



## After You've Gone

*Jeffrey Lent*

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## **After You've Gone** Jeffrey Lent

A striking epic and a great love story, *After You've Gone* moves beyond the northeastern territory described in the first two books of best-selling author Jeffrey Lent and into a broader America as it transforms itself over the course of the two world wars. *After You've Gone* opens in a remote Nova Scotian fishing village, where the young Henry Dorn is being groomed to assume leadership of the family's fishing enterprise. But an encounter with a professor from the United States awakens him to greater possibilities. After marrying his mentor's daughter, Olivia, the two struggle to cope with the forces of World War I and then the heady, early days of Madison Avenue 1920s advertising boom. With the advent of the Second World War, Henry and Olivia's only son, Robert, secretly enlists with the British army. Following the war, Henry travels to Holland to discover the truth behind his son's life. After learning of his son's service to the Dutch Resistance, Henry faces a great moral challenge. With keen insights into family relationships and the capricious nature of life, *After You've Gone* offers a transfixing and absorbing tale with lessons for our own turbulent times.

## **After You've Gone Details**

Date : Published (first published October 28th 2008)

ISBN :

Author : Jeffrey Lent

Format : 256 pages

Genre : Fiction, Historical, Historical Fiction, Abandoned

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# From Reader Review After You've Gone for online ebook

## Devra Gartenstein says

"In the Fall" was one of my favorite novels ever, so I approached this one with high hopes. One of the protagonist's ancestors left the Netherlands under shady circumstances, so when Henry travels back there, I expected him to begin unraveling a complex, fascinating tale in the way that "In the Fall" kept adding layers of family history. But this novel was much simpler, with virtually no surprises, and I found myself feeling disappointed.

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## Emma says

The grief of the widower in this story made me stop and cry several times. His love and longing for his deceased wife was poignant. He has recently retired from his teaching job and lost a wife so we follow him in his struggles to reinvent himself. He moves to Europe, takes up the cello, goes on a cruise and meets a new love. The love story is sweet and authentic with sympathetic characters.

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## Robert Schwab says

This is a book about loss, and the search for redemption following the loss. The main character and most of the supporting characters are well developed and believable, and I had great sympathy for the protagonist, Henry Dorn, who loses his wife and son in an accident and travels overseas to his family's ancestral home to try and make a new life. Lent's writing, as it was in *In The Fall*, is beautiful, but at the same time, occasionally distracting, owing to his propensity for writing in sentence fragments. Nevertheless, the story is strong and well-told. My only criticism is the ending, which I found disappointing. I think Lent could have done better, but after all, it is his story, and a story worth reading.

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## Lynn says

After a family tragedy, Henry Dorn leaves his life in America behind travels to Holland, the country of his ancestors. He is no longer a husband, a father, grandfather, a college professor. He embarks on a second life so to speak. He meets a woman on the passage to Holland and they begin an affair. And when she leaves him to travel to Paris, he is afraid he has lost love for the second time in his life. They do have plans to reunite but once again, tragedy finds Henry.

The story is written in several different themes-when Henry was a young man in Nova Scotia, as a newly married college professor, as a father struggling to help his son-scarred by WWI.

It is a good read-I especially liked the settings of Ithaca NY and also Holland.

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## **Allyson says**

The entire structure was very interesting. On paper I would have expected it to be annoying and disjointed, but he wove the stories together masterfully. Jumping years to tell his tale was very inventive and probably very challenging. Initially I thought it a lazy maneuver but much like short stories, a well crafted tale or story appears effortless when really it is full of effort.

I was very curious how he would end it, but it fit perfectly. Poignantly.

I very much enjoyed A Peculiar Grace which was very different, but in both novels, he captured and wrote feelings evocatively, beautifully.

Speaking for men and women equally which is a rare gift.

Easy reading, flowing feeling, incredible descriptions- setting the scene, and hard to put down.

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## **Alissa says**

Buuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuh.

I loved "In the Fall," and "Lost Nation" is one of my favorite books.

Jeffrey Lent is still a great writer, but he just went through some mad-lib motions for this one. It felt like a rip-off of about 100 different things, most notably, a heterosexual spin on "A Single Man" meets the most depressing scenes from "The Shipping News" smushed together with the intolerable parts of "The End of the Affair." WHY DO THEY LOVE EACH OTHER, AND WHO CARES! Stop moping about with your GD cello playing, already. You're in Amsterdam. Do some drugs. Smell the roses.

And the ending! All I can say is...

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PTJpLB...>

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## **Itasca Community Library says**

Asra says:

I liked "After You've Gone," but preferred Lent's previous novel "A Peculiar Grace." This mainly had to do with the surprise ending of this novel, which I think readers will either view as fateful, or without closure. I fell into the latter category, which isn't to say that the book wasn't good. It just left me wanting more.

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### **Marlys says**

I liked this book overall. The story is told in two time frames -- circa 1925 and circa 1890-1923. I found the writing style odd in places--he uses quite a few sentence fragments--but I was intrigued by the characters & their stories. The ending took me completely by surprise.

