



Touch & Go

Lisa Gardner

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Justin and Libby Denbe have it all: a beautiful daughter; a gorgeous house; a great marriage, admired by all. Arriving at the crime scene of their home, investigator Tessa Leoni finds no witnesses, no ransom demands or motive - just a perfect little family, gone. But Tessa knows that flawless fronts can hide the darkest secrets. Now, she must race against the clock to uncover the truth. Who would want to kidnap such a family? And how far would they be willing to go?

Touch & Go Details

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From Reader Review Touch & Go for online ebook

Monnie says

Sometimes I think if I open yet another book in which centers around a disgraced police officer turned private investigator, I'll throw up. Surely, I think to myself, there's got to be a new and different kind of hero (or heroine) out there. So when I opened this one, which is about investigator Tessa Leoni (yes, a former cop with a "background"), almost immediately my stomach felt like I'd eaten a pair of pliers and a couple of sheets of sandpaper.

But there's also something to be said for if it ain't broke, don't fix it; after all, some of my all-time favorite characters fit that description, warts and all - and Lisa Gardner is a favorite author. So I fought back my "I really don't want to go here again" feelings and dove in.

The whole thing starts with the apparent kidnapping of a very wealthy Boston family (dad, mom and a 15-year-old daughter). For all intents and purposes - at least for the first couple of chapters - it appears they lived the perfect life. But soon, Jackson reveals that trouble's been brewing in paradise, both at home and at the husband's extremely successful construction business, for some time. Add that to the fact that there have been no ransom calls or notes, and Tessa - who's been hired by the company to investigate - as well as local police and the FBI - begin to question what's really behind the family's disappearance. They're also keenly aware that, sans ransom demands, it will be much more difficult to find the family and far more likely that even if they are found, it won't be alive.

More than anything, the book is a study in people - how the characters interact with each other, especially as they deal with stress. Tessa, for instance, almost lost her own 8-year-old daughter so has a special reason to relate to the kidnapped family; the three family members, who have at best lost touch with each other over the past few years, must come to terms with those feelings as they fight to stay alive. The chapters shift from the different perspectives, from Tessa and the investigation to the wife's "take" on what her world was like in the past and coping with the reality of her present dire circumstances.

If there's a negative, it's that some of the "action" that takes place is less than totally believable, and most of the characters really aren't that likable all things considered. All the whining by the wife about how awful she's been treated by her dastardly husband and the waffling over what to do about it reminds me of one of my favorite expressions (cleaned up a bit for publication): Hey, lady, either do your business or get off the toilet.

Needless to say, there are some psychological twists and turns as the plot moves along. One of the biggest "surprises" was one I'd guessed quite early on, but I couldn't be sure until near the end. But honestly, it didn't matter; even suspecting the why, I wasn't able to deduce the how. And, just reading about those aforementioned people interactions (now you like a character, now you don't) was more than enough to hold my attention page after page.

Jodi says

4.5 stars really. Although I figured certain things out, Gardner created bad guys that were professionals rather than just bad guys. They had a job. They were good at their job. They were getting paid for a job. That meant that the barrier that you normally have with bad guys is different. They aren't personally invested,

they just want to be paid. As for the perfect family, the Denbe's, perfection is overrated. Even in art what you think is perfect is rarely perfect when you look up close. Justin and Libby are living a first class life but behind the curtain he's sleeping around and she's addicted to pain pills. Their 15 year old daughter hasn't been innocent since she discovered her prince had feet of clay. So when they are abducted they have to decide if old hurts trump the new threat to their lives. On their side is Tessa Leoni. We met Tessa when she was the suspect in a DD Warren case. She was accused of killing her husband. Tessa is no longer a cop, she's a private investigator and her firm has been hired to find the Denbes. She's flanked by the FBI, they're running the case, and a NH Sheriff who looks and acts like he knows what he's doing. Tessa's no fool, she works with people who get results. It's a fascinating psychological ride until the very end. One of her best except that it took a while to figure out the point of view in some of the early chapters. But once the roller coaster starts, it's impossible to want to get off.

