



The Day I Lost You

Fionnuala Kearney

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‘Incredibly moving, it’s beautifully written and page-turning’ Susan Lewis

THE DAY I LOST YOU WAS THE DAY I DISCOVERED I NEVER REALLY KNEW YOU

When Jess’s daughter, Anna, is reported lost in an avalanche, everything changes.

Jess’s first instinct is to protect Rose, Anna’s five-year-old daughter. But then she starts to uncover Anna’s other life - unearthing a secret that alters their whole world irrevocably . . .

THE DAY I LOST YOU WAS THE DAY YOU TORE OUR FAMILY APART

The perfect emotional and absorbing story for fans of Jojo Moyes and David Nicholls.

The Day I Lost You Details

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From Reader Review The Day I Lost You for online ebook

Laura says

I was hopeful that The Day I Lost You would be just as good as You, Me & Other People but it surpassed all expectations. It was such a fantastically plotted book that faced tough issues head on. It dealt with grief, love, family, lies, heartache and happiness. It was a beautiful book from start to finish and there was a lingering mystery throughout that compelled me to keep reading. I cannot recommend this book enough. Fionnuala has definitely become an author that I will be auto-buying from now on. I adore her writing.

Debra says

For my written review, please check out the link below:
Debra's Book Cafe

Debs :-)

Joanne Robertson says

"Ok so review will follow tomorrow for this one as I need some time to gather my thoughts so that I can do it justice (which I know already I won't be able to!!) And also because I've sobbed so much my eyes are sore and I've had to remove my glasses and I can't read a thing without them.....till tomorrow!!"

So that was how I felt the moment I put down The Day I Lost You which is DEFINITELY in my top 10 books of 2016. It is utterly heartbreaking and totally compelling and I couldn't bear to put it down until I had devoured every single word written. In fact even when I had finished it I couldn't part with it-it is still sitting beside me awaiting the bookcase. I loved this book so much I want to shrink it and wear it in a locket around my neck! Yes, I know I sound emotional but right from the very first few pages this book touched me very deeply. The author has such a way with words that it's like she's slowly hypnotising you with her story, she's such a natural storyteller. The images she created for me were so vivid, the themes of loss, grief, family and friendship running through it were totally on point and she handled the tragic circumstances perfectly. I am pretty much unable to convey in words the emotions that ran through me as I read.

I think it helped (or hindered!!) me that I felt a very strong connection to Jess. Her reactions to situations were very similar to the way I react to things so her journey made perfect sense to me. Her way of seeing the world in black and white with no shades in between meant that her actions were very much inevitable from the start. And I also loved her reaction to ginger, as it is something that I have in common with her and made me smile, a lighter moment to relieve some of the building tension.

I cried throughout and sobbed for the last few pages. No apologies, no excuses about menopausal emotions from a grandmother-I embraced the feelings that it gave me. This book surprised me constantly throughout, it didn't follow the path I was expecting and I loved it even more for that.

Highly recommended by me but please have tissues ready! You have been warned!

Olga Kowalska (WielkiBuk) says

„Dzień, w którym cię straciłam” to fascynujący rodzinny dramat, którego karty powoli odkrywają się przed czytelnikiem, ukazując wachlarz tajemnic, kłamstw i braku zaufania. Miejscami fabuła przypomina pełen zwrotów akcji dreszczowiec, a miejscami to wzruszająca opowieść o żałobie i próbie nawrócenia świata na właściwe tory. Fionnuala Kearney umiejętnie meandruje, wciągając czytelnika w wir tej historii, obnażając skomplikowane relacje bohaterów, a przede wszystkim ukazując w pełnym świetle związek między matką i córką. Związek niełatwy, przejmujący kobiety, ale w swej trudności boleśnie prawdziwy.

Lektura na wieczór wzrusze, na nieprzespaną noc.

hope says

"Dzień, w którym cię straciłam" Fionnuala Kearney opowiada o Jess, której córka zaginęła w lawinie. Przetrwała te ciężkie chwile pomaga jej pięcioletnia wnuczka Rose. Kobieta z czasem odkrywa wiele sekretów i kłamstw, które były może raz na zawsze zmieniły losy jej rodziny.

