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LoveReading Reader reviews of **Missing, Presumed** by Susie Steiner

Below are the complete reviews, written by LoveReading members.

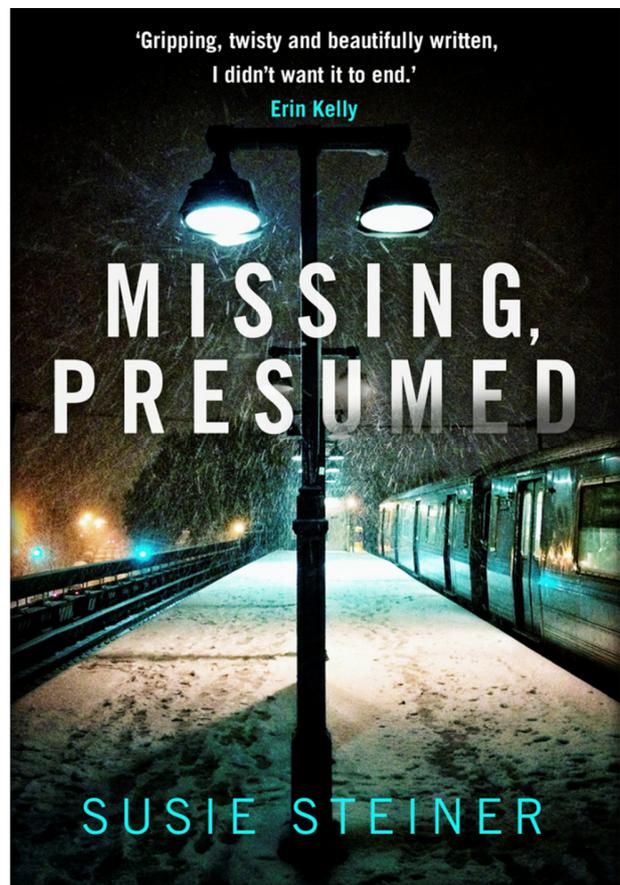
Phyllippa Smithson

A very original take on the very popular mystery genre by focusing as much as those left behind as uncovering the truth of the victim. Captivating.

Seen through the eyes of 4 key characters, the disappearance of Edith Hind is revealed. Miriam full of guilt that she has failed as a Mum and desperate to find out what has happened to her Cambridge educated daughter, Edith. Helena, Edith's close friend and plagued by her own guilt for two attempts at establishing a relationship. DS Manon Bradshaw, assigned the case but full of her own sense of failures in her personal life. And DC Davy Walker, who evolved through the course of the investigation from a happy-go-lucky individual to one who wakes up to the naivety of how he had been approaching life. This as a result of being in the investigating team.

Not that Edith's disappearance is ignored or taken with less meaning than those she leaves behind, but how intriguing it is to observe what it means to those in her life.

Incredibly engaging, 'Missing, Presumed' is unique by cleverly highlighting the reality of losing someone in mysterious circumstances.



Gavin Dimmock

A missing student, a high profile father, a body. Can DS Manon Bradshaw stay on top of the case and her personal life?

Student Edith Hind has vanished, signs of a violent struggle left behind, and DS Manon Bradshaw is thrust into a high profile case. Media interest rapidly builds and Sir Ian Hind uses his political connections to influence the investigation into his daughters' disappearance. And when a body turns up, the pressure on Manon really builds.

*Susie Steiner's second novel, her first Bradshaw case, moves along at a rollicking pace, the pages keep turning as you eagerly lap up her plot. I especially liked the author's use of language and "quirky" phrases to wonderfully describe scenes; "an unmarked car that wears its snow like a jaunty hat" is one of my favourites. This book is **an absolute joy to read and lose yourself in.***

From the very first chapter you know you're going to enjoy spending time with DS Manon Bradshaw; she is a truly likeable character, yes she is flawed, as many detectives are, but her flaws are endearing and give her greater depth and, for me, honesty than some other fictional detectives. She's a grump, prone to mood swings, is desperate to find a partner, estranged from her own family and is terrific fun!

The supporting characters are also well defined and fully fleshed and, where required, sympathetic or unappealing in equal measure. DC Davy Walker, our heroine's colleague, is especially good and I liked how his character grew. Steiner has created a fine cast in this absorbing tale.

