



Whispers in the Mist

Lisa Alber

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There's a whisper in the mists

In Lisfenora, Ireland, a strange fog has rolled in off the Atlantic. Along with the fog comes tales of Grey Man, a predatory faery of local lore who snatches innocent souls into his deadly gloom.

And with the mists come murder

When a teenage boy dies in Detective Sergeant Danny Ahern's arms, Danny finds himself pursuing his own grey man, a killer who becomes more elusive the closer Danny gets to the truth. A mute woman may be the key to solving the murder and helping Danny heal his own broken life, but first she must unlock the memories from her past.

Part psychological suspense, part mystery, Lisa Alber's haunting tale of family secrets and broken love won't let you go until the final twist.

Whispers in the Mist Details

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Author : Lisa Alber

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From Reader Review Whispers in the Mist for online ebook

Bambi Unbridled says

This one wasn't for me. The story is a bit too disjointed. I received an advanced copy of this book from the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. DNF at 40%.

Colleen says

A well developed cast of characters, evocative settings, and a challenging mystery. All good things in a book.

Leah Bayer says

To start off, this is the second book in a series but you definitely can start with it (or read it as a stand-alone). While there's some mention of the previous book and we obviously get character and relationship-related spoilers, not an inch of the mystery from Kilmoon is talked about. So the ending (and the case, really) of the first book are kept totally in the dark! Which I appreciate, because I tend to read mystery novels out of order based on the plot summary (and let's be honest, the cover. It's spooky woods! of course I need to read it!).

The location is really the star of this novel. It's set in a sleepy town in Ireland, and there's a lot of folklore elements to the mystery. People are convinced it's the Grey Man, a spirit who lives in the mist, who is murdering 'Lost Boys.' There's also a sparrow-as-psychopomp theme running throughout that I found really intriguing.

It's hard to pinpoint what I didn't love about this. Not that I disliked it, but I ended up feeling kind of lukewarm. I loved the setting and the atmosphere. The characters (especially Gemma, Alan, and the dog Bijou) were really well rendered. There were many different plot threads that came together beautifully, and I was actually surprised by the very final reveal. But. But. I guessed the bad guy about 50 pages in (I really think it was too obvious, and not a case of having read too many mysteries because it's not my usual genre), and the plot relies on amnesia in a key witness. A plot trend I'm pretty darn tired of, even if it was trauma-induced here and made a lot of sense. Or, you know, more sense than it does in most thriller/mystery books.

While individual elements here were great and I think there's a lot of potential in this series, it never quite came together for me. However, I will say that it's miles better than most mystery series out there. Good characters, quite decent writing, and a really wonderful setting. I'd definitely be willing to pick up the next book.

[arc provided by netgalley in exchange for an honest review]

Cassie May says

Reviewed on behalf of Two Girls Who Love Books Blog

This is the first non-romance book I have read in a long time and I was really intrigued by the blurb.

However in the beginning I had a hard time getting in the story. It is a standalone, but the second book in a series and there were hints on the plot of the first book that I didn't completely understand.

Also there were so many characters presented in the first few chapters that I kept confusing them in the beginning. Further in the book it became clearer and it was easier to place the names to the characters.

Unfortunately the author wasn't able to really give me a nice image of the characters. Normally there are a few hints as how they look like, but besides one character none of them was really described in a way that made it possible for me to get an image in my brain.

The story itself was a good one even though for me it was clear who was the murderer at about 50 % into the book. That's not a bad thing and I don't think many people would suspect it. I did.

The end was not a cliffhanger, but it didn't give closure on everything as well. As I don't want to spoil the plot, let me just say I would have liked for one thing to go different.

I give four stars for this book, because of all the things that disturbed me and the fact that the constant Irish slang made it a little hard for me to stay in the story.

Maggie says

3 Word Summary: Cute breezy read

The Luck O' the Irish perhaps missed the town of Lisfenora, where Ireland's latest murderer lurks in the fog or as natives call him/it "The Grey Man" (and FYI say this quietly with a heavy Irish brogue and it sounds completely badass!!). Plus, readers are visiting the town at the right time because the Matchmaker Festival is in full swing (old school Tinder for the young un's reading this) bringing along all sorts of characters with all their "issues", aka dead bodies.

As I struggled to shake the image of a young Adrienne Barbeau scuttling about a lighthouse dodging an eerie specter (Google "The Fog", millennials!), I considered this book and decided I define it as a "cute" mystery, or what some call a "cottage" mystery (okay, only I call it that).

