



The Lost Daughter

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Brooke O'Connor — elegant, self-possessed, and kind — has a happy marriage and a deeply loved young daughter. So her adamant refusal to have a second child confounds her husband, Sean. When Brooke's high school boyfriend Alex — now divorced and mourning the death of his young son — unexpectedly resurfaces, Sean begins to suspect an affair.

For fifteen years Brooke has kept a shameful secret from everyone she loves. Only Alex knows the truth that drove them apart. His reappearance now threatens the life she has so carefully constructed and fortified by denial. With her marriage — and her emotional equilibrium — at stake, Brooke must confront what she has been unwilling to face for so long.

But the truth is not what Brooke believes it to be.

The Lost Daughter Details

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From Reader Review The Lost Daughter for online ebook

Cait S says

The story itself was enjoyable enough but I am incredibly not here for the casually tossed around racism and ableism sprinkled through out the book. Even if I had LOVED the story, I wouldn't be reading this author again. So since it was just "okay enough to finish", that's a definite hard pass on any of their future works.

Vikki Beardsley-scuro says

loved this story

Sharon says

I am not happy that I paid money for this book. Weak moment at Target:(...My decision to purchase this book weighed mostly on one of my favorite author's (Wally Lamb) recommendation comment on the cover of the book.

This review DOES contain spoilers

Let me list my reasons for my dislike of this book:

First of all, let me state that I am pro-choice, BUT not as a method of birth control in the third trimester.

#1) This is supposed to be two very smart teens at the time of their decision to go to a MOTEL and deliver a child (third trimester) with the help of a metal SPOON??? Then wrap the child in a MOTEL towel and put in a wooden crate in the rain by the DUMPSTER...This makes me ILL to even think of it. ENOUGH SAID. I was enraged at this point.

#2) As a teenager, Brooke had a very open relationship with her mother regarding birth control and the decision to choose the diaphragm over the pill....how the HECK can Brooke NOT tell her mother that she is pregnant??? How the HECK can her mother or father not notice that the skinny, only child Brooke is heavier? This does NOT make sense...but wait, the author takes Brooke to a "witch doctor" (my words) to drink a magic potion to miscarry, which doesn't happen.

#3) Sean, Brooke's husband and his large family, are all butting in regarding how many children each of them should be producing??? Really? Please tell me in anyone's family, when is that anyone's business?

#4) Brooke's boss is dying, transfers her to a new location and promotion, and she just up and disappears for a week without calling in???? And the boss just forgives her and sets up a trust upon his death, giving her everything? REALLY?

#5) Why does the former boyfriend, Alex the father of the poor, disabled little girl left to die, keep calling that little girl a "HE"? I read the whole book and never figured that out.

#6) Why is Brooke prostituting herself to Alex to get him to put up money for the newly discovered disabled child?

#7) It took FIFTEEN years to rediscover their child? If Alex hadn't started to feel guilty, would Brooke ever had? Something wrong there!

#8) Finally, REALLY, the stereotypes of the Irish being drunks. So over that.

I was so mad reading this book, I actually kept a note pad next to me, noting everything in this book that ticked me off.

Lori Anderson says

I just had to stop reading it. First, the opening chapter was incredibly graphic and disturbing and for anyone who has strong feeling about abortion or have had an abortion or ... geez, really anybody -- it's a really, really hard chapter.

The other reason I couldn't finish it is the main character, Brooke, was entirely unsympathetic to me (which is hugely ironic). She read as a weak character to me. Her husband annoyed me. Alex had too much of the martyr to him. The only person I really liked was Najda, and after almost half the book, there wasn't enough about her.

I think the subject matter and topic is interesting, but this book just can't tell the story (in my opinion).

Hannah says

I couldn't finish this book. I kept telling myself I was still reading so I could find out what happened in the end, but halfway through I realized even that wasn't true, and I really didn't care. I found the characters unlikable and pretty stereotypical, the mood of the story depressing and sad with no redeeming reason, and the big "secret" was literally revealed in the first chapter. I felt bogged down by all the overdone emotion, and could pretty much tell how the whole thing was going to play out and even by only skimming the second half and reading a couple of summaries online it seems I was right. The reviews on the back cover were so good I got excited, but overall this book was extremely disappointing. Don't bother.

Christina says

Touching and beautiful! Deals with some pretty serious issues in a way that is understanding.

Janet says

I did not like this book. At all. It's one of those books that I only finished because I have to finish all books I start.