This is an enjoyable, believable page turner and leaves you wanting more from the delightful DS Manon and co.

<https://themoustachioedreader.wordpress.com>

You can follow Gavin on Twitter: @Gav_The_Bantam

Ray Orgill

Detective Sergeant Manon Bradshaw is the new kid on the block as far as police investigation is concerned and she is good at it. 'Missing, Presumed' deals with the disappearance under very strange circumstances of Edith Hunt, a mature but not yet grown-up student who has been mixing with some very questionable people in her capacity as a prison visitor. Manon is beginning to feel "on the

*shelf" as her ventures into dating are not finding her a husband. The father of the missing Edith is very pushy and has some contacts in high places so the whole investigation is rushed along sometimes in a direction in which it does not want to travel. **It is a truly puzzling investigation with a startling conclusion which leaves Manon still without her romance but with a consolation. I think this is not the last we will hear of Manon Bradshaw.***

Lynda DeFreitas

This novel is gripping and gritty. It had me hooked from the beginning. There are so many possibilities and false leads. There are twists and turns galore. I couldn't put it down.

The police, the press, the family and friends are all portrayed in a realistic way. I particularly liked the characterisation of Manon and Miriam, and the description of the press as "black crows" was appropriate in the circumstances.

The denouement is a breath-taker. I thought I had begun to realise how the plot would come together but I was so wrong.

I thoroughly recommend this book, and I'm looking forward to further stories featuring DS Bradshaw.

Margaret Freeman

I loved this gripping and intense crime thriller!

I was doubtful that I would like 'Missing, Presumed' as it's written in the present tense, which I usually find irritating. But I soon forgot the tense and became totally immersed in the story. I loved it.

Edith Hind, a beautiful Cambridge post-grad has disappeared. Her boyfriend had returned to their flat finding the front door open and a spatter of blood on the kitchen floor. It's told from different characters' viewpoint, beginning with DS Manon Bradshaw on the Major Incident Team, a lonely disillusioned single woman approaching forty, who overcomes her insomnia by listening to police reports on her radio.

Edith's mother is distraught and her father, Sir Ian Hind, physician to the Royal Family and a friend of the Home Secretary, adds to the pressure the police are under to find Edith. Edith's friend, Helena comes under suspicion and known offenders are interviewed, but after the first 72 hours she is still missing. The

team's urgency is cooling as the possibility that Edith is still alive diminishes. Then a dog walker finds a body in the Ouse, near Ely; is it Edith? The search for the killer is intensified.

*My only criticism of the book is that I didn't think the final section, 'One Year Later' tying up the ends was necessary. But apart from that I found it gripping and intense with a multi-layered plot. I thought the characters were fully rounded, believable people, explored with psychological depth - in particular Manon Bradshaw stands out. **And, best of all, it is beautifully written.***

www.booksplease.org

Carol Peace

A great read which will have you on the edge of your seat.

The book starts off with a young woman missing from her flat and when her boyfriend gets home and finds the door open and broken glass along with a bloodstain he calls the police. DS Manon Bradshaw has the task of finding Edith Hind and under pressure as Edith is from a very well connected family; will Sir Ian and his wife Miriam interfere in the investigation? The whole case seems to have stalled when a body is found and Manon is called to the scene but it is not what she thought. Manon takes time out on New Year's Eve and we glimpse into her home life. The questions are still to be answered though such as who has the PAYG telephone that Edith had been ringing and what significance is Edith's friendship with an Ex Con? Will she ever get to the bottom of the case?

*I loved the book and I couldn't wait to get to the end, it just flowed and I felt a bit lost at the end as I had been so involved it was odd to get back to the real world. **I can't wait to read more of DS Manon Bradshaw.***

Susan Andrews

I'll start off by saying I loved this book. It's a real page turner and gave me some late nights!

Emma Hind goes missing; from the evidence it looks like she's been abducted. A complication is that her father, is Sir Hind and knows people in government, so added pressure to D. S. Manon. Each chapter is told from one of the people involved but not in the first person, so you really get to know the characters, who are memorable. This is a literary crime novel, she uses some long words, one of which I had to look up! But none the worse for that. In parts funny and

moving and what an end! I certainly didn't see coming. I hope she will be writing another with the same characters, I will be waiting!

