

Let Me Lie

Clare Mackintosh

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Two years ago, Tom and Caroline Johnson chose to end their lives; one seemingly unable to live without the other. Their daughter Anna is struggling to come to terms with her parents' deaths, unable to accept the verdict of suicide.

Now with a young baby herself, she feels her mother's presence keenly and is determined to find out what really happened to her parents. But as Anna digs up the past, someone is trying to stop her.

Sometimes it's safer to let things lie . . .

Let Me Lie Details

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From Reader Review Let Me Lie for online ebook

Kaceey - Traveling Sister says

4.5??

Anna is trying to come to terms with her family's tragic past. You see, she lost both parents to suicide. Adding to the unbearable pain, it was only within 7 months of each-other. Both having taken their lives in the very same way.

Anna is starting over. She has a new boyfriend and a new baby. New beginnings...unfortunately, the past won't stay in the past!

On the anniversary of her mother's death she receives an anonymous and disturbing card: *Suicide? Think again.*

Is this someone trying to be cruel? A really bad joke? Or is there something more to her parents deaths/suicide? After all, Anna never really believed either one was capable of taking their own lives.

A diabolically clever thriller loaded with twists you'll never see coming. I had several shocking moments that left me speechless all the way to the last page! I truly thought I had this one figured out (several times in fact) but once again, I was led down the wrong path! Well done Clare Mackintosh! I tip my detective's cap to you!!?????

There are a lot of mixed reviews for this book. So much so I had left it sitting on my shelf for quite some time. Now I'm kicking myself for waiting! I hope you'll have the same reaction I did if you decide to read this one!!

A fabulous twisty read with Susanne!?

Thank you to Edelweiss for an ARC to review.

Linda says

Something to ponder......Your tickets are marked Disney World......only your final destination turns out to be a neighborhood carnival. More on that later.

Anna Johnson looks into the sleepy eyes of her newborn daughter, Ella. (Clare Mackintosh writes this passage in achingly beautiful prose.) But Anna's motherly joy is suppressed by her heavy grief. It's coming up on the one year anniversary of an unspeakable tragedy. Both of her parents committed suicide.....one right after the other.

You don't get to walk away from the impact of such a shocking reality. You wake to it each and every morning. And when you close your eyes, it visits you each and every night. You wear it like a second skin.

Baby Ella was an unexpected gift of an unexpected relationship with Mark. Mark, a professional psychologist, began counseling Anna after her parents' sudden deaths. He recused himself as he became

attracted to Anna and they soon moved into Anna's family home. Anna refused his marriage proposals and still remained single in their relationship.

But the wheels on this fast track will start sliding in a different direction. Anna receives an anniversary card in the mail with a shocking phrase written on the bottom of the card: Suicide, Think Again.

Anna bundles Ella up and rushes to the police station. It is here that we meet Detective Murray MacKenzie. He promises to look into the year old case. There just doesn't seem to be enough evidence to go on. But it is the dogged nature of this individual who breathes life into this story.

What exactly is behind these questionable suicides? Could it be murder as Anna suggests?

Let's get back to those tickets, shall we? They are also stamped with a wee bit of disappointment. Clare Mackintosh can write with a quill made of angel feathers. She's proved that in her first offering, I Let You Go. (A masterpiece of mystery/thriller writing) Let Me Lie lacks the thrill. We'd need Michael Jackson to do a walk through. (Ah, Thriller!)

Excellent writing and sound police procedures are not the concern. Mackintosh's plot points suffer from being well-worn and already carried through on many a shelf. The twists had a foot sticking out of the bushes. We followed the breadcrumbs, but then the birds ate most of them. And the path we traveled went on and on. The satisfaction factor seemed to fade even in the very contrived excitement at the end.

Clare Mackintosh shined brilliantly in her descriptors of Detective Murray MacKenzie. We felt the incredible love he had for his wife, Sarah, who suffered from mental illness and spent most of the time institutionalized. No matter how powerfully he loved her, nothing could break through her mental issues. Mackintosh makes you feel every beat of their hearts. It was an exceptional thread in this storyline.

And that's what we need to experience in the next offering from this superbly talented author. She knows the makings of the human spirit. Move away from the stilted storylines and give us, once more, the purity and the essence of I Let You Go. If you write it, Clare Mackintosh, we most certainly will come.....again and again.

