



Finding Daddy

Louise Plummer

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MIRA KENT IS nearing her 16th birthday and wants to know more about a father she doesn't remember. Her mother tells her she has all his good qualities, but isn't specific. With nothing but a photo of her father, Mira wants more. She writes him imaginary notes:

Daddy, darling, where are you? I need you in my life. Aren't you curious about me? About school? I have a boyfriend named Dylan. Mom says you both made the decision during the divorce that you wouldn't be part of my life. It was easier, she says. It hasn't been easier for me. Look for me, dearest Daddy, and I'll look for you. I'll look until I find you.

From the Hardcover edition.

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From Reader Review Finding Daddy for online ebook

Leanna says

Louis Plummer's *The Unlikely Romance of Kate Bjorkman*

I was surprised and delighted to come across *Finding Daddy* in the library last week. It's been years since Plummer released a new book, so I felt as if I'd stumbled across a treasure.

Although not nearly as appealing as *Unlikely Romance*, *Finding Daddy* starts with a similarly light tone. Mira Kent is a teenager with a loyal best friend, a dreamy boyfriend, and a strong desire to find her biological father.

The writing is a bit awkward, and I felt like I'd fallen into a time warp with teenagers named Barry, Ted, and Joe, but I was willing to forgive these weaknesses in hopes of some charm and romance.

SPOILER ALERT: I was in for a huge disappointment. The book's tone and content change dramatically midway through. The magic of teenage love is suddenly replaced with terror, torture, and bloodshed. Mira makes incredibly stupid and frustrating mistakes, and I found it difficult to like and sympathize with her.

Overall, I found the novel's tone and content disturbing. This reaction may be because I was expecting an entirely different book, but a sense of unease followed me for several hours after finishing *Finding Daddy*.

If you are looking for a disturbing YA novel, this is the book for you. If you want a romantic romp, pick up *The Unlikely Romance of Kate Bjorkman* instead.

Mia Oli says

3.5 stars.

Trina says

Fairly intense but I thought it was missing one thing. There was only one possible suspect. No red herrings. No dead ends. You kind of knew from the beginning who was doing the terrorizing. Kind of took a lot of the suspense out of it.

Les says

Violent cautionary tale. If mom and grandma change their names, lie about where they're from, and tell you your dad is out of your life and under no circumstances will they provide any information about him, a normal person might take the hint there's a reason for it.

But 16 year old drama queen Mira decides she knows better, even if her boyfriend and best friend disagree with what she's doing. She knows her dad is really wonderful, based on some watercolorings she found (of course, no one who creates pretty pictures could be in any way sketchy?), and mom is just being mean

keeping him away.

She tracks him down and calls him, then they share a few emails. Within a few days a series of sinister events take place around their house. But daddy couldn't be responsible, because Mira lives in Salt Lake City and he's in Dallas, isn't he?

***** SPOILER ALERT *****

It was surprising how violent this was for a YA novel. Daddy Dearest is a sick vicious SOB, a total sociopath. He broke Mira's arm when she was 2, then threatened to kill all 3 women if anyone reported it. That's when the 3 of them took off and went into hiding. Once Mira was stupid enough to tell him where to find them, he takes out 14 years of vengence on anyone/anything in his way. Among his acts of violence:

-- he kills their dog by wiring it's legs together, stabbing it, and then burying it in their garden with just her head sticking up out of the ground.

-- he pistol-whips Mira's boyfriend hard enough to fracture his skull.

-- he repeatedly stabs the older women, killing her grandmother while her mother barely survives.

-- he uses a puppy to get Mira and her friend alone, then throws it out the window and runs over it with his car.

-- he makes Mira handcuff and tape her friend before forcing her into the trunk of his car. He then leaves the car inside a garage when he swaps vehicles, without any food or water or any intention of letting anyone know where she was.