♥Rachel♥ says

Touch & Go haunted me for several days after I finished. It took me well over two weeks to get through this audio book, with it being over fourteen hours long and listening to it only on my commutes. But every time I started again I was consumed and listened with rapt attention wishing my commute was much longer! The time in between "readings" didn't diminish this story at all, and part of that was due to the excellent performance of the narrator, Elisabeth Rodgers.

This story was told in Libby Denbe's voice in first person but also alternating in the perspective of Tessa Leoni, a corporate private investigator, and Wyatt Foster, a County Sheriff. I "met" Tessa a while back in another book where she was actually a murder suspect and State Trooper; one of the reasons Tessa is now in the private sector. That was a suspenseful read and amazing read!

The story opens up in Libby's voice. She's a wife and mother, married for the last eighteen years to Justin Denbe, the love of her life. Justin is every woman's dream: gorgeous, owner of a multimillion dollar company, doting father and take charge sort of man. His family is his whole world, or so Libby thought until she found out he was cheating on her, six months ago. This is when Libby's life slowly started coming apart and her little perfect family is barely keeping it together. Never did she suspect that things were going to get a thousand times worse when she's abducted with Justin and their fifteen year old daughter out of their family home.

I went through a range of emotions and feelings throughout this story. My stomach was in knots, my heart alternately breaking, and then filling with hope, and then I'd be enraged and indignant! I have to say most of my anger was directed towards Justin Denbe! No good, rotten cheating %&*\$ (insert many angry curse words here)!! But then he was all about keeping his family safe, he was remorseful, and I'd have hope in him and their family's future all over again. Libby reveals their history to us in flashbacks and the love and passion they shared makes you want to scream "Why, Justin?! Why?" I finished this almost two weeks ago and my heart still aches over them!

Let's not forget the horror of being a hostage. I think I worried more over what could happen than what actually did. This is where the investigation came in with Tessa and Wyatt main players here. I kept guessing and trying to figure out who was guilty. There were many red herrings and just when I thought I had it figured out, Lisa Gardner bitch-slapped me something good with the truth!! Oh man!!

There was a romance/attraction brewing between Tessa and Wyatt throughout, but it was very subtle. This is the way with Lisa Gardner's novels. She gives us a set of characters that solve various mysteries in each

story but there's a continuing story arc in regards to the main character's personal lives. Tessa and Wyatt's story took a backseat to Libby Denbe and her story, but I would've liked it more evenly divided between them; although, this may not have had the same emotional impact on me if it went that way. I can't wait for the next Tessa and Wyatt mystery.

I've been a huge fan of Lisa Gardner for some time. She writes some very dark mysteries usually with a little bit of romance thrown in. If you love a well plotted mystery and are not scared off from some darker topics, I highly recommend picking up one of her books! This audio book was amazing and the narrator did an excellent job inflecting a subtle Boston accent when called for. Libby's POV was haunting and emotional! There were only two secondary character voices that made me cringe a little. Both were male and didn't have lengthy talking parts.

I did originally receive this from the publisher through Netgalley in exchange for an honest review. Thank you! I also bought it in audio-book version after Audible was having a sale, so I ended up "reading" it that way.

You can read this review and more at [The Readers Den](#).

MissSusie says

I was lucky enough to receive an early review copy from Netgalley & Dutton Publisher

Lisa Gardner cements her title as the queen of suspense this is another edge of your seat, keep you guessing, oh why didn't I see that coming, kind of book.

It was great to see Tessa Leone again (I would highly recommend reading *Love You More* before this book so you understand Tessa's background) it was a nice follow up so we're able to see how her and her daughter are doing since the events in *Love You More*. Tessa is now working for a private security firm and one of their top clients seems to be missing and not just him, his whole family.

As always with Lisa Gardner's books it is very hard to review without giving anything away, but I will try...I really enjoyed Tessa in this one and her interaction with Wyatt a small town sheriff whom I also really liked and hope to see more of the two of them in future. We get a little touch of DD but that was all that was needed, I will admit to hoping when the FBI swooped in it might be one of the Quincy's but no such luck! Then there is the kidnapped family who we get to know intimately flaws and all and you can't help but hope everything works out for them. The kidnappers are interesting too she doesn't give us cardboard cutouts but fleshed-out characters who we also get to know. As I said Lisa Gardner knows how to write a great suspense filled novel, I was up until 2 am for a few nights in a row and had to force myself to go to bed because I didn't want to stop reading!

