



The Lost Letters

Sarah Mitchell

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) ➔

The Lost Letters

Sarah Mitchell

The Lost Letters Sarah Mitchell

A gripping book club novel about forbidden love, friendship and family secrets in World War Two. Perfect for fans of *The Letter* by Kathryn Hughes, *The Notebook* by Nicholas Sparks and *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society*.

What if keeping your loved ones safe meant never seeing them again?

Norfolk, 1940: Sylvia's husband Howard has gone off to war, and she is struggling to raise her two children alone. Her only solace is her beach hut in Wells-Next-The-Sea, and her friendship with Connie, a woman she meets on the beach. The two women form a bond that will last a lifetime, and Sylvia tells Connie something that no-one else knows: about a secret lover... and a child.

Canada, present day: When Martha's beloved father dies, he leaves her two things: a mysterious stash of letters to an English woman called 'Catkins' and directions to a beach hut in the English seaside town of Wells. Martha is at a painful crossroads in her own life, and seizes this chance for a trip to England – to discover more about her family's past, and the identity of her father's secret correspondent.

The tragedy of war brought heartbreaking choices for Sylvia. And a promise made between her and Connie has echoed down the years. For Martha, if she uncovers the truth, it could change everything...

The Lost Letters Details

Date : Published August 2nd 2018 by Bookouture

ISBN :

Author : Sarah Mitchell

Format : Kindle Edition 322 pages

Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Fiction, Contemporary, Literature, 20th Century

 [Download The Lost Letters ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Lost Letters ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online The Lost Letters Sarah Mitchell

From Reader Review The Lost Letters for online ebook

Robyn says

Martha Rodwell's father passed away less than a month ago and she now finds herself on a plane heading to Europe. Her father was writing a memoir, but never got the chance to finish it before his passing. After his death, Martha and her sister, Elizabeth, discovered that their father had booked a hotel and rented a beach hut in a small English coastal town named Wells-next-to-the sea. Martha is unsure why her father chose this location in particular to finish his book especially since he hadn't been to Europe in at least seventy years. So, she decides to take his booking to figure out why her father was drawn to this particular coastal town and also to find out why he had folders on his computer consisting of letters to someone named Catkins. Did her father have an affair and also who is Catkins?

The Lost Letters interweaves two stories switching from the present to the beginning of World War II where we also meet Sylvie and her family. Sylvie's husband is away fighting in the war leaving her alone to raise two young children. Her only saving grace besides her children is her friendship with Connie. Here, we witness the day to day conflict and the terror people faced with bombings and the loss of loved ones. Sylvie also has to make difficult decisions regarding her family that tie in to our present story.

There is not one thing I did not love about this story. Right from the beginning I was drawn in to the mystery surrounding Martha and her family. The mystery is so intricately weaved throughout the pages and it's almost as if it is a puzzle and little by little we fit the pieces together until we get this final masterpiece right in front of us. Sarah Mitchell penned incredible stand out characters with heart and soul and we get to know them intimately and we can feel their pain and sadness and also the hope that each of them has. Family plays such an important role in this story in both the present and the past and we can see this through Martha and the love she has for her own daughter even though their relationship is strained. We also see the love Sylvie has for her children and the sacrifices she has made for them while trying to raise them during wartime.

The historical aspect of The Lost Letters story was by far my absolute favorite and here is where I found myself completely drawn into the story and you can see just how much research went into it. As an author, Sarah Mitchell really shines here. It was just so emotional and heartbreaking just reading about the bombs being dropped and the loss of lives and never knowing from one moment to the next if you will live or die. Just imagine the fear families had, women whose husbands went off to war, not knowing if they would ever return, their children being sent off to fight some never even coming back. Mitchell really shows the realities of wartime. It truly is heart wrenching.

The Lost Letters is a beautiful and poignant story that has completely captured my heart. It is a story about love, life, family, and the bonds of friendship that stand the test of time. The story is so simple and yet so intricate and brilliantly done. It takes an author like Sarah Mitchell to make me realize why I have such a love of reading. By far, this might just be my top read for the year. I will definitely be looking forward to more books by Sarah Mitchell.

Eva says

Dual timeline historical fiction set in World War II? Don't mind if I do!

