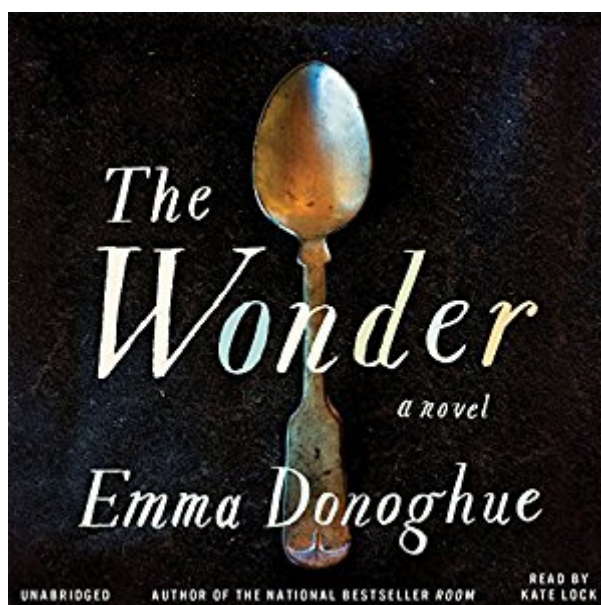


The book was found

# The Wonder



## Synopsis

In Emma Donoghue's latest masterpiece, an English nurse brought to a small Irish village to observe what appears to be a miracle - a girl said to have survived without food for months - soon finds herself fighting to save the child's life. Tourists flock to the cabin of 11-year-old Anna O'Donnell, who believes herself to be living off manna from heaven, and a journalist is sent to cover the sensation. Lib Wright, a veteran of Florence Nightingale's Crimean campaign, is hired to keep watch over the girl. Written with all the propulsive tension that made *Room* a huge best seller, *The Wonder* works beautifully on many levels - a tale of two strangers who transform each other's lives, a powerful psychological thriller, and a story of love pitted against evil.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 12 hours 59 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Hachette Audio

Audible.com Release Date: September 20, 2016

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ASIN: B01K9AZ4UG

Best Sellers Rank: #18 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fiction & Literature > Short Stories  
#18 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fiction & Literature > Religious Fiction #32 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Religious & Inspirational > Historical

## Customer Reviews

*The Wonder* by Emma Donoghue is a masterfully written mystery, and the detective is a young English nurse who has been hired to come in as an outside observer to determine the validity of the claim of a rural Irish family that their eleven year old daughter has taken no food for four months, and yet, is miraculously thriving. This nurse, Lib, expresses well the prejudices of the English towards the Irish and their beliefs. (The novel takes place not long after the end of the Great Potato Famine, and so there are intense feelings between the two cultures.) The focus of the story is on a young girl, Anna, who is seen locally as being specially blessed by God, and yet, as the story unfolds we come to see that she represents a perfect storm of pressures arising from devotion to God and religious fanaticism, love of family and family dysfunction. Lib, as a well-trained nurse, arrives with total skepticism, assuming that the child herself is perpetuating this hoax, but Anna's

simplicity and purity of heart gradually win Lib over. The challenge then becomes: How to keep this child alive? As with all good mysteries, just about every character has ulterior motives of one kind or another to want the phenomena to be real... the priest, the doctor, the innkeeper, the parents. It is only the trust that slowly builds between Lib and Anna that creates a ray of hope. So much happens towards the end of the book that I was transfixed. The book gave me much to ponder about how children are influenced, for good or ill, by those around them. After finishing it, I immediately went back to read the last three chapters again so I could better appreciate all that contributed to Anna's dire situation. I happen to be a child psychologist, so these issues matter to me, but I think Donoghue's novel will have wide appeal. This is a very worthwhile read.

This book was a far fetch for me. Lib started out just doing the job she was hired to do but then her heart took over.

While the majority of the book felt almost unbearably slow, the thoughtful buildup and subsequent climactic reveal leave this book with the full five stars from me.

I was certainly intrigued by this story. However, I felt like it dragged a bit and then seemed to rush at the end. Overall it was a decent story but not as good as Donoghue's other book, Room.

Quick read. I enjoy historical fiction. This is set in Ireland. A new 'Nightengale trained nurse' is called to observe a young girl who seems to live without eating. She quickly notices the girl is getting into dire straits and begins to think the observation may be killing her. The story unfolds from there, leaving a sad legacy and a more hopeful ending.

A good read. I like her style of writing. The premise seemed implausible to me during the first half but then actions happened and I couldn't put the book down!

Thought I would be captivated, but no.

Rarely do I find a book that is memorable. This is one of those few books that will stay with you long after you read the last page. Unusual plot and excellent writing! If you were a fan of Cutting for Stone this is a must read!

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