Marie Fitzgerald

More than a stunning dark crime novel. If you are looking for a feel good read then this is not it.

I enjoyed this book. It's very well written. Each chapter is told from the viewpoint of one of the main characters, which made me suspicious of everyone. Manon, who is leading the investigation into a missing woman, is my favourite character and the one I found most plausible. She is by no means perfect – that's why I liked her!

Aside from the various turns of the investigation and the drip feed of evidence that emerges, it felt to me as if every single relationship fails. If you are looking for a feel good read then this is not it. The only time a relationship appears to be going well there is an adverse effect on professionalism and ultimately this has negative consequences. It does make you wonder whether it is possible to have it all, particularly in the police force, and whether people in relationships are all a sham and deceitful.

It was impossible for me to guess the two surprise twists at the end. One I found believable and the other very unexpected to the point of thinking it's a miracle that any complicated crimes are fully solved.

Cleo Bannister

A deep dive into a missing person investigation.

I enjoyed this slow-burner crime novel which follows the investigation into the disappearance of Edith Hind who vanished after a night out with her best friend Helena. The investigation doesn't have much to go on, there is no trace of Edith whose front door was open. Inside investigators find a trail of blood, two wine glasses, one broken and all her coats on the floor.

DS Manon Bradshaw is part of the investigation, a single woman aged 39 who can be on the abrasive side with her colleagues, but will she be able to solve the mystery.

I'm a fan of crime novels that handle multiple viewpoints well – this novel has many from Lady Hind, Edith's mother, to Davy from the police, her friend Helena and an assortment of other characters this novel really feels like you get

to know the characters and understand the emotions of all involved. And what a bunch of characters they are, ranging from criminals to the head of the Home Office, university graduates to men who do 'business' this book manages to avoid easy stereotypes better than many.

I found the writing style a little stilted at first but that issue quickly resolved itself as I became more involved as the suspects mounted and were systematically investigated by the police.

If you like your crime fiction to take you to the heart of an investigation, you need to look out for this one!

<http://cleopatra loves books.wordpress.com>

Farah Alam

This book is one of the most interesting crime fiction I've read so far with an unexpected ending. Really enjoyed this book and can't wait to see what else Susie Steiner writes.

Edel Waugh

*This is the story about a woman called Edith Hind who's mysteriously vanishing causes a ripple effect to many people's lives leading the reader to very unexpected places and circumstances. What starts as a seemingly straightforward missing persons case soon has the authorities running around in different places and having to come into the most unlikely of people in relation to Edith. Edith was a far more complex person than any one person knew but her actions effected many. **This was a very thought provoking book about how are actions alone can affect the lives of others** but it is also bittersweet showing the reader that even the most unlikely of people have the biggest hearts.*

<http://edelwaugh.blogspot.ie/2015/12/missing-presumed-by-susie-steiner-review.html?m=1>

Helen Treadwell

This book is about the hunt for a missing girl, Edith Hind.

I was impressed that the book is written from the point of view of several different characters: Manon, (a Detective Sergeant involved in the case), Davy

(a Detective Constable), Miriam (Edith's mother), and Helena (a friend of Edith's).

I thought this was an interesting device as it enabled the reader to observe the case from several different angles. I also liked the way Manon comes across as a properly rounded character, you see all aspects of her life not just when she's on duty. She is human and fallible just like all of us.

I thoroughly enjoyed this book, it kept me hooked and there is a twist to keep the reader on their toes as well. I would love to read more novels featuring Manon Bradshaw.

Linda Amos

A missing person, blood in the house, an illicit affair. There are secrets in the family but will they survive intact? An excellent story with a great twist at the end.

Edith is reported missing after a drunken night out. The front door to her house is open and blood is found on broken glass in the bin in the kitchen. Under suspicion are her boyfriend, Will; best friend, Helen, with whom she had a short relationship; Graham Garfield, a professor from her university. Her father is a friend of a Government minister and isn't frightened of pushing the police to bring the case to a conclusion. Ex-prisoners, a suspected drug dealer and people traffickers get into the mix. The DI trying to solve the case gets involved with a young boy whose brother is missing. Are the cases connected?