In other words, a total scumbag. Meanwhile, Mira gets to live with the guilt of her grandmother's murder and mom's near death. She also loses her boyfriend; he tried on multiple occasions to talk her out of what she was doing, but she did it anyway, including sneaking off to meet dad without him. So for his troubles he wound up hospitalized with a skull fracture. They were friends for years, then started dating, now he makes it clear he's stepping back from their relationship. Nearly getting killed because of your girlfriend's stupidity will put a damper on how you feel about her...

Cindy says

I always get a request for a really good SHORT book. Now my philosophy is that it doesn't matter how many pages a book has if it is really good, but nevertheless, I have a short book for those of you looking for a good suspense novel. The book is Finding Daddy by Louise Plummer. Do you ever wish for something more than anything else in the whole world? Finding Daddy tells the story of Mira, a teenager who wishes to find her father. She has grown up with her mom and grandma, has a happy life, good friends, and a great boyfriend. Even though her mother tells her that she and her father agreed that her father would not be part of her life, she cannot let it go and decides to find her father anyway. She snoops through her mother's things and learns his name and the search is on. Does she get her wish? You'll have to read the book to find out. But to quot

e Mrs. Budding, sometimes “we should be careful what we wish for...” Finding Daddy is a suspenseful page-turner—and it’s a quick read.

Eden says

Mira, who is almost sixteen, wants to know more about her father that she doesn't remember. She has a photo of him and only knows the few things her mother and grandmother will tell her. Mira decides she needs to find him.

Mira isn't a bad character. I actually think she is very believable and while I know both of my parents, I can imagine myself in her place and understand how she feels.

Mira isn't stupid. She wants to know her father and you should be able to trust your parents. She shouldn't have went behind her mother's back, but how was Mira to know there was actually a real reason for keeping her away from her father? Parents are people, they make mistakes and bad decisions. And believe it, or not, sometimes they don't always know best. And even sometimes they will keep children from the other parent for no reason other than to be hateful. My cousin is currently going through this with his ex-wife and he loves his children dearly.

While I know Mira's father didn't turn out to be loving at all, my point is, Mira didn't know, her mother didn't want to tell her anything and she had a right to know about her father and all of his craziness. But her mother and grandmother would never explain why he couldn't be in their life. They only told her about his good qualities and never told her the bad things. And I think that was a mistake.

I just feel Mira's mother and grandmother should have told her. She had a right to know. She came from both parents and it is only natural for a person to know where and who they come from.

I liked the book and found the story very intense. I may eventually read some other books by this author.

Lucy says

Mira Kent lives with her mother and her grandmother. She has a comfortable life, with as much love as she could ever want, but she has always been curious about her father. Her mother and grandmother won't tell her anything about him, even his name--and as she nears her sixteenth birthday, she desperately wants to find him.

When she and her friends do some sleuthing and track him down, Mira couldn't be more excited. But then her dog is killed. There's an attempted break-in at her house. And that's only the beginning...

This is a terrible book. If I could give it no stars, I would. Most of the problem is that Louise Plummer seems to have forgotten (if she ever knew how) what a teen voice sounds like--or at least, she has never known what a 21st century voice sounds like. She makes technology mistakes that are grating--dated terms for Google searching, her character not being familiar with caller ID. A MALE TEEN character says, "This is the only time in my life when I can eat donuts and not gain weight. Do you realize what a gift that is?"

Can you imagine a real male teenager who isn't gay saying that line?

This book is full of stupid, grating errors like that that just pull you out of the narrative.

That aside, Mira is stupid. She's a stupid, undeveloped, unbelievable characters, and so are her friends, and so are her interactions with them. The dialogue--all of it--falls flat, and rings false.

And the plot inches along for the first half of the book, and then suddenly goes, unbelievably, at full speed.

The last part of the flap copy reads, "Author Louise Plummer's mission in writing Finding Daddy was to reate a psychological thriller that was both romantic and scary. Mission accomplished."

This book is neither romantic nor scary. And it may be a thriller (a lame one) but it's not a psychological thriller by anyone's definition.

Don't read this book. It's a complete waste of your time.

Zaria Merritt says

This was one of the worst books I have ever read. Characters are barely even crossing 2D. These characters were even worse than . . . damn, I'm having a hard time finding an even worse writer to compare to.