I did not like any of the characters, except for the grandfather. He was the only one with any sense.

Sean was horrible. I hated how whinny and insecure he was. I hated how he would not accept the fact that his

wife didn't want to be pregnant again. Her body, her choice is my opinion.

I hated how stuck in the past Brooke and Alex were. I hate everything about everyone.

Bad, bad book.

Charity says

I talked to several friends who read this before me and both said that they felt it started out slow. I was delighted to discover that I felt the opposite. The story gripped me at the beginning and I was eager to read more. However, as the book progressed, I felt like I got bogged down in too many story lines. I know most books have a main issue that the author writes around and has subsequent smaller ones but I struggled with what seemed like many important issues and it seemed a little tedious. And to be honest, the word "tedious" is the only word I can think of to describe the main character, Brooke's, husband Sean. At some point, I realized that if I knew him in real life, I'd probably leave a room if he walked in and send a snarky text about him to someone else who knew both of us. He came off as whiny and sniveling. I also had a really hard time with the instance of domestic abuse that was kind of blown off as, "Well, I pushed him..." How many can a woman in an abusive marriage look back to that first time and thought, "If I wouldn't have excused it the FIRST time..." Anyhow, at the end of the book, when everything falls neatly into place, it was obvious that Sean was supposed to be one of the long-suffering heroes in the book but I just couldn't buy into it.

On the positive, the story line dealing with young love and bad decisions kept me reading and there were several minor characters (Lorenzo, the nursery owner and Charlie, Brooke's first love's younger sister) who I found myself attached to and looking for the next time they entered the story.

This is something to pick up for a beach or porch read if you're willing to hang in there with a busy story line while getting to the good stuff.

Laura says

This wasn't the best book I have ever read, and it wasn't the worst. The characters said and did what you expected them to say and do, and the ending was more or less predictable. I did enjoy the book overall, despite it being a middling read.

I read a number of reviews of this book, with varying degrees of criticism, and the one that stuck out to me was the one complaining about the characters always looking back instead of putting the past behind them. That is an impossible expectation for real life, and to wish it for a book is to wish for a different sort of book. In that respect, I think the author got it right. I think the author understood, and conveyed in a reasonably convincing way, how trauma can change you, and how just putting it behind you & moving forward into your future life is not always easy, or even always possible. Brooke & Alex experienced something AS TEENS that most adults would be traumatized by, and their attempts to tuck it into a little box and set it aside (no pun intended) damaged them as much as...well, I won't spoil it for those who haven't read it yet. So it is hardly unpredictable that their lives would start to unravel, and hardly surprising that their quest for peace would take them back to the beginning. That is human psychology in a nutshell. Predictable, sure, but the nuts & bolts of human psychology nonetheless.

I do think Ferriss tied up the book a little too neatly. Things worked out a little too perfectly for my imperfect

and off-kilter taste. The necessary money was just a little too easy to get. The mom was just a little too ready to help, after having been critical & hurtful because Brooke didn't turn out how she planned. Alex went from one conviction to the other a little too easily to believe. Too neat. Too tidy. Too wrapped up nicely in a box (see, there's the pun again). I like ambiguity, and the impossibility of fixing things...of finding a balance in some relationships. Truthfully, a bit more of that would have made this book stronger. There was plenty of struggle, but in the end, it was just a bit too easy to "fix."

Chris Luzeckyj says

This was a fabulous book! I initially gave it 4 stars instead of 5 because I thought it started off rather slowly with a lot of flash backs & background information. However, in retrospect, I believe this was an integral part of the story. It was imperative to feel the emotions of the characters then, so that you could better understand why the secret they kept for so long was still haunting them. For me, this is a 5 star book!

Without giving too much away, the novel centers around Brooke & Alex, high school sweethearts who make a grave mistake regarding their unwanted pregnancy. They never speak of what happened and Brooke refuses to see or speak to Alex. Alex goes off to college & Brooke moves away. They continue to have no contact with each other, and go on to live separate lives which include marriage & children. Nevertheless, neither Brooke nor Alex are ever really happy as they carry their secret like an albatross. Alex's marriage disintegrates and Brooke denies her husband the additional children he wants so badly.

