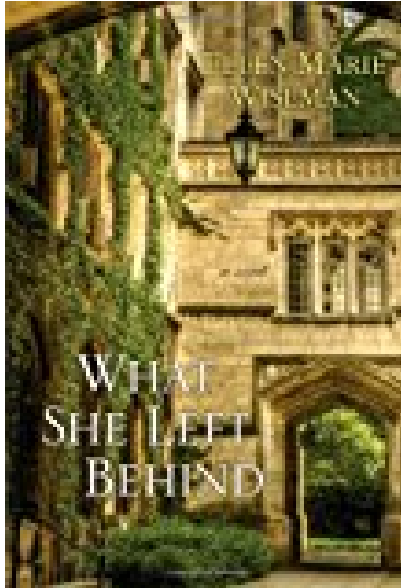


# What She Left Behind

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## BOOK DETAILS

- Author : Ellen Marie Wiseman
- Pages : 336 Pages
- Publisher : Kensington
- Language : English
- ISBN : 0758278454

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## BOOK SYNOPSIS

In this stunning new novel, the acclaimed author of *The Plum Tree* merges the past and present into a haunting story about the nature of love and loyalty--and the lengths we will go to protect those who need us most. Ten years ago, Izzy Stones mother fatally shot her father while he slept. Devastated by her mothers apparent insanity, Izzy, now seventeen, refuses to visit her in prison. But her new foster parents, employees at the local museum, have enlisted Izzys help in cataloging items at a long-shuttered state asylum. There, amid piles of abandoned belongings, Izzy discovers a stack of unopened letters, a decades-old journal, and a window into her own past. Clara Cartwright, eighteen years old in 1929, is caught between her overbearing parents and her love for an Italian immigrant. Furious when she rejects an arranged marriage, Claras father sends her to a genteel home for nervous invalids. But when his fortune is lost in the stock market crash, he can no longer afford her care--and Clara is committed to the public asylum. Even as Izzy deals with the challenges of yet another new beginning, Claras story keeps drawing her into the past. If Clara was never really mentally ill, could something else explain her own mothers violent act? Piecing together Claras fate compels Izzy to re-examine her own choices--with shocking and unexpected results. Illuminating and provocative, *What She Left Behind* is a masterful novel about the yearning to belong--and the mysteries that can belie even the most ordinary life. Praise For *Ellen Marie Wisemans The Plum Tree* "Ellen Marie Wisemans provocative and realistic images of a small German village are exquisite. *The Plum Tree* will find good company on the shelves of those who appreciated *Skeletons at the Feast*, by Chris Bohjalian, *Sarahs Key*, by Tatiana de Rosnay, and *Night*, by Elie Wiesel." --NY Journal of Books "The meticulous hand-crafted detail and emotional intensity of *The Plum Tree* immersed me in Germany during its darkest hours and the ordeals its citizens had to face. A must-read for WWII Fiction aficionados--and any reader who loves a transporting story." --Jenna Blum, New York Times bestselling author of *Those Who Save Us* "Wiseman eschews the genres usual military conflicts of daily life during wartime, lending an intimate and compelling poignancy to this intriguing debut." --Publishers Weekly "Ellen Marie Wiseman weaves a story of intrigue, terror, and love from a perspective not often seen in Holocaust novels." --Jewish Book World "A haunting and beautiful debut novel." --Anna Jean Mayhew, author of *The Dry Grass of August*

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