



# Finding Jennifer Jones

*Anne Cassidy*

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## **Finding Jennifer Jones** Anne Cassidy

Kate Rickman seems just like any other nineteen-year-old girl. She goes to university, she dates nice, normal boys and she works in her local tourist office at the weekend. But Kate's not really normal at all. 'Kate' is in fact a carefully constructed facade for a girl called Jennifer Jones - and it's a facade that's crumbling fast. Jennifer has spent the last nine years frantically trying to escape from her horrifying past. Increasingly desperate, Jennifer decides to do something drastic. She contacts the only other girl who might understand what she's dealing with, breaking every rule of her parole along the way. Lucy Bussell is the last person Jennifer expects any sympathy from, but she's also the last person she has left. Finding Jennifer Jones is the powerful sequel to the highly acclaimed, Carnegie Medal nominated Looking for JJ. It is a tense, emotional thriller about guilt, running away and wondering if you can ever truly know yourself.

## **Finding Jennifer Jones Details**

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Author : Anne Cassidy

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# From Reader Review Finding Jennifer Jones for online ebook

## Basyirah says

This is the second book of a duology, but I never read the first one. However, I think it's okay to be read as a standalone, as there's a part in this book that gives you a flashback of the main character's life when she was younger.

Kate Rickman, or her real name Jennifer Jones, had killed her friend when they were 10, and she was convicted for it. She was released with a new identity and a new life, allowed to finish her degree, but she was not feeling really good having to lie to people about who she was. Then another tragedy hit the town she was living in, a girl was found dead and Kate was dragged in for questioning because that's who she was; a criminal with a past of violence. She was verbally harrassed by the police officers and that pushed her to the edge. She was determined to get her freedom bac, but Kate had a pretty huge price to pay for freedom.

Honestly, Kate isn't a lovable character. I could understand her frustration and the reason behind her violence in the past. But she has this sort of attitude, even towards people who had meant her no harm. She always made rash decisions. You can't really blame her, but you can't love her either.

I like the plot and the writing style. It's easy to read. It's not a thick book, it gives you enough information to make you understand what's happening to the main character and also her past. It's not a slow read, but it's not a fast one either. It doesn't really rush you to the ending (okay the last part before the ending was a bit rushed).

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## Tammy says

Finding Jennifer Jones is a bittersweet book of pasts and secrets. This book was a surprise second edition to "Looking For JJ", 10 years after its release. Kate is hiding the secret that as a 10 year old girl, she did a terrible thing, and now she lives with it every day, and the people around her dont know a thing. This book kept my interest and at times it was so suspenseful I couldn't put it down. A great read overall, and addition to the first book.

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## Sara says

I had high hopes for this book because Looking For JJ is such a brilliant piece of fiction and one of the books I read as a teen that's really stuck with me.

Unfortunately, there's just nothing really \*new\* here. Looking For JJ was so brilliant because it explored the very difficult issues surrounding murder and children and what life there is after committing a terrible crime as a child. Finding Jennifer Jones is pretty much just more of that. Maybe there would have been more to say if the novel had been set a little later in Jennifer's life. It would be very interesting to see how she adjusted to life as an adult (at 18, she is not matured enough past the age she was in the previous book - 16, I believe - to

be facing truly adult situations), for example having children of her own or holding down a full time job.

Looking For JJ put you into the mind of a convicted criminal and it was uncomfortable and illuminating, which is why the book was so fantastic. The problem with Finding Jennifer Jones is that that has already been done. The book even wastes a whole portion on the trial and Jennifer as a child, which is all stuff we already know.

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### **Clare Holman-Hobbs says**

I began reading this book and got to about a quarter of the way through, and since putting it down I've had no desire to pick it back up again. A shame, considering I loved the first one!

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### **Megan Readinginthesunshine says**

I LOVED Looking For JJ and I mean LOVED IT. I originally read JJ ten years ago and it is a story that has stayed with me, so finding out now that there was a recent sequel was exciting and terrifying for me at the same time.

I REALLY liked this - I felt Finding Jennifer Jones really answered questions and rounded things off better for me - at the end of JJ I wanted more and I had wondered about JJ and what she would be doing - so it was fascinating to catch up with her and find out how this tragedy had continued to affect her and her life.