Alex comes back to see Brooke because he feels he must come clean on what he did. He needs Brooke's forgiveness in order to go on with his life. Brooke does not want to believe him, or even talk about the incident. Furthermore, she does not think there is anything to forgive. She is doing her best to keep her secret hidden & retain normalcy, but she fails miserably. Brooke's husband suspects she is having an affair with her old flame & begins to act erratically. Brooke temporarily leaves him & their daughter to go back to her hometown to revisit the incident & to stay with her mother. The secret is boiling over and is desperately trying to surface. Brooke needs to find out what really happened so she can be at peace.

Alex finds her & in the incidents that follow, they discover the truth & it's heartbreaking consequences. Only after facing their worst fears and realizing the magnitude of their mistake & how many lives they have affected, can they try to forgive & ask forgiveness.

I really, really liked this book! The characters of the novel were so alive, I felt I could understand why they did what they did. This book contains some heavy subject matter, but because it was so well written, I couldn't put it down. This will be a novel that I will remember & recommend for a long time.

Christie Kushnir says

This was a great book to read! It was a total page turner and always left me wanting to read more!! At first there were some part that were a little boring which made me start to slow down when reading, but that only lasted a couple of pages. I enjoyed reading this book because something unexpected takes place which leaves you on the edge of your seat. It is a good book to read and the author did a great job ending the chapters suspenseful to make you want to turn that page and keep reading no matter what time it is even if you have school the next morning. I thought this book was a realistic book that wasn't buttered up, it is true no matter where you go the past will still be there, making everyone have skeletons in there closet!

Michelle Robinson says

I have not read nearly as much as I'd like to lately.

I have to say, this book was such a great choice to begin 2013 with.

I found the basic premise of the novel to be interesting and compelling. There was an slight element of mystery in the novel, I like that nothing felt too contrived or forced.

It was easy to go on this journey with Sean, Nadja, Brooke and Alex.

Overall, these were flawed people, however, they were people I could empathize with. While their choices were at times were horrible, they were totally understandable. There is an element of the dilemma feeling a little like something Jodi Picoult would have written, however, I felt Ferriss handled her conflict with a greater amount of finesse. I did not feel that the author tried to make her audience feel any certain way about what was happening with the characters.

The pace of the novel was good, the characters were very interesting. I thoroughly enjoyed this novel and will look for others written by this novel.

Charlotte Lynn says

While in high school Brooke finds herself unexpectedly pregnant. Alex, her high school sweetheart, finds himself in the horrible place of having to deliver prematurely the baby in a seedy hotel room. Having hidden the pregnancy no one realizes that they just dispose of the newborn.

Fifteen years later, Brooke is married and has a daughter with her husband, Sean. Alex is recently divorced after suffering the death of his young son. Neither Alex nor Brooke have shared the burden of their secret with anyone else in the lives. His reappearance in her life has begun to threaten her current life. Brooke and Alex must not confront what they have been unable to face. While searching for the truth Brooke finds what she believed to have happen to not be the whole truth. In finding the truth, Brooke and Alex both find the strength to move forward with their lives and find the happiness they both have denied themselves.

The emotions in this novel tugged at my heart from the very first page. The relationships between all the characters were very painful and felt extremely real. I felt myself being pulled deeper and deeper in Brooke and Sean's family problems. Feeling Brookes fear and pain as she searches for the truth of what happen to her baby that horrible night in the hotel and her fear in how her husband and family will react to knowing what happen. The Lost Daughter is amazing. Such sensitive subjects being brought up so tastefully and carefully. If you enjoy and great read with a deep and beautifully written story this is a book for you.

Rebecca Sutton says

A lot of people I have found didn't like the tone and disturbing nature of this book. I think the pretty cover throws people off. So don't let the cover fool you. It definitely is not a light hearted read. However it is really good.

The characters are really unlikeable in the beginning, but that is what kept me reading. I was tired of perfect characters in every book I read. It is a good story about redemption and closure. The only things I didn't like were little inconsistencies in the supporting characters and how it glamorizes having an affair. I will say this if you are against abortion do not read this book it will just make you pissed off.

Kristen says

I received this book for free from GR First Reads and was looking forward to reading it, but I couldn't get through the first few chapters. The language that was used and the details of the birth and sex just turned me off. I feel like a story can be told without using the language and the detail that was used in this book. And okay, maybe the gorey details of the birth were needed for later in the story, to really understand what happened to her, but I even went several chapters farther into the book, and I just couldn't get into the story. I was turned off. And I'm sure the book got happier in the end, but it was just so depressing I couldn't get into it. I tried several times, and failed. I can normally find something in a book to keep me pushing through the book, but this time I couldn't.
