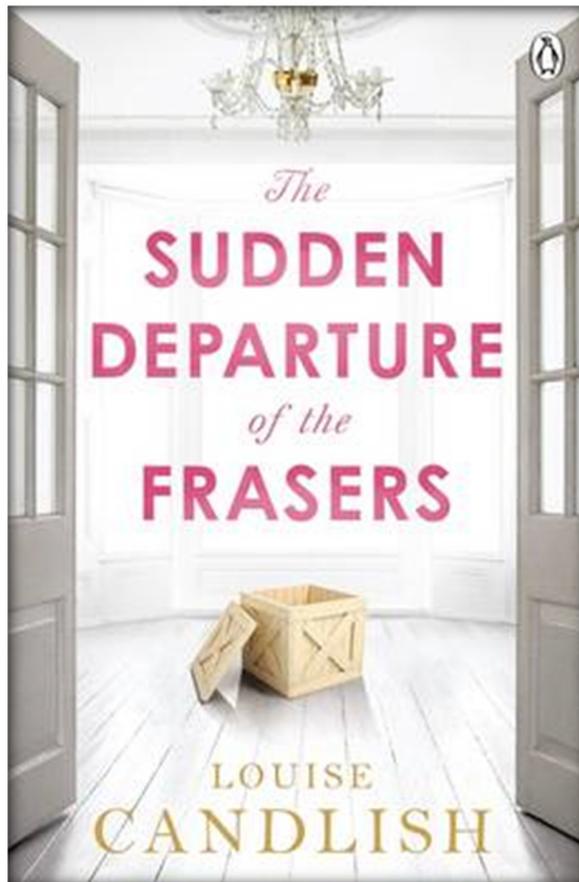


LoveReading Reader reviews of The Sudden Departure of the Frasers by Louise Candlish

Below are the complete reviews, written by LoveReading members.

Hannah Ward

*I am a big fan of Louise Candlish's books. Thank you to LoveReading for sending me a copy of this book. I thoroughly recommend reading one of Louise's books as they are brilliant. I found this one thought provoking, the story has twists and turns that you would never have imagined. You can tell that this has been very well researched into to, and you discover hidden depths throughout the story. I love how the story was set out, going from Amber's story to Christy's story. A **real page turner as you don't know what you will discover on the next page. This story kept me hooked from beginning till the end.***



<http://echoesinanemptyroom.com/2015/04/21/the-sudden-departures-of-the-frasers-by-louise-candlish/>

Janet Gilliard

Wow. This is a fantastic read. I read it in a day. It is told by Christy and Amber in alternate chapters. Christy and her husband Joe buy a house in an up and coming area of London at a knockdown price only to discover that the last owners have seemingly disappeared without trace. Christy becomes obsessed

with finding out exactly what happened and why they left so suddenly. The alternate chapters give Ambers side of the story.

*The twist at the end is unexpected. **I found myself racing through the book wanting to see what happens.***

I haven't read any of Louise Candlish's other novels but will do so now. Please try this, it's well worth it.

Anne Cater

This is a subtle mystery that is woven so incredibly well. Louise Candlish adds a hint of terror and darkness to her characters and the plot is engaging and unique.

This is a totally gripping read, the mystery of why the much-loved, wealthy and seemingly happy Frasers moved out of their beautiful home is central, and the clever way that Louise Candlish slowly reveals the story is spellbinding. Amber and Christy are developed extremely well, two women with nothing in common except for a house, and for me, that house took on a character all of its own. It is the show home of Lime Park Road, the house that everyone else aspires to, yet it has secrets within its walls that creates a darkness and almost sinister feeling for the reader.

I have little in common with the characters in 'The Sudden Departure of the Frasers', and it is a fascinating insight into the world of eye-watering mortgage payments, interior designers, and the battle to have the best. The story will almost make the reader consider just how much sacrifice should be made in the quest to find the perfect home. I've never craved a large house (or a large mortgage), I'm pretty happy with my tiny semi-detached in an average rural market town. Getting a glimpse into this other world through this excellent story has been eye-opening and convinced me that it really doesn't matter where you live, you will always be who you are.

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

Ann Alderton

A compelling psychological mystery about what motivated a seemingly perfect couple to abandon their exquisite home and disappear. The reader is teased and tantalised until the final reveal. Stunning.

