



Last Kiss

Louise Phillips

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A dark tale of deception and desire from the author of *Red Ribbons* and *The Doll's House*

In a quiet suburb, a woman desperately clings to her sanity as a shadowy presence moves objects around her home.

In a hotel room across the city, an art dealer with a dubious sexual past is found butchered, his body arranged to mimic the Hangman card from the Tarot deck.

But what connects them?

When criminal psychologist Dr Kate Pearson is brought in to help investigate the murder, she finds herself plunged into a web of sexual power and evil which spreads from Dublin to Paris, and then to Rome.

Will Kate discover the identity of the killer before it's too late to protect the innocent? But what separates the innocent from the guilty when the sins of the past can never be forgotten?

Last Kiss Details

Date : Published October 1st 2014 by Hachette Ireland (first published August 1st 2014)

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Author : Louise Phillips

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Genre : Thriller, Mystery, Crime, European Literature, Irish Literature, Cultural, Ireland

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From Reader Review Last Kiss for online ebook

Raven says

I must confess with the absolute glut of female psychological thriller writers currently inhabiting the genre, my recent reading in this genre has been an up and down affair. However, building on the success of both Red Ribbons and The Doll's House, Phillips has earned a steadfast place in my list of favoured writers. Once again placing the likeable and engaging criminal psychologist Dr Kate Pearson in league with the grizzled and world weary DI O'Connor, there is again time for Phillips to play with the dynamics of their relationship, as they are pitted against a sadistic murderer and a far reaching investigation. What quickly transpires is that the killer they seek has killed before, and has no compunction in killing again...and again. This is a difficult review to write as I am not going to dwell on plot, purely because this is such a chilling and twisting investigation that I am desperate to avoid spoilers. Needless, to say I loved the little false alleys that Phillips leads us up in the course of the book and although I guessed the identity of the killer (more through fluke I believe) , which is beautifully concealed, there was no way I saw that ending coming. It's dark, devious and totally gripping with interesting and engaging central characters, a good use of the contrasting locations, and more slippery than an eel covered in Vaseline. Thanks to Phillips for restoring my faith in the psychological thriller, and in some style.

Karen B. says

This was an interesting crime investigation and psych thriller novel. After looking at a recent murder, a psychologist/profiler thinks the murder is a woman. Clues are left, most notably her carmine lipstick at the murder scene. Past murders, in Paris and Rome seem to indicate it's the same killer. As the investigators and profiler are on the trail, the killer is revealing herself through first person narrative chapters. The reader see her crimes through her eyes and sees her next intended victim. Suspense builds as we hope the investigators will catch her before she has a chance to carry out her plans and as the reader also tries to figure out the identity of the killer.

Vinamra says

I received a free copy of this book through a giveaway on Goodreads.

It was very interesting and fast-paced psychological thriller book. Once you start reading, you won't be able to put it down! It's a very engaging, very cleverly written by Louise Phillips and thoroughly enjoyed by me.

Thank you for sending me a copy of your book.

“The story worth reading”

Claire says

Review: Last Kiss by Louise Phillips Publication date: 7th August 2014

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Rating: 5/5

Synopsis:

In a quiet suburb, a woman desperately clings to her sanity as a shadowy presence moves objects around her home.

In a hotel room across the city, an art dealer with a dubious sexual past is found butchered, his body arranged to mimic the Hangman card from the Tarot deck.

But what connects them?

When criminal psychologist Dr Kate Pearson is brought in to help investigate the murder, she finds herself plunged into a web of sexual power and evil which spreads from Dublin to Paris, and then to Rome.

Will Kate discover the identity of the killer before it's too late to protect the innocent? But what separates the innocent from the guilty when the sins of the past can never be forgotten?

Review:

This compelling psychological thriller grabbed my attention from the outset, dragging me along on a rollercoaster ride of intrigue through Europe and Ireland. Well written, with interesting and endearing characters, I found this book unputdownable. It is dark and gritty, terrifying yet sad. I was drawn into the killer's world and experienced so many emotional highs and lows, before being flung out at the end like a soggy tissue!

The relationship between Pearson and O'Connor is on a par with Val McDermid's brilliant pairing of Tony Hill and Carol Jordan, and I can easily imagine this book transferring onto the screen in a similar way.

I received a free review copy of this novel

Alex is The Romance Fox says

LAST KISS, the 3rd book in Louise Phillips Dr Kate Pearson Series is by far the most chilling, dark and raw of this series.

The story opens with a prologue that is shocking and sad and sets the mood for the story.

When a man is found brutally murdered in a Dublin hotel room, Criminal psychologist/profiler, Dr Kate Pearson is asked to assist with profiling of the killer.

Dr Kate Pearson and Garda Detective Inspector O'Connor, work together at trying to discover the killer's identity, which Kate believes may be female. When similar murders that occurred in Paris and Rome come up in their investigation, the two travel to both cities to obtain more information.

The intriguing and multi-layered storyline revolves around underground BDSM scenes in Dublin, Paris and Rome and how a child's early years can affect their behaviour as adults. Are we born or made evil? Madness,

depravity, sex, greed, power, malice, hate, sexual abuse, lies, secrets.....and as with previous books, the story is told through different POV's.....the most chilling and dark being the killer's thoughts and feelings.

