

Lovereadng Reader reviews of All the Little Pieces by Jilliane Hoffman

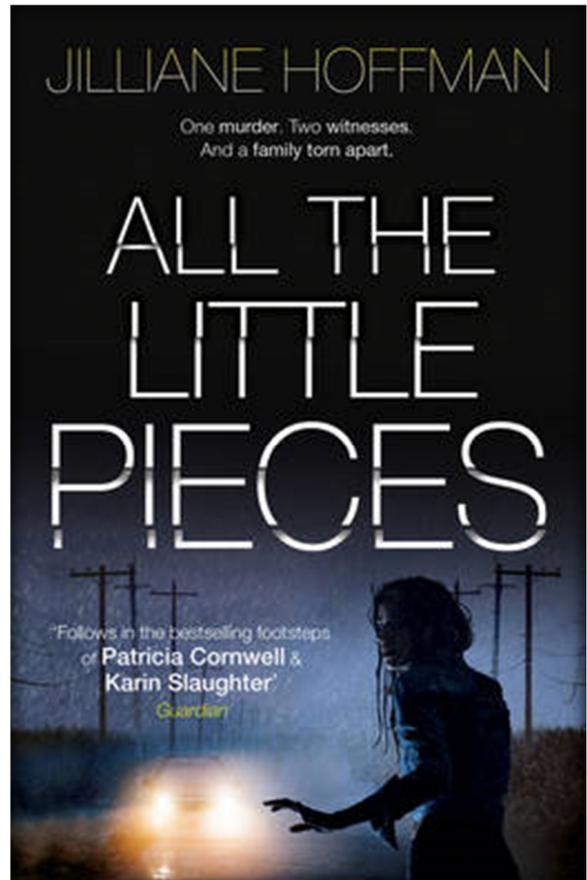
Below are the complete reviews, written by Lovereadng members.

Maxine Broadbent

Much more than the usual serial killer thriller. *Fast moving and feels real, the characters are completely believable.*

'All the Little Pieces' is much more engrossing than most serial killer thrillers that I have read. A number of teenage girls disappear from Palm Beach County, and their bodies are discovered later, often mutilated. Although they have been killed in different ways, Detective Bryan Nill suspects a serial killer is responsible, but he has no connecting evidence.

*Meanwhile dysfunctional but likeable Faith, mother to 4 year old Maggie is driving home with her one stormy night when she stops to rest. A desperate teenager knocks on the car window asking for help but Faith feels unable to respond and continues home. From there the security of Faith's life begins to disintegrate as she battles with herself to do the right thing. Many of the lead characters have personal and social difficulties which they'd are trying to overcome, and the interplay between solving the cases and moving on with their own lives makes for fascinating and compulsive reading. **This is a genuinely fast moving exciting book with so many interweaving threads it is impossible to guess what will happen next. I highly recommend it.***



Melanie Rose

Gripping page-turner

*This is the first book I have read by this author and I was gripped from the very start. It was very easy to read and understand the plot and how the characters related to each other. **It shows how easy it is to make the wrong decision and how it can spiral into something you could never imagine.***

Cleo Bannister – www.cleopatra loves books.wordpress.com

A terrifying and chilling thriller which poses a moral dilemma

What would you do if you were in a car with your young daughter and a young woman knocked on your window and asked for help? Would you risk letting her into your car? Or would you, as Faith Saunders did, ignore the plea even though the girl in question was soon joined by two men.

This is a story of how a single lie by omission can have devastating consequences. Faith kept quiet unaware that Maggie aged just four had seen everything, and when the truth comes out Faith doesn't only have to explain to the police why she kept quiet but to her husband Nick.

The girl who asked Faith for help was found dead in a field and Detective Bryan Nil is convinced that the perpetrator is a serial killer but no-one else in Palm Beach is convinced but as links are made and with the help of Faith's daughter, Maggie's testimony and a series of shocking events are revealed. When the media run with the story Faith's guilt for not acting sooner is magnified.

This is a superb thriller, well-written with a great array of characters. The tension is there from the start but ratchets up to unbearable levels as the story progresses to its satisfying conclusion

Linda Benner

Gruesome, chilling, haunting.

I have never read a book quite like this before. I couldn't wait to turn the page, yet at the same time I dreaded turning the page.

Faith and her daughter Maggie are witnesses at what turns out to be a heinous crime. Faith is frightened for herself, her family, the victims. She hopes the truth will go away if she can mentally shelve it. This, however, doesn't happen and

suddenly she is thrown into the spotlight and becomes the focus of public hatred and disgust. It seems to Faith that her only "friend" is the bottle so she takes refuge in its contents. The question is whether this rather unreliable "friend" will help and protect her or allow her to regain trust in her husband Jarrod.

The author deals with many issues here; the crime scenes are vividly descriptive, while the issues of alcoholism, adultery, behaviour problems and trust are covered with sensitivity.

