofa, wrapped up in other people's lives.

I just found myself absorbed in just how Maria and Dan were coping in the aftermath of a tragedy, and how they are trying to get on with the rest of their lives. Daughter Ruby is portrayed realistically for her age, and there was a scene where her childhood beliefs are shattered that really affected me, a lot more than the high emotion feel of the rest of the book.

If Ever I Fall is a book that I'm very glad that I have had the pleasure of reading, and I think it may be a book that will stay with me for a while.

Thank you Avon for supplying me with this copy of the book which I have reviewed honestly and voluntarily.

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## **Kerry says**

If Ever I Fall has been sitting on my Netgalley list for far too long (my apologies to the author and publisher) so I thought it was about time I bumped it to the top of my list and I am very glad that I did. It isn't an easy read by any means. It's full of emotion and raw grief, but it's quite beautifully written. It's going to be one of those books which are hard to review though as it would be so easy to give too much away.

Maria and Dan have struggled with their marriage since losing their 14 year old daughter. I can't even imagine how any parent copes with such a devastating loss. People handle grief differently so I found both of their ways of coping quite believable. Dan threw himself into work, which I think is fairly common, but he's struggling. Maria feels alone with her grief. She spends her spare time writing letters to her lost daughter, as a sort of therapy. They have to try to cope somehow as they have a younger daughter to think about, but their marriage is breaking down. How do you move on as a family from something so horrendously heartbreaking?

Jack is an interesting character. He finds himself at a house with a bloke claiming to be a doctor looking after him after a fall, but he has no recollection of how he got there, why he's there or anything about his past. He's not even sure he believes his name is Jack and he's determined to find out the truth.

I was intrigued as to how Maria & Dan's and Jack's stories would link and was surprised when I realised the truth.

Have a read for yourself. I'm sure you won't be disappointed.

\*Many thanks to the author and publisher for my copy via Netgalley.\*

<https://chataboutbooks.wordpress.com/...>

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