

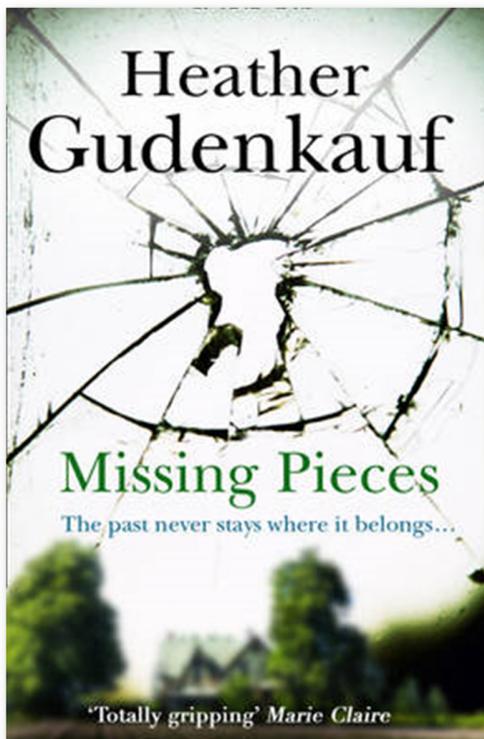


Helping you choose
your next book

Lovereading Reader reviews of **Missing Pieces** By Heather Gudenkauf



Below are the complete reviews, written by Lovereading members.



Edel Waugh

This story begins in the past in a small town and centers around a family, a husband called John, wife, Lydia, son Jack, and daughter Amy. Fast forward to the present day and we meet Jack again. Jack has stayed away from his home town after a tragedy happened there in his youth. He never told anyone in his new life what happened so when he goes back with his wife after his aunt is seriously injured it opens up a whole Pandora's Box of trouble and the problems he ran from so many years ago have found him again. I really enjoyed this book, the story is told in the present day by Jack's wife and she is a curious woman who is determined to find out what really happened to make Jack leave

but she is stirring up trouble.

This was a simmering pot from the very beginning, there is a real sense of unease while reading this book and the plot and characters are superb. I basically sat down and never got up until I finished this. It was hard to know who to trust in the story, making it completely irresistible. I recommend this for everyone! Truly great!

<http://edelwaugh.blogspot.co.uk/2016/02/missing-pieces-by-heather-gudenkauf.html>

Angie Rhodes

Sarah and Jack Quinlan, are a happily married couple with two beautiful daughters living a peaceful life, with no secrets...or so Sarah thought.

A phone call tells Jack that his beloved aunt Julia is now in hospital, after having a nasty fall down the stairs, and is now in a coma. Once Sarah and Jack arrive at his aunt and uncle's house and the family have welcomed them, things change.

Jack and his family have secrets about his parent's death, the story Jack told her, is completely different and now his aunt's fall looks deliberate, someone in the family is a killer... but who?

This kept me guessing and changing my mind, as to who the killer was, and the ending was not the one I expected!

A great book, one to curl up with on any evening.

Judith Waring

This is a very easy book to read and one that I got into immediately from the first page and I was able to finish it within a few days of starting it. The author has a lovely way of writing that flows effortlessly, the story unfolds rapidly from page to page and I didn't want to put the novel down.

There are several red herrings dotted throughout to throw you off the scent of 'whodunnit' and it really does keep you guessing the whole way through and you can't believe what the truth is.

I certainly hadn't an inkling beforehand as to who the real killer was eventually going to be but I did find the reason given as to why the first murder had happened was somewhat unbelievable was a bit lame and convoluted in my eyes.

But apart from this fairly weak ending which didn't do justice to the rest of the story I did enjoy the book overall and it was good to be introduced to a new author.

Liz Bloomer

A page turner of a book! A story of complicated family history which erupts 20 years later when another tragedy occurs. Gripping!

This book had me gripped from the start. The storyline is well written and the

reader is always second guessing who the killer is and thrown off the scent at every turn. It is a story of relationships between family members and particularly between the main character, Sarah, and her husband. It is Sarah who ends up unraveling the mystery surrounding her husband's gruesome past. The emotions felt, when she found out the secrets that her husband had been keeping for the whole of their married life, were well described. The twists and turns in the storyline kept you reading and all in all it was a thoroughly good read!

Victoria Whish

Small town thriller provides plenty of twists and turns. Sarah and husband Jack return to his hometown following a family emergency and find their marriage under threat as secrets resurface.

This thriller about small town secrets and a woman's search to find out the truth about the husband she thought she knew and his family, is fast-paced and tautly written and doesn't let up until the final denouement.

Sarah returns to her husband Jack's hometown following his aunt's involvement in an accident and soon realises that the tragic events from his childhood that he shared with her, may not be the full picture.

Heather Gudenkauf cleverly builds the suspense and red herrings so that by two-thirds of the way through the book, you're not sure who or what to believe. I personally would have liked a bit more background to Sarah and Jack's relationship and life together back in Montana, prior to their trip to Penny Falls but that is a minor quibble and I guess was a necessary omission in order to keep the action coming and momentum flowing.

