



A Lily in the Light

Kristin Fields

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A harrowing debut novel of a tragic disappearance and one sister's journey through the trauma that has shaped her life.

For eleven-year-old Esme, ballet is everything—until her four-year-old sister, Lily, vanishes without a trace and nothing is certain anymore. People Esme has known her whole life suddenly become suspects, each new one hitting closer to home than the last.

Unable to cope, Esme escapes the nightmare that is her new reality when she receives an invitation to join an elite ballet academy in San Francisco. Desperate to leave behind her chaotic, broken family and the mystery surrounding Lily's disappearance, Esme accepts.

Eight years later, Esme is up for her big break: her first principal role in Paris. But a call from her older sister shatters the protective world she has built for herself, forcing her to revisit the tragedy she's run from for so long. Will her family finally have the answers they've been waiting for? And can Esme confront the pain that shaped her childhood, or will the darkness follow her into the spotlight?

A Lily in the Light Details

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Author : Kristin Fields

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From Reader Review A Lily in the Light for online ebook

Therese Walsh says

A Lily in the Light is a tender, heart-wrenching novel that considers the long-ranging effects of shattering loss upon a young dancer and her family. A haunting and beautifully rendered tale of survival and the careful tending to a wild and desperately needed hope. Highly recommended.

Rochelle Weinstein says

A Lily in the Light captures family in the throes of chaos. A journey through guilt and suffering, the world of ballet, culminating in the miracles achieved through both. Fields is an emerging literary talent and her debut, deftly written, uncovers the heart of family and forgiveness.

Melissa Loucks says

This was my Amazon First read for March and I absolutely loved it. I was not sure about it when I read the description because I am more into crime novels. This is a really cute book and I highly enjoyed it. It is a story of a missing little girl and how her sister uses dance to over come her grief.

Deb Poole says

I'm obsessed with books with a ballet backdrop. So when I saw this for free on Kindle first reads, I was very excited to read it.

Interesting story; the youngest child of a NYC family disappears, leaving them all somewhat adrift. The book concentrates on one character, middle child Esme, who is an aspiring ballerina, age 11.

The story is mainly about how the disappearance of Lily, their 4 year old sister/daughter, affects their family in various debilitating ways.

The book started off well, but really seemed to get repetitive toward the end. I kept feeling like I was reading the same page over and over again, like the author had a difficult time wrapping up the storyline.

End result, although I liked the book, I didn't LOVE the book.

PinkAmy loves books, cats and naps says

1.5 STARS

Eleven-year-old aspiring ballerina Esme's life changes the day her little sister Lily disappears. Eight years

later, older sister Madeline calls Esme in Paris with startling news.

Either I have terrible luck choosing Amazon Prime Read First Books, or those books aren't very good. I enjoy books about child abductions and stories about ballerinas, so I was excited to start reading *A LILY IN THE LIGHT*. Kristin Fields came up with a great premise, but the execution lacked both tension and emotion.

Esme was an easy character to embrace. I wanted to be able to feel her heart.

The writing was fine., though lacked a distinct voice. I kept wanting more from the story. I wanted to care and just didn't.

I bumped by rating up to 2 stars, because I did care enough to finish.

Sarah says

Really good story with very relatable characters. Didn't want to stop reading

Suze says

Lily

My First Reads choice for March, an easy choice- the synopsis spoke of an interesting, emotional story about a missing four year old and the destruction of a family. The first half of the book is told from the point of view of Lily's eleven year old sister- an aspiring ballet dancer.

Esme, eight years later is in Paris, when Madeline calls her with news of a girl found locked in a basement. I won't put any spoilers in my review, you need to read it yourself. But the continuing havoc on Esme and her family is heart wrenching. It's a good book, gets you emotionally involved from the beginning.

The Just-About-Cocky Ms M says

Bear with me a moment, folks. When I looked over this month's First Reads, I didn't see much of interest. At all. I almost decided to read something else on my towering TBR pile instead, but then, I spotted this book in the category "Book Club Fiction." What is that, exactly? A book replete with all sorts of sentimental and sugary pablum, family and romantic relationships hitting érocks the size of pebbles, eventual maturity with an obligatory dollop of forgiveness, and a neatly tied-up happily-ever-after finale that calls for lace handkerchiefs to come out and dab delicately at eyes?

I don't know a thing about book clubs. I suspect they would read books I'd hate, and because I rarely temper my dissenting opinions, I'd be tossed out of any book club on my denim-clad posterior.

So I took a chance, mentally giving this book a big eye roll for what seemed like the all-too-clichéd trope of a child who vanishes mysteriously, a fractured family, a main character carting buckets of guilt, and then

spending years of wondering what happened. The twist was the inclusion of ballet, and as a genetically clumsy person who couldn't plié if my life depended on it, I have always adored ballet.

Being initially wrong about a book's premise and the likelihood that I'll hate it is always a surprise, and refreshing. So I was wrong, and I really liked this book.

