

Lovereading Reader reviews of The Day We Disappeared by Lucy Robinson

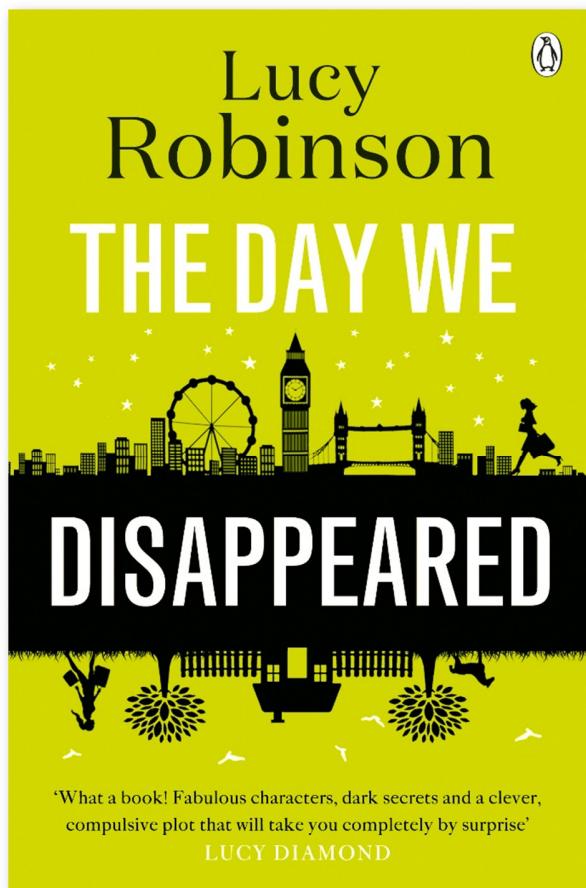
Below are the complete reviews, written by Lovereading members.

Jane Brown

This is a truly beautiful book and such a compelling story around secrets, and the mystery of two friends. As friends you think you know everything about them, not so in this story as the story unfolds no one knows anyone and as predicted the past always catches up

This was my second joy with Lucy Robinson as I was lucky enough to review 'The Unfinished Symphony of You and Me' a while ago. This time I was asked to review by Lovereading.co.uk

This is a truly beautiful book and such a compelling story around secrets, and the mystery of two friends. As friends you think you know everything about them, not so in this story as the story unfolds no one knows anyone and as predicted the past always catches up. I could not stop reading and I have to admit I did not guess the twist, and if you want to know then you will have to read it. Well written, great story, great author - this will be up there in the top ten and will be 2015's great beach holiday read.



Joan Hill – twitter @JoanHillo7

This novel comes complete with an ingenious plot twist that spans two genres quite and marvellously unexpectedly. You'll never guess the ending. It's very

revealing.

I absolutely loved this new story by Lucy Robinson and thought how original her plans for the story was. It was, in many ways, a book of two parts, both entirely different, but thereby hangs a story I cannot reveal without letting loose spoilers.

There are two tender love stories of two young girls. Annie grew up with a haunting secret from the events of her seventh birthday. All her life she has been frightened of commitment but when she meets Stephen she is helpless to resist his charm. At last she feels ready.

Kate is on the run but she must keep the terrible secret of her flight. She builds herself a complete new life on a farm, where nothing could have been more different than her old life. Nevertheless she falls in love and at last she feels safe. Annie and Kate were once friends in their lives before love led them down different paths. But what will happen when they are forced to reunite? To tell you any more of the story would be impossible without ruining the surprise for you, other than to say it's an absolute corker.

I was held spellbound by this fabulous, clever new novel from Lucy Robinson. It had everything you could ever want from a story: romance, enduring friendships, heartbreak, mystery, terrific and engrossing storytelling, diverse and well crafted characters and best of all an unpredictable and breath taking ending. **You must read it – it's a total revelation.**

Phylippa Smithson

I struggled to get into ‘The Day We Disappeared’ but as I approached halfway, I suddenly realised I was hooked.

Annie and Kate are linked by a friendship established when, as students they met when traveling in Asia. Their friendship has lasted over 10 subsequent years despite Annie being London based and Kate Dublin.

Annie is a self-employed masseur and fallen on hard times financially and personally and is more or less a recluse with the exception of regular meetings with her three closest and loyal friends. Tim (who she met when going through trauma therapy as a 16 year old), Claudine (her French spiky friend) and Louise (Annie’s sister) when we first meet her. Based on a childhood tragedy on her 7th birthday, she has been left with little confidence and a total distrust of men. Yet, one day, her life suddenly changes and whilst her friends do not trust the knight that has come into her life (Stephen - CEO of his own company and very

wealthy), she falls in love. But is he too good to be true?

Kate has run away leaving behind, her dominant Irish personality and her life, to start a new life as a stable hand at the home of a world leading Olympian dressage jockey. With no prior experience, she manages to blag her way into a role that is both physically challenging but also mentally as she is paranoid that her past life will catch up with her.