One of the things I like about this series is how familiar Kate and O'Connor have become. The two's relationship has evolved from the 1st book...there is definitely a spark there and I look forward to seeing if it goes forward or not.

This is really a superb series and if you like psychological thrillers, this is one for you.

I really liked the cover.....you feel the evil lurking in the shadows!!!!

BookwormDH says

Well, that was a little gem from the to-read pile. My first book by Louise Phillips, and what an amazing read! Highly recommended and looking forward to more!!

Book Addict Shaun says

Another Irish Fiction Week review and again it's for a Louise Phillips book, but hopefully that is a sign of how good they are, and hopefully it urges those with these books on their TBR, to move them closer to the top... In Last Kiss Kate Pearson is once again assisting the Dublin police with their latest case: the murder of an art dealer with a dubious sexual past, his body arranged to mimic the Hangman card from the Tarot deck. When reading the blurb I actually wondered just where the story would go, and whether I'd even enjoy it with the whole 'web of sexual power and evil which spreads from Dublin to Paris, and then to Rome.' What I'll say then is that Last Kiss has been my favourite out of the three that have been released so far.

Last Kiss is a hard book to review because often the things I love most about the book are those that you can't really talk about without giving away half the plot. The chapters featuring our killer are probably some of the best I've read, endlessly fascinating and so very terrifying this really was compulsive reading at its very best. The psychological elements of Louise's books are just so brilliantly done, bringing to the story an authenticity greater than any other author I have read in a long time. It's very hard to discuss the characters in any great detail, but Louise - as in her previous books - raises some interesting points, leaving the reader with a lot to think about long after turning that final page. A person's upbringing, what drives them to kill etc is something that is often explored very loosely, or lazily in a lot of crime fiction books. Often it's just a case of been there, done that but there's a lot to be taken from Last Kiss, and it would certainly provoke a lively discussion from book club readers.

I'm repeating myself but as said in my review for The Doll's House, one of the strongest elements of Louise's stories for me are their endings. Often you can read a book, great start, brilliant middle and then abysmal ending. And this happens a lot. Louise keeps the suspense going pretty much until the final pages. I read the last hundred or so pages of Last Kiss in the bath, and I had my Kindle in a vice-like grip because I was practically shaking, such is the suspense and tension created here. I even gasped out loud (yes, really!) near the end too. A satisfying conclusion for the main story, yet the reader is left wanting more from Kate and O'Connor, an intriguing pairing to say the least. What I particularly like about Kate is she is very realistically drawn, not without her own issues and demons I never felt like I'd read about her before, as is sometimes the case with female psychologists especially.

It's certainly been a long time since I sat and read all of an author's books in just one week but I honestly couldn't have chosen three better books to read during Irish Fiction Week and I just can't recommend them enough. I imagine a lot of people will have discovered Louise by now, and I'm late to the party, but for those out there that haven't yet, do so ASAP. Three of the best books that I've read in 2015 so far.

Ciaran says

Christopher Walken said in the Film Man on Fire: "A man can be an artist... in anything, food, whatever. It depends on how good he is at it. Creasey's art is death. He's about to paint his masterpiece."

I think Louise Phillips just wrote her masterpiece with Last Kiss.

A man is dead in a hotel room in Dublin. This murder is a gruesome death with a shade of lipstick left on the victim. The colour carmine won't be a shade that will leave it for a long time. This is the third book from Louise and that means my favourite Criminal psychologist, Dr Kate Pearson is back to help the Irish police.

I really loved this book it set of like a rollercoaster. Many twists and turns and I could not work out the killer at all. I loved how I really felt the killer was speaking to me with Louise's short and precise sentences. I could hear a voice in my head speaking to me as I read these parts.

I took my time reading this book and that all went out the window by part three. I was very sucked in and did not want to put the book down.

The start, the middle and the end were truly captivating. I even took away a nice message from the book. I wont ruin it by telling you. Read it and see if you can get it.

The world has had the great ones like Agatha Christie,Ruth Rendell, Steig Larsson. I am happy Ireland has Louise Phillips.

Read Last Kiss as soon as you can. Won't be long I'd say before Hollywood comes knocking.

Lynsey Farmer says

Louise Phillips in my eyes can do no wrong. Last kiss is brilliant i loved everything about the book. From red ribbons the debut you can see how the characters have progressed. Last Kiss kept me awake at night and it was a book i thought about most of the day until i got back to reading it. it was a brilliant story with plenty of twists and turns it kept me guessing till the final chapter. For me last kiss is my book of the year never wanted the book to end.

Carolina says

"Last Kiss" was a fun book to read. At the beginning, it was a little slow for me, but after some pages I was totally into this new case of Kate and Adam. Almost until the very end of the book, I was not able to discover who really was under the series of killings. I hope to read the last book of L. Phillips very soon since I want to know more about the main characters, Kate and Adam. I think that I would like to see more

development of their story in the next books.

Shauna says

I really enjoyed this! It was definitely one of the best books I've read in a good while. With short chapters and hearing the story from different characters/perspectives, it's a rare book that made it difficult for me to put down!

