



The Lake and the Lost Girl

Jacquelyn Vincenta

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An intricately plotted debut about love, obsession, and the destruction of a family from the inside out

It's 1999 in White Hill, Michigan, and Lydia Carroll's husband is in love with a dead woman. English Professor Frank Carroll has invested years searching for the lost works of local poet Mary Stone Walker, whose mysterious disappearance in 1939 is only rivaled by the beautiful words she left behind.

When Frank's single-minded pursuit for Mary's lost poems puts his family in jeopardy, Lydia throws herself into the mystery, hoping to solve it and bring peace back to her home. But as Lydia begins investigating, her son takes action with a plan of his own...one that will bring the family to a breaking point and change Lydia's destiny forever.

The Lake and the Lost Girl Details

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Author : Jacquelyn Vincenta

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From Reader Review The Lake and the Lost Girl for online ebook

Michele says

The book made me think about the stories we tell ourselves about own lives, about societal expectations of women and how they have/have not changed, and about truth, secrets, and lies. Bonus that it is set in Michigan.

Ann says

This is a story of love and obsession. Frank and his wife Lydia have been writing a book about poet Mary Stone Walker. Her obscure life became a research project and hopefully a book. Mary Stone Walker had disappeared from her home in 1939 and was a mystery as to whether she ran away from an abusive marriage or was murdered by her husband. Frank is becoming more obsessive as each day passes, spending their savings on old furniture he thinks might have been hers or belittling his wife and son when they dare to disagree with him. This story is a narrative back and forth between Mary's life in the 30's and 1999 Michigan with Frank spiraling into his own reality.

Lolly K Dandeneau says

review soon

Renee Rosen says

Jacquelyn Vincenta spins a haunting tale of madness and obsession wrapped around the mysterious disappearance of a brilliant poet. Sweeping back and forth in time, from the 1930s to the end of the 20th Century, Vincenta keeps you turning pages as she takes you on a journey that explores the complexities of marriage and families, professional quests as well as one's deepest, darkest passions

Paula Mintek says

This first novel is carefully crafted with unexpected twists and turns. The author does a terrific job of uncovering the thoughts, emotions and idiosyncrasies of each character. Each is complex and, therefore, quite believable. The movement between two time periods is smooth and creates more interest. Lake Michigan is a strong element as are poetry and antiques in this gripping tale. I highly recommend this book!

Chapel Taylor-olsen says

This book was really engaging. The characters feel extremely alive and real and the plot will keep you on your toes all the way to the end. You will find yourself caring about the outcome of the small, intimate, cast of characters. I was particularly impressed by the teenage boy character who is drawn in a way that I thought was both accurate and also sensitive. So often teenagers are portrayed in a way that feels really predictable, boring, and ultimately untrue, but Nicolas is not like that at all. He is a fully realized human being, just like the other characters in this book. The writing is also strong. Every few pages or so there was a line that I felt really blew me away. I liked how there were shifting points of view (thought I never found it confusing) in the chapters so I was able to feel like I could really get to know each of the characters.

There were a few important "plot twists" in the second half, or so, of the book and Vincenta really earns them. They don't feel like cheap tricks designed to keep your attention, but natural evolutions of the plot. Although I had not seen them coming at all, after each reveal I found myself thinking, "oh of course!" The final big reveal left me with just a huge grin on my face.

I listened to this book on audio and, as an avid listener of audiobooks, was also pleased to find that I really liked the reader. She does a great job with this book and really seems to have a strong sense of the characters.

Don't debate any longer! This book is totally worth a read!

Sherri Thacker says

Wow. Could. Not. Put. This. Down.

Jeannette says

Book blurb...

An intricately plotted debut about love, obsession, and the destruction of a family from the inside out. When Frank's single-minded pursuit for Mary's lost poems puts his family in jeopardy, Lydia throws herself into the mystery, hoping to solve it and bring peace back to her home. But as Lydia begins investigating, her son takes action with a plan of his own...one that will bring the family to a breaking point and change Lydia's destiny forever.

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My thoughts...

This book fascinated me from beginning to end - mysterious, mesmeric, and marvelous storytelling that shows how easily a family can destroy itself once obsession and disrespect enter a relationship. Told predominantly in current day with glimpses from Mary's life sixty years earlier. We get an understanding of the how she lived and suffered in her marriage. The story is well plotted and easy to follow. I look forward to future novels by Jacquelyn Vincent.