The story starts with Martha whose father recently passed away. He was in the middle of writing his

memoirs but the first twenty years of his life are missing. Amongst his effects, Martha and her sister find letters to someone called Catkins and a reservation for a hotel and beach hut in Norfolk. Martha seizes this opportunity to cross the Atlantic to look for answers.

In the chapters dealing with the past, we meet Sylvie. Her husband is away fighting in the war and she's left to raise her two children on her own. When her aunt dies, Sylvie suddenly finds herself in possession of a beach hut. One day, she meets Connie and their friendship will change lives forever.

What started out a bit on the slow side, soon had me enthralled. It provided the perfect opportunity for me to get to know Martha and she quite often made me smile. With chapters switching between Martha in the present and Sylvie in the past, there is quite a lot to enjoy. Sylvie's story provides the perfect background, whereas Martha's is mostly where the pieces of the puzzle start to come together. Just when I thought I had figured it all out, the author led me in a different direction. There are plenty of twists in this story but they all felt quite natural.

Part of the story deals with the topic of the evacuation of children. I can't even begin to imagine how hard that must have been for everyone involved. For a parent to decide that they need to let their children go in order to keep them safe is not a choice any parent is willing to make. Will they ever see their children again? For the children who are sent away, to end up in a foreign country with people they don't know ... doesn't bear thinking about. And we all know from history that not all the children were lucky enough to be treated well.

The Lost Letters is a thought-provoking and moving story about identity, family and friendship. With realistic and believable characters, clues to find and a mystery to solve, this will keep you entertained for hours. I thoroughly enjoyed this one and if a historical fiction mystery set in WWII is your thing, I have no doubt you will too.

Berit??? says

4 Stunning Stars ????

A beautiful story all about secrets and sacrifice... this is my favorite way to read historical fiction a dual timeline of the past and present... add in a mystery to be solved and I am hooked!

This story is told from the perspective of Martha in the present day... Martha's father recently passed away in the middle of writing his memoir... when Martha is sorting through her father's stuff she comes across some mysterious letters.... The discovery of these letters prompts Martha to hop on a plane to England to solve the puzzle of her family's past..... The story is also told from the perspective of Sylvie in the past.... it is the beginning of WWII in England... Sylvie's husband is off at war and she is left to care for their two young children alone... her saving grace is her friendship with Connie and a beach hut left to her by her aunt....

I really liked Martha's character she was so down to earth and my heart broke for Sylvie.... how these two ladies and these two stories are connected is a puzzle that is pieced together throughout the book...

There is a huge focus on mothers love in this book... the evacuation of the children during wartime is so heart wrenching.... what in the world would you do in that situation? There just is no good answer!

A beautiful and intriguing story that will keep you turning those pages and wanting to hug your loved ones!

*** many thanks to Bookouture for my copy of this book ***

Jill Robbertze says

This delightful novel spans 3 generations of 2 families who share a secret dating back to WW2. This story has it all : mystery, drama, friendship, family and a little romance. The descriptions are lovely and the characters believable. A quick easy read that had me engaged from the start and through to the last page.

Shirley says

A golden ring in the sand

Some friendships endure time. The friendship between Connie and Sylvia started with a golden ring in the sand. The war, evacuations, love and life are a part of their lives. The secret they share between them transfers generations. Great book, great story, I would highly recommend it.

? Booklish ? ?Feelings ? says

**Sweetheart, sweetheart,
will you marry me?
Yes love, yes love,
at half-past three.**

5 Heart for this book ♥♥♥♥♥

The story started slowly but it gets interesting from chapter 8 . Two storylines are going on , first is set in 1940 , Norfolk during the World war 2 and the other one is set in the present time .

‘God, how awful! This war has made me glad I haven’t got kids. Or a husband. I never thought I’d say it, but there it is. I’ve got nobody to worry about and if I go there’ll be nobody to worry about me.’

Martha , a single mother to her daughter who is studying in England , starts a journey to know more about her father Lewis Rodwell while she is having a troubled relationship with her daughter Jenney . She visit her family hut in Wells , Norfolk to know more about her father . There she meet Henry who has a hut next door . She later find more about her father's past . She is looking for a mystery woman Catkins , who might had an affair with her father .

