

LoveReading Reader reviews of The Book of Lost & Found by Lucy Foley

Below are the complete reviews, written by LoveReading members.

Celia Cohen

An enthralling read which grips you from the first page.

I loved this book. It was so well written that even though it went backwards and forwards in time you never got confused. I couldn't wait to find out what had happened and what was going to happen. I just couldn't put it down and at the end I didn't want it to finish. I'm really looking forward to her next book.

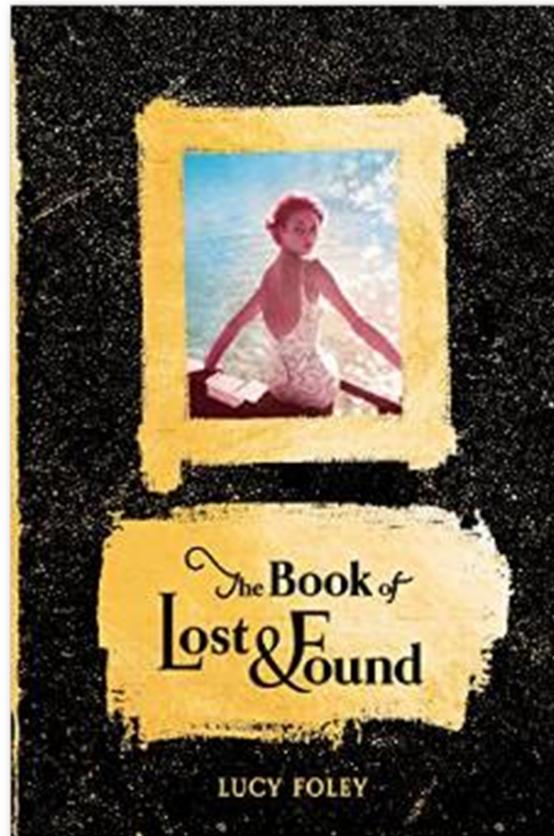
Emma Barton

This book tells the heart-breaking love story of Tom and Alice who first meet as children in the 1920's but also follows Kate Darling in the 1980's who is trying to trace her family roots.

I absolutely loved this book as it breaks all the usual rules of love stories. The lives of Alice and Tom who meet in the 1920's is told alongside that of Kate in the 1980's who is trying to find information on her family after inheriting a drawing by a famous artist.

Missed opportunities and tragic world events stand in the way of Tom and Alice's chance for true happiness together but their love remains strong over the decades.

I would recommend this book to fans of Kate Morton and Lucinda Riley but feel the writing in this book surpasses their work despite it being a debut novel.



Victoria Whish - www.thewhishlist.co.uk

An epic tale of love and loss. It's the story of a relationship that resonates through the years and generations. If you like Kate Morton, you'll love this book.

It's said that you shouldn't judge a book by its cover but you would be right to expect a lavish, epic read within the pages of such a gorgeous looking book. It whips along at a cracking pace as we veer between time and place in the unfolding story of Tom and Alice and a relationship that begins in childhood. Kate Darling is our present-day narrator who finds a letter and a drawing that starts her on a journey of discovery into the past and her and her family's place within it.

As much as I enjoyed reading this book, I have to say that I did grow increasingly frustrated at some of the choices that the main characters make and question whether or not anyone would really act in that way/make that decision etc. I don't want to give too much away so I'll leave you to judge for yourself!

All in all, this book is very much in the style of Kate Morton and Katherine Webb and if you like their books, you won't go far wrong with this very assured debut from Lucy Foley.

Jane Pepler

A brilliant debut novel by an author that we definitely need to hear more from.

This debut novel by Lucy Foley is brilliant. I loved reading it and was sad when I had finished the book - always a good sign.

It begins in Hertfordshire in 1928 when Lucy and Tom meet by the lake of a country house. What follows is an epic story of art, travel and missed opportunities, following the characters to Paris, New York and Corsica.

It is laid out in different time periods, with Lucy's granddaughter Kate discovering Lucy and Tom's story in 1986, and going back to events in the past. If you are a fan of Kate Morton or Rachel Hore then this is the book for you.