Esil says

It's so hard to weed out the mediocre from the excellent when it comes to psychological thrillers — hard enough that every now and then, it feels like it might be best to abandon the genre altogether. I'm not quite there yet, but Let Me Lie definitely gets tossed onto the mediocre pile.

Both of Anna's parents committed suicide within a few months of each other — or so she thinks. Retired officer Murray decides to try to help her figure out what happened. The story is told from both their perspectives. There are a few twists and turns all the way to the last line.

While Let Me Lie was clever in parts, it felt long, a bit disjointed and not particularly thrilling or engaging. I keep hearing rave reviews about MacKintosh's initial book — I Let You Go— but this one and her previous

one — I See You, which I read last year — were just meh.

Thanks to Edelweiss and the publisher for an opportunity to read an advance copy.

Book of Secrets says

4.5 Stars → LET ME LIE is a dark and clever psychological thriller, and the perfect cure for my reading slump. This is the third book by Clare Mackintosh that I've read, and I always enjoy her writing. She has a talent for creating emotional, character-driven suspense with amazing twists that really mess with your head. She makes you love/hate/sympathize with characters, and then bam! A big twist comes along to make you question everything.

Anna Johnson is a daughter grieving over the suicides of her parents the previous year. Then she receives something that makes her suspicious, makes her think that maybe they were murdered instead. The story alternates between Anna and other players in this twisted tale, including a retired detective named Murray who checks into the Johnson's case. I loved Murray's character, and his relationship with his troubled wife was heart-rending. The book goes from a slow-burn in the beginning to a thrilling roller coaster ride at the end, and I enjoyed it all.

Disclosure: I received a copy of this book from the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

Elizabeth of Silver's Reviews says

Both parents committing suicide at the same exact spot seven months apart seemed a bit strange. Anna extremely missed both her parents but didn't know how much until a horrible reminder arrived in the mail.

This horrible reminder had Anna rethinking the possibility that her parents really didn't commit suicide but had been murdered. She never thought her parents would kill themselves and leave her without them.

Anna asked for the case to be reopened, and a retired policeman, Murray, was taking on the job.

No one knew Anna had asked for this case to be re-opened, but it sure seemed as if they did. Strange things started happening that even her husband dismissed. Was she in danger too?

Meanwhile we have another voice being heard in the book. The voice is the voice of Anna's mother watching Anna and being elated that she has a grandchild and also not very happy that Anna was digging into papers that might put Anna in danger depending upon what she would find.

Anna's mother does some odd things like going into the house when it is empty and looking for things and specifically a key. What could the key be, why is it important to her, and how is she in the house if she is dead?

After this, the intrigue began...secrets were being revealed, impossible things happening, ghosts, seeing things that couldn't be there, feeling her mother's presence, and the reader wondering what Anna's mother

was looking for and what she was trying to protect Anna from or protect herself from.

LET ME LIE has GREAT twists and is another Clare Mackintosh book you won't want to miss. You won't see it coming and ask yourself how you missed it.

The tension at the end makes this one her best yet. 5/5

This book was given to me free of charge by the publisher and NetGalley in return for an honest review.

Norma * Traveling Sister says

2.5 stars rounded down

First off I want to mention that I absolutely loved I LET YOU GO and was absolutely WOWED by that book and subsequently will read anything that CLARE MACKINTOSH writes! Even though this one didn't quite work out for me I will still read future books by this author.

If I am rating this solely on my review rating system this book gets no more than 2.5 stars from me which I have decided to round down. It was just okay and for the most part it wasn't an enjoyable read for me. For all of you who follow my reviews I think you all are pretty much aware that I pretty much love and enjoy most of the books that I read and I hand out a lot of 4 and 5 star ratings. Endings in books are a huge deciding factor for me in what I will rate said book. With that being said I was really disappointed with the way that this one played out.

LET ME LIE by CLARE MACKINTOSH was an interesting enough psychological thriller with plenty of twists and turns to be had here and there was definitely something about this book that did hold my interest enough to keep me wanting to read to the end. There were just a few too many things included in this storyline near the end of the book that just didn't work for me and just left me feeling disappointed with the outcome.

