



READING GUIDE

July, 2025

Halfway House

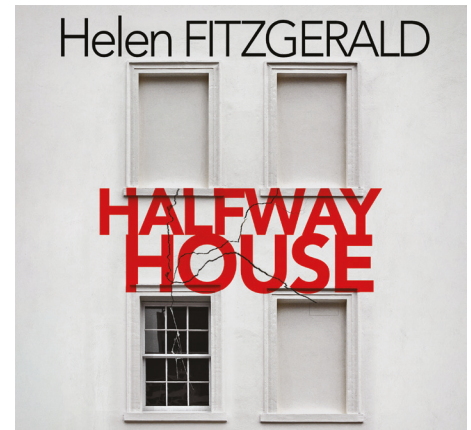
Helen FitzGerald

In short

A twisty, shocking, darkly funny thriller by award-winning author Helen FitzGerald.

Synopsis

When her disastrous Australian love affair ends, Lou heads to Edinburgh for a fresh start, moving in with her cousin. After a week of partying, she starts at the only job she can get, working at a halfway house for very high-risk offenders. On a solo night shift, Lou wakes to discover that she has been locked in her room, and is being held hostage. With no one to turn to but the other residents - all of them dangerous criminals - Lou is forced to rely on her own resources. Turns out she's excellent at negotiating - and even better at killing...



Discussion points

1. How does Lou O'Dowd's character evolve throughout the novel? What are her strengths and weaknesses, and how do they impact her decisions?
2. What are the central themes of the novel? How does the book explore issues such as trust, redemption, and the complexities of human nature?
3. How do Lou's relationships with the residents of the halfway house evolve? What do these relationships reveal about her character and the residents?
4. How are the conflicts in the novel resolved? Were you satisfied with the ending, or did you feel there were any unresolved issues?

Next, you should listen to...

Death Of A Foreign Gentleman by Steven Carroll

Bonehead by Mo Hayder

Your Child Next by M.J. Arlidge & Andy Maslen