I liked that we saw the return of characters from JJ, not only Jennifer (now Kate) but Lucy has a part along with other characters receiving mentions through flashbacks.

The only questions I had remaining were (view spoiler)

I really enjoyed it and I am SO PLEASED there was a sequel to one of the stories that has stayed with me since my childhood - so thank you so much for that <3

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### **comfort says**

A very touching story of what it is like living as a convicted murderer, but being a teenager. A child killer killing a child.

Jennifer killed one of her friends when she was a child and has served her time and been released. She has had several name changes and new identities given to her by the Social workers, but the history of what she has done still follows her. She gets recognised and has to move on.

Finally she is relatively happy working in the tourist information office and she even has the beginnings of getting a boyfriend, she is living like any normal teenaged girl.

Then it all changes

Very insightful and heart-rending story of Jennifer/Kate.

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### **Natasha Scharf says**

The truly remarkable sequel to a truly remarkable young adult novel. As with 'Looking For JJ', I really struggled to put 'Finding Jennifer Jones' down. The way Anne Cassidy writes about her characters makes you feel you really know them; each is as complex as a real human being. She covers taboo subjects with ease and confidence, using simple but evocative language that never gets in the way of the story. This book provides a very satisfying conclusion to a shocking tale. I simply cannot praise it enough.

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### **Sarah says**

It started intriguingly but I soon found Jennifer and her problems tedious.

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### **Megan says**

Not as good as the first one, I was a bit disappointed really.

I found I really started to despise Jennifer at some points. Where I had empathised with her in the previous book, she was just annoying and whined a lot and I don't think she was actually willing to accept her actions (even though that is her aim). A lot of the things she did were just downright stupid and she never took into consideration how her actions would affect others.

However, at other points, I could understand where she was coming from, but I didn't enjoy her as much as a main character anymore.

The writing was still really good and enjoyable in this book as well. Although the plot was lacking a bit of oomph.

All in all a decent read, a worthy continuation of the first book, but not as good in my opinion.

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### **PinkAmy loves books, cats and naps; says**

Grade: D

Eighteen-year-old Kate Rickman, is always looking over her shoulders, waiting to be identified as Jennifer Jones, the ten-year-old who killed her playmate. She's been out of prison for two years and has a second identity in this sequel to LOOKING FOR JJ. Kate decides to locate the third girl from the woods that fateful day, Lucy Bussell and apologize, even though doing so is strictly forbidden as a condition of her release.

The only reason I was interested in FINDING JENNIFER JONES was to read more about the crime and resolution to the story. Kate/Alice/Jennifer was a complex, not always likable but always sympathetic character.

Aside from the character aspect, I could barely get through Anne Cassidy's writing. I had so hoped her writing style improved since JJ, because the plot and characters were both well developed and interesting. The in-your-face telling and woeful lack of showing dragged my reading to a snail's pace, chugging along to find parts of the writing that advanced the story or characters.

THEMES: murder, rehabilitation, neglect, abuse,

Keep your expectations low if you want to find out what happens. Or save your time and money and email me and I'll tell you.

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### **Jamie-Rose says**

A well-written sequel which I enjoyed, and I liked the new characters. I don't understand why Jennifer never tells anyone that Mr Cottis was going to take photos on the day she deliberately stayed away, which ended in her killing Michelle. Surely that's mitigating circumstances...I felt her mother should have had to answer to that. That not being addressed or resolved let the book down for me, that the upbringing of Jennifer by her mother led to her occasional bursts of anger and violence. I might be in the minority too but I never really liked or felt too sorry for Michelle in the first book, she was a pretty bad best friend and mean to both Jennifer and Lucy on several occasions :/ I hoped for a better ending here.

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### **Michelle (Fluttering Butterflies) says**

Really interesting conclusion to Jennifer's story.

Earlier this year I finally read Looking For JJ, the first book by Anne Cassidy about child killer, Jennifer Jones. I thought that book was dark and surprising and very thought-provoking and after I finished reading it, I was incredibly intrigued to see where the author would take this story next. And I wasn't disappointed with the sequel, Finding Jennifer Jones. It didn't quite reach the same level of emotions that Looking For JJ did but it was still incredibly fascinating and thoughtful and I was gripped by it from the very first page.

