Lovereading Reader reviews of No Time For Goodbye by Linwood Barclay

Below are the complete reviews, written by Lovereading members.

Nix Hudson

Wow! Amazing book, read in one sitting! Full of suspense, keeps you guessing till the end.

Luckily had finished a book so got stuck into this as soon as it arrived, was hooked from the first chapter. It starts with Cynthia Archer, a typical teen, rebelling against her parents by drinking and parking up with the wrong kind of boy. She wakes up after a terrible row with them to discover they and her brother have vanished into thin air, no trace of them anywhere. We carry on with her life 25 years later, and through the eyes of her husband, see how she is still struggling to cope with the unusual loss of her family, after taking part in a TV documentary about it, Cynthia inadvertently opens a whole can of worms and the events of that night start to unfold. I read this in one go as I just couldn’t put it down, was like watching a film and needing to get to the end. ‘No Time for Goodbye’ was very well written, fast paced and extremely exciting. I recommend to anyone who loves good whodunit!

Ann

Gripping story about a missing family.

This is a mystery about a girl whose family disappeared one night.
Once I had started reading it I didn't want to put it down and resisted the temptation to read the final chapter before I was halfway through the story.

The novel begins with the disappearance of Cynthia’s family and then jumps to her being married with a daughter. The story is told from the perspective of her husband Terry who entertains serious doubts about his wife’s sanity due to her paranoia about their daughter, her claims that they are being watched and her confrontation with a man in a shopping mall who she believes is her missing brother.

I did not guess the denouement and was very surprised by the final revelation. A riveting and excellent mystery story.

Sue Burton

Excellent read and has you gripped to the end as do all the authors previous novels.

I really enjoyed this book albeit in some parts it got a little bit boring. The characters were great and I could relate to some of their fears for their daughter Grace and how something from the past can have a huge effect on peoples outlook as they get older. I have read all the authors other books and would recommend this to all new and existing readers.

Pam Kennedy

I absolutely adored this book it has everything I love in a book. I could hardly put it down and when I did it kept coming to me. Cannot wait to read the sequel.

Brilliant, brilliant, brilliant, you could say I loved this book and I did. The book has everything. It gripped me from the very first page it has everything. I could hardly put it down and when I did I still kept thinking about it. After years of reading many sorts of books I usually have an idea what is going on this I did not. I cannot wait to read the sequel, if it is only half as good as this book it will be brilliant.

Angie Rhodes

Linwood Barclays thriller, is a creepy ‘look behind the door, under
the bed’ book! It is a great read, with lots of twists and turns.

Found and brought home by her father, on arriving home, she yells at her father she hates him, storms upstairs and slams the door! The next morning, on waking Cynthia can hear no noise from anywhere in the house.

Going downstairs, she is stunned to see the house empty, no sign of breakfast, no note, and looking outside, no cars. Both of her parents cars have gone. Thinking that maybe one of them had taken her brother to school, she gets herself ready and goes into lessons. No brother at school, and on returning home, still no parents.

This is just the start of the nightmare that is going haunt Cynthia, for years to come.

A haunting, thriller which will have you holding your breath, and give your arms goosebumps, checking the doors and windows are locked, just one thing, don’t read it late at night.

Rachel Hall

‘No Time For Goodbye’ is a brilliant thriller, fast paced and with so many twists and turns that I was guessing and second guessing until the very end. The opening premise had me hooked right from the start: a teenage Cynthia Bigge argues with her parents and storms off to her bedroom, only to wake and find her parents and brother have gone the next morning without leaving any note or other clues behind. Despite being happily married with her own daughter, the passion to know the truth still burns within Cynthia and is brought to the fore again after she agrees to take part in a TV documentary re-enacting the case. It is after the airing of the show that the curious series of events seem to happen which serve to crank the tension up a level.

The strange happenings are well thought out and never allow you to lose focus on the story and result in a private investigator being hired and the eventual solving of the puzzle. I particularly liked that the story was told from Cynthia’s husband Terry’s perspective. Although there were times when you wanted to hear the voice of Cynthia describing her raw emotions, that it came from Terry allowed me to empathise with the stresses placed on the marriage and Cynthia’s new family life.