CLARE MACKINTOSH does know how to write though and I really do enjoy her writing style so I definitely had no issues there. I must also say that I absolutely love that cover and the best part of this book for me were the chapters told in the perspective from retired cop Murray. I really loved the characters of Murray and his wife Sarah!

Thank you so much to all my fellow Traveling Sisters for another wonderful discussion!

Thank you so much to Edelweiss for the opportunity to read an advanced copy of this book in exchange for a review!

Review written and posted on our themed book blog Two Sisters Lost In A Coulee Reading. https://twosisterslostinacoulee.com

Coulee: a term applied rather loosely to different landforms, all of which refer to a kind of valley.

JanB says

This was my first book by this author although I own I Let You Go, a book I've heard wonderful things about and plan to read soon. I really enjoyed the beginning of this one and was very invested in the characters and the writing. I had enormous sympathy for Anna who lost both her parents to suicide within a year. When there are clues that perhaps her parent's deaths were not suicide, Detective Murray is brought in and re-opens the investigation. He was a welcome addition to the story, and ended up being my favorite character. I just loved him. I found the side story of his wife's struggles with mental illness to be sensitive and heartfelt. I applaud the author for wring a character that sheds light and understanding on mental health issues.

Unfortunately, back to the main characters, when the twists started coming, the story fell apart for me. There were too many and the story became a convoluted mess that didn't hold up to scrutiny. Sometimes, less is more. Truthfully, the resolution and the events that happened towards the end ruined the entire book for me. Some readers have enjoyed this book, so don't take my word alone for it - read those reviews too.

* Thank you to Edelweiss, the publisher and the author for an e-galley of the book in exchange for an honest review.

Thanks to my traveling sisters group - you make reading books together always enjoyable. The Traveling Sister's blog can be found at: https://twogirlslostinacouleereading....

Deanna says

My reviews can also be seen at: https://deesradreadsandreviews.wordpr...

I read " *I Let You Go* " by Clare Mackintosh a few years ago and LOVED it. The author's second novel " *I See You* " has been on my TBR for a while and I am looking forward to reading it too. However, when the opportunity came up to read " *Let Me Lie* ", I was thrilled and couldn't wait to get reading.

The police say it was suicide.

Anna says it was murder.

They're both wrong.

Anna Johnson is trying to adjust to life without her mother and father. Her mother committed suicide a year ago, just a few months after Anna's father killed himself.

Although Anna still mourns her parents, she has a distraction...a new baby with her partner, Mark. They will soon be celebrating their daughter, Ella's first Christmas. She wishes her parents were there to celebrate with them. She doesn't understand how her mother, after seeing how devastated Anna was after the loss of her father, could put her through it again a few months later. She struggles to believe either of them could have done this. "They were the last people you would expect to give up on life".

So why did they do it?

Then on the anniversary of her mother's death, she receives an anonymous card in the mail, with a message that is impossible to ignore. This message raises even more questions and Anna is determined to get some answers. But not everyone is happy with Anna digging around in the past, and she could be putting herself and her family in danger.

Detective Murray Mackenzie is technically retired but works as a civilian at the police station, dealing with things like lost pets. The station has been so quiet lately and he's been feeling rather useless. Then Anna Johnson walks into the police station. Will the detective be able to help Anna find out what she wants to know? What if she doesn't like what she finds?

So many secrets....so many lies.

I found the first part of this novel pretty slow, but the story eventually pulled me in. There were some well-timed twists that really surprised me, though I did see a few of the others coming. I was also somewhat baffled by the ending. I'm not sure if I am over-analyzing it, but I've read it a couple of times and I'm still unsure.

I loved Detective Murray Mackenzie's story. His relationship with his wife, Sarah was incredibly heart-warming. How he helped Sarah with her struggles, how she helped him with his cases. A wonderful detective and an amazing husband, he was honestly my favorite character.

While "I Let You Go" is still my favorite novel from this author, I thought "Let Me Lie" was an enjoyable read. I am looking forward to seeing what Clare Mackintosh comes up with next!

I'd like to thank Berkley for giving me the opportunity to read this book in exchange for my honest review.