If you like murder mysteries with an intriguing cast of potential suspects and a sympathetic main character with a rollercoaster ride of discovery, then you'll enjoy this book and the pages will fly by.

www.thewhishlist.co.uk

You can follow Victoria on Twitter: @VicKWhish

Vanessa Wild

An enjoyable psychological mystery which kept me turning the pages until the end.

This is an enjoyable psychological thriller about family secrets and their

consequences.

The story begins quite slowly, feeding the reader with little segments of intriguing information as it goes along. As the buildup increases, it fills in the missing pieces of the equation and leads to an exciting finale. Most of the action does actually take place within the last couple of chapters or so, but this adds to the suspense. It does what it says on the tin as they say! There are a couple of grey areas which I did let go over my head - I just went with the flow. It's an easy and entertaining read which kept me turning the pages until the end.

I thought this was an engaging mystery which should appeal to those who prefer a good plot to a chiller thriller.

You can follow Vanessa on Twitter: @Butterflybiblio

Suzanne Marsh

I am a great fan of Heather Gudenkauf. *I have read 'The Weight of Silence' and 'These Things Hidden'. I also bought my daughter 'One Breath Away' to read.*

You can imagine the scene with the May sunshine and Lydia making Waffles topped with strawberries and freshly whipped cream.

But everything went horrible wrong.

What I liked about this story is that quite a lot goes on in Penny Falls, Iowa with quite a few family secrets.

www.ireadnovels.wordpress.com

Jane Brown

This mystery was indeed a puzzle that will have the reader trying to find out just who dunnit. Helen Gudenkauf so pulled this off.

The author returns after the fantastic 'Little Mercies' which I so enjoyed.

This book 'Missing Pieces', will not disappoint – multifaceted mystery you cannot put down and one which the reader tries so many times to work out just whodunit. It is a puzzle with intrigue.

It is the story of a husband whose mother was found many years ago in a cellar of his home, and it is shrouded in mystery. Thus begins unanswered questions, the past and just what is revealed as the mystery unfolds.

The author has written this mystery well and the reader becomes tangled up in a web of mystery.

Due for publication 10th March 2016, this will undoubtedly go straight into the top ten.

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

Nicola Kingswell

Secrets buried in the past refuse to stay buried forever.

After his aunt suffers an unfortunate accident, Jack and Sarah Quinlan find themselves back in Jack's home town, a place Jack left many years before after his mother was found murdered. When Aunt Julia dies and Jack's sister Amy is arrested for her murder, Sarah starts to dig into the family history. Assisted by a helpful friend in the sheriff's office, Sarah accesses the original case file and sets about finding the truth about Jack's mother's murder.

*This was **an atmospheric novel, with a cast of interesting characters. I thought the twists and turns were good and it kept me guessing right to the end.** I liked the psychological elements of who in the family could Sarah really trust, but she seemed to give up on Jack a bit too quick for my liking. The end also felt a little hurried after such great scene setting had gone before it.*

Overall a good whodunnit with some edge of your seat psychological twists.

Charlotte Donovan

So gripping it will have you on the edge of your seat! Amazingly good and also incredibly touching. A story about a woman just wanting to get to know the man she calls her husband more. 10/10 from me!

'Missing Pieces' was something completely different for me right from the get go! I have never been into murder mysteries and I have never seemed to be able to get into them, but, I wanted to challenge myself yet again.

So, when the opportunity came up to be able to review this book, my first initial thoughts about the book itself came from reading the blurb and I have to admit this did set the book itself up incredibly well, making me just as excited to see how this was going to plan out. Well, it delivered.

Right from the start you are thrown full swing into the book and the murder mystery itself, however you may not be 100% aware of this at the time, the mayhem then just carries on from there! I love the way Heather has written this book, she constantly keeps you guessing as to who the killer could be, I changed my mind 3 times before I found out who it was at the end! Which to me, makes a good murder mystery book as it kept me on my toes the whole way through.

Each character is as interesting as the next and you feel yourself warm incredibly closely to the main character, Sarah. Being as confused and upset in this situation as she is she takes on the role of detective very nicely and, I actually think it suits her more than her journalist job role she is originally given, it brings out her personality.

The book did not end how I actually anticipated it to end, which threw me, but in the best way! I loved the ending so much as it just pieced everything together so well. I said to myself I envied people who could write a good murder mystery book and I definitely envy Heather's ability to be able to pull this amazing story off.

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

Michelle McKernan

I really enjoyed this. It's pacy with believable characters and I hadn't got a clue about who had done it, which I love.

Megan Abbott

One of the best Mysteries I have read in a long time.

*After reading the first couple of chapters, I was immediately hooked in trying to unravel the mystery. Sarah Quinlan's husband, Jack, has been haunted for decades by the untimely death of his mother when he was just a teenager, her body found in the cellar of their family farm, the circumstances a mystery. But when his aunt Julia is in an accident, hospitalized in a coma, Jack and Sarah are forced to confront the past that they have long evaded. I really enjoyed the aspect of romance which featured in the novel, but doesn't overpower the mystery surrounding the plot. **I would definitely recommend this book to anyone that loves a thrilling and gripping mystery.***