



**APPENDIX**



## APPENDIX I

### THE WOMAN IN THE WINDOW

#### PLOT SUMMARY

An agoraphobic woman living alone in New York begins spying on her new neighbours, only to witness a disturbing act of violence.

Living in denial, the depressed, pill-popping child psychologist, Anna Fox, has holed herself up in her eerily vacant, ill-lit Manhattan brownstone apartment for the past ten long months, separated from her husband and their eight-year-old daughter. While unsuccessfully grappling with agoraphobia and intense panic attacks, suddenly, the Russells move in across the street, and brimming with curiosity, Anna decides to distract attention away from her problems by peeking into the lives of the unsuspecting new tenants. Then, one night, tensions flare, a deadly kitchen knife gleams in the dim light, and before long, someone ends up dead. Has troubled Anna, indeed, witnessed a gruesome scene of blood-stained domestic violence or is her wine-addled mind playing cruel tricks on her?

Child psychologist Anna Fox lives alone in a Manhattan brownstone apartment after becoming separated from her husband Edward; he lives away with their daughter Olivia, but she talks to them on a daily basis. Anna suffers from agoraphobia, and her housebound state leads her to observe all of her neighbours from a second-story window, including the Russell family who have recently moved in across the street. Anna takes a large number of medication and drinks alcohol daily. spends the majority of her time indoors, watching classic movies by Hitchcock and other famous American directors; as well, Anna is often online, playing chess, commiserating with other agoraphobes, or taking French lessons via Skype. She also passes the time conversing with her husband, Ed, and her daughter, Olivia, both of whom are eventually revealed to have died in the car accident that caused Anna the deep trauma that manifests in her agoraphobic symptoms. Occasionally, when Anna does leave her house, she suffers panic attacks, so Dr. Fielding, her psychiatrist, and Bina, her physical therapist, make regular house calls to ensure that Anna is able to receive treatment for the emotional and physical injuries she sustained in the car accident.

One evening, Jane Russell visits Anna and they befriend one another over wine and a game of cards. Ethan, the 16-year-old son of Alistair and Jane's teenage son, also comes over to introduce himself to Anna, who suggests his father Alistair is often abusive towards his family. One night, Anna witnesses Jane being stabbed to death in the living room. She contacts the police but they do not believe her, claiming everyone



in the family is fine. Alistair arrives along with "Jane" who, to the shock of Anna, is a different woman to the one she met. She begins spying on the Russell family. Anna's tenant David lives downstairs in her basement, and claims he did not hear or see anything from the night the original Jane was supposedly murdered, though Anna later finds her earring in his bedroom and learns David was once in prison and has broken his bail conditions. Anna then receives an anonymous e-mail containing a photo of her sleeping. She contacts the detectives again, who are soon joined by the Russell's and David, where she has a nervous breakdown. It is revealed that Edward and Olivia are dead as a result of a car accident that Anna accidentally caused; she is now agoraphobic as a result and her medication causes her to have hallucination and conversations with people who are not really there.

Anna apologizes to the Russell family and admits she was wrong. She stops pursuing her suspicions and later records a video on her cell phone, planning to end her life by suicide by taking an overdose. Anna then discovers a photograph she took on her phone of her cat and, in the reflection of a wine glass, is the original Jane, proving she is real. Anna shows David the photo and he confesses the original Jane she met is a woman named Katie Meli, Ethan's birth mother. Katie had been stalking the Russell family, trying to get close to Ethan, hence why they had to move to Manhattan. David refuses to corroborate Katie's existence to prove Anna's story when he is suddenly attacked by Ethan, who had been lurking in the apartment.

Ethan reveals to Anna that he murdered Katie and is a budding serial killer, having also killed Alistair's secretary in Boston, and says he intends to kill Anna as well. He had been letting himself into her apartment all week with a stolen key, and he was the one who took the photo of her sleeping. Anna attacks Ethan and flees to the apartment roof where they fight until Anna pushes Ethan through the skylight. As Anna recovers in the hospital, Detective Little states they have arrested Alistair and Jane for helping Ethan cover up Katie's murder. Little admits he watched Anna's video but hands her back her phone to allow her to delete it before she has to return it as evidence. He also sincerely apologizes to Anna for the police not believing her. Nine months later, Anna, now sober, says her last goodbyes to the apartment and to her late family before she moves out and on with her life.

Debut author A.J. Finn is already an old pro at characterization. When Anna finally ventures outside and her mental state spirals out of control, we're right in that terrifying spiral with her. It seems like every thriller these days features an unreliable narrator and Anna Fox is one, too but unlike many recent thrillers, *The Woman in the Window's* plot twists are genuinely surprising, and not just shocking for shock's sake.



## APPENDIX II

### A.J FINN'S BIOGRAPHY

A.J. Finn, pseudonym for Daniel Mallory, has written for numerous publications, including the Los Angeles Times, the Washington Post, and the Times Literary Supplement (UK). A native of New York, Finn lived in England for ten years as a book editor before returning to New York City.

**Daniel Mallory** was born January 2, 1979 in New York City. His 2018 novel *The Woman in the Window* debuted at number one on the New York Times Best Seller list and has been adapted into a feature film. Mallory came to attention in 2019 for lying extensively about his past in order to excuse personal shortcomings and illegitimately further his literary work and career. A.J. Finn moved with his family to Charlotte, North Carolina, where he attended Charlotte Latin School and later attended Duke University, majoring in English and acting. Mallory better known by his famous name A.J.Finn while living in London he worked at Sphere Books, printing company of Little, Brown and Company.

He wrote a novel called *The Woman in The Window*, first while living in New York and working as vice president and executive editor at publishing house William Morrow and Company which published *The Woman in The Window*. In 2018 it debuted and listed number one on the New York Times bestseller list, but here it is criticized for its key similarity to Sarah A. Denzil's 2016 book *Saving April*. Is a feature film starring Amy Adams and Gary Oldman that was adapted from the book? The film was originally set to be released in theaters on May 12, 2020, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic was sold to Netflix. Which premiered on May 14, 2021.

In February 2019, an article in *The New Yorker* revealed that Mallory had fabricated many aspects of her life, including claims that he earned a doctorate from University of Oxford and suffered from brain and spinal tumors at different times. He underwent surgery for a tumor and lost his mother at the same time to cancer and also lost his brother to suicide. In this claim it is used to further his education and career and to excuse his unreliable behavior. He was also accused of borrowing from the 1995 thriller *Copycat* without attribution for his debut novel. Here Mallory issues a statement in which he admits that his mother has survived her cancer and his brother is also alive. Mallory attributed his deceptive behavior to his diagnosis of having bipolar II disorder, after a psychiatrist interviewed in the article stated that he "could not attribute chronic delusions, amnesia or lying to secondary gain or concern from the diagnosis.

The authenticity of *The Woman in The Window* has also been questioned based on its substantial similarities to Sarah A. Denzil's *Saving April* 2016, including nearly identical finishing touches, despite A.J. Finn argues that *The Woman in The Window*'s title plot was fully formed before *Saving April* was released.



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The woman in the Window  
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