Not scary. Not macabre or graphic. It's "cute" murder, sort of like Jessica Fletcher from Murder She Wrote (seriously, Google it lazy millennials), a sort of sleepy-town story where oops - there's a dead body! There's the small town characters – the cop, the matchmaker and his long lost American daughter, the pub "crows", along with shop owners. Someone dies and then everyone in town is a suspect. (PS... remind me NEVER to visit Cabot Cove. How do the police not just follow Jessica Fletcher around all day? I mean a LOT of people die around her).

It's a little too tidy for me. The gravy? Not as dark or rich as I enjoy my mystery book "shepherd's pie" (Is that Irish?). I like to chew on my mysteries. Savor some aroma. Truly be fed in terrifying ways. Relish some shock. This wasn't my usual flavor, but that doesn't mean there's not a worthwhile nibble from author Lisa Alber (Damn now I'm hungry). I would highly recommend this for a quick read, beach read, light mystery lovers, etc.

The imaginative town, the setting drew me in (hello, it's IRELAND) and the creative characters led to many possible suspects and many future books. I could easily visualize the town, the people, the beer...

However, the writing itself seemed scattered, a bit flailing in places as if the author didn't quite know where

to come in for a landing with a chapter. The storyline jumped a bit frenetically. A slightly slower pace (think roller coaster, not the Tilt-a-Whirl) and the story would be improved.

Side note: I didn't read the first book and will advise that you should read the first book as a few references went over my head, but it's not completely necessary.

As always a huge thank you to NetGalley and Midnight Ink for an advanced copy in exchange for this honest review. And encouraging me to watch *Murder She Wrote* re-runs on the Hallmark Channel.

Debby Author says

If you like Kate Atkinson and Wilkie Collins, try this author! It was wonderful to read right before my trip to Ireland; it really gave me such a feel for that country that rang so true when I was visiting. I won't spoil any surprises but these warped and damaged characters will leave you guessing about their true motives and selves!

Iain Clements says

Whispers in the Mist is a crime thriller based in the small village of 'Lisfenora' in County Clare, Ireland. The story takes place during the village's world famous matchmaking festival, (which Lisa Alber seems to have based on the actual festival held in Lisdoonvarna).

Alber does a great job in setting the suspense up early in this novel by introducing the Grey Man legend. The legend of Grey Man states that each time the fog rolls in and blankets the village, evil will run afoot. Unfortunately the legend soon proves true with the discovery of a young man's body in the village pasture. Soon after the first murder we meet one of the main characters Detective Sergeant Danny Ahern.

Like many other detectives in fiction, Danny is troubled, determined, and is struggling to deal with a breakdown in his marriage. However, when the first victim passes away in Danny's arms, we instantly know that he will pursue this real life Grey Man whatever it takes.

After the initial murder, the plot rapidly accelerates into a great part-thriller/part-psychological novel. The village characters are all really well rounded with my particular favourites being Gemma, Alan, and the dog Bijou. As many other reviewers have commented, Ireland is really the star of the book with excellent scenery descriptions throughout.

Additionally, throughout the story Alber keeps referring back to the Grey Man mystery and several of the book's characters are convinced that Danny is trying to arrest a supernatural being.

This is the second book in the County Clare series. The first in the series is called *Kilmoon*. Whilst the main plot of this story is totally separate from the first book in the series, I would really recommend reading *Kilmoon* first as most of the character relationships seemed to have been formed in that story.

Throughout the plot there are countless references to things that happened in the previous story, particularly between Danny and the Matchmaker's daughter Merritt. *Whispers in the Mist* was a really good read, highly

recommended.

I received a free copy of this story via NetGalley in exchange for a honest review. - See more at: <http://publishing-adventures.blogspot...>

Carol Keen says

A small Irish town, mist, and murder. Not the other author, this one is a new author to me. She did a good job too! Meet the evil, mythical Gray Man, if you dare. The Grey Man is responsible for horrific things, and changing so many people's lives that you have to read it to get the full impact! Are the evil fey at work, or something more human?

I really liked the Irish setting, and the mute woman was such a strong character to me. I can't leave out Danny, he went through so much.

I wouldn't mind reading another book by Lisa Alber at all.

My copy came from Net Galley in exchange for my honest review and nothing more.

Petra says

Whispers in the Mist is set 12 months after the events of Kilmoon, the first County Clare Mystery. While reading these in order will you give a better understanding of the characters of Merritt and Danny, they work fine as stand-alones as they are dealing with different mysteries.