Another hit for Lisa Gardner highly recommend!

4 ½ stars

Jenni Boyd says

I know I'm the odd one out here, by only giving this book 3stars, but Touch & Go just didn't hold my attention as I would have liked it to, unlike the Det.D.D. Warren series.

At times I found it repetitious, and as for those involved in the search for the missing family, I think D.D Warren would have fired the lot of them, aside from perhaps Wyatt.

Unlike her other books, which kept me guessing who the perpetrator was almost until the last page, I'd figured it out fairly early in the story, which could be partly why it wasn't the page-turner for me.

Aside from this, it was an enjoyable enough read, but not that 'edge of your seat' thriller, which Lisa Gardner usually delivers.

Michael says

To the outside world Justin and Libby Denbe seem to have it all. A beautiful fifteen year old daughter and a wonderful house with all the lucturies to go with it. Justin is the head of his own construction company and with a loving wife and a lifestyle to die for all seems good. But now they are gone with little reason as to why.

For private investigator Tessa Leoni (last seen as a police officer in Love You More) hired by Justin's construction company after the families disappearance this will be a really tough case to solve. Not only is there no witnesses but there is also no ransom note and no real motive. Working with local authorities and the FBI Tessa will look into the families past wich is one that far from rosey is infact one of greed' misguided trust and secrets. There is clear signs of the family being forcibly taken with scuff marks and taser confetti all over the home but the question of why they were taken and who was behind the kidnapping linger to the very end.

Lisa Gardner has done it again with another wonderfully written crime thriller. Reviving Tessa Leoni is a master stroke and proves to be a strong and intelligent investigator. The rest of the characters are equally impressive including local law enforcer Wyatt and the Denebe's who slowly show there true selves with one revalation after another. The story just like others from Lisa Gardner is inventive and unpredictable. I thought i had the mastermind for the families disappearance worked out a few times only to be proven wrong and the ending with Libby is both suprising but satisfying. Not just for fans of the author but for anyone who enjoys reading the odd crime thrillers this books is a great read. Hopefully we will see more of Tessa in the future.

Suzanne says

An absolutely satisfying continuance of this series. Tessa is a likeable brave lady to have as our protagonist, and it was a pleasure to watch as she has picked up the pieces of her life from the previous life shattering experiences that she and her daughter faced in book number one. She's not a show off, quietly and methodically getting on with her job. Sophie (Tessa's daughter) has some wise and heart-warming advice for the kidnapping victims that Tessa is searching for in her new role as private security for a multi-million-dollar firm. She'll never be a trooper again, but the new hours are conducive to her family situation, and the lovely lady that looked after Sophie as a baby continues to do so.

Tessa isn't the main focus here, the entire family that has been kidnapped is, and this was a good storyline. The family was an interesting one and it was entertaining watching their terrifying ordeal and the reasons behind this. I did a lot of guessing and to-ing and fro-ing which I enjoyed. Lisa Gardner is a talented author which I enjoy very much and will quickly look forward to the next chapter of this exciting series.

Wyatt was the very capable and possible love interest, who was an enjoyable character and the chemistry and easy working nature between these two made me look forward for more. This series is a very easy to read and captivating in equal measure. Highly recommended. Love this series so far, almost as much as Detective D.D. Warren, and that's a big call!

Nihan E. says

O nas?l bir kurgudur ey muhte?em kad?n! Lisa Gardner'a a??k oldu?umu söylemi? miydim?

Jennifer McLean says

I was so thrilled to receive an advanced copy of this new thriller by Lisa Gardner. It was spectacular. I'm an avid mystery reader and I tend to be able to figure out many mysteries before they end. With this one, I was on the edge of my seat until the end. I'll be reviewing this book on my blog later in December but let me just say here, this is worth the read!

Barbara says

Three members of a wealthy family - Justin and Libby Denbe and their teenage daughter Ashlyn - are kidnapped and an assortment of law enforcement personnel, including state police, FBI, and a private security agent work day and night to try to locate them.

Justin has been unfaithful; the Denbe's have marital problems; and Ashlyn has secrets. The book's POV alternates between the wife Libby.....and Tessa, the private security agent. I didn't enjoy the book much and had to push myself to finish it.