The protagonist, Esme [I really like that name!] is eleven, an aspiring ballerina with sweaty, smelly feet, a detail you rarely encounter but one that is amazingly accurate. Lily is her four-year-old sister who waits for Esme's dance classes to end, accompanied by their mother, the improbably named Cerise, who is not quite as bad as those awful women in *Dance Moms*, but close enough. So by the first five or six pages, these three characters have been deftly described; they have strong skeletons that the author will continue to flesh out, little detail by little detail. Then the rest of the family appears, the older sister Madeline, tense, impatient, self-centered, Nick, seventeen, slovenly, rebellious, and sullen, and Andre, the father who drives a taxi and seems at a loss in the midst of his loud, squabbling family. What could be banal in the hands of an average writer is saved by quirky, unobtrusive details of two parents and four children on the edge of Port Washington, a considerable remove from the glitter of New York City.

Speaking in a child's voice is difficult, and I've read a few books that manage to get it right. Oddly enough, Stephen King is probably the best with authentic kidspeak. Yet Esme, who tells the story from the beginning, is a perfectly believable pre-teen worrying about dancing en pointe, and expressing that worry and all the other bits and pieces of her ordinary life—except for ballet—as a child her age would. If it seemed to be a little more telling than showing, I didn't mind because the story's flow was neither hampered nor slowed.

The pivotal point of Lily's disappearance also missed the usual Lifetime Movie scenario because it was Esme who experienced it from her still childish point of view. And the years that passed after this moment showed a mature dancer, but one with a hole in her heart. That too could have been a Hallmark Moment, again saved by the author's refusal to use stock material. Fortunately the world of ballet survived, and danced on. I'm grateful for that. And the ending? That "Who knew?" revelation we've all seen before countless times in print and on cable, but this time... well, I won't spoil it.

At the end here, I must say I haven't encountered a done-to-death trope rescued so adroitly from further inanity with such cleverness, and such maturity. Rather ruined LMN for me, though.

If I'd been invited to join a book club, and the club chose to read this book, I would have kept my membership intact, behaving myself, offering deserved praise, and not spilling my wine. Who knew, indeed?

Lynda Kelly says

My Kindle First choice for March....it's the only choice this particular month for me whereas sometimes I could pick 2 or 3.....and then I opt for the one with most pages as a rule. However, none really jumped out at me this time, even this one, but this is the closest to my type of story. It's very well written but probably a little too flowery and deep for my liking. I almost gave up around a quarter of the way in but was pleased I persevered as it got better as it went along. Passages like "Cerise had rolled into the room as quietly as a dropped Chapstick forgotten on the floor" or ".....imagined Lily was tucked into the space beside Esme, warm as a potato in her slipper-feet pajamas" just make me roll my eyes in exasperation !! The scenes with Andre and Esme in San Francisco were some of my favourites, though, and I raced through the final sitting

as I was just dying to know how things ended up for them all.

It was horribly sad to see how fractured this family became after Lily disappeared—the stuff of nightmares. This story mainly sticks with Esme, who I liked a great deal, though I'm not a ballet fan and clearly the author must be, as I think we had way too much dance detail where it really wasn't required. However, I did look up Anna Pavlova as I compiled this review to see the photo of her that Esme liked so much (with Jack) and there's a whole set and they're just lovely.

She spelt Tabu like this when it should be Taboo and had the apostrophe wrong in cardinal's and didn't capitalise French but no other errors whatsoever so presentation is terrific and very impressive indeed for a debut. I'd read her again.

Christine Lowe says

A Limit on the Light

This story allowed me into a world of what is and what could be. The writing evoked feelings of loss and wonder that the author could capture so much of what the dance world is like from the inside. The characters are lovingly crafted into complete people with feelings that are universal. A great debut for a talented young writer

Bree says

I chose this book as my March Kindle First Reads book and it did not disappoint. I initially chose it because it sounded like a good mystery but I was pretty surprised by how it was more about what happens in the wake of a horrific family event and the grief that follows the characters around, years afterwards. It was very moving to read about the day to day struggles that the characters had as a result of this incident and I truly cannot imagine going through that myself. The way that Kristin writes is very forward and tangible. The emotions were raw and also incredibly vibrant at the same time. I would recommend this to a friend in a heartbeat.

Barbara Davis says

“What happens when a four-year-old vanishes without a trace, when a family is unshaped and long held dreams begin to unspool—when you don't even know what to hope for anymore? These are the questions Kristin Fields deftly explores in her beautifully written debut, *A Lily in the Light*. Honest, heartfelt, and at times wrenching, Fields' novel exposes every heartache and raw nerve of her compellingly flawed characters, touching on the many ways we punish ourselves and those we love when life leaves us feeling powerless—and how we must ultimately learn to forgive.” ~ Barbara Davis, bestselling author of *When Never Comes*

Jeanne Fleck says

This book was amazing. I thought the writing was beautiful and exceptionally done. The trauma at the

beginning of the story wove itself into the fabric of so many lives and emerged into a feeling of hope, also for so many. Aside from the obvious theme of trauma it enlightened the reader as to the world of ballet and the sacrifices of the dancers. This was a wonderful read.

Carissa says

Will Please Readers

I think this book will please readers who are drawn to it. It has all of the elements of a good story. For me, I can't put my finger on it, but it was missing that something that would make it a special standout novel. Maybe it was too sweet and tied up so nicely and that took away some of its authenticity? I'm not sure. It was a good book, certainly. I just wanted more once I'd finished.

Rebecca Lloyd says

This was an enjoyable read. It kept me going as the desire to know what happened intensified as well as wondering if Esme would make it.
