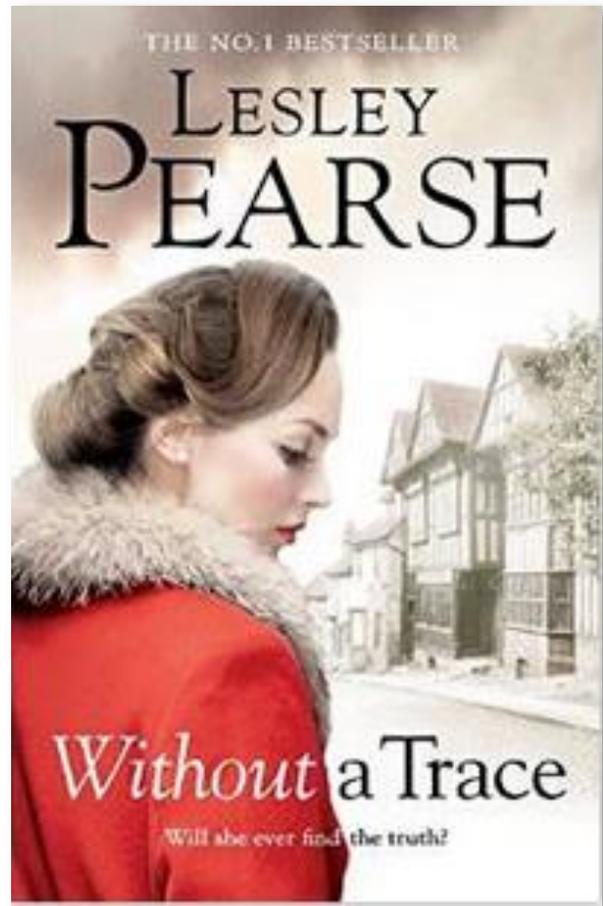


LoveReading Reader reviews of Without a Trace by Lesley Pearse

Below are the complete reviews, written by LoveReading members.

Sallyann Spittle

What a brilliant book. Lesley Pearse has not held anything back with this one. Molly is the main character of this story set in the 1950's and her story of her endeavours to find the culprit of her friend's death is a theme that runs through the story without holding back. The author has always had the ability to bring her characters to life and she has done that here - I really felt as if I knew Molly and at one point, had to put the book down because I couldn't stand to think of her in trouble. You can also sympathise with the other main character in Somerset and in London and you are given a definite feel for the locations described.



This book is such a pleasure to read, it is over only too quickly. Lesley Pearse is a true storyteller and this is her at her very, very best.

Lesley Mumbray-Williams

Cassie is a gorgeous redhead who arrives in a Somerset village without a past - having no wedding ring but being accompanied by a four year old daughter causes suspicion and gossip. However daughter Petal is adorable and Cassie

soon settles in the village and makes a close friend of Molly Heywood so when Cassie and Petal fail to arrive at the village party to celebrate the Queen's coronation Molly is concerned. She cycles to Cassie's cottage and finds her friend murdered and Petal missing.

There is a local search for the child but police involvement quickly wanes and when Molly finds a letter in the cottage it gives her a tenuous lead to her friend's past. A trip to London results in a new life for Molly but she never forgets her concern for Petal and begins to investigate by herself...

No spoilers so you will have to read 'Without a Trace' to find out where Molly's adventures lead her but **you will find yourself immersed in a compelling story with excellent writing and an attention to period detail which Lesley Pearse uses deftly and accurately.**

Edel Waugh

This is the story about a young woman called Molly who lives at home with her mother and abusive father. On the day of the Coronation something horrific happens to her friend which leads Molly on the trail of a mystery. When the abuse at home gets too extreme Molly leaves to get work and a place to live where she can start her life again. Through many ups and downs Molly remains a likeable, heroic character that never lets the bad things that happen to her keep her down, she is an inspirational character and the story **was well told and held more than a few surprises near the end that I did not see coming** but they really made a satisfying ending to the story.

<http://www.edelwaugh.blogspot.com>

Linda Hill

A roller coaster ride of murder, love and intrigue.