Chelsea Humphrey says

Some authors are a one trick pony; they continue to write the same type of stories for the duration of their career, sometimes successfully and other times not so much. Clare Mackintosh is no such pony; while all three of her novels fall clearly in the crime fiction genre, the style, flow, and thematic elements vary drastically. I highly respect this move-it's ballsy for an author working within such a rigid genre and she does it beautifully. In fact, I can't think of many other authors who have been able to carry off such a diverse set of novels and applaud her with the greatest of respect. If you enjoy psychological thrillers that contain aspects of the police procedural realm, these books will be right up your ally.

"Three may keep a secret, it two of them are dead."

-Benjamin Franklin

The blurb for *Let Me Lie* is short, and for good reason. Like the author's previous novels, this one entices the reader initially with it's vagueness and ends with a shocking twist, so shocking in fact that a handful of people have messaged me with a "Wait, what just happened?" and I was in that same boat as them. I had to flip back to a certain scene in the story to see what I had missed. For this very reason I'm not going to rehash the summary; you already know that the police think Anna's parents committed suicide and that she thinks it was murder and the publisher says coyly "BUT IT WAS NEITHER MUAHAHAHAHAHA". I did guess the what (meaning what happened to Anna's parents) before I even picked up the book, but I didn't understand

the "why" or "how" until I had made good progress in the story. While Mackintosh's debut *I Let You Go* will always be a tough one to top in my rating scale, I did find *Let Me Lie* even more enjoyable than *I See You*.

You may be surprised that I found the mental health representation my favorite aspect of the novel. While the mystery at hand was nice, I was particularly drawn in to Murray's personal side story with his wife and her struggles with her diagnosis, as well as the general, overall themes dealing with suicide, anxiety, and depression. I was incredibly moved by this, along with some of the more sensitive details, such as Anna's journey as a new mother and all the bittersweet parts that go along with it (breastfeeding, exhaustion, postpartum emotions, etc). These components alone deserve a 5 star rating, and her own experience as a mother was evident in her tender, moving writing of Anna's inner monologue.

My only downside to this one was that it is a very slow burn, and while I expected it to be a slow building suspense, at times I found myself putting it down because I could sense my attention span waning. A few parts dragged and felt like filler to move the story along with no real purpose, but otherwise the story was solid. I'd like to insert that my issues with the slowness and disinterest at points might be due to a looming slump of crime thrillers at the moment. Let Me Lie might simply be the latest victim at no fault of it's own. Again, the last 25% was classic Clare; her writing had me grasped by the collar of my shirt and I couldn't swipe the pages fast enough. The final twist was a really nice touch, reminiscent of her first novel and it warmed me down to the bones. If you're a fan of Mackintosh's novels, definitely give this a go. Another entertaining mystery from a seasoned vet and I'm looking forward to seeing where she takes us next.

*Many thanks to the publisher for providing my copy.

Susanne Strong says

3.75 Stars* (rounded up)

Anna Johnson's parents are gone.. it has now been over a year since she lost her mother and more than that since she lost her dad. She lives each day for her little girl, Ella and her partner Mark. Thank goodness she has them. Everyone, including the police think her parents died by suicide, but Ella knows differently.. she just feels it. When on the anniversary of her mother's passing, she receives a note in her mailbox which says "Suicide, Think Again" - Anna feels somewhat vindicated and she goes to the police. Detective Murray Mackenzie helps by investigating, even though he is semi-retired and everyone else in the department has closed their cases. Thereafter, bad things start happening to Anna - things that should stop her from moving forward with the investigation. She needs answers, however and she will do whatever it takes to get them. Detective Mackenzie doggedly works the case to the bone - and he doesn't give up - even when told to do so.

"Let Me Lie" is a twisty turny suspense novel that kept me glued to the pages throughout. Certain parts of the mystery were somewhat predictable, while other parts were completely unexpected. The ending, for instance, took me by surprise. Detective Mackenzie's character was extremely likable and heartwarming and the side storyline involving him and his wife stole the show.

I read this with my GR sister Kaceey and we both liked it a lot.

Thank you to Edelweiss, Penguin Publishing Group and Claire Mackintosh for an ARC of this novel in

exchange for an honest review.

Published on Edelweiss, Goodreads, Twitter and Amazon on 5.13.18.

