

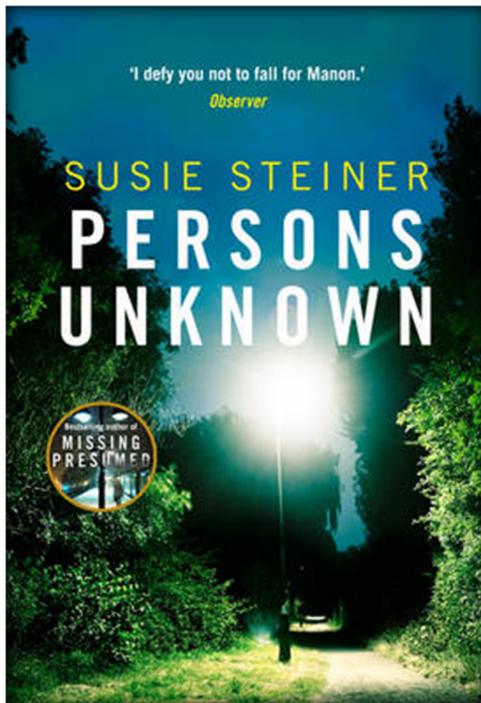


Helping you choose
your next book



Lovereading Reader reviews of **Persons Unknown** by Susie Steiner

Below are the complete reviews, written by Lovereading members.



Laura Nazmdeh

A great follow up to 'Missing, Presumed'; perhaps more of a slow burner but multiple narrators and high stakes for Manon means plenty of mystery and intrigue. Plus the writing is, as ever, excellent!

When you enjoy the first in a series so much (Missing, Presumed) you can only hope that the second isn't a disappointment. There's no need to worry, though, because although it feels different in some ways to the first, this is a great follow up.

DS Manon is back, and plenty has happened since we've seen her last. She's pregnant, perhaps a little emotional at

times, but as determined and switched on as ever. The characters are all well-crafted, intriguing and convincing, and Manon doesn't fail to disappoint in her dogged determination to solve the case. It does present some doubts, though, in how well she knows the people around her - there are plenty of surprises!

The storyline jumps between different people, and these multiple perspectives offer interesting insights into the case. The ways in which characters are linked to each other are complex, tying in with the tangled web of lies and deceit surrounding the murder, and it really kept me guessing.

Race and social standing is addressed a great deal in this novel, and Susie Steiner presents them with sensitivity.

I feel like 'Persons Unknown' is a bit more of a slow burner than 'Missing Presumed', but this certainly isn't a negative. There is now far, far more at stake for Manon and this adds an interesting spin; the writing is still excellent and

kept me wanting to read on, leading me to devour this in a day. Recommended!

www.snazzybooks.com

Phyllippa Smithson

This was like putting a perfect fitting glove on – I love the flowing yet engaging style of Steiner’s crime writing and the wicked sense of humour of her lead DI.

DI Manon Bradshaw’s colleagues are wanting to keep her cocooned in cotton wool. Their concern initially triggered by the fact that she is 6 months pregnant. As the early pages are turned however, it is not the soon-to-be Mum’s health they want to protect her from but the fact that her 12 year old adopted son, Fly, is being held in a child offender’s home awaiting trial for the murder of a 40 year old City financier.

Manon is devastated and like any Mum is desperate to prove her son’s innocence yet, at the same time, when she forces herself to really consider what she knows of the boy she adopted, does she really understand her Fly? Can any Mum truly understand the mind of a 12 year old – maturing towards adulthood but still a child?

Manon is a character that is so real, I feel a sense of loss every time I finish reading a book in which she appears. Full of fight, humour and determination, she has everything you would wish from a DI. Yet she also has a vulnerable side which offers a reality to her charm.

Elaine Lowe

Realistic characters, a crime with a gripping plot add up to make a satisfying read. Crime writing at its best.

I loved this book!!

Right from the very first page you are immediately catapulted in to the story and hooked in to unraveling the crime. You are given a realistic insight in to the lives of the characters as the plot twists and turns in this exciting, funny and beautifully written novel. I do hope that we haven't heard the last of Manon Bradshaw!!

Lynn Pettitt

Easy to read, gentle, girlie "whodunnit".

*Each chapter is written from the point of view of one of the main characters. I did not readily take to Manon whose world gets turned upside down. I did like Bernie with her picture of Tony! I felt there was too much focus on what the characters were thinking and feeling rather than getting on with the plot. It reads like chick lit, I am more used to out and out thrillers. **I found it an easy read, I read it in a long rainy afternoon.** it is not exciting but I have to say I did end up wanting to know who "did it" so read it all, there were no surprises.*

Sue Burton

This is a great police procedural novel that encompasses a love story with a twist.