The book is beautiful - both in its physical form and its writing, which is carefully and calmly structured. I am really looking forward to reading more

*from this author - **Lucy Foley is already a master of her craft and is definitely one to watch!***

Margaret Freeman

There is so much I loved in this book, a love story, as well as a story of loss, discovery and grief as the decisions we make impact on our lives.

Once I started reading this book I didn't want to stop; Lucy Foley is a great storyteller – it's hard to believe that this is her first novel! It's the story of Tom and Alice beginning in 1928 in Hertfordshire and moving backwards and forwards in time and place to 1986, from Paris, to London, Corsica and New York. It all revolves around Kate, whose mother, June, had recently died in a plane crash. When Kate is given an old line drawing in pen and ink, dated 1929, of a young woman, she initially thinks it is of June, but realises that it can't be – the date is too early and the clothes and hair are all wrong. Thus the search for the woman in the drawing and the artist begins.

There is so much I loved in this book – the characters, the settings and the time periods, against the backdrop of years before, during and after the Second World War. It's a love story, of course, as well as a story of loss, discovery and grief as the decisions we make impact not just on our own lives but on those of others too.

It is a beautiful book and one that I'd like to re-read one day – I'm sure that I would find things in it I missed this time in my eagerness to find out what happened next.

www.booksplease.org

Julie Wragg

An epic romance from a new writer.

A gorgeous book, I loved it!

After the death of her beloved mother and grandmother, Kate is alone and bereft but has the opportunity to find her unknown family through a sketch of a beautiful woman who closely resembles her mother, but was clearly from an earlier time. Travelling to Corsica, Paris and New York she uncovers the dramatic love story of Tom and Alice and the consequences of decisions made in difficult times, where happy endings are elusive.

*It's a sweeping romance that moves backwards and forwards in time, beginning with the carefree, halcyon days of the roaring twenties, through occupied Paris and beyond. **Beautifully written and presented, I was totally drawn into the story and couldn't put it down.***

A fabulous first novel from Lucy Foley that you must read!

Dana Captainino

There is a lot going on in 'The Book of Lost and Found' a novel divided into three parts which moves backwards and forwards between the 1920s and 1986 tracing the involved stories of artist Thomas Stafford and Alice Eversley. Theirs is an ultimately unrequited, yet intense love affair that spans many decades.

Kate, daughter of the ballet star June Darling is intrigued by a painting she finds after her mother's death and intent on finding out the truth follows their story to Corsica, Paris and finally New York.

Although sometimes a little wordy the book keeps the reader engaged throughout. *The third part is especially enthralling and moves at a different pace to the rest of the book.*

Worth a read and a bit different to other quest stories of this ilk.

Sarah Jones

A beautifully written love story spanning the twentieth century. Enthralling and captivating.

'The Book of Lost and Found' is a love story. Young love, true love, a mother's love, a grandparent's love, love between siblings and friends, all are covered and all intertwine to complete this beautiful story. Alice and Tom's love story isn't a simple one. As Alice herself says "ours was not a generation blessed with many happy endings". Reading this you are swept along through their lives and around the world, through Venice, Paris, Corsica, New York and Oxford. This is also Kate's love story but her love is for her mother June who has died in tragic circumstances. Kate is recovering and adjusting as well as discovering the truth about her family history. Can the secrets Kate discovers change everyone's lives?

I thoroughly enjoyed every page of this beautiful story. The writing was descriptive and the imagery beautiful and vivid. *Set throughout the twentieth century it described each era perfectly and I was longing to find*

out how it would end. Whilst some of it was predictable, this story was so emotionally engaging that it didn't really matter. Beautiful!

Linda Amos - lindaamos57

Kate has found a drawing in her grandmother's papers. Who is it? I loved the story: history, deceit, mystery, romance, family found.

*Kate lived with her grandmother after her mother's death. Looking through their possessions after the death of her grandmother she finds a drawing which looks very like her mother. Who drew it and when? What was the connection between her mother and the artist? The story begins in 1928 and is told from the perspective of Kate, the artist and the sitter up to 1986. The answers unfold with family found and romance along the way. Corsica is beautifully described, and Paris, New York are visited. **I loved this book, a few tears and many smiles later I came to the last page. I will be looking for future books from Ms Foley.***

Louisa Hall – www.louisawriting.blogspot.co.uk

A beautiful love story told intricately through differing perspectives and eras which give it a satisfying amount of depth.