Dennis says

Clare Mackintosh and I have a very interesting relationship; I have strong opinions about her novels....and she has no idea who I am. When I started reviewing thrillers, one of the first big stories I reviewed was *I See You*, and it just wasn't my favorite story. I do know that the author spent over a decade on the police force and it has become some sort of a muse for her widely popular thriller novels. When I received my advanced copy of *Let Me Lie* from Berkley (thank you!), I wanted to give Ms. Mackintosh a second chance. Let me tell you, I am so happy that I did!

Let Me Lie is a deep, emotionally-driven thriller that successfully juggles many real-life dramas that can happen to anyone. What makes this story so enthralling for me was that while I was reading, I felt that this could happen to anyone. These realistic themes not only make the story immersive, but also very enchanting. In Let Me Lie wdeal with suicide, family conflict, mental illness, and betrayal. Anna Johnson is coping after a year of chaos and depression from the suicides of her mother and father. Both parents chose to end their lives in the same way within a short span apart from each other. Anna is now a mother, raising her newborn Ella with her partner Mark, and she is still struggling with the aftermath of their deaths. She misses her parents immensely, but on the anniversary of her mother's death she receives information that could change the magnitude of everything.

Let Me Lie is a story that if you know any more than the blurb I provided, it could potentially spoil it for you. Go in blind, I'm warning you now. Anyone who tells you more about this story is a bad friend and should be excommunicated immediately. While I was reading Let Me Lie, I did note many similarities to I See You that I wanted to comment on. With this story, we do receive multiple POVs that alternate mainly between the main character and the police officer investigating the crime. I believe what makes Let Me Lie a more robust story than her predecessors is that we have an interesting back story for both narrators without deviating too much from the main plot. The story this time around is concentrated on a centralized theme and we really don't get any irrelevant potholes. My only concern with this novel is that in the first 1/3 of the story, it stays pretty stagnant in terms of plot development. We hear accounts from Anna and the people in her life and how they dealt with the suicides of Caroline and Tom Johnson. I grew a tad impatient when starting this story because I knew that it was going to deliver more action. Before any real action took place, we kept hearing about the emotional status of everyone around her. It just felt a little repetitive to me and I caught myself itching to skip around. However, I stuck with it and I am glad I did because as I read on, everything made sense to me. If you find yourself feeling like this is a slow-burn without any golden nuggets, keep going—I promise it'll all make sense. Ms. Mackintosh set the stage expertly and you'll catch yourself going "ah-hah! at the perfect moment.

Clare Mackintosh, I'm back on board the super-fan train. I'm excited for what you have next in store. *Let Me Lie* will be released on March 8, 2018 everywhere. Thank you again Berkley Publishing for my advanced copy in exchange for an honest review. *I'm much more fun on Instagram* / @scared_str8

j e w e l s [Books Bejeweled] says

FOUR STARS

With a smidgen of optimism, I finally decided on a 4 star rating for **LET ME LIE**. But, in all fairness of honest disclosure, at certain points in the book I felt the dreaded **THREE STAR** rating looming in the distance.

My queen of plot twists, Clare Mackintosh, does not disappoint in the department of surprise. She rules the world of shocking revelations! Where her second novel I See You crossed the line of believability, this new novel only briefly straddles the line. Cross that line more than once and forgeddahboutit...I can't squelch the urge to roll my eyes and give up caring about the story. That didn't quite happen, but almost did.

There is a big twist in the structure of the book that will remind you plot twist lovers of The Wife Between Us. It's exciting and crazy, but it's this particular twist that was too unbelievable for me to handle. I actually think the story would have been better without it. AAAAH, I'm on tiptoes with the plot, I apologize for making no sense at all here!!! I think you will know what I mean when you read it:-)

Aside from the (many) shocking plot reveals, Mackintosh brings her flair for sensitively portraying emotional human narratives in this novel. I particularly adored the character of Murray, a retired cop who agrees to look into the deaths of Anna's parents, after they have been ruled as suicides. His relationship with his wife of 25 years is touching, tender. Together, they have endured and persevered through her mental illness challenges. Oh, I want more Murray! What an endearing character! Please bring him back, Clare Mackintosh!!

Mackintosh's strongest suit is her undeniable writing talent. Aaaah, I could read her words all day long. Charming and utterly engaging use of language, I really love her style! As with her first book, I flew through this addictive story. Being a former policewoman, she truly knows her crime stuff, but she also knows how to write like the pros.