This one starts off with the discovery of a body in a field. Is the teenage boy just one of the visitors who flock to the village of Lisfenora for the annual Matchmaking festival? Who is he and why would anybody want to kill him? Then a local teenage boy is found murdered.

Two other newcomers to the village, Gemma, a mute young woman, and her brother, Dermot, seem to have significant information local detective, Danny Ahern, needs to crack the case.

As the investigation becomes more and more complex, Danny has a hard time keeping the case separate from his private life.

I enjoyed this one more than Kilmoon because the characters were better drawn and I started to care about them. In particular, Gemma was a really intriguing character. Danny's story is developed and becomes an even more likable character. The mystery is quite a complex tale of family drama and deceit again, with several suspects and a few twists. It's suspenseful but more of a cozy mystery without anything truly dark. Most reviewers seemed to enjoy the atmosphere and the hints about the Grey Man folklore. I didn't actually feel it added anything to the story. Also, Liam, the matchmaker, became almost superfluous for this story. So there were minor parts that felt forced but overall the plot and the characters were better developed than in the previous book. While I still feel lukewarm about Merritt, I've become fond enough of Danny and Gemma as well as Alan and his dog, I would happily read another County Clare mystery. 3.5 stars.

I received an ARC via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

Lindsey Roberts says

Original Review Here

I received a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

It has been a long time since I read a murder mystery and I have to admit, Whispers in the Mist by Lisa Alber certainly drew me in. I read it in a couple of days, although that was partly because I had a long train journey. But I definitely reached the point of not wanting to go to bed until I knew who had done it.

The plot is set in a town in Ireland, where being local is all that matters. Two deaths and an attack causes fingers to point in all directions. But there is more to these murders than accidental deaths and when a mute stranger and her brother arrive in town, the case becomes even more complicated.

The characters are all likeable. Danny is your typical policeman who is determined to get the job done, even if that means confronting his suspect by breaking into their flat. With his family falling apart, he seeks redemption by solving the murders. Gemma is complicated and likeable and it is because of her I wanted the murderer caught. Merrit had the potential to be a strong character, but I felt she missed the mark a little.

The writing was extremely strong and I enjoyed the way the local dialect was included in the novel. Not to the point where you had no idea what was being said, but enough that you remembered it was set in Ireland. The tension built steadily throughout the whole novel and while I guessed one element, I didn't work out who was behind it, or the final twist at the end.

Whispers in the Mist was an atmospheric novel. The ever-present fog and the rumours of the Grey Man gave it a haunting and chilling factor. It made the deaths seem worse and helped to conceal hope for the good characters. An effective use of scenery, for sure.

I found this to be an extremely enjoyable book. It kept me engaged, it kept me guessing and it kept me up so I could find out who had done it. A book that can prevent me from sleeping is a worthwhile read!

Angel Hatfield says

Danny had been married to Ellen but their marriage was failing after two years of turmoil. Danny had moved out that had been one year ago. Ellen's and Danny daughter's youngest daughter had died and Danny was sure he was why Ellen wasn't healing. Danny was a detective sergeant. Danny was called to see a dead body when Danny got to the scene the boy wasn't yet dead but he died as Danny tried to perform CPR on him. The boy looked like a city boy not more than seventeen. Danny thought of his son talking about the "Grey Man". The other officers had nicknamed the boy "lost boy" as he had no identification. After a couple weeks a local young man went missing and then was found dead. His name was Branden he was his father's Seamus- pride and joy. Now another stranger to the area- Gemma was missing and Danny's wife had been attacked and in the hospital not in good shape.

This story dragged a little in places. But I still liked the story. It had a lot to it: myth, intrigue, betrayal, murder, physical attacks, an affair, suspense, a matchmaker. A festival, a mute woman, a dog, a gift shop, a jewellery line and so much more. It was a good mystery that I did enjoy. I liked the twists and turns of the story a lot. I recommend.

I received an ARC of this story for an honest review.

Alisa says

3.5 stars

I enjoyed this mystery set in the Irish country side. Two young men turn up dead and law enforcement office Danny tries to solve the case while struggling with the collapse of his personal life. Things get even more intense when the tragedy is brought right to his door. The murder mystery was well done and interesting. I had never read this author before and I found that I really enjoyed her ability to create atmosphere as well as create characters. There were a lot of interesting characters who were all well drawn out and added to the story.

This is a second story in the series which I did not realize as it is not marked as such on Goodreads but it didn't effect my enjoyment of the book. It works fine as a standalone. I did enjoy this enough though that I am going to go back and read the first book in the series also.