Cleo Bannister says

Dr Kate Phillips is a psychologist who works with the Irish Police force assisting by providing profiles of suspects. If you like Criminal Minds, this series is so much better!

The introduction grabs you by the throat as it details a teenage girl giving birth to her baby in the wood. What happens within the first three pages is haunting and sets the chilling scene for the rest of the book.

In the present day an art dealer is found dead, brutally stabbed to death in a hotel room, his body arranged to mirror the Hangman from the tarot cards. Detective Mark Lynch is revelling in his position in charge when he calls Kate in to help out and she begins reading the crime scene examining it for insights into the killer's mind.

I love Louise Phillips writing which switches between characters; we hear from a married woman devastated to find evidence on her husband's computer which indicates that he is having an affair. She seeks the assistance of her close friends but becomes more afraid when items in her house are moved about. Kate Pearson gives us updates on the progression of the investigation while the killer is also allowed a voice which gives the reader clues about their identity but also the opportunity to see how good Kate is at her job.

In this book we have the contrast in life between rural Ireland, the more cosmopolitan Dublin and then the continent where Kate and DI O'Connor fly off to Paris to examine the death of a man involved in S&M. The distinction between the opulence of the dead man's hotel room vying with that first scene as well as the artistic devices used by the killer to capture the right image both of herself and her victim are powerful in bringing the visual aspect to the written word.

I loved both the previous books in this series Red Ribbons and The Doll's House and this book easily matches these two, and maybe even surpasses them in terms of the depth and complexity of the plot. This is a dark book with the inclusion of the S&M and Tarot cards so that when the killer and their motives are unmasked, it left me with a feeling of profound sadness, as if this were all somehow more than just fiction.

I'd like to thank the publishers Hachette for my copy of this book in return for this honest review

Margaret Madden says

Thanks to author and Hachette for sending me a review copy....

A mans body is found in a Dublin hotel room, brutally murdered and posed in an unusual way. The discovery of lipstick on the man's lips suggest he was kissed after death. A last kiss.

Criminal psychologist, Dr Kate Pearson is called into see if she can shed some light on the killers identity. She spots some unusual things at the crime scene which suggest the killer is female, and may have killed before....

Meanwhile, Sandra is a woman who is distraught. She believes her husband is cheating on her, has found dodgy links on her home computer and now thinks someone is watching her. Items in the house are being moved, strange smells detected and red lipstick found.

The books brings the reader through the jarringly different worlds of a housewife in suburban Dublin, through to the secretive and intense sexual power games in the underground S&M scenes in Paris and Rome. The novel examines the effects of sex, on women as well as men, the power it can hold, the effects it can have and the long term results of the darker side of pleasure. The Prologue is loosely based on real events and makes the reader see how a child's upbringing can be moulded from infancy, regardless of DNA. A child can be taught to love, cherish and have realistic boundaries. But, there will always be some who slip through the net, and this clever concept is used by the author from the beginning of the book. Kate Pearson uses this line to help DI O'Connor understand how important a child's upbringing is to their future selfworth....

" If a child feels loved, they have a better chance than most "

This is Louise Phillips third crime fiction novel and I believe it may be her best. The familiar characters of Dr. Pearson and DI O'Connor are a reassuring duo and the spark between them is alive and well. The narrative is strong. Very strong. A combination of love and hate, desire and disgust, murder and malice. The tension that Sandra feels is so well described that I felt myself wanting to shout " look behind you ", even if there was no mention of any presence. The depth of her hurt on discovering her husbands internet history is also very real. Her friends seem to be offering support, but can she trust them?

The investigation into the murder leads the team into unknown territory and is described vividly and without shock tactics. The further they delve into the past of the victim, the more dark doors are opened, bringing the reader on a journey into the unknown.

I have been waiting for this novel as I am a massive fan of Louise Phillips and am always recommending her previous novels, Red Ribbons and The Doll's House. Having heard the author read the prologue at a crime writing festival, last December, I knew this book was for me. I was overjoyed to receive a review copy two days ago.....

Using the likeable and endearing characters of Kate and O'Connor, Louise makes us feel like we have been with them all along. They work well together, see things very differently and the obvious sexual spark is forever lingering in the background. However, this can be read as a stand alone book as the plot is strong and well able to hold its own. It is a deliciously dark thriller that leaves a bitter aftertaste, like a great dark chocolate or superior claret.

The writing is truly spectacular. The chapters fly by and before you know it, you are halfway through. I noticed a subtle notch up in style, pace and depth. I didn't think the author could get much better, but she has surpassed herself. Already an award-winning novelist, this author is set for great, great things and thoroughly deserves them. Top notch crime thriller which deserves its place at the top of bestseller lists, not just in Ireland, but worldwide.

Cannot recommend enough.....

Pat says

I really love the Dr Kate Pearson character. This third book is next level, darker.

Jim Crocker says

This psychological thriller opened a door into a dark territory I haven't visited for a long time. The characters I met there felt oddly familiar, almost like old friends. Louise Phillips has a talent for crawling right up inside your head and knocking down walls. I can't wait to read more!