Jest to wartościowa książka, z której warto wylewać swoje emocje. Porusza wiele ważnych i bliskich każdemu tematów, takich jak utrata bliskiej osoby, rozwód, zdrada czy choroba. Są to problemy, które w mniejszym lub większym stopniu dotyczą każdego z nas, dzięki czemu książka zyskuje na uniwersalności i trafia do szerszego grona odbiorców. Zostały one pogłębione i opisane w sposób, który skłania do refleksji nad sobą i własnym życiem. Zmusza czytelnika do rozważań, jak on zachowywał się w podobnej sytuacji.

Ważnym aspektem tej powieści są bohaterowie, których portrety psychologiczne są na tyle dobrym poziomem, że bardzo się z nimi utożsamiam, kibicowałam im w decydujących momentach, ale również potrafiłam zrozumieć, co nimi kieruje w danej sytuacji.

"Dzień, w którym cię straciłam" to piękna tajemnicza i przepełniona emocjami powieść o sile rodziny i o tym jak ważna jest ona w życiu człowieka.

Trish at Between My Lines says

This review was originally posted on Between My Lines

Sassy Brit says

This is a review of a free book I received via the Amazon Vine Programme.

I'm reviewing The Day I Lost You by Fionnuala Kearney. Here are my thoughts:

^^ I know this is an older book, (Sept 2016) but I'd heard so much about *The Day I lost You*, I just had to read it. What did I think? It's brilliant!

^^ When Jess's daughter Anna is reported as lost in an avalanche she is distraught, but puts on a brave face and takes it upon herself to look after her grandchild Rose -- never quite giving up hope that there's still a chance Anna may be found and return home safely. But something in the back of her mind feels off kilter, (maybe a mother's refusal to believe her child is dead?), and as Jess traces her daughter's last few days she uncovers more than she bargained for. Piecing together more about Anna's private life than she had ever known before she begins to wonder just how little she knew her own daughter after all.

^^ *The Day I Lost You* highlights no one is perfect and life can get messy. We're only human and it takes a lot of us to make the world go around, some good, some bad.

^^ Losing a child is everyone's worst nightmare and this is an extremely moving novel. I found myself rooting for Jess as she tried to come to terms with what was happening as a parent playing detective, refusing to believe her daughter is dead.

^^ This story reminded me of 'Last Seen' by Lucy Clarke, both are very similar in theme and are also really quite emotional.

Overall: A cleverly written tale, which is both moving and harrowing as it uncovers the truth behind what went on in Anna's other life. How well do you REALLY know your family and friends?

Suze Lavender says

Jess receives the most terrible news a mother can get, her daughter Anna is reported missing after an avalanche when she's on a ski trip. Even though she's heartbroken Jess has Anna's daughter Rose to take care of and she has to keep going. While waiting for more news about her daughter Jess has to start looking into Anna's life. She had a lot of secrets and Jess has to uncover the truth, she has to look into the past to be able to go forward.

The Day I Lost You is a beautiful book about a mother who gets the most devastating news you can think of. Jess is a sweet lady who lives for her family. Her daughter and granddaughter are everything to her. The news is terrible, but she has to be brave for Rose. Anna's disappearance also raises questions and Jess has to find the answers. *The Day I lost you* is sad, but it's also a gripping page-turner, it's a fascinating story that made me bite my nails.

I couldn't put *The Day I Lost You* away, I had to keep reading until I knew all of Anna's secrets. Of course I had my suspicions and I couldn't wait to find out if they were true. The ending is emotional and really good. I shed a few tears while reading this book. Fionnuala Kearney makes her readers feel so much. She makes the story come to life extremely well. Anna has a voice through her blog posts which makes the reader feel closer to her. I felt conflicted many times, which made me even more interested to know the truth.

The Day I Lost You has wonderful main characters. Jess is a strong woman who needs her friends and family very much. Rose is an adorable little girl and she has a lot of personality. Her role is very important and I liked how loveable and inquisitive Fionnuala Kearney has made her. Every part of this story is well thought through and even though the characters all have their flaws the story itself is perfect. I think this is a

definite winner and I absolutely loved it.

Shriya says

This is the first book of 2016 I have shelved as 'gave up on'. I'm either not in the mood to read this storyline or hungover from recent reads. Nevertheless please do not discourage my review from reading *The Day I Lost You* because it is a realistic read. Unfortunately not for me.

