



***The Girl on the Train, by Paula Hawkins***  
***Reviewed by Cindy Kennedy, August 2015***

Every summer, it seems, there's a hot book that everyone is talking about. In 2015, Paula Hawkins' thriller, *The Girl on the Train*, generated the most buzz. And what a ride the novel is!

The story is set in the contemporary English countryside. Much of the book's action takes place on a commuter train, to and from London. Daily, from her window on the train, Rachel Watson observes an attractive couple, seemingly living an idyllic life—a life in stark contrast to her own unhappy one. Rachel is divorced, her career is on the downswing, and she's living in a cramped rental now.

In her boredom, Rachel is fascinated by the seemingly perfect couple and, as the trains passes by, she watches them for days on end doing simple things such as drinking coffee together or exchanging a good-bye kiss. The couple—whom she thinks of as Jess and Jason—happens to live on the same street as Rachel's ex-husband Tom, who is remarried and has a child. To pass the time, Rachel imagines all sorts of romantic scenarios for Jess and Jason.

But one day, as the train rushes by the couple's house, Rachel sees something disturbing. Jess is not acting like Jess; she's there with another man. *How could this be?* thinks Rachel. *What could this mean?*

When Rachel reads in the newspaper that a woman living on that street is missing, she has a dilemma: should she tell the police what she saw? Could the missing woman have anything to do with Jess? The choices Rachel makes take the plot on many twists and turns. And the surprising conclusion is as unpredictable as a runaway train.