Having read other books by this author, I can say that I am a fan of his direct, to the point prose, but this story is the ideal introduction for new readers as it
keeps the reader riveted to the very end with its red herrings! Like most
thrillers, the tying up of the plot does stretch the limits of plausibility and
critical readers will be looking to pick up on this. However, enjoy this novel for
what it is – a rip-roaring story which will through you off the scent numerous
times, but have you fixated until the very end.

Jan Kirkcaldy

Once started this book was hard to put down. Totally gripping it tells the
story of a family who disappeared overnight 25 years ago, leaving just person
behind – 14 year old Cynthia. Now married with a young daughter she agrees
to take part in a television documentary about the event. From then on a
number of strange and inexplicable events happen and if anything the mystery
deepens. Cynthia and her long suffering husband Terry (who tells much of the
story in narrative) soon wonder if they were right to stir up memories again.

I certainly didn’t see what was coming as the various twists and
turns made the ultimate conclusion impossible to predict. Were the
missing mother, father and son murdered, had they been kidnapped or had they
chosen to disappear? I never worked out the surprising ending. A truly great
thriller not to be missed. Linwood Barclay is one of the best thriller writers and
I’m looking forward to his future books.

Janet Gilliard

I have read all of Linwood Barclay books and this is amongst the
best of them.

I read it almost in one sitting. It starts with the disappearance of Cynthia’s
family. The story continues with the arrival of a letter 25 years later. The story
unfolds at a breakneck speed. I recommend this highly and can’t wait for the
sequel which is due out soon.

Sophia Ufton

Wow, amazing story... I had to read all this in one sitting, I just
couldn’t put it down.

I don’t wish to give anything away with this book, so all I should say is please
read it. It will be the best thing you ever did.
I am in a long line of readers that really enjoy Linwood Barclay's novels. He is one of the crime authors that readers like to read and review a lot of his books. For any readers that have not a read a Linwood Barclay novel I highly recommend reading ‘No Time For Goodbye’.

I was eagerly turning pages after pages of this fast-paced novel wanting to know more.

The story plunges into a scene where teenager Cynthia has been drinking in her boyfriends car and she is pulled out of her boyfriends car by her angry father. Once Cynthia and her father arrive home it is one the crazy moments Cynthia shouts I wish you were dead.

In the morning Cynthia wakes with a hangover and is worried that her parents will question her about the night before. But as Cynthia goes downstairs from room to room, her parents and her brother are not in. Cynthia believes her mother must of taken her brother to school and that her dad must of gone on another business trip. There is no note for Cynthia to say where her family have gone. The story takes shapes that it appears that without any explanation her family have disappeared.

Twenty-five years later Cynthia agrees to take part in a TV documentary entering the house she used to live in with her family before they disappeared. Cynthia suffering from heart-break as she torn apart from the tragedy of her missing family is hoping that by doing the TV documentary that somebody will remember something and help her find her family.

Phylippa Smithson

To say this was unputdownable is an understatement. What a read!

How can you fall asleep knowing your parents and brother are alive in the same home and awake to find them gone? Therein lies the reason this really was a most amazing, fast-paced, full of red herrings, unanswered questions etc etc book.

Cynthia falls asleep in an underage drunken stupor after her father is forced to drive the streets looking for her when she fails to return home at the hour agreed with her parents, after a night with her boy-friend. The final row before her drink induced sleep are the last words she exchanges with her Mum, Patricia, her Father, Clayton and her elder brother Todd. When she wakes up,
she wanders the rooms of the family home in search of her parents and brother but there is no sign of life, nor note explaining the reason for their absence and over the coming days and weeks and years, no re-appearance of the key people in Cynthia’s life.

25 years later, Cynthia, now married remains totally confused as to what occurred that resulted in the disappearance of her family.

And so, the story ebbs and flows from the past, to the current as some questions start to get answered, triggered by a TV program that re-enacts the final days before the disappearance.

‘No Time for Good-bye’ is one of those 'wow' stories that you come across and never want to finish, despite a desperate need to know the truth.

In my opinion, a must read!