Miriam Smith says

I'm not sure if I just wasn't in the mood for a book of this genre or if I've just lost my reading mojo a bit but this book did not produce an emotional reaction I expected following the reviews I read. I don't have a daughter, granddaughter, sister, an ex husband or a male best friend, so it may have been that but unfortunately this book just didn't do it for me.

That being said, it is still a good book full of secrets, family loyalties, distrust and twists along the way so although I didn't react emotionally to it, it was still a decent read and of course this is only my opinion. I could of read this last year, or later this year and felt totally different. I liked the authors style of writing it was professional and well written and with a decent storyline (maybe a little too long) but this book will appeal to many. Would still recommend and I award 3 stars.

Thank you to The Book Club on Facebook for my free copy won in a competition.

Liz Fenwick says

Damn, the book was brilliant...couldn't put it down. Flawed characters that I wanted to shake but still wanted them to find happiness. For me the highest praise...I forgot the structure, the words and was immersed in the story (rare these days).... a cracking story beautifully told

Izzyreads says

I was lucky enough to get an ARC of this page turner about secrets and the impact they have on family relationships.

When Jess's daughter, Anna, is tragically lost in an avalanche, Jess finds herself uncovering Anna's secret life. The more that Jess discovers, the more she realises that Anna's secrets could change everything, not just for Jess herself, but also for Anna's daughter, Rose. *The Day I Lost You* is a story about unconditional love and captivity, because, sometimes, being the object of unconditional love comes with emotional handcuffs. Mostly, though, this is a story about mother-daughter relationships.

Reviewed in more detail on izzyreads.com

Agi says

So, it is with a great regret but I haven't read Fionnuala's debut novel yet - and yet is the operative word! I have heard so many prizes about "You, Me and Other People" and after reading "The Day I Lost You" I could have find out by myself why people love this author so much, even though she has written only two books - well, "The Day I Lost You" is enough for me, as after reading it Ms Kearney has catapulted right to the top of my favourite authors list.

How well do we know the members of our closest family actually?

Now, about Jess. She was not as straight - forward as we could think at the beginning. I think some of her reactions or decisions were made on the spur of the moment, that some of them were even false but on the other hand, she was grieving, and I think we all react just like she did when we're grieving. It only made her normal and real in my eyes. And really, while sometimes she seemed to be very emotional, I felt for her. She was convinced her life is a truly normal one but she had no idea what skeletons are hidden in her - or rather her daughter's - closet, and that mostly she will have to clean this mess. It looked like that no matter which door she's going to open, her daughter Anna has left more and more of her secrets, and the first one was just the beginning, and those feelings of confusion, disbelief and also betrayal that Jess felt were so greatly captured by the author.

I was totally, absolutely concerned and sold with the whole Jess's family, especially with Leah and Gus. They were so incredibly supporting, and even though they tried to live normal, to come to terms with reality and everyday problems, there was always this word or two of consolation, small gestures that showed how much they love Jess, how much they feel sorry and that she can count on them. That is, till one moment in the book, and here we're arriving at one of the twists that I haven't seen coming. It took me totally, unexpectedly by surprise, it happened totally out of the blue. Because, you see, quickly, very quickly, I was absolutely sure that I guessed this twist, this secret that is to be revealed. Really, high five to Fionnuala Kearney for taking me so much by surprise and yet making this so logical - now, in perspective, I can see it couldn't be different. I really haven't expected this bombshell - and I truly love it, when the author can spring such revelation on me, a revelation that I wasn't expecting and that shocked me completely, and made me not sure how the story is going to develop after this.

The first part of the book is told through Jess and Theo's points of view, together with Anna's entries from her blog, while later it mostly focuses on Jess's point of view. I liked how the author switched the narrative, how I was able to get really into the heart of the stories and to learn the story from all sides. The characters felt very real, true, they were not flawless, and I didn't have any problem to connect with them or to relate to them, and the author has really put them through the mill! They had depth, all of them and were written very realistically and I had a feeling I am right there, by their sides.