'Without A Trace' is **Lesley Pearse at her best**. When Molly Heywood finds her friend Cassie murdered, she determines to find out the truth of Cassie's past and that of her little girl Petal. This sets off a chain of events that take Molly away from her Somerset home of Sawbridge to a new, and possibly life threatening existence.

I thoroughly enjoyed this book as, whilst some of the plot could be deemed to be a little far-fetched at times, it has real drama and excitement. Carefully constructed, Molly's story reveals much about the poverty of post war London

and attitudes to single mothers and women in general. Indeed, Lesley Pearce explores several weighty themes in a highly accessible read, such as the effect parents like Molly's abusive father have on their children, family relationships, love, madness and poverty. There is a real sense of thorough research and realistic setting.

The characters are well rounded and varied so that there is always someone to attract the reader. Molly's personality gradually and realistically changes as a result of the events that befall her, making her an engaging heroine.

I think those who love sagas and Maeve Binchy's writing would really enjoy reading 'Without A Trace' and I can see it being taken on many a beach holiday this year.

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

You can follow Linda on Twitter: @Lindahill50Hill

Sarah Smith

A great book by Lesley Pearce, and has a few unexpected twists to keep you on your toes.

I was excited when the latest Lesley Pearce novel came as admitted I am a fan of her work and this novel was not to disappoint. The story is set in the 50s where Britain is still getting over WWII, Molly is a wholesome and caring character that looks for the good in every situation but is distraught by the murder of her friend, Cassie. This book is not as gritty as some of the others that Lesley Pearce is written, it has a good pace and gives a feel good factor by the time you get to the end of the book.

The story is mixed with romance and mystery, whilst the story demonstrates that there are some pretty horrible things that can go on in life, can lighten the mood. The more I read the more I got pulled into the story but Lesley Pearce cleverly pulls the story to a close and ties everything together leaving me with a slightly warm glow.

Sandra Robinson

A story of love, heartache, courage and friendship.

Molly Heywood wonders where her friend Cassie and her daughter Petal are when they don't turn up to the Coronation Day 1953 in the village of Sawbridge in Somerset.

She turns up at their cottage and discovers something tragic and Cassie's daughter Petal is missing..

She believes the police are not doing enough to discover what has happened and takes matters into her own hands when she finds a letter. Leaving the village after a row with her bully of a father she embarks on a new life although she is determined to find Petal.

A great read which I'd highly recommend.

You can follow Sandra on Twitter: @Beauty_Balm

Linda Rollins

A few tragedies and some wonderfully surprising events make this a good story, if a little slow and a bit too detailed in places.

Molly's friend is murdered and the friend's child goes missing in 1950's England. Mystery surrounds the incident but Molly feels the police aren't taking the matter seriously and is determined (on and off) to investigate the matter herself.

Overall it's a good story, with an old-fashioned feel to it and some admirably tragic and surprising events.

The start is a little slow, then suddenly there's a dead body and a missing child but after a brief flurry of activity the story slows right back down again. The ending is better, but much of the rest feels like padding that doesn't really take the story anywhere. The whole point of the story seems to disappear for a while, only being mentioned here and there as 'not being forgotten'. I also found the writing a little dull as it explains far more than is necessary, almost like a children's book, which takes away the joy of using one's own imagination.

For me, the underlying elements of the story are strong, but the writing needed braver editing. I think there will be readers who do like having everything set out for them; I know it can sometimes be a welcome relief not to have to think for oneself too much. This author is obviously popular and has a strong following so I think this book will be a hit in any event and certainly for those who enjoy their 'thrills' at a more sedate pace.

Angie Rhodes

In the village of Sawbridge in Somerset is Molly Heywood, a young woman who lives with her bully of a father and nervous mother. Molly works for her parents

in the family Grocery shop and longs for freedom, and wishes she was more like her sister. Emily who having been beaten and belittled once too often, left home. To the disgust of her father, Molly has made friends with Cassie an unmarried mother and her pretty little daughter Petal. Cassie is the talk of the village, not only is she unmarried, but her daughter is half cast.