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### **Abby Fick says**

Beautifully written (as always). Not happy with the ending, but that's not a criticism. Hard to say more without putting a spoiler out there, but I couldn't believe where Lent went with it at the end. Didn't see that coming at all. And any WOW moment while reading is pretty rare and incredible, even a bad one. But then this is one incredible author.

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### **Enia says**

Life is precious. Life is fragile. Don't want anything too much, and just enjoy what comes your way. It was a lovely read.

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### **Linda says**

I have loved each of Jeffrey Lents books. Each one is so different from the one before, that they cannot be compared one to another. I found this a great read

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### **Dawn says**

This book was a chore to read, I actually stopped reading in the middle because it was so boring, and made myself finish it because there must be something good in it somewhere. Well there is a sprinkling of interesting writing near the end but wow...what a bore...

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### **Susan Hester says**

Wife of many years dies. Professor of Literature husband exiles himself to Holland because of a long-lost tie in the family tree. Finds a new love on the ship to Holland. Book describes the ups and downs of their relationship as well as his attempts at learning to play the cello from another exile from Russia. Basically ignores his adult children and his mother, left in America. The secrets of his father are revealed by an uncle. This book is non-linear in chronology making it somewhat interesting, but so much of it is undeveloped. Can't think of anyone to whom I would recommend it.

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## **Kathryn Bashaar says**

This book takes place in the 1920s in the United States and Amsterdam. Henry Dorn is a college professor whose beloved wife and troubled son, a WWI veteran, are killed in a car accident. This complete unraveling of life as he knew it inspires Henry to resign from his position and plan an extended trip to Amsterdam, from where his ancestors embarked for the New World two centuries earlier. Henry himself discovers a new world as he falls in love again, takes up the cello and evaluates his life so far. The story alternates between his current life in Amsterdam, waiting for his new beloved to return from Paris, and his flashbacks to important events in his past, going all the way back to his childhood in Canada. The story is beautifully told, with lovely sensory detail. The only thing that bugged me a little was the overuse of incomplete sentences. I'm not a Grammar Nazi; sometimes an incomplete sentence is the exact right thing, and I suspect Lent was trying to set some kind of mood, somehow get inside his character's head. But he did it so much that at times it was distracting.

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## **Sarah Allen says**

Jeffrey Lent's writing style enchanted and infuriated me. Some of his sentences are a paragraph long and must be re-read for comprehension - but his use of language is beautiful. The story about a man in his late fifties is told in multiple time periods and locations. It is spare, at times mesmerizingly slow, and yet always left me wondering where the story was leading. I will read more of this author.

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## **Milo says**

as with other readers, i found the sentence fragments and sparse punctuation a bit annoying. i found myself reading certain pages and paragraphs multiple times - thinking i had missed something.

i like Lent's stories a great deal, well let's say i really liked *In the Fall* and *Lost Nation*. it took me a while to realize i liked *A Peculiar Grace*, as it was so far afield from the the other two. with *After You've Gone*, my like-o-meter was all over the place.

the characters, other than Henry and Lydia, were like sound bytes. you hear them and see them, but all you get is a mere sample. i got the same feel with plot development. if you're going to Amsterdam to look for clues and insight about your father then do it. if you mention that you did part of your education at Yale, then talk about Yale or New Haven, rather than let a line out and yank it back in before anyone has a chance to hook on.

still, i liked the idea of the story enough to finish. i'm not sorry i spent the time reading it, but i wouldn't recommend it either. not even to Jeffrey Lent fans.

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## **Barner says**

I so enjoyed two other Lent books I've read so I was looking forward to this one. A disappointment. This is a sad love story; the characters are interesting, perplexing really, the main character inconsistent, in my opinion. Much of the plot is predictable, especially the end.

I would like to have know the real outcome of life of the Russian cello player, The trouble of the son who returns from WWI seems real and his father's failure to understand is a little troubling. Such a good man and yet-----

I do not think you have to read this one, BUT I do recommed Lost Nation and In the FALL.

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## **Seabreeze says**

This story initially set in upstate New York in the early 1900's follows the life of a male professor at Elmira College for Women, before that time in Nova Scotia and afterwards in Amsterdam. Lent's writing about place is fully detailed and engrossing. So too if not more so is his deep insight .into his characters and his rendering of powerful character moments and feelings. These qualities caught me and impressed me deeply. However, The plot line of the book as it advances more into a romance genre left me wanting something finer. Perhaps this is because I am not a devoted reader of the romance genre..

I now have read reviews of his earlier novels... morally deep and some times violent.. as I read the reviews. Personally I hope he writes another novel deep and serious and historical, but perhaps not violent,because his writing and character insight delighted me.

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## **Jennie Ventura says**

Struggled to get through this. Found myself skimming over pages.

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## **R.J. says**

Hope this one is better than the last which I couldn't even finish. I loved his first two books, especially In The Fall which I recommend to anyone who wants a passionate, well crafted, story of humanity.

More than 1/2way thru and its marvelous. a style of writing that I could never emulate.

Another ball out of the park Lent. Marvelous in a way I normally don't admire.

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