



Dead to You

Lisa McMann

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Some memories are better left untouched.

Ethan was abducted from his front yard when he was just seven years old. Now, at sixteen, he has returned to his family.

It's a miracle... at first.

Then the tensions start to build. His reintroduction to his old life isn't going smoothly, and his family is tearing apart all over again. If only Ethan could remember something, anything, about his life before, he'd be able to put the pieces back together.

But there's something that's keeping his memory blocked.

Something unspeakable...

Dead to You Details

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From Reader Review Dead to You for online ebook

Kay says

Ethan was abducted at the age of 7 and was raised by a woman who abandoned him years later. At 16 years old, he is reunited with his real parents, younger brother Blake and his sister Gracie who was born after Ethan was kidnapped. The book shows the family's struggle with each other as Ethan re-enters their lives without remembering his past.

I enjoyed the beginning of this book which seemed so promising. I felt real bad for Ethan and all that he went through. The family's feelings and reaction seemed realistic for the most part. Blake had some anger issues that were understandable. The problem I had was with the ending. It ended so fast and abrupt where I seriously thought I had missing pages in my ebook. I had to check other reviews to make sure that I wasn't mistaken. The author could have easily added another 20 or so pages to give some closure to the reader. If the ending was meant as a cliffhanger, the way it ended so suddenly does not make me want to pick up another book by this author.

This was a solid 3 stars in the beginning but deduct 1 star for the ending.

hayden says

Wow! is all I can say in response to Lisa McMann's new novel, DEAD TO YOU. Once again, she's hit it out of the ballpark . . . okay, maybe out of twelve ballparks. I dare say it's McMann's best novel yet.

The story begins at breakneck pace and you're quickly given whiplash, but don't worry! It's the good kind of whiplash, the pace you wish all books were written at. When we start the novel, Ethan is with Child Protective Services, about to meet his family, the one that he was taken away from nine years ago. You'd think he'd be totally anxious, but he's actually a bit worried. What if this family isn't what he hopes it is?

These feelings quickly fade as he is swarmed by the people he left behind and reintroduced to the people he had been away from for so long.

Let me just say that I loved this book so much. Like, **SO** much. Lisa McMann is probably my favorite author; she writes such captivating stories that draw you in and make you never want to let go. Dead to You is the book of hers that I most relate to. I've never been abducted, although I feared it for years. Reading it is very touchy for me, because when I was about eight years old I couldn't go to sleep without thinking I saw someone crawling through my window. I also have younger siblings whose MANNERisms (did you see what I did there?) match what McMann did perfectly.

Lisa McMann writes the most convincing male voice I've ever read from a female. I don't know if she had guy editors cracking down on her, but everything Ethan says is pitch-perfect to the high-school guys I've come to know my life. I can't compare myself to him, because I really don't think I'm an average teenager,

but I can recognize when male PoV is done nicely, and this is a prime example of that.

Those of you that have read each McMann book to date and devoured them, you can't miss this one!

Katie says

[Like Blake, I never really believed "Ethan" was his long-lost brother. I had hope, for the sake of the story, that I'd be proven wrong. Unfort

Aj the Ravenous Reader says

This is a very rare and unique YA story of a young man's battle with his own identity. How often do you get to read about a teenage boy who was abducted at age seven and then gets returned to his family nine years later? The story's premise alone is already very interesting and Ethan's character is very easy to like. You can't help but sympathize with him.

As the reader, you would want to guarantee that Ethan's life after he's reconciled with his family will be as comfortable and as easy as possible after what he's gone through. Of course, that wasn't what happened in the book because the author wrote this story in a very plausible and true to life manner.

The author's main purpose I believe is to present one of the many harsh realities in life. It's a terrible thing to lose a family member, a grave thing to mourn for their loss without any idea about whether they are still alive or not. But whether they like it or not, they must move on and move on they did. But what are they supposed to feel when that member returns and doesn't remember anything about the family at all? It also doesn't help that Blake, the smart younger brother of Ethan is suspicious of his brother's identity. The author therefore craftily presents the struggles of these characters in this one of a kind life situation.