I absolutely loved the first book by Susie Steiner – 'Missing, Presumed' and this book did not disappoint but was not as good. This book is about a sensitive case about race and motherhood and the conflict with being a police officer.

Kerry Bridges

Not as good as the first one in the series.

Manon Bradshaw has moved her adopted son, Fly, her sister Ellie and nephew Solomon back to Cambridgeshire to try and keep Fly away from bad influences in London. Then Solomon's dad is found murdered and Fly is implicated - has Manon made the right decision or has she brought Fly into the heart of danger?

I did enjoy the first Manon Bradshaw novel so I was interested to see how the story followed on. This second novel jumps straight in without really going back over old ground which, even as a previous reader, I found rather disorientating and a little bit confusing.

Manon herself is an interesting character but the author does seem to spend a lot of time making her, at 5 months pregnant, not able to do very much. I actually found this quite irritating and not at all true to life and it did really spoil the book for me as I cannot see why a woman who is 5 months pregnant with her first child can't walk properly!

I have always very much liked the characters of Fly and Davey and they don't disappoint again. The introduction of Mark is also positive as he is an

interesting character who I would like to know more about.

The crime itself is not really a big part of the book to be honest and, even if it was, I didn't really like the people involved. I really dislike corporate ""fat cats"" ""getting away with murder"" and I think this was done quite poorly in this story.

All in all, this follow up didn't grab me as much as the first novel and I had started to get quite irritated with the character of Manon. I am not sure how the author can take it from here, but I won't be rushing to read the next one if there is one. Rather a disappointing read.

<http://iamalwaysreading.wordpress.com/>

Mandy Carver

I haven't read any other books by Susie Steiner before, but I will definitely be doing so now! Think this must be the quickest I've read a book, under a week! So who killed Jon-Oliver? The book slowly pieces together the puzzle adding in characters where necessary and giving them their own Chapter in which to tell their story. Not sure I trust the police anymore, do they really not fully investigate everything? Just goes to show if you do follow what seems an insignificant lead it can unravel to solving the case and how easy it is to overlook things! Not sure I'd like to be a police officer/Inspector you have to be 101% sure you've got the right person! There are some twists along the way like all good crime novels. I do want to follow Manon's story though, or do I? Do we want a happy ever after ending or best making it up ourselves or best just leave it and not think about it? I loved it, hope you do too.

Emily Curnow

Rather than just another average crime novel, this story explores the impact of when a family member is incriminated in a murder. Written from multiple points of view, including the adopted mother of the 12 yr old boy 'Fly' who is arrested, this novel looks into the emotional responses from those involved in the investigation. The characters are all flawed, making them believable and feel real. There is no Sherlock Holmes character who is mystically able to identify the assailant. As a reader we watch the events unfold, and we alongside the police force, do not reach a conclusion until the very end. The novel looks closely at relationships between a team of police force members and within those affected closely by the murder. The novel is **a compulsive read and**

touches on many aspects that are neglected in other crime novels. Highly recommended.

Alfred Nobile

This was a superb book.

Manon and her adopted son Fly share a home with her sister Ellie and her son Solly. Life seems ok and she is (un)happily working cold cases and the only complication is she pregnant with a sperm donors baby!

So life seems tolerable if not ideal; waiting on the birth and working cold cases, Manon finds herself involved in a very hot case that may involve her and her family

This is a multifaceted tale told from different perspectives and grips from the start. The writing is simple, but weaves a complicated story with ease. Well rounded characters and all have an important role to play in the narrative.

A 5 star read for me and thanks to Susie, the publisher and Lovereading for the ARC.

Angie Rhodes

Dusk is falling as a young man falls to the ground, blood seeping from a stab wound. With his dying breath, cradled in a woman's arms, he says one word "Sas". This is the start of a nightmare for Manon Bradshaw.

Detective Manon Bradshaw is horrified to find that one suspect is closer to home than she thinks. Can one of her own be capable of murder? And if they are, will she be able to cope? What would you do? This will be the question on every reader's lips, as they close the book, after turning the last page???

Me?? I have no idea.

Sabine Little

How well do we ever know anybody? When DI Manon Bradshaw is faced with the possibility that her 12-year-old adoptive son might be a murderer, she is forced to question her understanding of those around her. Did she, pregnant with her biological child, push her adoptive son away? Told to keep away from

the investigation, Manon can of course not help herself from seeking out the truth – after all, how long can a 12-year-old last in the system? And how do all the players in the case connect?