As the story moves on she find new things about her father . In the last she meet her aunt who tells her about her father and his past in England .

I personally love to read Historical Fiction and have great interest in history as well . If you have interest in reading about world war 2 and English countryside then this is the book for you

Happy reading ♥

Read review on my Blog

Cathy Ryan says

The Lost Letters is a dual timeline story, with alternating sections switching between the present and the past just prior to, and during the Second World War. Martha Rodwell is on a quest to discover why her father, who had been writing his memoirs before his sudden death a month ago, had been about to take a trip to England. She and her sister Elizabeth discovered he had booked a hotel and rented a beach hut in Wells-next-the-Sea for the whole month of May.

Her father's death hit Martha hard and she was having trouble dealing with the emotional fallout. He had been evacuated to Canada during WWII but never wanted to talk about it. So Martha is on a plane bound for England to try and find out why the first twenty years of her father's life was missing from his notes, what was drawing him to a small coastal town in Norfolk...and who was Catkins? Apart from all that it's also an opportunity for Martha to visit her daughter who is studying in London and hopefully repair a seemingly fractured relationship.

'He was found on the porch, surrounded by sheets of writing paper skimming over the lawn and skewered to the rose bushes. Six months previously he had stepped down from the municipal council to write his memoirs. Elizabeth, her sister, had offered to proof read them but she had told Martha that he refused point-blank to let her see them.

'Not until they're finished,' he said, And then he mentioned, casually, as if it were of no import at all, that in order to finish them he would need to go back to England.'

Back in time to 1939, we meet Sylvie who is married to Howard with two children, Esther and Lewis. When her aunt dies, Sylvie is surprised to learn she has been left a beach hut in Wells where she was brought up and her parents still live. She meets Connie and her little brother, Charlie at the beach and they become firm friends. Their lives become entwined and the results of their lifelong friendship echoes down through the years.

I enjoyed the alternating storyline, although it's a little slow to begin with. Martha's story seemed to take a while to get going but once it did I became more invested in the unfolding tale, as secrets are uncovered and the mystery begins to unravel, not without several realistic twists. Britain during the war is described evocatively, the devastation and destruction, and the evacuation of children. What a terrible decision to have to make, I can't even imagine.

Characters are believable and well crafted. I liked Martha, Sylvie and Connie very much, their determination and courage stood out. A poignant story of family secrets and the bond of friendship and love, with a surprising conclusion that tied everything up nicely. The Lost Letters is an accomplished debut.

Paula Sealey says

An enjoyable dual timeline story that begins in Canada when Martha's father passes away. She discovers letters he had written to a mysterious person called 'Catkins' and that he'd planned a trip to England, staying in a small place called Wells. Intrigued, Martha takes the trip to England herself to try and discover who 'Catkins' is. Her investigations into the mysterious person take her back to wartime 1940's and these were the chapters of the story I enjoyed most. They felt very evocative of the period, and the characters were interesting. The mystery of 'Catkins' identity is woven in neatly, making for a satisfying read.

*I received a copy of the book from the publishers via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Angela Petch says

Open the door and step through it

Absolutely riveting. Sarah Mitchell knows how to set a scene, her writing is beautiful, laced with original, totally unclinged imagery. I kept highlighting chunks of stunning descriptions.

This war story plunges us into the world of ordinary people in extraordinary situations. Heartbreaking decisions need to be made, relationships reassessed. War changes everything.

The story set in present day is a clever mirror of the past, each section ending cleverly with a tantalising cliffhanger.

I loved this book: the settings, characters, dilemmas, plot... When I discovered this assured writing is from a debut novelist, I was amazed.

Thank you for carrying me away with your words to other places for the last few days. I recommend.

Bonnye Reed says

GNa The Lost Letters is a dual timeline story, very easily followed, and written with just enough angst and joy to be an uplifting experience. All of the characters are well rounded, the descriptive passages are presented in an interesting way, and the WWII sections as well the modern times follow true to period. The details and the flow of the novel is steady and warm. This novel is a perfect pick-you-up when reality has been a bit harsh, or a wonderful way to waste away a rainy day.