I admit I was 90% captivated by this original story and mysterious writing, but then the ending...that freaking ending...

This is one of the craziest cliffhangers ever which wasn't fair at all because this is the kind of story that needs a proper conclusion. Man! That's just insane and for that I'm subtracting one star from this book. Ha!

Read at your own risk although I would really love to see the look on your face when you get to the ending.^^

Gray Cox says

I was lying in my bed, eyes watering, listening to the pounding in my head, coughing so much and so hard that I started wondering if it was possible to hack out a lung or something because *sheesh*. SO I decided to read a book because surely that would take my mind off of the flu and make me feel better.

This book looked like one of those good mystery/suspenseful books, right?

Right?

WRONG.

Ethan is such a dislikable character. And I felt like a bad reader/person when I realized that I genuinely disliked him, because his character had gone through a lot of trauma and *of course* he would have some problems and unresolved issues that he would have to sort with in the book.

But it's not that... **Ethan is a sixteen year old creep.** Like one of *those* creeps. The dirty minded, gross, slimy, stalkerish, boys that follow girls around making crude jokes and gestures.

Like, no thank you.

AND IT GOT WORSE. Asides from Ethan drooling over girls' racks, and trying not to get a boner (everyday we stray farther from God....Jesus, come quickly). We get introduced to Cami, who is the girl next door and is only there to... you guessed it... dump her apparently jerky jock boyfriend (even though I actually LIKED him, he was a good guy not a sleaze like Ethan), so she could make out with Ethan while he tries to hide his erection.

coughs *looks up from book* WHAT THE HECK AM I READING?

OH AND CAN WE POINT OUT THE STUPID PARENTS?!?! Oh, they finally found our son that disappeared when he was seven? *Pshhh!* No need for a DNA test, lets just move this complete stranger in our house who hopefully is our son.

Our other son is afraid of Ethan being an imposter and this is getting between them? *Pshhh!* Still no need for a DNA test!!!

face palm Wha-logic, I tell ya.

I was like, *this better not be the most predictable book and turn out like-*

(view spoiler)

Ummm, so yeah. I think my fever went a bit higher after reading this.

Devon says

I was going to give this a 4 bc whe i added up my different rating like, cover, plot, etc, i got 4 but this ending made me bump it up.

Review to come but for now, enjoy my reaction to the ending

Raeleen Lemay says

FREAKING WHAAAAT? LISA McMANN, YOU CRAZY WOMAN. Throughout the entire book I was really enjoying it, and I figured it would get 3.5 stars, but then the ending... THE ENDING. I had no choice. I read this book in a day, it was crazy wonderful. READ IT.

Here's what I did upon reading the last few pages of this book:

At first I was like

and then I was like

and now I'm just like

HD Tolson says

"Brimming with intrigue and mystery, readers will be sucked into Lisa McMann's latest and best novel to date. Be sure you have a free schedule! You won't be able to stop reading until it's done!"

There's a certain point when a book crosses from a great book to The Book. The Book made by the angels of Heaven and delivered by Jesus himself to an author. It's blessed, it's magical, it's everything a book needs to be and more. Dead To You by Lisa McMann was delivered Priority Mail from God himself. He knocked on Lisa's door and handed her the package made of gold.

She opened it, and Dead To You was inside. A book that brims with undeniable intrigue. A book that sucks you in with its creepy cover and mysterious summary that must be solved. I read this book in a few hours, and they were hours filled with anguish and mystery and an unstoppable need to know what the heck is keeping Ethan's memory blocked.

What I absolutely loved about Dead to You was how Lisa gradually made the relationship between Ethan and his family more and more strained and taut. It was so well done and masterful that I didn't actually realize how much change had happened until I finally finished the book. I literally gasped because, well, how many times do you find an author who can make a relationship change, but you only subconsciously realize that it's happening. It was perfectly done and made the book what it is!

