



## **Finding Lucy**

*Diana Finley*

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Every family has its secrets. None more than this one.

Alison's life has been a lonely one, but now it's time to change that. With no children in her future there is only one answer – she'll take one.

She'll rescue a girl who needs a better home. A better mother. A better life.

It will be the start of a perfect family, and no one will question who Lucy really is. Especially not Lucy herself...

A dark story of psychological suspense, perfect for fans of Kerry Fisher, Liane Moriarty and Linda Green.

## **Finding Lucy Details**

Date : Published September 2nd 2018

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Author : Diana Finley

Format : Kindle Edition

Genre : Fiction, Thriller, Psychological Thriller, Mystery

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## **From Reader Review Finding Lucy for online ebook**

### **Lou says**

It's rare we come across a completely original story in the crime genre and i'm afraid this is another which makes use of the missing/abducted child trope. However, this book views it from a wholly different angle to many others, namely by looking at it from the perpetrators perspective. If you enjoy unpredictability and plot twists, this may not be the book for you. I found that the story was a little too straightforward with a distinct lack of about-turns or surprises. So much so, that although there are very clear crimes being committed here, it still felt a little lacklustre and almost more womens fiction than thriller or suspense. I don't read or enjoy womens fiction/chick lit, but if you do you may wish to give it a go. In my opinion, this is a very tame novel.

The writing leaves a lot to be desired and much of the dialogue was clunky and unrealistic - I certainly don't think it reflects what a "normal" human being would say in the same situation, making it difficult to relate to the characters. With an emotional story such as this you would expect it to tug at the ol' heartstrings, but unfortunately it was sadly lacking in that department too. Also, the ending may be a nice way to conclude the book, but for crime readers it was rather a let down. Crime/mystery/thriller fans are notorious for accumulating questions about the plot in their minds, and as there was such a minute focus on the backstory explaining various aspects of the novel, I found a great many important and major questions were left without reply. I don't wish to be harsh as I know how much work goes into each and every book, but I don't really feel this is a must-read if i'm totally honest.

Many thanks to HQ Digital for an ARC. I was not required to post a review, and all thoughts and opinions expressed are my own.

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### **Connie Fischer says**

1985

Alison Brown, age 40, desperately wants a child. Having just lost her beloved adoptive mother, Alison is so lonely for her. Alison has considered other means of having her own child, but none are acceptable to her.

She moves to a home in Newcastle, furnishing it for herself and a child and meeting her new neighbors. She tells them that she is a widow with a young daughter named Lucy, who will join her soon. Now, Alison goes on the lookout for a child to take and finds Stacy, a two-year-old girl in a poor part of town. The child is playing outside alone and Alison just takes her home. The child's parents are dysfunctional with a number of children some of whom have been taken by the child welfare service. Lucy is happy that she has saved Lucy from that.

It takes some time for Lucy to settle in, but by the time she enters school at age four, she is calling Alison Mummy, yet to herself she wonders who Stacy is. As the years go by, Lucy realizes that her mother is very protective but thinks that's how mothers are. It's when Lucy heads to university that she enjoys having new freedom and a chance to grow up without Alison hovering over her.

When Alison becomes gravely ill, secrets come out and Lucy's world explodes.

This is a mesmerizing book that make readers really think about what secrets that people may be hiding and the state of their mental health. I enjoyed reading the book and found that the author created an amazing character in Alison. Well done!

Copy provided by NetGalley in exchange for a fair and honest review.

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### **Mystica says**

Allison and her mother lived a quiet life, isolated, very few friends. Her mother did not encourage her to mix with young people, so when she died Allison was quite alone.

But Allison longs for a child and carefully prepares a diabolic plan to snatch a child. She does this so successfully that people who do vaguely remember a woman with a child describe the infant very specifically as a boy. Allison delves into the history at a cemetery and finds a child matching in age and sex to the child she has snatched and so is born Lucy Brown.

Lucy's life is calm and quiet till one day during a playful hypnosis session pieces of a puzzle begin to unravel. Allison explains it as being an adopted child, the same as she was. It does not ring true however, and when Lucy grows up leaves for university, finds a partner, has a child of her own, the whole thing blows up in the most horrific way forcing Allison to confront her past.