But she should know, our wonderful writer, my 10 year old brother also struggles to write a plot.

But, first, let's get started on the title?

One thing: "Wtf?"

UM? Is this some type of kink our wonderful writer has? What is up with the fucking title?

But then the writing is for some type of third grader? I don't get it.

Our wonderful writer should learn what a target audience is.

Urmi Chow says

This book in my opinion is a must read for teens who adore a fast pace supense/thriller with a touch of mystery that is quickly brought to light, which is the disappointing part. Nonetheless, it was an easy read and it got me hooked until the end. The events unfolding could easily be very disturbing but also intriguing for any 16 year old to want to risk herself and find an explanation for everything that's been recently going on in her life. I believe I was also 16 when I first read the book and I must say that I would probably have behaved in a similar way (you'll know when you read the book) and that's why I kept reading until the last page. However, from the other readers perspective, the book seemed to be a disapointment. The plot seemed to be too predictable and the main character's actions "Not wise" and these have taken out the fun in guessing "what will happen next". Maybe if I re-read the book with my much more developed sense of critique, I may have the same opinion, but I did not read the book again so therefore my 16 year old self shall give out her rating. All in all, this book seems to either be "too predictable and no fun to read" or "An exciting read" but you should definetely give the book a try and figure it out.

Kat says

I was disappointed with "Finding Daddy". I thought the premise was great but by the end of the book I was left feeling- was that it? Maybe I was hoping for too much. There are many Teen Fiction titles that have the depth and scope to make them enjoyable for adults and this one just felt childish.

Amanda says

Some obvious plot holes: First, if you are hiding from your abusive husband to the extent that you have to change your name, make sure that when your daughter is old enough to start asking questions that you are honest with her and explain how dangerous her father is and that he should never go looking for him. Second, after discovering both your father's real name and the fact that your mother and grandmother have changed their real names, combined with the fact that neither of them will talk about your father, it seems asinine that you would try to contact him without first speaking to your mother. And then, after you had been so stupid as to contact him, when the dog is taken from your home and brutally murdered you would think you would say something to your mother, just in case. Or that your mother would say something to you and to the police about her abusive ex. Even if the dog scare didn't do it, you would think the threat of a man lurking outside your house and trying to break in would make both you and your mom come clean. Third, after you came home to find your grandmother murdered and your mother almost dead, you would think that you would say something to the police, or that your boyfriend or best friend would say something to the police. And lastly, why on earth would you still be compelled to meet your father right at that moment in time? If there is even a small amount of doubt that it could possibly him who had done all these things, would you really want to risk it? Wouldn't you want to wait until the crimes were solved and if your father is innocent, then try again? No 15 year old is that stupid.

All that said, this was still a well written book, very enjoyable to read, except for the times when you are screaming in your head "Mira, go to the police! Tell your mom what you've done! Don't meet that psychopath!" (Because while you are hoping the dad didn't do it, you know he did. The timing couldn't have been coincidental.)

Libby Ames says

This is a hard review for me to write objectively for two reasons. First of all, Louise Plummer is one of my favorite people. I love her creativity, sincerity, and humor. (So if you follow these reviews on Goodreads, Professor Plummer, know that I loved both my Creative Writing class and English 3??. I also love your style of description and character development and feel a little silly critiquing my creative writing teacher.) Because of that class, I knew some things to expect from the book. I knew it wouldn't end entirely happy, because Plummer herself admitted to needing some bittersweet in her books. I also knew I could expect great dialogue and I wasn't disappointed.

My second hinderance to objectivity is that I really don't like this style of book. It is one of those 'Wait Until Dark' kind of scary books. One that ends mostly okay with you feeling relieved for the characters, but you still can't walk across the room without visions of someone leaping toward your back with a knife in their hands. I've tried to review the writing and not my opinion on the kind of book.