I enjoyed this book a lot, although I did get a bit lost in the technical terms and phrases, and I personally wanted the very end to be different.

An intense read, could be a bit graphic for some.

Carol Peace

A reluctant witness whose life is devastated. What would you do in the circumstances?

*Faith Saunders was a successful married business woman and mother of Maggie a four year old. When she goes to her sisters birthday party she knows it isn't the best of her decisions but she doesn't expect what happens to change her life so much. Faith had an argument with her sister and flees the party with her daughter even though there is a storm outside and she has been drinking, it is inevitable that she gets lost and when she stops to rest a girl is knocking on her window asking Faith to help her. Out in the middle of nowhere and with 2 men chasing the girl Faith is too scared to open the car doors and with her daughter asleep in the back she doesn't think it is worth the risk but little does she know that Maggie isn't quite asleep and a remark from her 2 weeks later will throw her life in turmoil. The world will turn on Faith and her credibility will be questioned by everyone as the lady who left someone to die. **This is a great read and I found my opinion on Faith changing at every turn but also questioning 'would I have opened the car door?' I wonder whether you would?***

Sheila Dale

As an avid fan of Julianne Hoffman's previous books I was rather disappointed in this one. I didn't find the main character sympathetic or believable.

Having read a couple of Jilliane Hoffman's previous books I have to say I was

quite disappointed in this one. It does make you ask yourself the question what would I have done in the same circumstance but the main character is then portrayed as an increasingly unpleasant character who did not come across - to me anyway - as particularly believable in the choices she made for rather silly reasons.

The story line was good but was constantly broken up by the author going off at a tangent about other fairly irrelevant things which I found very annoying and tended to make you lose the thread of the plot.

A huge plug at the end of the book for a follow on to this with characters from previous books but I'm not sure I will be reading it. Fans of Tami Hoag will probably enjoy this.

Maureen Gourlay

Not my problem! Don't get involved. Look the other way.

What do you do? You witness something bad but telling others could put you in more danger.

Gripping storyline.

This well written novel shows the problem faced when confronted with a terrible situation where you ought to help and would hope others would act for you if the situation was reversed. The catch here being, in doing so you could endanger yourself and family. So it's so much easier to do nothing and leave, until what happened gets revealed by another family member.

This puts Faith in a very awkward and dangerous situation and her personal circumstances compound the problems.

Julianne Hoffman has crafted a great read, provoking the reader to wonder what they would have done in Faith's position.

Victoria Goldman – www.off-the-shelfbooks.blogspot.co.uk

This is a roller coaster read - an enjoyable mixture of dramatic courtroom drama, psychological thriller and crime novel. I read it in one sitting, but was slightly let down by the ending.

All The Little Pieces is a roller coaster read. It's an enjoyable mixture of dramatic courtroom drama, psychological thriller and crime novel.

Faith seems to have the perfect life, until you delve beneath the surface. Driving

home from her sister's house late at night, in the middle of nowhere, a girl's battered face appears at her car window, asking Faith for help. Faith panics and drives off into the darkness, determined to protect her young daughter who is sleeping in the car.

When her daughter identifies the murdered girl on a news bulletin, Faith's nightmare begins. Her daughter wasn't asleep after all. Faith realises that she may have prevented a violent murder if she had just opened her car door and let the stranger in. The guilt over what she has done leads her state of mind to spiral out of control and puts her and her family's lives in danger.

I really enjoyed this book and read it in one sitting. Its fast-paced writing kept my heart pumping throughout the book. However, I was slightly let down by the ending, which left me hanging and didn't feel complete.

Phylippa Smithson

If you like 'full on' American lifestyle writing, blended into a fast-paced thriller, then this is one for you. It won't win awards and it may grate, but it is readable.

When returning from a surprise birthday thrown for her sister, in the darkness of night, a distance of 200 miles and more, in the middle of a Florida tropical storm, Faith succumbs to the elements and stops. When she stops she witnesses an event that would come to define the next days, weeks, months and years of her life.

The event is seeing the face of a woman suddenly appear crying for help. Faith judges her by the tattoos, the ear, eye and nose rings, by the fact she is wearing scantily clad clothing and decides to ignore the pleading voice. She also ignores the two men who appear threatening behind the face. She justifies her screeching tyres as she seeks to exit the scene in haste, because despite the threatening nature of the scene, she cannot see there is any justification that some misdemeanour has/is occurring. Then the face appears on TV under the header of 'missing woman.'

The side of the book that held my attention was the fast-paced flowing thriller. What so limited my pleasure was the intense American language, some of which absolutely did not translate into my language – I am not American but I do speak English as my first language. It was also just too 'nice' - Faith is a highly successful business woman, married to an attractive and highly successful lawyer, with a 4 year old daughter, with a sister who she has adored since

childhood, with a BFF. The 'event' just does not happen to people like her.