I received a free electronic copy of this novel from Netgalley, Sarah Mitchell, and Bookouture in exchange for an honest review. Thank you all for sharing your hard work with me.

Not able to review Aug 2 - not released yet. Pub Aug 3

pub date Aug 2, 2018

Bookouture

Kaisha (The Writing Garnet) says

All reviews can be found on my blog at <https://thewritinggarnet.wordpress.com>

Can I just take a moment to appreciate just how STUNNING this cover is?! This has got to be one of my all-time favourite covers that Bookouture have ever created - simply stunning!

Oh this is a little gem of a read! Instead of being told a story set in the present day, us readers are lucky enough to not only meet characters from the present, but to be able to step back in time to where it all began....so to speak. If you're the type of person who enjoys finding out how things became the way that they are now, you are in an absolute treat as Sarah Mitchell has done just that with her characters, Martha, Connie and Sylvia. With Martha still grieving the loss of her father, anything she comes across reminds her of him, especially when she finds letters written to a mysterious 'Catkins'. Yes, I know, who is Catkins, and why were she and Martha's father in contact? If Martha delved into her father's past, would she end up unearthing things that she would have preferred not to know? Or will those letters end up being the key to finding out more about where she came from?

Such a sticky situation with no correct answer. My heart went out to Martha, but selfishly I was eager to find out the truth about her past and her future. I wasn't going to sit there and relish in it, nothing like that at all, I guess I was just curious about Martha's past. As I said to begin with, Martha's life is in the present, yet the story does switch between the 'now' and 1940, where the war was raging and uncertainty was rife. Especially for Sylvia. However, when I first came across Sylvia's character, I couldn't help thinking that there was a lot more to her that meets the eye, I just couldn't put my finger on what or why that was. Sylvia certainly is one of a kind and whilst I did find myself becoming emotionally attached to her situation, I struggled to feel complete empathy towards her decisions. That said, how can anyone judge someone's situation when they're not living it themselves?

The historical element to 'The Lost Letters' was beautifully written, and the characters were delicately crafted, creating a very spirited and emotive storyline for readers to lose themselves in. If you're after a storyline where the pace is faster than a train, you will be disappointed as the true beauty of this book isn't in how fast it flows, it's in how much it gets under your skin.

An enchanting, thought-provoking and dynamic read - I am looking forward to reading more from Sarah Mitchell in the future.

Monica Mac says

Oh wow, this book! I really enjoyed reading it. The author was a skilled storyteller and I found myself not being able to put the novel down very easily, I badly wanted to find out what happened with Sylvia and Martha.

These two women are separated by decades but they are both tenacious and brave women. I think the underlying story here is love in all its forms: love for a friend, love for a child, love for a partner; in so many guises. I enjoyed the highs and I felt bad during the lows. I felt like I was right THERE, which is no mean feat when it comes to a book.

Beautifully written story.

Renita D'Silva says

What a beautiful, heart warming, wonderfully written tale! I loved it from start to finish. Brilliantly imagined, a poignant and stunning story of friendship, love, loss, heartbreak, secrets, hope, redemption and, especially the power of a mother's love, how it transcends war and reverberates across generations and time frames, transforming lives. Just beautiful. A story that moved me and one that will stay with me for a very long time. Very highly recommended to everyone.

Shalini Boland says

I adored this book, devouring it in a couple of days! The novel flips between Martha in the present day, and Sylvie during World War II. The characters are compelling and the story flows effortlessly, making it the perfect holiday read. I didn't guess the mystery and found parts of it quite emotional when I realised what was going on. A beautiful and moving story that will stay with me for quite a while. Five shiny stars!!

Linda says

Current time; In Canada sisters Martha and Elizabeth lose their beloved father. In tidying up his affairs they discover a file named catkins on his computer and they have a feeling that their father had an affair. He was in the midst of writing his memoirs when he passed but he had said that in order to finish his writing he was going to travel to England. He had already arranged his accommodation in England and one of his daughters, Martha, decided to take the trip and try to figure out her father's story.

We are taken back to 1940 during the war in London where our story begins with the subject of the evacuation of children to the safety of other countries and with occasional jumps to our current time.

I love stories set in London and England and this was historical fiction at its best. A wonderfully heartwarming and also heartbreaking story.