Kathryn says

I was lucky to get to read an advance copy of this wonderful debut. This tale of deepening obsession with the poetic beauty of another era feels so real it will tie a knot in your belly even as the family at stake unravels. In Vincenta's capable hands, each character's need for validation feels at once romantic and dire. I loved the echoes between the historic perspectives of poet Mary Stone Walker and the current-day perspective of Lydia, a woman who is fed up with her husband's inability to move forward with his book on Walker through commonsense research techniques. Her reliability also comes into question, since she supports the family by writing romance novels that no longer bring her meaning or joy. She would have written Walker's story differently—and just might. Inspired plot inclusions from the teenage son who wants to keep his family together. Plenty for book clubs to discuss here!

Diane S ? says

Upper Michigan, 1939, a young, unhappily married, poetess, Mary Stone Walker disappears. Her body is never found, poetry she had written later found in many unusual places, chair legs, hidden in window sills, lend credence to the speculation that she is not dead, but had run away.

Lydia and Frank Carroll met in college, bonded over their love of Mary's poetry and the belief that she was still alive after 1939, that there is more of her poetry to be discovered. Frank, now a college professor has been trying to assemble a book about Mary's life and continues to search for her poetry and proof that she did live longer than thought.

The book goes from 1939, Mary's journal entries and 1989, where Lydia, now a romance writer, is married to Frank and they have one teenage son. Not difficult at all to follow. The atmosphere is wonderfully dark, almost gothic in its execution, the prose beautiful, the setting on the edge of the lake, perfect. There is a thin line between avid interest and obsession and soon it seems as if Lydia's life and marriage is mimicking that of Marys. Tension filled and steadily paced this is one I really enjoyed. What did happen to Mary and will Lydia's life turn out the same? A very good read.

Kendra says

Thank you to Stephanie Graham and Sourcebooks for allowing me to read this advance reader's copy of The Lake and the Lost Girl which will be published June 2017.

This is a story within a story - Lydia and Frank, she a writer, he a professor who has yet to finish his PhD, are both fans of the poetry of Mary Stone Walker, who disappeared some 60 years earlier. Frank's dissertation concerns Mary's poetry and what became of her when she disappeared. However, as Frank becomes more and more obsessed with the idea of Mary, his method of research goes off the rails, taxes the budget, and places more and more of a strain on the family, while ignoring more reasonable avenues of research. The story alternates between Lydia, Frank, and their son Nicholas and the story of Mary. I found myself drawn into both. Because the characters are so well-drawn and believable, I found myself caring so much about Lydia and her frustration, that I became frustrated with Lydia herself for continuing to make excuses for Frank ~ as you would with a good friend that you'd like to shake and tell them to wake up! Lydia does finally wake up, but not until after she comes to realize that Frank's obsession is hurting their son, and

that Frank is beyond helping. The end is satisfying and also well done. I enjoyed the book, and will recommend it to readers who enjoy literary fiction.

Debbie says

What is up with the husband's of women who write for a living in this book. They are both demanding, violent and abusive. I spent most of this book with my fists clenched wanting to use them on Frank. A man who obsessed with finding out more about an elusive poet writer who hasn't been heard from since 1939.

This was a chilling tale filled with domestic abuse by these husbands and how these women dealt with their problem. While the deal with Frank and Lydia and their relationship was a little long in several places, I think the author just wanted you to understand the reality of Frank's obsession and how it changed him.

I stayed up way to late to finish this book because I just HAD to know how it ended! There was absolutely no way I was putting it down, I could sleep tomorrow. Chilling, suspenseful and tragic, I enjoyed this read very much.

Huge thanks to Sourcebooks Landmark and Net Galley for allowing me the privilege to read and review this book in exchange for providing an honest, unbiased review.

Pam De says

I had a hard time putting this book down! It is a great story with many interesting and nuanced aspects around the differences between the male and female character and outlook on life. And how these same issues show up differently in different time periods.

I heartily recommend it to anyone who likes to get totally absorbed in a great story.

Corky Fisher says

I loved this books. I felt I immediately knew the characters. On so many levels this is fiction that is true. Looking forward to her next book.

Wendy Tatro says

I read an advance copy and greatly enjoyed the story. The plot moves between 1939 and 1999 - with the similarities between the stories making the story compelling. worth the read.