Before I started reading Finding Jennifer Jones, I did wonder if Looking For JJ really needed a sequel. It felt like quite a lot had been covered in the first book already. And then I started reading Finding Jennifer Jones and realised that Anne Cassidy probably knew what she was doing here. And I found it really wonderful (if at times realistic) to see the conclusion to Jennifer's story and to see things from a different perspective and to catch up on some of the other characters' lives that we were introduced to in the first book.

Finding Jennifer Jones takes place several years after the events of Looking For JJ and JJ is now Kate Rickman and a student at Exmouth University. She lives with roommates off campus, has a summer job and is trying to hold a normal life after the dramatics of her release and the media storm that happened in Looking For JJ.

Things should be wonderful for Kate. She got what she wanted: her anonymity back, attending university, the ability to go on with her life. But there are certain things that hold her back from fully appreciating what

she has. Two things happen that really spur this story on. The first is that a girl is found drowned in the sea and evidence is found that links this drowned girl to Kate. The second is that Kate reaches out to Lucy (Mouse) in London and apologies to her for what happened all those years ago.

I found both aspects of this new plot really fascinating. It was difficult to witness Kate's experiences with the police and their investigation to this new tragedy. It felt unfair and slightly harrowing how quickly Kate is mistreated and assumed to have committed this crime. I could really feel Kate's frustration at never being able to live down the events of her past. Which is why I could really believe in her wanted to clear the air with Lucy. Everything that happened in that second half of the novel had me on edge as I knew she was doing the wrong thing but it also felt entirely believable that she might make the mistakes she did.

I really enjoyed Finding Jennifer Jones. I loved seeing some loose tied up and seeing the conclusion to her story. I wanted good things for this character and I was amazed by how real she felt to me while reading this two books.

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### **K. says**

I LOVED Looking for JJ. I mean, it wasn't an easy read, but it was so brilliantly done. We knew basically from the beginning who the killer was, but not who the victim was or what the motive was. So I was pretty excited when I stumbled across this sequel at the library last week.

What I got, though, was more of the exact same stuff we'd had before, minus the big "OH MY GOD, MUST KEEP READING TO FIND OUT WHO DID IT" compulsion. Our protagonist is now nineteen and living in a share house, and making a crapton of terrible decisions. There were some flashbacks to what happened after Michelle's body is found that filled out the story nicely, but instead of the emotional gut punch that we got in the first book when reading about the terrible parenting and the squick-worthy things that were happening in Jennifer's life, we just got three hundred pages of wondering when - not if, but when - the police would catch up to Kate and her terrible decisions. Yes, it answers a bunch of questions that were left hanging in the first book. And yes, it proves that Jennifer/Alice/Kate can have a normal life. But there was just something that was missing for me.

Essentially, it was still a good story. But it wasn't nearly as compelling as what we got in Looking for JJ.

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### **Sam says**

I was so ecstatic when I saw this book! I loved 'Looking for JJ' when I read it many years ago and I was looking forward to reading more.

I re-read 'Looking for JJ' as I wanted to refresh my memory to what happens. So I got them both on audiobook.

I enjoyed listening to them back-to-back, but in doing this I feel that 'Finding Jennifer Jones' didn't quite measure up to the first.

Don't get me wrong, I still really liked this! I'm glad Anne Cassidy wrote it because it shows you more about

what happened on that terrible day and I feel like Jj's story is finally over and she can live a normal life. But it didn't have the same appeal and intrigue that 'Looking for JJ' had.

If you like a good mystery then this & 'Looking for JJ' are books to add to your to-read shelf!

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### **Kate Arnold says**

I was totally and utterly gripped to this book - that was worth a five star rating. It has a fantastic plot and I loved being able to just pick it up and understand (I hadn't read the first book). I couldn't put it down and was completely drawn in and finished it in a day. My one complaint is that at times it was slightly narrative but I guess that's because it was written in 3rd person. This is the only reason I didn't give it five stars! Oh and the ending was slightly abrupt.... But seriously amazing book otherwise!

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