The climax is...breathtaking. Some have told me that they thought it was somewhat predictable, but I didn't see that final bang that blew up within the very last pages. And that ending just CRIES for a sequel, but I can't see Lisa topping this one. I don't want to give any spoilers, but I seriously gasped at the end. I'm not kidding, it is so shocking that it will leave you gasping and your mind will be reeling.

Dead To You is by far Lisa McMann's BEST novel yet. It's dark, it's chilling, it's different, it's unpredictable,

and it's definitely a daring, refreshing book on the YA shelves. Fans of *The Unbecoming of Mara Dyer* will be drawn to the unsolvable mystery and the cliffhanger that will leave you scraping your jaw off the floor. Make sure when you pick this up you don't have any plans in the near future, because you won't be able to stop until it's done!

Cover Comments

Sets the mood for a creepy, mysterious book. Definitely simplistic yet makes your mind work and think.

Kimberly Sabatini says

I had a little bit of an obsession with the book that only got worse when I got to the ending. I found myself reading *DEAD TO YOU* every chance I could get. In my opinion, McMann's **BEST BOOK YET!!!!** I'm gonna shut up now, so I don't spoil it for you. *zip*

Crystal says

I have no idea what just happened in the last 3 pages of this book and I have no idea how I feel about it! I am in complete shock right now...

After thinking about this for awhile I have come to the conclusion that I am pissed! I mean very much over the top pissed. What in the world happened??!! How can it possibly end that way??!! Ms.McMann has managed to take everything I thought I felt about this little world that she created and obliterated it with three pages of words.

The story was such a rough one. Ethan returns home after being abducted nine years ago. It was so heartbreaking to see him trying to fit in and just disappear in the normal everyday that he wants his life to become. My heart broke for him so many times in the first few pages that I just knew I would fall in love with him. His relationship with his six year old sister Gracie was so sweet and innocent that I wish the book would have been about them. They were a great pair. With all that being said when the book hit the half way mark things started to get a little weird for me. Ethan falls head over heels with the girl next door who just happens to be his best friend when he was younger. I get where the romance should have fit in but with everything going on it just felt wrong. I can't imagine anybody returning home after nine years and experiencing what Ethan experienced being ready to have a relationship with anybody. It was all so out of place in my opinion. Then the big bomb was dropped and all hell broke loose. I totally did not see that coming and I am so upset that the story ended where it did! UG! (view spoiler)

As far as the characters go I actually connected to most of them. They all seemed like normal people trying to get a handle on what was going on. That makes it even harder to review this book after liking everybody so much. The story killed it all!

I have realized that the author is really good at leaving endings hanging. I have read her other books and in every one of them I have been left thinking "umm is that all??" So I guess I shouldn't be surprised but this felt like such a hit and run. I am not sure if I will read another one of this authors books because my poor heart can't take it! That is unless she writes a sequel for this one...

Ava says

Mindfuck.

That's the first word that comes to mind after finishing Lisa McMann's DEAD TO YOU, because *damn*, you guys. This book was one helluva ride.

The plot and premise was absolutely stunning. Sixteen-year old Ethan, abducted at the age of seven, has finally returned to his family. It should be a time of rejoicing and glee, but there are secrets and memories that Ethan can't unlock, and it will rip his whole family apart.

I've always been interested in kidnappings, serial murders, and those fascinating, gory things that let people judge you easily. I don't know why, but DEAD TO YOU just knocked me over, dragged me by the feet, and sucked me in.

Lisa handled the family tension quite well, though I quickly figured out the 'mystery' surrounding Ethan. In fact, as you read this, you may already know the memories Ethan can't quite dig up. I felt like there were gaps and holes in the story, but I can't talk about it because I'd spoil it majorly for you.