Review copy provided through Netgalley

Book Haunt says

If you read the review I wrote just prior to this, you'll see that it was for the first book in the A County Clare Mystery series. Whispers in the Mist is Book 2 of this series by Lisa Alber.

I thought the first book was a quick read but not well-developed and I wasn't wholeheartedly enthused about reading book two in the series. But I'm glad I did. To me the tone of this book was so different that I felt as if I were reading a completely different author. In this book, the characters are fuller, richer. The atmosphere soaks you in. From the time you read the book blurb, you can tell that this book is much different from the first:

There's a whisper in the mists

In Lisfenora, Ireland, a strange fog has rolled in off the Atlantic.

Along with the fog comes tales of Grey Man, a predatory faery of local lore who snatches innocent souls into his deadly gloom.

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When a teenage boy dies in Detective Sergeant Danny Ahern's arms, Danny finds himself pursuing his own grey man, a killer who becomes more elusive the closer Danny gets to the truth. A mute woman may be the key to solving the murder and helping Danny heal his own broken life, but first she must unlock the memories from her past.

Part psychological suspense, part mystery, Lisa Alber's haunting tale of family secrets and

broken love won't let you go until the final twist.

We are introduced to new characters that are well-developed and sympathetic this time. I even like Merrit McCallum a bit better than I did in the first book. She seems like a kinder, less self-involved person because she shows more compassion in this book. But let me tell you, I really like the character of Danny Ahern and for me he is the real star here. As I read, I was so caught up in his emotions and the turbulence of his life. I'm super anxious to see where Lisa Alber takes us next and I do hope it has more to do with Danny Ahern and the new characters we've been introduced to here.

Everything about this book is much more haunting and will stay with me longer. I did figure out who the murderer was early on but the details behind who, what and why made for a good story that kept me reading. This one is more in the tradition of a good Tana French or Maeve Binchy read, and this time I did get that comfy, cozy feel that I love when reading books that take place in Ireland. The jump in this author's writing talent from one book to the next is astonishing. If Lisa Alber's writing keeps improving like this, she will be at the top of the best-seller lists in no time.

I want to thank the publisher (Midnight Ink) for providing me with the ARC through Netgalley for an honest review.

Pamela says

3.5 stars. Evil is lurking around the foggy corner in the little village of Lisfenora, Ireland. This tale was quite atmospheric in the telling, with all the fog rolling in off the Atlantic. Ms. Alber does a nice job of bringing the village and the local color to life.

There are several characters to add to the tale...I really liked Detective Sergeant Danny Ahern. He is just troubled enough (aren't most novel detectives?) to make you feel his angst. Then we have newcomers, Dermot and Gemma, and Alan to pull you more into the story. There are more characters, but these were my favorite for assorted reasons.

The one drawback for me, was that the identity of the "bad guy" wasn't very well hidden. I believe most readers will figure that out pretty darn quick. I like to work a little harder in figuring out the who-dun-it. There were some twists and turns to this so that certainly helped. The writing has a nice flow to it and I will definitely read this author again. Overall, a pretty darn good read.

Thank you to the publisher and Net Galley in exchange of an honest review.

Magdalena aka A Bookaholic Swede says

I so wanted to like this book, the story and the great cover made the book seem so appealing. But, there was just something lacking with the book. I had no problems with this being the second book in a series. It was easy to read and the mentioning of past events never bothered me instead it explained the reason for how things are in Lisfenora and its inhabitants. And, the book started off quite good, but somewhere along half of the book the story just started to drag and it lost its flow and never really got it back.

I suspect that I was partly disappointed because of the lacking of the "Grey Man". As I'm quite fond of paranormal aspects of books did I hope that there could be perhaps something more to the story than an ordinary murder case. It didn't even have to be "real" paranormal, just a hint of something weird. Yes, I know this is not a paranormal book, but this is Ireland with a rich mythological history. And I love mythology and the mix of past superstitions and present skepticism kind of books.

However, it was just foggy weather, perfect for committing a crime. And, it's the crime part that just didn't work that much for me. I just couldn't find myself interested enough, despite the fact that the characters were OK.

So, despite a promising beginning was this not a book for me. I did like parts of the book, but I also had to force myself to read towards the end. The idea of the Grey Man sounded intriguing, but I never felt that it was intriguing enough to make the reading better.

I want to thank Midnight Ink for providing me with a free copy for an honest review!