In summary, there are way better fast-paced thrillers out there which are credible, based upon a realism that the average person can identify with and much more rewarding.

Fiona Rothery

This is an excellent thriller with all the components needed to make it a compelling page turner.

The story surrounds Faith, a wife, mother and successful business woman who witnesses a scene on a lonely road in the middle of nowhere during a thunder storm. The decision she makes to not report what she sees to the police has a devastating effect on her family life. Faith has skeletons of her own and as her life spirals out of control she becomes not only the target for a serial killer but also the target of condemnation by the press and the public. Faith was an innocent observer, she was in the wrong place at the wrong time but her actions or rather her inability to act turns her into the criminal as the real killers start to slip through the net.

Jilliane Hoffman writes with graphic description which caused me to have goose bumps from the very first few pages. It filled me with Faith's feelings of uncertainty, fear and guilt as she hurtles from one terror to another through to the unpredictable conclusion. The novel poses the question what would we do in the same situation? Faith's dilemma shows us that doing the right thing is not always as easy as it sounds.

This is the first novel I have read by Jilliane Hoffman, I really enjoyed it and will certainly be looking to read her previous novels.

Joan Sidwell

A fast paced crime thriller set in Florida, written by a former Assistant State Attorney who uses her knowledge and experience of the judicial system and the Florida landscape to create an authentic story. The book opens with Faith and her daughter, Maggie travelling back to their home from her sister's house which they left abruptly following a disagreement. Driving at night during a storm Faith stops to rest only to be woken up by a girl in distress knocking on her car window. With her daughter in the car Faith refuses to respond to the girl who then disappears with a man who emerges from the night. Faith eventually continues her journey and doesn't inform the police or even tell her

husband.

Faith however has other reasons for not wanting to report the incident but as it emerges that the girl was murdered and her own daughter recognises the victim from a television report Faith is reluctantly drawn into a world of police interviews and her safe world starts to unravel. She still has secrets and knowledge of that evening which she hasn't mentioned to the police and with her marriage on shaky ground she plunges deeper into a terrifying maelstrom haunted by what she saw and fearful of reprisals from the perpetrator.

*The Florida cane fields add to the tension throughout and the detective in charge of the case goes right back to the beginning in the cane fields to try and put together a sequence of events and find out what is missing. **A brilliant read, atmospheric and menacing, great characterisation, particularly the detective, Bryan Nill, highly recommended.***

Edel Waugh

The story begins with a mother driving home from a family party with her young daughter in the back seat, the party did not go well, she has things on her mind on the journey home when suddenly she comes across a young woman in the middle of nowhere, injured crying at her car door asking for help and to be let in as two men linger near. She drives away panicked! A terrifying start to this story!

*Faith is the main character and the driver of the car, her daughter Maggie was the passenger. This was a great story in the way it makes you ask yourself what would you do if you were put in the same situation at night in a place you were not familiar with ,vulnerable and there was a real sense of danger . The story unfolds and we get to see the background of Faith, the girl she came across that night and the men that were there. There is a lot more to the story then first meets the eye and the horror continues to mount. **This was a gruesome and terrifying story that caused real unease and discomfort while reading it and the ending, oh my!! I recommend this for all thriller book lovers out there.***

<http://www.edelwaugh.blogspot.com>

Suzanne Marsh

'All The Little Pieces' by Jilliane Hoffman is a first-rate thriller. No one writes thrillers like Jilliane Hoffman.

All fans of serial killer investigations will want to add this thriller to their book-case.

Girls are disappearing in Palm Beach County. Detective Bryan Nil can't prove it's a serial killer.

The story opens up with your heart beating fast as a young woman is running with bare feet through the sugar cane fields away from someone.

Faith Saunders is the perfect wife, mother and sister who is loved and admired by everyone that knows her.

When Faith's sister Charity has a birthday party, loving sister Faith travels two-hundred miles in a tropical storm to be there for her sister. At the party Faith can't help herself, she doesn't like Charity's husband Nick, and she doesn't like the damage he inflicted with his words to Charity on her birthday. Faith thinks that Charity should pull herself together and tell her husband to go to hell. As an argument snaps in Charity wants Faith to take her four-year-old daughter Maggie and to get out of her house.

As Faith is driving home with the rain pounding on her roof and rain the size of quarters Faith has got lost driving home in the storm. As Faith pulls over and rest for a while until the worst of the rain passes, a dishevelled young girl bangs on the car window pleading for help shouting 'Help me! He's coming'. What Faith sees next is a man dragging the girl away.

Faith is feeling guilty as she did nothing to help the girl and the scene that happened that night haunts her.

But Faith wasn't the only one in the car that night. Faith's four-year-old daughter identifies the girl in the news as the young girl screaming at her mother's car window for help.

So much happens in this unputdownable thriller, your heart will keep pounding throughout!

I hope all thriller readers enjoy reading 'All The Little Pieces' as much as what I did.

www.ireadnovels.wordpress.com