The writing is excellent and descriptive; easy to read although it is hard in places. A great twist at the end. It shows how a family can cope through an emotional event and the secrets among them.

I look forward to other books from this author.

Rachel Bridgeman

A superb debut thriller, the missing girl, Edith Hind, is seen through the perspective of Manon Bradshaw, lead detective on the investigation into her disappearance and family and friends.

It's a cracking thriller where you are as invested in the mystery of the disappearance of Edith Hind, a girl who on the surface has it all but literally vanishes overnight, leaving behind a suspicious scene that suggest at best an abduction, at worst foul play.

Into view steps DS Manon Bradshaw, a detective haunted by the Soham murders and keenly aware of the race against time to not only find Edith but make sure the police are beyond criticism as Edith's family have government level connections. The narrative skilfully bounces back and fore between Manon and the people who knew Edith best, and apparently, knew her very little. An intriguing start to what is hoped will be a series of Manon Bradshaw investigations, I very much enjoyed this.

You can follow Rachel on Twitter: @RACHELb75

Vicki Sharman

Enjoyable, light crime thriller that is fast and page-turning, and not predictable. The main character, Manon, was likeable and very human with lots of emotional rollercoaster moments! A good holiday read.

Hannah Leslie

Amazing writing, storytelling and characters! Manon Bradshaw is the new Bridget Jones of the police force. I cannot rate this book any more highly than 5 out of 5 stars. **A must read!**

I was lucky enough to win 'Missing, Presumed' through a competition on Lovereading. I am ashamed to say that until the competition I had neither heard of Susie Steiner or her book.

How fortunate was I to win! Now not only do I have an amazing book sitting on my bookshelf, I also have a new author to follow.

So where do I start with this amazing book? The beginning is probably a good place to start I hear you say!

For me there were two stories going on throughout. Firstly, the missing girl called Edith; a privileged girl from a wealthy family with seemingly no worries or stresses. What has happened to her? Who would want to harm her? The clock is ticking and the first 72 hours are always the most critical in a missing person's case.

As the story progresses we are introduced to all the people who are close to Edith and the impact her disappearance has on them. The torment and pain of the unknown on her family is beautifully written and enabled the reader to connect on some level with these characters.

Secondly we have Manon Bradshaw; a Detective Sergeant, who is smart and

sassy but who is in need of love and security was so relatable to me!

Manon was real; Susie Steiner wrote her in such a way that I could connect with her, even want to be friends with her.

I felt her pain and struggles along the way and when she received the text from Alan Prenderghast saying he was looking for something exceptional, I wanted to give him what for and tell Manon she was better off without him - so powerful was the writing and storytelling!

So here you have a missing girl, and Manon (who is lost on some level also) looking for her. Their two stories weaved throughout the book beautifully.

Follow Hannah on Twitter: @hannahjleslie

Geraldine Gibson

*Just finished reading 'Missing Presumed' by Susie Steiner. It's a different sort of crime thriller in that the theme is developed with beautiful observant language, perspectives from different characters which blend together to enhance the story and precisely descriptive settings. **A million miles from the usual 'what happens next' narrative of much of the genre. I can't remember when I've enjoyed a book to much!***

Follow Geraldine on Twitter: @morphic43

Hilary Durham

Excellent well written thriller! Keeps you on your toes till the end!** Enjoy. A great thriller which is well written in an interesting perspective from the different characters. Each chapter is named by who it's written. The layers of the plot are woven together in a clever and intriguing style! No spoilers here but just to say **I was gripped the whole way through! Well worth reading!

@moodross

Helen Jones

***We need more detective stories like this. Compelling and well written with a slightly messed up female detective. Just Brilliant. A crime story with a difference.** A missing rather spoilt girl from a well-connected family and the police pull out all stops to find her or even a body. This is so*

well written and believable. The central character Detective Manon Bradshaw leads a complicated somewhat flawed life but she plods along trying to solve this crime with intelligent detection skills. The narrative in each chapter is by a different character and the overall picture develops slowly giving an insight into the character of the missing girl. I Love a gripping crime novel and this is perfect.