Mackintosh's third book rates somewhere in the middle of her two previous ones. Whew! After that blockbuster gorgeous first book, I Let You Go I was seriously wondering if she even wrote the second one, I See You. She has redeemed herself with **LET ME LIE**.

Thanks to the author, Berkley Publishing and NetGalley for giving me the opportunity to read and review this book!

Melisa says

Clare Mackintosh is a **brilliant** writer. If she writes it, I will read it.

I hate to compare author's novels to each other and not take them as original works, but I struggled with that in this case. I Let You Go was an amazing book - it ripped out my heart and brought me to tears. (Bit dramatic? Yes. But true.) This one unfortunately didn't pan out how I was hoping.

This will be an exciting, twisty thriller to some, but for someone who reads a lot of this genre, I found it to be

a bit predictable. There are many twists to be had, and unfortunately, they didn't work for me. This is a downfall for a reader who loves thrillers and mysteries - I seem to always have my detective hat on and can't take it off and just enjoy!

I did love the characters of Murray and Sarah and would love to hear more about their story.

This was a Traveling Sisters group read and I always love hearing the perspectives from my buddies, they always add a fresh take to my perspective.

Copy provided by Edelweiss for an honest review- thank you.

Zoeytron says

Copy furnished by Net Galley for the price of a review.

Truth be told, *Let Me Lie* didn't do much for me. As psychological thrillers go, this was tepid to the point of going cold. Doubly disappointing as I thoroughly enjoyed the author's first novel, *I Let You Go*.

Mistakes are made, accidents happen, lies are told. So many lies, it becomes exhausting. A new mom is still mourning the suicide of her father. A few months later, her mother follows suit. Questions remain.

The writing was fine, the best thing in the book to me was the time spent with retired cop Murray and his wife. For seasoned readers of thrillers, this probably won't bring anything new to the table.

Dorie says

I read Ms. Mackintosh's book "I Let You Go" and enjoyed it. I was looking forward to another great read in "Let Me Lie". Although some reviewers seem to be disappointed in this book I liked it. Here's why:

The story is told from multiple points of view which is always interesting and since one of the narrators is not identified I found it that much more enticing.

The writing is very good. It flowed well and kept me reading. It had plenty of twists and lots of lies, lots and lots of lies! The main character, Anna Johnson, is well described. She is a young woman dealing with the deaths of both of her parents, a new baby and a still developing relationship with the baby's father. I may have wanted her to handle some of the situations differently but, hey, this is a story. She is just beginning to heal when she receives an anonymous note which suggests that perhaps her parents deaths were not by suicide, as they had been ruled by the police investigation but something else.

When Anna calls the police it is an answered by a retired police detective, Murray, who still works at the station at the desk for incoming calls, etc. Though he is no longer licensed to take on a case he has a suspicion about this one and decides that he can at least get some information to pass along to the detectives. He gets more and more involved and we learn a lot about his character and his own family life. His wife has been battling mental illness all of her life and has been in and out of hospital and psych wards throughout their marriage, he never gives up on her. I couldn't help but love this character who, in spite of his own

pressing problems, continues to try to help Anna.

There are other characters as well who could possibly be involved in a cover up, or a part of a crime committed. There is her partner, Mark, a psychologist, who appears loving and cares about Anna and baby Ella and wants to marry her but how much does she really know about him? There is her uncle Billy who, along with Anna, inherited the auto business that her parents started. She has a very good friend named Laura who also lost her mother a few years back. Dr. Drake is a next door neighbor who always seems to be a bit too interested in what is going on at the Johnson house.

I liked the book and the notes from the author afterward. She wanted not only to write a thriller but to also convey a message about suicides. She states "According to the charity MIND, 1 in 4 of us will experience mental health problems this year and more than 25% of us admit to having had suicidal thoughts at some point in our lives". I don't know how much more research backs up these numbers but I know that there are lots of suicides committed every year and perhaps some may have been prevented if someone noticed the signs of depression or mental illness in their loved ones, friends or family and reached out a helping hand. I applaud her in trying to bring awareness to this subject.

I received an ARC from the publisher through NetGalley, thank you.