Lisa's writing is... gorgeously simplistic. Very easy to read, but it maintains that shy air of elegance many authors lose in first-person. It may have to do with also being in present-tense, but I have absolutely no complaints about the writing style.

All the characters had a lot of depth, especially Blake, Ethan's younger brother. I absolutely despised Blake - yes, even at the end - because he was one of the biggest dickfaces I've ever encountered. Hell, he was *my* age, and that kid was a ball of infuriating, unstable anger.

I really liked Ethan, because he was so real. Broken and lost, he had a lot of pressure on him that made him into who he was. And Lisa wrote him *like a boy*. His thoughts were the unspoken version of everything that would come out of my ~~sexy~~ archenemy's mouth.

I found Ethan's romance with Cami, an old friend, ridiculous. The guy has just come back to his family after nine years and his life is practically a mysterious living hell, and Ethan's here thinking about how HE NEEDS TO SCREW CAMI I WANT HER WE NEED TO BANG ASAP

So, yes. Lisa is fantastic at writing from a male point of view. She knows *exactly* how it works.

~~I'm kidding, I'm kidding! I'm not sexist! In all seriousness, I'm joking. Don't get offended, please.~~

I liked DEAD END a lot, and the cliffhanger ripped me apart - especially since there won't be a sequel!

THERE'S NOT GOING TO BE A SEQUEL.

WHAT.

Katrina Passick Lumsden says

I really can't say enough good things about Lisa McMann's writing. It is often simplistic, true, but considering she writes YA fiction, that's unsurprising. Sometimes the prose gets a little monotonous (like when Ethan keeps saying, "That kills me. It really does."), but it is, at least, realistically juvenile speech. Is it better than teenagers who sound like adults? Yes and no. It can be annoying, but reality makes for a more interesting read, in my humble opinion. At least in this case.

My first glimpse into the imagination of Lisa McMann was through *Wake*. I was so enthralled that I quickly devoured it and the following two books. I loved them. So when *Cryer's Cross* came out, I was both excited and cautious. It has been my experience that when I like a few books by an author, I am inevitably let down by subsequent books. Imagine my surprise, then, when not only was I *not* disappointed by *Cryer's Cross*, I really liked it.

Now here we are with *Dead To You*, McMann's fifth foray into the mind of a troubled teen dealing with troubling issues. When we first meet 16-year-old Ethan, he is standing on a train platform with a social worker, gazing at the family he was snatched away from nine years previously. We follow Ethan's reintegration into the family he no longer remembers while his parents are overwhelmed, his younger brother, Blake cautious, and his little sister, Gracie (whom he's meeting for the first time) confused. Complicating matters is the fact that Ethan can't seem to remember anything about his life before he was abducted, nor can he remember the circumstances of said abduction, something that Blake, who was only four when it happened, finds incomprehensible. It becomes apparent at the very beginning that Ethan's life has not been an easy one, and the reader's heart reaches out to him as he attempts to deal with the inevitably bizarre twists that rediscovering his long-lost family has presented. Before long, you find yourself wondering, "Why can't this poor kid remember anything?"

The answer to that question is both shocking and heartbreaking, but it does present itself. This is a powerful read with a good message.

Kristy says

WHAT JUST HAPPENED?!?!?!?!?

no really, did that just happen?!?!?!?!?

Watch out Spoilers probably ahead...

I'll get to that wtf moment in a bit, I guess I should start from the beginning...

So basically this 7 year old kid, Ethan was abducted from his family. It has been 9 years and they get the call that Ethan has been found. He is coming home. This poor kid lived with his "abductor" Ellen for a while and then she decided to dump him off at a kids' home in some bum-fu@! town where there are "no questions asked".

Okay, this pisses me off.... I digress

He lives there a while. Screws some girl named Tempest, decides to leave and go live on the streets and at

the zoo. Did I mention this kid is only like 13-15 during all this.