'The Sudden Departure of the Frasers' is a compelling and thought-provoking psychological mystery. Christy and Joe Davenport have mortgaged themselves to the hilt to snap up a newly renovated and desirable property in the highly sought after Lime Park Road. The euphoria of the move is dampened by the cool reception they receive from their neighbours and prompts questions as to why the previous owners – the glamorous Amber and her wealthy businessman husband, Jeremy – left so suddenly. Having been made redundant shortly after their arrival, Christy's time and energy are filled with her pursuit for the truth, the account of which is broken up by Amber's flashback of her time at Lime Park Road. The dramatic contrast between the personality types of the two protagonists – the head-turning, confident and decadent Amber who charms the neighborhood and the earnest, loyal, eager-to-please Christy who is rebuffed at every turn – intensifies the suspense. The resolution of the mystery and the big reveal serves to underline how little people know about friends, neighbours and acquaintances and how easily they can construct an alternative version of the truth based on the bias of superficial friendships.

Cleo Bannister

Why did the Frasers leave Lime Grove? Fancy a peek behind some fancy curtains to find out?

If like me you believe the adage 'You never know what goes on behind closed doors', but still long too, you'll love this book!

When Joe and Christy Davenport move into the house of their dreams in Lime Grove they feel that they have fallen on their feet. The house was an absolute bargain and although it will take a while to furnish they are undaunted. When in quick succession two of the neighbours are less than welcoming Christy becomes convinced that their predecessors Jeremy and Amber Fraser had left for sinister reasons.

The two women, Amber and Christy narrate alternate chapters, with Amber's revealing details ahead of Christy's detective work which gives the reader a view inside both women's lives. What this book reveals is the preoccupation of the residents to be seen to be successful and to do that then perhaps the face presented is at best a twist of the truth and at worst a big fat lie. It won't escape any reader to find that neither of our narrators is really satisfied with their lives both yearning for something more to complete them, but at what price?

This book made for compelling reading, I longed to know what the secret was and the writing style which is edged with humour made for more than a

few wry smiles along the way making this a thoroughly satisfying read.

<http://cleopatra loves books.wordpress.co.uk>

Victoria Goldman

An enjoyable read that keeps you guessing to the end. However, a slow burner, rather than a fast-paced psychological thriller.

‘The Sudden Departure of the Frasers’ is a story about secrets in suburbia. The quest for the perfect home. Life with twitching curtains. A place where everyone knows, or tries to know, each other's business.

The book focuses on two women - Christy and Amber. Christy and her husband Joe have just moved into their 'forever' home in Lime Park Road, a highly sought-after location, but they find that the neighbours don't want to know them. Something obviously happened there, and Christy is desperate to discover what it was. Amber and her husband Jeremy lived in the house before them, but left in a hurry and no one knows where they are. So what is the secret that all the neighbours are determined to hide?

The book alternates between Amber and Christy's stories, building up to the final reveal. I found myself comparing these two women, their husbands and their lives. It is cleverly written, because the other characters - especially the mysterious Joe - come across very differently, depending on whether you are reading Christy or Amber's chapters.

Overall, ‘The Sudden Departure of the Frasers’ is an enjoyable read that keeps you guessing to the end. However, it's a slow burner, so not for people who are expecting a fast-paced psychological thriller. And the secret wasn't as bad as I thought it was going to be, which was a slight disappointment after all the build-up.

<http://off-the-shelfbooks.blogspot.co.uk>

Emma Barton

This is a modern, intriguing novel that tells the story of the previous inhabitants of a beautiful new home recently purchased by a young couple.

The Davenports have recently moved into a beautiful home on a sought after London Street and can't believe the bargain price they paid for it. As Christy tries to settle in and get to know her neighbours it is obvious that people are

keeping something from her. Why did the Frasers leave without telling anyone when they seemed to have a perfect life there? As Christy becomes more obsessed in finding out about the enigmatic Amber Fraser and what happened to her we are also told the parallel story of the Frasers' short time in the house and what actually went on.

This is a really great novel that would be perfect as a holiday read. I enjoyed it a lot more than I thought I would and would certainly seek out further works by Louise Candlish. The story is easy to follow and quite funny in parts. I was also kept guessing about what actually happened until the end, even though I thought I'd worked it all out.

Helen Treadwell

My favourite Louise Candlish novel yet! I was gripped as soon as I started reading this story of secrets and lies.

The novel starts with a mysterious prologue and then we read about Christy and her husband Joe moving into their "forever home" on Lime Park Road. The neighbours don't seem very friendly, and as we then gradually discover what happened to the previous owner, Amber we find out why. Their stories are told in parallel with chapters alternating throughout the book and I thought this was a very interesting way to structure the novel as it allows you to compare and contrast their experiences of moving in.

I became as obsessed as Christy did with finding out what really happened to the previous owners and was intrigued by all the characters, not just Christy and Joe, and Amber and Jeremy but the neighbours and friends as well.

The novel considers the importance of status and how this is conveyed by appearance, where you live and where you work. For Christy and Joe certainly their coveted new house does not bring them the happiness they are hoping for.