

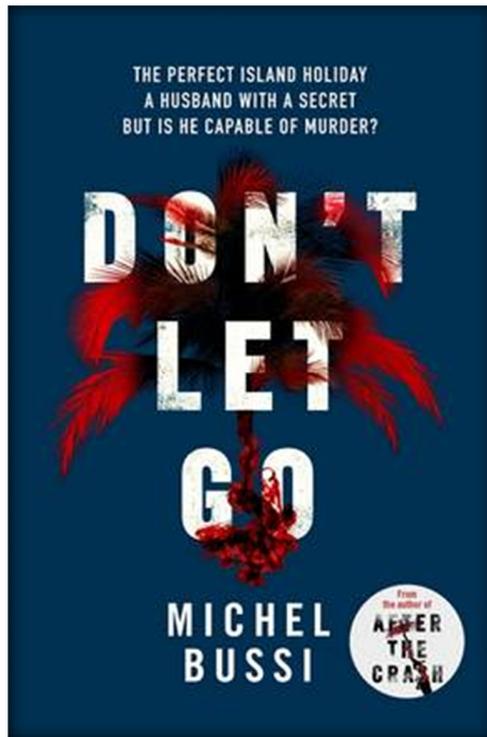


Helping you choose  
your next book

W&N

## LoveReading Reader reviews of **Don't Let Go** by Michel Bussi

Below are the complete reviews, written by LoveReading members.



### Dana Captainino

*'Don't Let Go' is an unusual and fascinating example of crime fiction where the story takes surprising twists throughout the novel.*

*Set in the idyllic 'paradise' island of La Reunion. It begins with the disappearance of Liane Bellion who is on a relaxing holiday with husband Martial and their daughter SOPHA. Soon Martial is the only suspect but after cooperating with the police for the first few hours he too then disappears with SOPHA. This is a tense suspenseful story and when a series of brutal murders occur Martial is further under suspicion.*

*There are a host of strong women characters while the men seem weaker and less focused - other than Martial himself. The police begin to close in on Martial as he weaves his escape across the island. **The location with its complex racial mix and dramatic scenery plays its own crucial part and with vivid descriptions there is an element of 'Death in Paradise' here. The characters are colourful and vibrant and unfailingly believable.***

*The twists and turns of the plot keep you guessing at the real truth right until the end. I really enjoyed this extraordinary novel and look forward to reading more Michel Bussi in the future.*

### Nicola Edwards

***Full of suspense and excitement – a must read for all crime fans!***

*Martial, his wife, Liane and their six year old daughter Sopha are on holiday on the idyllic French island of Reunion, when Liane suddenly disappears after going up to their room mid-afternoon. After reporting her disappearance to the police, Martial decides to leave the hotel with his daughter and go on the run, therefore implicating himself as the prime suspect.*

*What follows is a chase across the island; with Martial doing all he can to hide himself and his daughter from the police, with lots of twists and turns along the way. As well as Martial's take on events, the story is also told from the perspective of his daughter and also the French police. From the conflicting characters of the investigators to the dedicated hotel staff, Bussi has created compelling characters that take you on a rollercoaster of journey.*

*An exciting book that gradually draws you in and keeps you on your toes as the suspense gradually builds along the way. Highly recommended!*

### **Linda Boa**

***Exciting, unpredictable, clever, twisty - some ways to describe this superb thriller about a manhunt on a tropical island, as a murder suspect with his six year old daughter run rings round the police.***

*This is a minute-by-minute account of a manhunt on French-controlled Reunion Island, in the Indian Ocean, a veritable paradise of a holiday destination - until Martial Bellion looks to have killed his wife Liane. He reports her disappearance to the police, showing them the bloodstains in the room. Hotel employees tell of how he borrowed a large laundry cart and took it to the car park. Waiting for a body to turn up before making an arrest, the police are flummoxed when the next day their previously co-operative suspect goes on the run across the island with daughter Sopha, 6. It's told from several different POV, including Bellion, Sopha, and local cops Christos - lazy but very smart - and Aja - a determined female captain, determined not to relinquish the manhunt to the government forces. It's hard to see how he's innocent, when several people who get close to him are murdered, but Bussi has you on his side, as he outwits the police in increasingly inventive ways - even though there are no other obvious suspects. An island paradise, described so you can envisage it perfectly, even smell the tropical plants, with atmosphere added by the use of all the different ethnic groups' slang, you want to book your next holiday there. Incredibly precise yet fiendishly unpredictable plotting from start to finish makes for a definite summer hit that will keep you up well past your bedtime. Michel Bussi is proving to be an imaginative, exciting and original thriller writer - more*

please!