*Manon may not be the most obvious choice for a heroine – she is grumpy, she can be selfish, and is decidedly ‘normal’, and that makes her really quite likeable. As the reader uncovers plot twists and new characters entering the storyline, Manon’s family becomes the centre point for more than just family drama. **Susie Steiner’s second book featuring DI Manon Bradshaw builds seamlessly on the success of “Missing, Presumed”, and is a very enjoyable way to spend a few hours.***

Natasha Motton

Compelling thriller that grabs you from the first page and drags you into a complicated investigation that leaves everyone questioning who they can trust and who is hiding sinister secrets.

‘Persons Unknown’ is a compelling thriller that grabs you from the beginning and keeps you hooked throughout the book. Interesting characters from differing backgrounds come together to solve a murder that shocks the local community and threatens to unearth a number of secrets that some people will do anything to keep buried. Each chapter in the book is written from the viewpoint of one of the different characters and this helps to maintain the momentum of the story. The author cleverly reveals more of each character as the plot unfolds and their lives become more intertwined and they start to question who they can trust and believe. I thoroughly enjoyed this book and will be looking for others by the same author.

Cathy Small

Manon has returned to take over the cold cases which should be a quieter part of the role. Little does she know that she will be caught in a middle of a murder case that will impact her family.

*‘Persons Unknown’ takes us into the world of the police for corruption that allows a case to not be investigated properly and a mother trying to prove her son as innocent. The book takes us through the story with the views from each main character as it unfolds with some unexpected twists along the way. As first there is no logical link but the close starts to bring them all together. **A light hearted thriller that will keep you entertained as you read.***

Kathryn Eastman

A darker, more addictive read, Steiner's brilliantly written Manon Bradshaw series gets personal when a murder case threatens characters and relationships so well established in 'Missing, Presumed'.

Detective Manon Bradshaw returns and happily for this reader, despite having spent some of the intervening time since Missing, Presumed with the Met Police in London, she is back with the Cambridgeshire squad for its sequel, Persons Unknown.

While Manon retains the qualities which made me completely fall for her as a character in the first book, she's also experiencing changes both in her personal life and her position on the force. This development is something which I really rate because it gives a sense of the characters' lives progressing... whether or not the reader is there to witness it happening! And this in turn makes them feel more real to me, in much the same way as Susie Steiner showing us the police not only working an investigation but also in their downtime, does.

In 'Missing, Presumed', Susie Steiner built up a relatable team of Cambridgeshire detectives around her female lead, Manon Bradshaw, in the first of a character-driven contemporary crime series that made for compulsive reading. In its sequel, 'Persons, Unknown', she shows us where the cracks are in their relationships when a murder inquiry goes to the heart of their team and secrets, prejudice, bias and suspicion rear their ugly heads as everyone including the reader is forced to reassess what they thought they knew about people, and the lengths to which some will go to protect what's important to them, often at the expense of others.

This addictive series, like Manon, grows in strength and depth.

Lyn Barrett

Susie Steiner impresses us all last year with 'Missing, Presumed' and she has certainly not disappointed with the next in the DI Manon Bradshaw series, 'Persons Unknown'.

In 'Persons Unknown', a murder occurs too close to home and family for Manon's liking. Things get even worse when she is excluded from the enquiry and her colleagues are ordered not to give her any information about it. When a close family member is arrested Manon has to keep her emotions in check and try to objectively work through what little information she can glean by calling

in favours from friends. She knows her involvement could lead to the end of her career but she just can't stand by and watch someone she loves being hurt.

*Steiner continues to develop the character of Manon well, she has created the right balance between home and professional life in Manon's personal story. The structure of *Persons Unknown* reflects the turmoil in Manon's mind. Each day has its own chapter under a date heading and succeeding chapters are written from the perspectives of the main characters and so this story unfolds.*

The conclusion of the murder enquiry and the start of an unlikely relationship leaves lots more of Manon's story to be told.

Carol Attridge

This is a well written book with great observations of day to day life woven in with a crime story. But I'm afraid it wasn't a page turner for me.

I struggled to get to know the characters well enough and didn't take to their names. I was interested to read it as it was set in areas near where I live. I read it, I'm glad I did but it didn't grip me. And I'm still not sure at the end who did it! But I know who didn't.

It's an Intelligent read but not gripping as promised in the back cover.