Kidnapping themes are my least favorite suspense theme and a lot of the characters in the story were unsympathetic or downright unlikeable. The ending is probably supposed to be a shocker but it doesn't totally pan out that way. Just not my kind of story.

You can follow my reviews at <https://reviewsbybarbsaffer.blogspot....>

Brenda says

Pain has a flavour. What does it taste like to you?

Libby had learned early the pain of loss...loss of her father who refused to wear a helmet and was killed on his motor bike...loss of her mother from smoking and not coping...Libby was determined her life would not end up the same as her parents' lives. She was determined her child would never know the loss of a parent, would never know the pain of being hungry and alone.

So when Libby fell in love with Justin Denbe, she knew intense happiness. Justin was a man who owned his own construction business, and had built the company up to be very wealthy after his father had died and left it to him. On their marriage they had moved into a gorgeous home in the posh neighbourhood of Back Bay in Boston, and three years later were blessed with a beautiful daughter Ashlyn...their happiness was complete.

Eighteen years after their wedding, the façade was crumbling. When Tessa Leoni was called in the early hours of one morning and met first respondent, Detective DD Warren at the Denbe household, she wasn't to know this would be her first intense, dangerous and complex investigation after becoming a PI when her police life had fallen apart two years prior. The taser confetti which was scattered in the foyer, the personal items which were stacked on the bench top, the marks of a scuffle; all these told Tessa and the FBI team who joined her that something bad had happened. The Denbe family were missing, no sign of forced entry, no witnesses.

As Tessa began to unravel the lives of Justin, Libby and Ashlyn, she discovered there were layers and layers of secrets. And time was running out if they wanted to find them alive. With Wyatt and his team from New Hampshire assisting, the many arms of the FBI and Tessa all working around the clock, would they find the family alive?

I really enjoyed this latest instalment from Lisa Gardner. She has done it again...the suspense and fast pace of the novel kept me turning the pages, and I liked the two narrators and the different perspectives throughout. It was intense and gripping, a read I would highly recommend.

Marisa Meiga says

Me ha gustado mucho. Aunque no tiene nada que ver con la primera entrega de la serie y, creo, hay cosas que se ven venir, mantiene la intriga durante toda la historia hasta el mismísimo final. Muy recomendable.

La-Lionne says

Loved it!

One night, parents come home from their date, open the door to their house and walk into a nightmare. Three armed men kidnap the parents and their 15 year old daughter. When the police starts the investigation, some things doesn't add up :-).

The main parts of the story is told from Libby's (she is the wife and the mother), one of the private detectives, and a policemen's point of views. PD's and policemen's point of views gives you the insight into how investigation is going, and Libby's point of view gives you the truth about her family and who they really are behind closed doors. On the outside they appear to be your regular suburban family, hard working father and a good husband, beautiful and smart wife and a mother, and a 15 year old who almost never talks to her parents, texts a lot and hangs out with her friends. Norma, right? But as you get to read more of

Libby's monologues, you see how f@cked up they all really are. It turns out that their marriage is falling apart, parents are sleeping in separate rooms, doesn't talk much, haven't had sex in ages, Libby is popping pills like candies, Justin (the husband) works long hours, almost never home, cheated on his wife with some skank, and they know absolutely nothing about their daughters life outside the house.

On the night that they got kidnaped, they were coming back from a date, they haven't had date in a long time, they both have had enough and wanted to work things out and make it right. But that is not even a half of the story.

After questioning some witnesses, Justin's coworkers and even his mistress, police, detectives and FBI suspects that it was an inside job. It is pretty clear for the readers as well. But the one thing they can't figure it out is if they are doing it for the money or is it something personal and someone wants a revenge. Kidnappers know absolutely everything about the family, their history, which includes some pretty personal information, and their financial situation. And the weirdest thing of all is that kidnappers tell to Libby and Justin that they don't want the money. Hours and days go by, and there is no ransom demand. According to the police is not a good sign.

While Libby's family is being held captive, they are finally forced to talk, put their own bull sh!t aside and come up with the plan how to get out of there. But it's not easy, because they find out that it's Justin's company who build a security system for the place their are kept in, and to their misfortune, he is the best in the country at what he does. Escape is impossible. They need to come up with another plan, and they do. But before that, all kinds of f@cked up things happen to them in there. It was pretty difficult to read through it. Then it turned out that their plan wasn't as brilliant as they thought it would be.