"The Day I Lost You" is an incredibly well - plotted, powerful and intense novel and yet those feelings are not too overwhelming, they don't make the book too hard too read. No, on the contrary, they are palpable through the pages but the writing style, the feelings of empathy make it so easy to read. And when we are by the writing style, it was incredible - some authors have this talent to write emotional novels but in a simple way, when you are just galloping through the pages, when you don't feel tired, you just want to know what's going to happen and you don't want to put the book down for a single second - it was like this with "The Day

I Lost You". From the very beginning to the very end, this book held me tight, had me hooked, as I simply wanted to know how it's going to end, in all aspects. And soon I have started to fear Anna's entries to the blog, as there was always something new, a new fact.

Yes, this story was heart - breaking, especially the family aspect. It showed how vulnerable we are, and how, in fact, we are nothing without the support of our family and best, proven friends. It shows how easily the bonds can be broken, despite them being so strong, but also that sometimes those bonds are unbreakable, no matter what, and I mean here not only Jess and her sister, but also Rose and Sean. It was really uplifting.

This story has simply it all. It had twists and turns, there are some very unexpected and shocking revelations. It is written in this best way of writing style, this gentle, subtle way and you immediately feel like a part of the characters' worlds. "The Day I Lost You" moved me, it is a kind of a book that you can't forget, long after reading the last page, it is unpredictable. It deals with so many issues, it deals with heartbreak, with betrayal and lies, and the characters are deep down there, with all those issues, they are there for each step, and we are not sure if it was the last revelation, or if there is still something for them to discover and deal with. It was just a brilliant read - highly recommended! (And it is such a great feeling to know that there is "You, Me and Other People" waiting there for me to be read!)

Copy provided by the publisher in exchange for a review.

Kendall says

Excellent novel. I definitely could not put this down!! Author did an amazing job portraying all of her characters and the grief that each felt for the presumed death of Anna.

I loved how I could relate to the strong bond and love that Jess has for her granddaughter. It was a twist for sure as well at the end of the novel. One of my favorite novels I've read this year. :)

Anne says

I'm not a mother, but the author made me feel Jess's pain and anguish over her missing daughter from the very first pages, and that emotional grip never lessened at any point in the book. The book is full of all those agonising moments when loss suffered moves from the more comfortable depths of the mind to the excruciatingly painful forefront – the favourite jar of honey on the supermarket shelf, the everyday items like the tatty sofa that hold such intense memories, the replayed conversations. I'm not really a fan of children in books either, but young Rose is quite perfectly drawn and won her place in my heart – and some of the exchanges between her and her grandmother gently broke it. Grief finds its voice through some of the simple things – the unseasonal Christmas tree, the t-shirt provided as a comfort blanket, and the unbearable anguish caused by changing the bed sheets.

As a portrait of grief and loss, this book is quite exceptional – but it's very much more than that. I remember from reading the author's first book that she has an exceptional gift for examining families and dissecting their complex relationships, and that strength shows in this book too. The mother-daughter bond is obviously

minutely examined, but we also have the bond and relationship between sisters, partners, ex-husbands and ex-wives, their new partners and the whole maze of the extended family. And then there's friendship – particularly that difficult man-woman friendship and whether it's actually sustainable. Every single character in this book – even the ones at its edges – is real, complex and utterly believable. And every relationship is put under immense stress as the secrets that underly all families and relationships – complicated even more here by professional relationships – threaten to tear everything apart.

The writing is superb, and I loved the way the book was structured – primarily, what we hear are the points of view of Jess and friend Theo, but punctuated by Anna's voice on her personal blog. It always helps when you immerse yourself in a book if you like the characters you're engaged with. Jess's voice is one you hear with your heart, and you really can't help but hurt with her and for her: Theo's infinitely likeable too, awkward and funny, gentle and caring. There's one scene in the book where Jess disintegrates and he comforts her that had me weeping uncontrollably – but smiling as he tries to remove the sauce from a Chinese meal from the knees of his suit. There's light and dark in this book – at times, it's actually very funny, those moments of the absurd that reassure you that life goes on, and I'd hate anyone to get the impression that it's all anguish and misery because it most certainly isn't. It's poignant, heart-breaking, sometimes painful to read, sometimes beautifully hopeful and uplifting – and it's an excellent story, difficult to set aside as the secrets slowly emerge, and impossible to get out of your head long after you've finished. I'm going to add my voice in support of all the magnificent reviews and cries of “one of my Books of the Year” that have already appeared from other reviewers – this book was just wonderful.