This was a real insight into how far a person could go to take what one wants, without thinking of moral or ethical issues.

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### **Holly says**

Unfortunately, this book didn't work for me. My main problem is that I felt no emotion. I didn't feel sorry for the main character, nor did I feel anything for Lucy. Lucy was kidnapped when she was 2 years old by someone that thought she could do a better job raising her than her biological parents. The writing went through a few pov's, Lucy's, Alison, the detective, and the biological mother. I felt nothing for these characters. The writing was very monotone to the point that I was bored. I was being told everything without much emotion put into the words. I also felt that there was too much forgiveness by the characters. If my child had been kidnapped and I didn't see her again till she was in her twenties, well, I would want the person to pay. I'm sure others will enjoy this book but for me, it was boring and lacked in many ways.

\*Thank you to the publisher and Netgalley for an ARC in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Ellen says**

I received this book "Finding Lucy" from NetGalley and all opinions expressed are my own. I did like the story concept but a lot of the story was not believable. Everything just came out great in the end with everyone happy and no one upset - really upset - that a young child was taken. The story just happily went along - no major twists or turns. I want to be kept guessing and trying to figure out what is going to happen - not so with this book. Forgiveness was just too easy for everyone in this book. There could have been some

twists with Ryan planning to expose everything? I don't know, I wanted more suspense in the book I guess.

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### **Sally says**

Enjoyed the quite unique premise of this book .. a child abduction told mostly from the perspective of the abductor, with a few narratives from Lucy interwoven throughout. Unfortunately I didn't feel that the idea quite worked in reality as I couldn't take to Alison's character and found her quite cold. Had I warmed to her more, I might have felt more sympathy/empathy for her actions. Maybe other parts of her character could have been explored a bit more in the narrative, although it's clear she's a little unhinged by the end and she did appear to do her best to give Lucy a good life. That said, I was fascinated by the lengths she went to, both in the abduction itself and covering her tracks for many years afterwards. There aren't any real twists or turns and the most interesting aspect is whether Lucy will start to work out what happened. I felt too that the ending was a little too neatly wrapped up given the magnitude of the crime and the effects on so many people.

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### **Janette says**

I found this an easy read with a storyline I have not seen in this type of book before - the story of a child abduction told from the viewpoint of the abductor. A story of secrets and lies, and also of forgiveness. I enjoyed this book and was surprised to find I felt sympathy towards the child abductor even though she had committed a shocking crime. I found myself eagerly turning the pages to find out what was going to happen next. It has a satisfying ending.

Thank you to NetGalley and the publisher for the opportunity to read this book in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Lady Delacour says**

Dove into  
this book  
without reading  
anything about it.  
Found it to be an  
Original take on  
a familiar theme.  
It was interesting,  
some what intense,  
with a very quiet,  
haunting darkness.  
Listened with TTS  
Mildly not Clean.  
Foul Language.

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## **Joan says**

Alison has lived with her adoptive mother for most of her life, except for a brief time away at university, which ended in disaster. In fact her life has been full of ups and downs and she is not the most gregarious person. When her mother passes away she feels lonelier than ever. She makes plans to change her life forever. She is unmarried but she considers that she can give a child a good, safe, secure life. She trawls the streets in run down areas hoping to give a neglected, poor child the chance to live with her. A forever daughter. A stolen daughter.

Her plans are meticulous. The collection of her little girl is faultless, without any hitches at all. Her rescue of little 'Lucy' is perfect, just as she knew it would be. Lucy now has a better mother, a better home, she is loved and cared for and she has everything a child could ever want. Alison has a beautiful daughter; they are a family at last. Her meticulous planning has reaped a rich reward. So their life together begins. But how will it all end? This is the story of Alison and Lucy, but be prepared to read late into the night and early in the morning – in fact every minute you have to spare.

I thought this novel had everything. The storytelling was seamless, vivid and cleverly delivered. The characters were brilliantly created and developed throughout the story. I felt as though I knew them myself, indeed that they were my friends. It was just perfect. I loved the issues within this story: loneliness, love, fear, friendship, need, family and mental illness. I absolutely drank it all in and wished there was more. I hated finishing the story I enjoyed it so much.