1953 and the Coronation party is in full swing and Cassie hasn't arrived. Molly goes to her cottage and what she finds is not a happy scene, Cassie is lying dead on the cottage floor, and Petal is missing...

Doreen McKeown

This story starts on Coronation Day in 1953 when the principal character, Molly Heywood, finds her best friend, Cassandra, murdered and Cassandra's six year old daughter missing. Molly feels that the local police are not making sufficient effort to find the murderer and the little girl and sets out to find them herself, during which process she finds herself in all sorts of unpleasant situations.

*This has all the makings of a good story, but I found the naive writing style, blatantly aimed at the female market, to be irritating - **although it did make for an easy read, which is not necessarily a bad thing.***

Tracey Copeland

*I have just read 'Without a Trac'e by Lesley Pearse, having read all her novels to date I had high hopes for this one. However, **even though it was enjoyable it didn't grip me, and I wasn't in a rush to get to the end.** I found towards the end things seemed rushed, where the first few chapters were quite slow. The ending where relationships was concerned was very predictable. I am sure avid readers of Lesley will enjoy it.*

Lucy Hall

Storytelling at its best, a gripping book which has you hooked from the first chapter & throughout!

Lesley Pearse has done it again, an excellent book which has you hooked from the first chapter. The way this is written is so true to life , Lesley Pearse writes in such a detailed way with great historical facts intertwined that you can't help but be drawn in.

I would definitely recommend this book.

Candy Hart

*Another treat of a book from the Queen of Chicklit. **I have always been such a huge fan of Lesley Pearse and this book is no exception. Wonderful characters and wonderful descriptions 10/10 for this fab story.***

Set in a small Somerset village on coronation day in 1959, this story is about Molly and what lengths a person will go to find out the truth. When Cassie doesn't turn up to a party in the village to celebrate the coronation, Molly goes to look for her. Sadly what she finds is her friend dead in the small out of the way cottage where she lives and Cassie's small daughter Petal missing. She then embarks on a journey to find out who killed her friend and to find the missing child.

This is another wonderful story from the pen of Lesley Pearse. Lesley has this wonderful knack of addressing awkward topics and bringing them out into the open. With such wonderful characters, she always seems to know how to write a beautiful story, with her trademark strong women she never fails. Yet another triumph.

10/10 for this compelling tale.

Elisabeth Thomas

'Without a Trace' is a compelling and heart-warming story from one of the best story tellers around.

It is Coronation day 1953 and in the Somerset village of Sawbridge, grocer's daughter Molly Heywood notices that her friend's daughter, Petal, is not at the children's party that she has organised. Molly slips out and cycles up into the wood where Cassie and 6 year old Petal live.

What greets Molly is shocking – her friend is lying dead on the hearth whilst Petal is missing. Disappointed in the police investigation in her friend's death and the search for missing Petal, Molly decides to take matters into her own hands.

Molly's investigation takes her to London and beyond to search for the identity of Cassie's killer. However, as she gets closer her investigation gets more and more dangerous. Could Molly be in danger of sacrificing her own life in her desperate search for Petal?

'Without a Trace' is a compelling and heart-warming story from one of the best story tellers around. What makes this book so enjoyable is that it has a bit of everything in it – family saga, romance but also mystery and intrigue which made me want to keep turning to pages until the very end.

www.listhebookworm.wordpress.com

Sue Mooney

A fabulous read, I thoroughly enjoyed reading this latest offering from one of my favourite authors, Lesley Pearse.

A sleepy village in Somerset, a murder, and a missing child all come into play in this book. Gutsy women show how life is in the 50's, alongside murder, a missing child & plenty of adventure.

Molly Heywood is trying to be the murder mystery sleuth, which takes her away from her violent father into unknown territory, the East End of London, as she goes in search of the truth about what happened to her friend Cassie.

Read on to find the outcome....where will Molly end up? Will she find Petal, Cassie's missing daughter? What of her childhood friend George, the local village Bobby, will she ever realise how she feels about him?

Loved this - a great summer read, wonderfully written.

10/10

You can follow Sue on Twitter: @truckermercedes