Sue Broom

Not having read any of Linwood Barclay’s work before, I was delighted with this opportunity to review his first novel. What an impressive debut it is! I can see why he has become a best-seller.

As a quick, light read I really can’t fault it. Believable characters and dialogue. Good pace - the story rattles along, plenty of twists and red herrings along the way, to a slightly far-fetched but neat conclusion. I can’t imagine where the sequel is going to go – I guess I need to buy it to find out.

Les Warriner

A fantastic read!

25 years ago a fourteen year old girl woke to find that her parents and brother had disappeared in the night. She has never given up hope of finding the truth and has been the subject of a TV documentary in an effort to find some fresh clue as to what might have happened.

It sounds like a scenario that would tax even Jonathan Creek! Barclay weaves a wonderful tale at breakneck speed through trials and tribulations before revealing what really happened that night, why and how. I was drawn in through the whole process, unable to put the book down for any length of time.

A truly fantastic read.
Gavin Dimmock - http://themoustachioedreader.wordpress.com

Her whole family disappeared overnight.

Now, twenty five years later, she may find some answers.

The great thing about being a reviewer for LoveReading is that the selection of books on offer makes you choose authors and genres that are new to you or that you have not yet got around to reading.

Such is the case for this book by Linwood Barclay. He is an author whose name I have been aware of for some time now and have put off picking up. Not because I didn’t fancy his titles, more that I was more excited by other books and writers available. This book has whet my appetite for more from Mr Barclay.

Cynthia was a teenaged girl when she awoke one morning to discover her family had vanished. Her mother, father and brother had disappeared leaving no trace at all. In the twenty five years since they went missing, Cynthia had heard nothing. Until now.

I rather enjoyed this plot; it rattled along splendidly and I finished it inside a few days. I have read a few better thrillers, and many, many worse ones, but this was an engaging and entertaining read. You could term it as a “page turner”.

Barclay writes with a smooth, contemporary style that pulls you in to the story. This tale is told in the first person, the narrator is Cynthia’s husband, and the storyline offers plenty of action and tension with some twisty bends in the road. He creates a believable scenario and the resulting plot is enjoyable.

I am looking forward to the follow up book.

Ray Orgill

This mystery starts on the first page of the book and remains a mystery until the last. Cynthia Archer is something of a wayward child and running wild. On the night in question she is caught by her father in the back of a car with a boy and a fierce row ensues. She goes to bed the worse for a night's drinking and falls asleep. In the morning she wakes up to find that her father, mother and brother, in fact her entire family, have disappeared without leaving any clue. We join up again with Cynthia as a married woman with her own daughter and
when one or two happenings have caused her to revisit the disappearance, filling her with a wish to discover the truth. Now the search begins and there are many disappointments along the way leaving her and all those around her wondering about her sanity. **A very plausible and believable story which is difficult to put down but a pleasure to return to.**

Edel Waugh

I am a big fan of this author already and I was an even bigger fan after reading this. This is the story of a girl called Cynthia, the beginning of the story is told through her eyes. After a night out she woke to find her family gone. Fast forward many years later and the story is continued by her husband, and now the past is back to haunt them! **This is one of those books that completely engulfs you until you get to the end and then you keep thinking about it after you have finished.** If this is the first book you have read by this author you are in for a treat, if you were already a fan then you won't be disappointed. **An eerie, thrilling, adrenaline ride that's not to be missed!**

Hilary Nuth

**A great read! ‘No Time for Goodbye’ doesn't falter and has all the ingredients to keep you hooked 'til the end!**

‘No Time for Goodbye’ tells the story of teenager Cynthia, who wakes up one morning to find her parents and brother have just disappeared without a trace. 25 years later, Linwood Barclay uses Cynthia’s husband to tell her tragic story. There could be any number of reasons for their disappearance, but neither her family nor the reason why they disappeared have ever been discovered...until now.

I really enjoyed reading ‘No Time for Goodbye’. The plot didn't falter at all and kept my attention throughout. I liked the fact that even minor characters such as Tess and Rolly had interesting stories to tell which were integral to the unravelling of the plot. I can't wait to read the sequel!