The amount of detail in 'The Book Of Lost And Found' is everything and more than one would expect from the tale of an artist and a photographer. The scenery is beautifully described, making the transition from place-to-place, era-to-era all the more seamless because the ambience of each place is so clear. The characters, too, come with such deep foundations, with their pasts so intricately woven together, that they scream out at us. They feel like real human beings, with real faults, real worries and real memories.

We travel from England to Corsica, Paris and New York in a series of storytelling, letters and flashbacks, but we are never left confused by this multitude of perspectives. The writing is simple, yet not patronising, and although the basic love-story is somewhat clichéd, the telling of it is what makes it special. The flitting between eras, places and characters is cause for some genuine moments of pure satisfaction as more details of Kate's ancestral history are revealed; leaving us with a collection of 'oooooh' and 'aaaah' moments as the plot takes various twists.

The book is definitely a winner, and with all surety, Lucy Foley is one to watch.

Elisabeth Thomas – www.listhebookworm.wordpress.com

A mesmerising tale of how what has lost can be found again if you look hard enough.

The last time Tom Stafford had seen Alice Eversley had been in 1913 when they were both six years old. 15 years later, a chance encounter brings the two old friends together from then they are inseparable.

1986, Kate Darling is bequeathed a drawing by her Grandmother, Evie. Having already lost her mother, Kate sees this drawing as a way of finding out the mysterious story about how her mother, June Darling came to be adopted by Evie.

This is a story about Kate searching for the truth about her family. This is a story which spans over 70 years with love, loss, tragedy throughout. From 1920's London to modern day Corsica, war torn Paris to modern day New York, Kate has to delve through unpleasant memories to help her put together about how her mum ended up in an orphanage and who her true parents were.

*This is a mesmerising tale of how what has lost can be found again if you look hard enough. **The book is fantastically written and you would not believe that is a debut novel. I really enjoyed the book and savoured every page** as I never knew what the next twist in the plot. A must read for all fans of Kate Morton, Rachel Hoare and Katherine Webb.*

Ruth Paterson – twitter@ ruth_pat

*'The Book of Lost and Found' is a beautiful story about a woman's journey to discover her mother's past. **It is an addictive read, I found that the book "lost" me, I couldn't put it down.***

'The Book of Lost and Found' is a beautiful story about a woman's journey to discover her mother's past. It is an addictive read, I found that the book "lost" me, I couldn't put it down. All the characters, despite their flaws are lovable and interesting. It is a book about lives lost, found, revisited and lost again. It's about true, long lasting love that spans the decades and is self-sacrificing. I can thoroughly recommend this book. I will certainly be looking forward to any further novels by Lucy Foley.

Riki Bill - twitter @riki_gabrielle

A mesmerising adventure that spans three generations and the fallout of two World Wars.

A mesmerising story that starts slow but picks up speed to a satisfying crescendo which keeps the reader guessing on the journey from England to New York via Corsica and Paris.

It starts with a letter and a picture drawn of a girl and finishes with an art museum. In between there is the story of the subject, the artist, the mystery of parentage and the immense feelings of grief felt by all.

This book is a mystery adventure that binds facts with emotions set in the 1930s and 1980s.

One woman's journey to find out who her deceased mother's biological parents are after a revelation of an ailing adoptive parent on her deathbed. Along the way (Kate) the daughter finds out who her famous mum's really was and how much pain was endured by her biological grandmother and (indirectly) her grandfather.

Written in the first person narrative and third person Lucy Foley's book breathes life into the heroine's personal journey to trace her mother's true lineage.

Farah Alam

I really enjoyed this book and, I just really liked the author's writing. It's an epic love story that is really great to read about.

Dawn

What a beautiful story! I really enjoyed reading this and felt like I was the main character Alice, who ends up travelling to find out more about a drawing of her late grandmother through the artist Thomas Stafford, who I actually thought was a real artist. Corsica sounds like paradise! Perhaps I should visit there. A book I may have missed reading had it not been for love reading!