I received this novel through my membership of NetGalley and from publisher HQ in return for an honest review. Thank you for my copy which I thought was an excellent read. It's a very well deserved 5\* review from me because it was the complete package. Highly recommended.

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## **pamela o'herlihy says**

An interesting angle that started with a fairly frightening concept, that of a woman very purposefully setting out to steal a child, targeting that child, and then going ahead with a startling plan. It held my attention because it was unusual, in that something we would all see as quite wrong was being put across as acceptable and workable. And then when the story would appear to run out of road, the author changed direction and once again put in a brave denouement, a new angle that would again seem unacceptable, yet she made it work, made it acceptable. I don't think the ease of ending and tie-ups would work in real life, but this is a book and they are her characters and story!! And she kept the interest because you would wonder how she would deal with yet another very difficult and unusual decision that would normally go right against the grain. This courage and originality kept me reading, and I feel she really handled it well. The only reason I did not give more stars was not because of the lack of writing skills because they are definitely there and the rhythm of the book, but because it was not the ending I would have looked for, so a very personal view. For story content, style, and attention, really excellent and a nice rare find, a book with a well executed and 'lifted' ending. Just too pat and neat for me, but as I say a great book overall and one to keep the attention throughout.

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## **Susan Obryan says**

Child abductions are often in the news, but what about when they hit closer to home? So, what if it happens not to you, but by you? Such is the case in "Finding Lucy," a complex psychological thriller by Diana Finley.

Alison wants a child, but birth is not in the cards. A grave marker for an unknown child named Lucy gives her an idea. She acts on it by taking a toddler from a front yard. Her rationale is that the child obviously isn't loved or cared for since she was unsupervised and allowed to play near the street.

The child renamed Lucy is now an adult after an frequently gloomy childhood marked by unanswered questions and odd instances. As her mother ages and ails, Lucy finds herself on a quest to discover what her mother continues to hide.

Lucy, Alison and all those who cross their paths, including the birth family and siblings, are built with care and understanding by this talented author. The end result is a heartfelt story about deceit, division and the consequences of yearning to be loved.

ARC provided by NetGalley

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## **Lori Fitzgerald says**

### **Heartwrenching!**

A perfect read for anyone. So sad that a woman who simply wanted to be a mother, and was refused from adopting simply because she was single went to such lengths. In a world with so many children in need someone willing to take in a child and love it must take this route and leave another family with such grief. Happy things all worked out.

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## **Angela Mellor says**

Finding Lucy is a 3.5 stars as although the storyline is good there were no twists or suspense.

This is a crime thriller written differently than others I have read as this deals with child abduction but from the perpetrators side. Although this was a good idea there were no moments that had you wanting to never stop reading, suspense and no twists to keep the book alive.

Alison has lived a quiet life with her adoptive mother although she did go to university for a short spell she has never done anything without her mother there. Alison's mother dies and there is a blank space in her life and she remembers her mother telling her to make sure she has a child as she'll never be lonely so seeing as Alison has never had a relationship she masters a plan to abduct a girl.

The story follows Alison and Lucy's life, the lies told and the mixed emotions they both feel along the way as well as your own as I did side to some point with Alison in that she mustn't have been in a good place when she did this and she thought Lucy was better off with her. This book will leave you with mixed feelings and who to sympathise for, Alison, Lucy or the real mother in this.

I would like to thank NetGalley and HQ Digital for this ARC I received in exchange for an honest review.

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**Adele Shea says**

Alison Brown was somewhat of a loner and when her mother died she was at a loss and lonely. When visiting her mother's grave she came across the grave of a baby girl named Lucy Brown aged two. Alison came up with an elaborate plan of abducting a little girl, renaming her and moving to Newcastle and start a new life.

This book is written in the point of view of Alison, Lucy (Stacy is her birth name), Shelley (Stacy's birth Mother) and the Inspector in charge of the abduction case. It tells the story of each person's lives and how the actions of one person can change so many people's lives.

Will the truth ever come to light?

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**Sarah MacIntyre says**

A really interesting read. A missing child story but definitely different to the many out there. A story told from the perpetrators side. I really enjoyed the well written characters with all their flaws. Touching on mental health and how this affects people through life. A good saga with a thought provoking tale. A good satisfying ending.

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