Lisa Faulkner

Linwood Barclay is the master of suspense and exciting thrillers. This book does not disappoint! A roller coaster of a story which
leaves the reader guessing right to the very last minute. ‘No Time For Goodbye’ is a real winner!

Sarah Harper

The perfect, expertly crafted thriller, I defy anyone to stop reading after the first chapter. Brilliant characters, exceptional plot, superb book.

The perfect, expertly crafted thriller. Giving the reader just enough information at each stage of the story, just enough to keep you guessing. It’s the sort of book which you’ll find yourself thinking about even when you’re not reading it, trying to figure out what can possibly have caused the young girl’s family to disappear off the face of the earth while she slept in the next room, 25 years ago. You’ll also be trying to work out when you can get to read the next chapter! The opening disappearance of Cynthia’s family was brilliant. I defy anyone to stop reading after the first chapter. This book is truly unputdownable. Twenty five years on, Cynthia’s whole life has been haunted and shaped by that single night but a strange series of events seem set to finally reveal the truth. Fantastically written, the story holds on to its secrets until the bitter end. The interspersed chapters by unknown characters heightened the mystery and I didn’t have a clue until all was revealed. Brilliant characters, exceptional plot and overall a superb book. Bring on the next Linwood Barclay!

Linda Benner

Keeps you guessing right until the end. Is Cynthia telling the truth, or not?

As a teenager Cynthia wakes one morning to find her entire family has disappeared.

Twenty five years on and Cynthia is married with a daughter, but her past is brought back to haunt her by a television news show. This makes everything real and painful again. She cannot be happy until she finds answers.

The book deals throughout with raw emotions, and Cynthia’s are particularly palpable as we read of deceit, fear, honesty, devotion. It also allows us to be privy to the workings of a strong relationship between a man and woman.

A superb read for anyone who enjoys a mystery which is not beyond the realms of possibility.
Jenny Shirley

**Fantastic, page turner of a book! I loved this book, right from the start the story and characters are real, believable, and you want to know how their story ends!**

'No Time For Goodbye' was a great book. I’d never read any by Linwood Barclay before but I will definitely be reading more of his now. One of the main things I liked about this book is that the characters are very real, the way they react to the situation and to each other is believable and human and that in turn draws you in and connects you to the character and what they are going through. A few times I thought I had predicted the ending but there were enough small, simple twists to prove me wrong and set this book apart from other crime writers. Ultimately I loved reading it! It was a real page turner and the story flowed, never trailing off or getting distracted by other things, it was so easy to read and therefore easy to enjoy. I can’t really fault it, I loved the ending even though it left me with a lump in my throat and a tear in my eye. I can’t wait to read more of his after this. All in all it’s a fantastic, all round, read that I would thoroughly recommend!

Ailsa Hindhaugh

I am unsure how to take this book. Although the book is expertly written and the characters were decent and fairly likeable, I found the way the small girl came across as being very intellectual not very believable for being an eight year old.

**I did find that I just had to continue reading until I found out what actually happened and felt it was a roller-coaster ride that kept guessing until the end.**

The reason I feel slightly let down is due to some inconsistences that didn’t really go anywhere. (How can a family member be dying one minute then fine the next?). These inconsistences did make me say “Huh, What??” throughout the book and although the ending turned out to be sad (a grab the tissues moment), I still can’t bring myself to come ‘off the fence’ with this one.

On the plus side, I did feel like I was ‘watching’ the plotline unfold (similar to a reality TV show), which I found to be an interesting way to portrait a story.

As an author Linwood Barclay is an amazing and following other books I have read of his, I was slightly let down, expecting one thing but getting something else.

I would rate 'No Time For Goodbye' 3.5 out of 5. I believe the story had great
potential and is still a traditional crime/thriller novel. I think if I hadn’t read the reviews found in newspapers and just picked it up, I would have enjoyed it better.

**Ian Tyreman**

A most excellent read, would recommend without hesitation.

The most spell binding mystery I have read in a very long time. I am so happy to be introduced to this imaginative and creative writer. A novel that intrigues you from the first page. The words spring off the page and draw you into the story for a very emotional ride.