We learn to see the change in both Annie and Kate as they regain their confidence but then reality hits and the dramatic end justifies my persevering at the start.

Cheryl Kinney - twitter @cheryl_bookworm

Great read that had me hooked!

I have never read any of Lucy Robinson's books before, I will definitely be reading more!

The book is well written and the description of the surroundings really made me feel as if I was there in Exmoor & London. The chapters are split in between Kate & Annie with some smaller chapters giving you a clue into the past of one of the characters.

Kate's chapters hint at a past trauma that is not revealed until the end this keeps the reader interested.

I really liked the character Annie, she had been through some tough times but she was likable and really cared what happened to her.

The twist at the end of this novel is amazing, I did not see it coming at all! In fact I had to stay up to finish the book, I needed to know what happened and how it all tied in together.

I really enjoyed this book, the topic covered are interesting and the way the author writes makes you feel a part of this book. I definitely recommend this book.

Jacki Moorcroft – Twitter @Bandjac

Two old friends both have secrets which they don't want others to know. Both have run away in the hopes of starting a new life, but the past has a funny way of catching up with them.

Annie and Kate are old friends. Both have secrets which they want to keep

hidden and both decide to take a chance and start a new life with new challenges. Annie, who has a phobia for all men finds herself falling for the charms of Stephen Flint, a charismatic man who turns up for a massage and steps straight into her life. Kate, who's trying to escape her past, turns up at a small farm and throws herself into the life of a stable hand, hiding from her family and friends.

Both have scars which are continually fighting to resurface and spoil their idyllic new life.

A corking read from Lucy Robinson, this book had me smiling and in tears at the appropriate points. Lucy's characters are very real, from page one you are absorbed into their lives and hopes.

An "unputdownable" book which you will want to continue reading long after you should have and finish with a large sigh and sniff.

Kathy Howell

I wouldn't have taken this book off the shelf, but I'm very glad it was sent to me as I really enjoyed reading it. I will certainly look for other books by this author.

Annie has suffered a traumatic event during her childhood and is still coming to terms with the effects. She has a group of good friends but is very vulnerable and lacks self esteem. She begins a new job which gives her security and then begins a relationship with the CEO. The reader begins to be anxious about his actions as their relationship progresses.

Kate begins a job at a stable, although she has no experience. She is hiding from someone or something and constantly regrets what she has done to her family, leaving the reader thinking the worst. After his wife leaves Kate begins a relationship with Mark and helps him heal after a near-death riding accident. Her life begins to unravel when she is briefly caught on camera during a programme about Mark's recovery. She knows she has to leave before she is found.

The twist in the story is brilliant and is not signposted by the author at all. The characters are all well written and the narrative draws the reader in so that it is hard to put the book down. I would strongly recommend this book.

Susan Burton

Thoroughly enjoyable read - would recommend.

I really enjoyed this book, some parts even reminded me of the earlier Jilly Cooper books with the horse eventing theme. I had to read to the end and still did not guess the two main characters past.

Julie Wragg

A compelling must-read. Brilliant!

Kate takes a break from her demanding job at Google in Dublin by working for board and lodging at Olympic champion Mark Waverley's equestrian farm. Despite not knowing one end of a horse from the other, she quickly settles into her new life.

Annie is still suffering from a traumatic event in her childhood and despite her holistic lifestyle she finds it difficult to get on both personally and professionally. A chance encounter with the dynamic Stephen brings a fantastic new job her way and she quickly falls for the boss.

Just as things seem to be finally going right, everything goes very wrong as secrets from the past are revealed in the present.

*It's really difficult to say anything about this book without giving away any spoilers. It's clear from the blurb that it's not a straightforward romance and so the reader is looking for clues. I did work out the twist but not until late on and I'd hate to ruin it for anyone as it's a fantastic read that needs to be unveiled at its own pace. **I found it a compelling read, a serious subject sensitively handled but written with humour and wit. I loved it, you should read it!***

Jill Peters

I can honestly say that I loved this book, it was gripping with plenty of twists and turns in the storyline. I would thoroughly recommend it as a great read.

My initial impression after the first few chapters was maybe it was a bit bland and whether this book was going to keep me interested.

Reading the first chapter focusing on Kate, I wondered whether this was going to be a Jilly Cooper horsey romp, complete with the usual characters. Then the second chapter moved on to Annie, who appeared to be an introverted character, maybe a little dull?

However, after three chapters, I knew it would be good and I was kept enthralled to the very end. There were some great characters, some I could associate with but there was one who was just slightly moody and obsessive. You need to watch that type and you begin to wonder why the characters are so caught up that they can't see what you can see.