<https://crimeworm.wordpress.com/>

### **Sheila Dale**

***A good thriller which keeps the reader guessing right up to the end.***

*This is the 2nd Michel Bussi I have read and lives up to the first with a fairly complex plot which keeps the reader guessing until the last moment. Very readable although a little stilted at times which may be down to the translation from the French*

*All in all a very good thriller with interesting (although perhaps not always believable) characters. I would recommend this book to fans of the lightweight thriller genre without the blood and gore!*

### **Glenda Worth**

***'Don't let go' by Michel Bussi - a murder story or not? keeps the reader guessing. Set on an island La Reunion, based around the Bellion family it's eEasy to read with an unexpected outcome!***

*Don't let go by Michel Bussi is based on the island of LA Reunion concentrating on the Bellion family comprising of Liane, Martial and Sopha their daughter.*

*When Liane disappears the husband is considered the main suspect and the police investigation is based on this theory. All the evidence points to this however is he the kidnapper/murderer?*

*Aja and Christos are the main police investigators, totally different characters, Aja being dedicated and thorough, Christos more laid back with a love of alcohol.*

*As the investigation continues and more resources are brought in, the story weaves its way along, leaving the reader wondering if Liane is dead and if Martial is in fact the murderer.*

*I found when I began reading that the numbered references in the text with explanations at the bottom of the page very distracting, and took me away from the story, however further into the novel these became less and I could concentrate more.*

*The novel is written on a time line which breaks the passages of text and kept my eye on the day to day scale of the writing, with trips back into the past at*

*intervals to keep everything in context.*

### **Angie Rhodes**

*Imagine, sea, sun, sand, drinks by the pool, daughter playing nearby, and then in the blink of an eye, everything changes, with a snap of the fingers, life will NEVER be the same again.*

*This is the story of how Martial Bellion's life changed when his wife Liane goes back to their hotel room between 3 and 4 pm and doesn't come out!!*

*There are witnesses that can verify seeing her enter, but not one can say she came out, and when Martial goes looking for her he finds no trace apart from the blood, blood everywhere, but no Liane, so where is she?*

*Is he guilty of murder and if so how did he remove his wife's body without anyone seeing him? These are the questions the police ask, especially now that more bodies appear. Does he know more than he is letting on? Because Martial has a secret, one he kept from his daughter and his wife.*

***This is a gripping page turner, I devoured it in one sitting. If you liked 'Gone Girl', and 'The Girl on the Train', you will want to read this!!***

### **Edel Waugh**

*I love stories set in holiday destinations and this one was a really gripping one that did not give up its secrets easily. The story is set in a picturesque resort on the island of La Reunion and is set around one family. Husband and wife Liane and Martial, and their young daughter. While having a blissful holiday Liane suddenly vanishes under mysterious circumstances with suspicion falling at her husband's feet. This is definitely a book for those who have enjoyed books like 'Gone Girl' as you can never be sure who to trust and who is really the bad guy. I really enjoyed this and it certainly kept me guessing to the very end of the book. **I recommend this book for all those who love a main character with a shady past and a plot that sped along, it will pull you along willingly to the end and will keep you up until the wee hours of the morning.***

### **Laura Delve**

***A clever, unique thriller about a man's missing wife and the constant***

**question surrounding whether he is responsible.**

*I have conflicting emotions about this book. On the one hand I thought it was brilliantly done, but on the other I thought there were perhaps maybe too many coincidences. I will try to gather my thoughts in the following sentences.*

*Martial Bellion's wife has gone missing. She was seen going into her hotel room, but not coming out of it. Martial reports the crime straight away, he says that he didn't kill his wife, but why is he acting so strange?*

*'Don't Let Go' really does break all the rules when it comes to thrillers. If you manage to work out what on earth is going on/what is going to happen in this story, I will be mightily impressed. I have never known an author to throw quite so many curve balls in to one story! Not only that but Michel leaves you hanging practically at the end of every chapter, forcing you to read on and figure out whether that just really happened or not.*

*Told in multi-narrative time-slots, this story only happens over a few days, but is packed full of action at an incredibly fast pace. It's safe to say that there is plenty to keep your interest.*

*The one thing that I will say is that, some of the coincidences did seem a little farfetched at times and with all the different characters sometimes I thought the information given was superfluous or there to throw you off the scent, but I could of course be wrong.*

*Despite my mixed response to this story, on reflection it is very cleverly done and definitely different to a lot of thrillers currently out there.*

[www.lauraslittlebookblog.blogspot.co.uk](http://www.lauraslittlebookblog.blogspot.co.uk)

**Nicola Cooper**

**Great thriller and page turner!**

*Martial and Liane Bellion together with their six year old little girl are on holiday on Reunion Island having a wonderful holiday. Liane leaves the pool to go back to the room and subsequently disappears. The police are called and Martial becomes the prime suspect. The story is told over three days, minute by minute, it's fast-paced and full of twists and surprises, with almost every chapter ending in a cliff-hanger with you wanting to read on. I enjoyed the timings and short paragraphs and chapters. There were also some interesting characters and I didn't guess the plot which always makes for a good thriller.*

*Based in France it was sometime confusing to remember who was who with the*

*different French names but this was a good holiday read and I would recommend. I would read more from this author.*

### **Jane Brown**

***A crime novel to stop you in your tracks, beautiful island, holiday with husband and daughter - what could go wrong- wife is murdered husband appears guilty- did he murder his wife?***

*I was asked to review this by Lovereading.co.uk*

*I have not read any books by this author and was intrigued by the cover and boy was this is a crime novel to stop the reader in their tracks.*

*Told over three days (I read it in one) wife leave the pool area to go back to the room on an idyllic island she is staying at with six year old child and husband. The husband wonders why she is taking so long – the room is empty but is covered in blood- is he trying to cover up – did he do it? He appears guilty- why. Then he and his daughter vanish, what is going on?*

*The story is told minute by minute and the reader is entranced the whole way through.*

***Fast paced with incredible twists and turns. The ending is quite a shock.***

***This is an author to look out for.***

<http://browniebookworld.blogspot.co.uk/>