In the mean while, police, detectives and FBI discover all kinds of weird things about their family, and at this point, anyone and everyone is a suspect. Not only I suspected a lot of his coworkers and board members, I thought that at times, both Libby, Justin and their daughter, were being full of sh!t. But every time I was sure I knew who did it, there was a small part that was told from one of the kidnappers point of view, that completely threw me off track :).

The ending was brilliant, very f@cked up, but brilliant. I wouldn't say it was a happy ending for anyone who was involved. Maybe for few people, but that depends on who's side a reader is on ;-).

Good writing, fast paced and a very interesting story. Can't wait for L. Gardner's next book.

Deanna says

I've read quite a few books by Lisa Gardner and have really enjoyed them. As I read a lot of books from this genre I sometimes get the authors and the books they have written mixed up. I am forever getting Lisa Gardner and Lisa Jackson confused. In fact I think I was talking about this book the other day and gave the correct title but wrong author. Oops!

Many of Justin and Libby Denbe's friends and family think the Denbe's have the perfect life. Happy marriage, a beautiful teenage daughter, a beautiful house, and financial stability.

However, not everything is what it seems, and the entire family disappears without a trace.

Investigator Tessa Leoni is hired by Justin's company to find the Denbe family, to work along with the local

police and the FBI. With virtually no evidence, no witnesses, and no ransom demands it seems like an impossible task. As Tessa investigates, the facade of the perfect family begins to crumble.

So many secrets....

Tessa Leoni is determined to find out what has happened to them. She knows that they don't have a lot of time...will they find them before it's too late?

Told in both first person and third person it took a little bit to get used to, but I got into the groove of it quite quickly. The story started out with a lot of action but I did find a few parts were a bit dragged out. However, I was still interested and fully invested in the characters and the story. This was a good thriller with many twists and turns that kept me guessing.

This is book #2 in the Tessa Leoni series. I also liked the first book in the series, "Love You More". As there is quite a bit of back story in regards to Tessa Leoni's life, readers may want to read "Love you More" first. However, the main story itself is new and very interesting so in my opinion it could still work as a stand-alone.

"This is the truth: Love, safety, family...it is all touch and go."

Best Crime Books & More says

I am a pretty big Lisa Gardner fan, especially of her DD Warren series. Her newest release Touch and Go is due for release in February 2012 but I was fortunate to receive an early reader copy. Her latest book features Tessa Leoni (who also appeared in Love You More) who is called in after the Denbe family are abducted. Upon arrival at Justin and Libby Denbe's home, there are no signs of a break in, and there is no ransom demand. It seems like the couple and their teenage daughter have vanished into thin air. The more Tessa digs, the more it seems a little too perfect. To the outside world they are the perfect couple, with Justin running a very wealthy and successful company and a beautiful home.

As usual the pace is pretty frenetic from the very beginning. Justin and Libby are on date night when they enter their home and are taken by surprise. As the reader we see both sides of the story, both from the family's perspective and the Detectives as well. As the story progresses we also meet Sergeant Wyatt Foster who participates in the case with Tessa. Having read the book Love You More I was familiar with Tessa's history, however if you haven't read it there is certainly enough background for readers to understand her past. I really loved Tessa and Wyatt working together and thought they made a good team

From the very early stages, although we see what is happening to the family (can't say too much for fear of spoilers) we also see the police trying to solve the puzzle. With no clear cut motive it means examining every person who is close to the family. I found myself constantly changing my mind on who I thought was culpable, and thankfully it only became clear towards the very end (which is always a bonus in my eyes). The family were easy to read about and part of that attraction was seeing them crumble under the immense strain they are put under in their kidnapping situation. Layers are peeled away to reveal a family far from perfect and this makes the story even more interesting than the bog standard murder novel.

When I got to the end I was not entirely shocked at the outcome but thought that the book was another great read by Lisa Gardner. Admittedly I still favour DD Warren, but I think Tessa Leoni could be the star of another series. If she is I can only hope that Wyatt Foster goes along for the ride. Not my favourite Lisa Gardner book, but an awesome read that will keep you guessing until the end.