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Edel Waugh - www.edelwaugh.blogspot.com

*'The Day We Disappeared' is the story about two friends Kate and Annie. Kate is running away from some very bad things in her life only to find herself with a few more complications than she expected and Annie is struggling a bit with her work life until one day she meets someone special who can add some magic back into her life. These two women share a closer link than we could first imagine. This story has more to it than you might first think, it has a darker and sadder side that catches your breath and makes it easier to understand how these two women ended up where they are now and how the past can sometimes make us the people we become and how important friendship is and who we surround ourselves with. **If you want a story that will stay with you long after you finish it and that will take you by surprise then read this as soon as you can. Breathtaking!***

Janet Gilliard

I love this book. Read it almost in one go. It's the story of Annie and Kate (and a horse called Stumpy!). **The fact that I guessed the twist early on did not detract from the story.** The girls are friends and members of The Cloob. The story is split between Kate and Annie. By the end you are rooting for both of them. I haven't read any Lucy Thompson books but am now going to read her back list.

Emily Wright

An utterly compelling read which I found myself totally immersed in. Humour, secrets and heartache are woven together to create an emotive, refreshing read about how people can run from everything but themselves...

Annie Mulholland has been trying to run from her past and her emotions since the fateful day her mum died. Unable to find peace, Annie helps others find serenity through her alternative therapy work. When charismatic and charming Stephen offers her employment, Annie hopes the heady romance which ensues will finally lead her to happiness.

Kate Brady, with her Irish accent and cheeky cheerfulness, needs sanctuary. In Mark Waverley's eventing stables, surrounded by camaraderie and the healing powers of her new equine friends, Kate glimpses the contentment which has eluded her for so long. As she falls in love with Mark, Kate realises she cannot run from herself forever.

Both Annie and Kate had clear voices in the novel; I felt I knew them. Annie's friendship group was a delight to read about; her friend Claudine in particular has some very funny, cutting lines. This contrasts with the poignant flashbacks to Annie as a young girl, waiting patiently for a mum who will never return. Lucy Robinson builds the plot to a compulsive pace; full of peaks and troughs of emotion. The surprises and deceptions in the novel are cleverly layered, as a reader I was never quite sure what the next twist was going to be. 'The Day We Disappeared' is a captivating and satisfying read.

Ann Quintilla

This is a mystery and a love story that will keep you guessing and wondering.

Annabel (Annie) Mulholland, traumatised by her mother's violent death in the Peak District on Annie's eighth birthday, is trying to rebuild her life with the help of friends. She is working in London as a masseuse and Reiki therapist when she is offered a job by a wealthy, handsome, businessman, Stephen Flint. She falls for Stephen's flattery and charm but he isn't all he appears to be.

Kate Brady has a secret and takes an unpaid job as a stable hand. Although she has no experience working with horses she comes to love Mark Flint's favourite horse, Stumpy. She is a young, nervous, Irish woman who is clearly frightened of something and goes out of her way to merge into the background.

The twist in the tale was unexpected. Will you be able to guess what Katie's secret is? I didn't.

If you like mysteries and romance you will enjoy this story which is well told and well worth reading.

Kathy Martin

After a slow start, this book had me hooked. What I thought was going to be a typical frothy, chic-lit story about ponies and dating soon turned into a bit of a page-turner.

Annie and Kate seem to live lives far removed from each other. How could they know each other? What was their connection? I did eventually guess the twist and as expected, the ending tied up all the loose ends.

Sarah Harper

A well-crafted, edgy and suspenseful romantic read, this takes your average ‘chick-lit’ read to a whole new level.

Two parallel love stories with a twist. ‘The Day We Disappeared’ takes your average ‘chick-lit’ read to a whole new level. Annie’s circle of close friends and unsuitable, rich boyfriend, were reminiscent of the characters in ‘Bridget Jones’s Diary’ however these people are far more rounded and life-like. Annie’s blossoming relationship is like a fairytale romance and she herself is both complex and loveable, you want so much for her to be happy. Whilst Annie’s life appears open and uncomplicated, in contrast Kate’s life is shrouded in secrets from the outset. We don’t know why or how she’s ended up working in a livery yard in the middle of nowhere and we spend most of the book trying to work out what she’s running from. She holds herself back but can’t help falling for her new life in the country, or her new boss. Their relationship is complicated but is made even sweeter because of the obstacles they must overcome. And behind all of this we are drip-fed information about a mysterious young girl who survives a horrific childhood event. But who is she and how does she fit into the story?

I had no idea how these threads would knit together until all was revealed in the final chapters. Lucy Robinson really mastered this story and kept the reader guessing until she was ready to reveal all. I’m fairly sure I held my breath for the final chapters. A well-crafted, edgy and suspenseful romantic read.

Claire Simms

A gripping story about Annie who is mentally scared from a childhood tragedy. When she meets Stephen she thought things were changing for the better but he was not who he seemed to be.

A really good story about Annie, who experienced tragedy at a young age that

has stayed with her, until she met Stephen who offered her the perfect job and a lot more. Things took a turn for the worse for Annie, Stephen was not who she thought he was.

I only wish there was more details on the outcome off Stephen but apart from that a very gripping story.