Mira is a fifteen-year-old girl who has grown up with her mother and grandmother and little knowledge about her father. As she nears her sixteenth birthday, she feels a greater desire to reconnect with her father and without her mother's knowledge, she begins to track him down. Soon after connecting with him, strange crimes begin to happen around her house. Someone tries to break in. Her dog is brutally killed. In spite of these crimes, Mira refuses to acknowledge her father as a suspect.

In other reviews, people criticize Mira's inability to see the connection of the crimes to her father. However, knowing fifteen-year-old girls and their compulsion to romanticize, I felt the characterization was accurate. I found the idea of a maniac father waiting for some lead to come thirteen years later and kill his family a little unbelievable, but thriller books are meant to be entertaining and not necessarily believable.

Mostly, I enjoy Plummer's writing, but not her choice of stories. I want to see Louise Plummer spunk and humor in writing. I appreciate the depth of books like *A Dance for Three* and others, but I wish that depth were possible WITH the humor I love.

Jeanna says

First off, I was sad to hear from the bio that Louise Plummer has retired and moved to New York. She was one of my favorite, most influential professors, and it's sad to think that no more classes will get to experience her and Tom Plummer's awesome memoir class.

Now on to the book itself: It was very tense and thrillery and well written. Unfortunately, our main character is so monumentally stupid that every time she does something you just want to throw the book across the room and yell at her. Especially when--even after the incredibly suspicious timing that lands her mother in a hospital and her grandma in the morgue just days after she contacts her dad--she still decides to go see him at the airport.

To be fair, however, her mom really should have at least given her daughter a clue about how very, very bad it would be to contact her father.

I'm trying to stop being so very critical of books these days, and especially of characters who maybe are just humans with flaws. But honestly, I can't not be critical of this girl. She was just dumb. In fact, there really should be a stronger word than that. She was so idiotic it made her just a little bit unbelievable as a character. And that's a critique of the book itself, I admit.

Anyway, I like Plummer's fluff more than I like her thrillers. But maybe I'll like another one better someday.

Rating: PG-13 just because I'm still thinking about the awfulness of what happens to these characters--so it's the situation more than the action itself (although there is a fair amount of violence). "Thematic elements," I suppose.

Barbara says

Mira Kent seems to have it all, a loving mother, a grandmother who makes killer waffles, two best friends, Sarah and Dylan, and a budding romance with Dylan. What more could she want? Finding her daddy. She has not seen him since she was three, and her mother and grandmother evade her questions about him. She discovers a photo album containing pictures of her with her father. She also finds her parents' marriage

certificate and is shocked to learn her father's real name and that her mother and grandmother have been lying to her all these years. It doesn't dawn on her that they may have been avoiding the questions for very good reasons. After she, Sarah, and Dylan track down information about her dad, her friends urge her to be cautious after she emails him and they plan to meet. Mira does not make the connection when frightening and bizarre events occur: her dog is cruelly murdered and their neighbor sees a strange man with a ski mask skulking around the house at night. Even after her mother and grandmother are viciously attacked, Mira refuses to see the coincidence and insists on keeping the appointment with her father at the airport. This flaw strains credulity in the book. The character development is good and the climax keeps the pages turning. Give this book to readers who love scary thrillers and they will probably overlook Mira's naïveté about finding her daddy.

Erica says

It's a quick read because it's fast-paced and super short. It begins a little awkwardly - the language is stilted and Mira's voice isn't quite believable but everyone finds their places quickly enough.

Mira lives with her mom and Bella (grandmother) in a nice neighborhood. She has a bright, sassy best friend and a cute boyfriend. Her life is pretty good. But she really wants to know her father and no one is forthcoming on the topic. Because of this, she does some snooping on her own and by her 16th birthday, all sorts of crap has gone down and everyone is dealing with tons of guilt.

I was surprised, but satisfied with, the graphic scenes of violence. Though the book was quick and somewhat dramatized, it felt believable. Sadly, as has been the case with so many YA books lately, I wasn't really drawn to the main character. Mira bored me. I liked the supporting characters better. It's almost as if writers are currently scared to make their main teen female characters seem real.

So while there wasn't enough character development for me, the other characters pulled through and the story was nice and scary.