So, he gets to go home and be with his family now after 9 years of not knowing who he is. He "meets" his mom, dad, younger brother and 6 year old sister. Yeah, she was born just a year after he was taken. Also another kinda pisses me off moment. But, she turns out to be too darn cute to get mad at. So, I let this one go.

Ethan's Brother on the other hand was pretty awful to him. He is angry that Ethan doesn't remember anything. He is angry at him for living in his space. He is just angry. This kid made me sick. Up until literally the last page I hated him. But, he turned out to be right. Don't ya hate that?!?!?!?

So, I had a range of emotions reading this. I was happy for the family at first, I was sad for Ethan not being able to fit in, I was mad at pretty much every character at some point or another.

I read this book because I am a huge fan of Lisa McMann. Her Wake trilogy was easy to read and just awesome.

I am still a huge fan.

Even after this wtf ending. I can't believe it. I thought maybe Ethan would run away or Blake would try and kill him or something. But, I DID NOT SEE this coming. Holy Hell!

4 stars

You asked for it Crystal

Content: A lot of F-Bombs were dropped. Not suitable for probably under 15??

Big thanks to Crystal for letting me read this one and for that heads up about the end!

This and other reviews (and other fun stuff) over on my blog
Messyhousehappy life

shady boots | #WatchPOSE says

Dear Ms. McMann,

HOW COULD YOU DO THIS TO ME? DO YOU REALIZE THAT THIS IS A STANDALONE? HOW COULD YOU JUST END IT RIGHT THERE?

I can't.

I just can't.

Sincerely, someone that just had their heart and brain obliterated by you. All at the same time.

Laura says

Family will always be there. Through thick or thin, good times, hard times, and harder times. Right? But how can a family's faith, hope, and trust survive in the face of excruciating uncertainty and pain?

In Lisa McMann's *Dead to You* the DeWilde family's world is altered forever when seven year old Ethan is kidnapped from right outside their home. Now nine years later, Ethan has been found and returned to his home and family, but can a broken family torn apart for so long really be healed? Memories, anxieties, and pain swirl through these pages with such simple, honest language and emotion. This family—Mama, Dad, Blake, Gracie, and Ethan (aka "Efan" as Gracie calls him) touched my heart.

"Maybe I'm just not meant to be here, not wired to fit in anymore, after all these years away."

Through the course of the story, each member of the family attempts to reconnect with Ethan in their own way, but six year old Gracie, who wasn't even born when Ethan was kidnapped, truly made me smile. The open and honest heart of a child will never cease to amaze and inspire me! Gracie's love, trust and teasing with Ethan were some of my favorite parts of the book. But Gracie's adorableness and trust were balanced with Blake's anger, jealousy, and mistrust. At thirteen, Blake remembered the day, lived through how the pain changed him and his parents, and now has to attempt to rebuild a relationship with a brother who once again is getting all the attention. The tension, uncertainty, and jealousy threaten new pain and rifts which push this young family and my heart to the breaking point.

Now on to the lighter side of things. :D The side characters provide such a wonderful and needed layer of humor that gives readers a break from the tension in the family. J-Dog (Yes, I said J-Dog*giggle, giggle*.) will cause smiles and laughs every time he is on the page. Oh, how he made me giggle! Hehe...And Cami! The beautiful, funny, smart girl next door—every guy wants one I'm sure! ;) Ethan and Cami's chemistry is adorable, immediate, and down right hot at times. Readers will root for them until the end!

For such a quick read, Ms. McMann addresses some big issues, but does so in a clear, heartfelt way. I truly felt like this family was just holding on and going through such realistic emotions dealing with such an impossible situation. What people have to endure each day is heartbreaking. How does a mother let her kids go out the door just hoping they come back—especially since one child did not come back inside one day? How does a mother let her child go?

This book is filled with hard hitting pain, faith, panic, fear, sadness and surprises! The power will spin your head around and linger long after you close the book.

It was a pleasure diving into a McMann book again. I have missed her.

