
Jenny Valentine

Me, the Missing, and the Dead



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Description

Me: Lucas Swain--I'm nearly sixteen years old and live in London. I was fairly normal until the night I found Violet. Then everything changed. The Missing: Dad. He disappeared five years ago. Nobody knows what happened to him, and nobody cares except me. It's enough to drive you crazy. The Dead: That's Violet . . . in the urn. Speaking of crazy--I know she's trying to tell me something, and I think it's about my father. . . . A dead lady may not be much to go on, but my dad's out there somewhere, and it's up to me to find out where.

Insightful reviews

Angelina Justice: This novel gets four stars for many reasons, but at the top of the list is that it is a short novel. This makes it an easier sell to reluctant readers, especially guys. Guys are my second top reason for giving four stars. This book is written from a "guy" perspective in a voice that resonates with how boys/men think and communicate.

Women, and maybe even many men, often forget that the "real" male and the fictional male are often worlds apart. Novels abound with stereotypes of men both positive and negative. It is a rare novel that captures the essence of male thinking and being. Male characters are often two dimensional in comparison to their female counterparts in a story.

This novel does a good job of capturing the essence of an eclectic male teen.

I loved the balance between a touch of supernatural (that could almost be coincidence) and realism.

This books has a touch of mystery, a healthy dose of coming of age and a suprising amount of introspection.

Great read for just about anyone:)

Steph Bowe: Finding Violet Park is a funny and original novel. It tells the story of Lucas Swain, our peculiar narrator, and how he comes to know Violet Park – a woman who has been dead for five years, who he finds in an urn in a taxi office. The Swain family have their own problems – Lucas' father has been missing for years, and Lucas' mother can't deal with it anymore. Over the course of the novel, Lucas gets to know his grandparents better, deceives a Tony Soprano look-a-like in order to steal the ashes of someone he's never met, gets a girlfriend called Martha and befriends a dead woman.

Somehow, by stumbling across an urn, he'll discover his family's secrets and what really happened to his father, as well as becoming his own person, not a copy of his father.

The premise is unique and the writer's style is enchanting. I loved the way in which everything tied in together, but the story remained believable. Lucas is a hilarious hero with a great voice. Jenny Valentine is a fantastic author, and Finding Violet Park is an immensely readable novel.

Stephanie: Lucas met Violet after she died. But it didn't stop him from getting to know her. He found her in an urn at the taxi office one night when he was too tired to walk home. She had been sitting there for eighteen months and no one had come to claim her. He feels like Violet is talking to her from "the other side" and he conspires with his grandmother to rescue the urn from the fluorescent-lit office full of cigarette smoke and three-day-old newspapers.

So, Violet is "the Dead" and Lucas' father is "the Missing". He doesn't know if his father is dead or if he just abandoned the family. It's the not knowing that's hard.

The story is at once a meditation [on death and dying](#), and a mystery of piecing together the clues of who Violet is, who Lucas is, and ultimately, who his father is.

I loved this book. It's a quick read. The mystery moves the story forward and the observations about the fallibility of parents and family bonds give it depth.

Nina Rosas: My first response within the beginning of this publication used to be that it used to be going to be an ungainly ebook and but it acquired my cognizance correct away. What received my recognition used to be the plot of this ebook and the way i assumed it was once going to play out. by way of the center of the tale whilst the most personality begins to profit approximately this useless woman my response used to be that the most personality needed to be loopy and that by some means this used to be going to steer him to his lacking dad. i used to be very burdened although on how that would play out. even if his father knew the lifeless lady, they have been all someway related, or they had not anything in universal apart from realizing the most character. A tremendous shock got here to me while i discovered out that i were right. via the tip of the tale i nonetheless wasn't relatively convinced how the e-book may end. could he locate his dad? Did his dad and the useless woman be aware of one another in addition to the e-book led on? the article i actually loved approximately this ebook used to be that it stored me guessing on little information that needed to do with the ending. even supposing i may essentially determine what occurred i nonetheless wasn't positive. then the most important surprise got here to me on the finish of the publication whilst their plot was once unraveled and that i may possibly sincerely see what had happened. i loved interpreting this ebook since it stored me guessing and it was once to the purpose and didnt drag on like a few books do.

Kristi: Lucas continues to be coming to phrases together with his father's disappearance regardless of the various years that experience passed. If merely he knew what fairly happened. used to be he hurt, used to be he kidnapped through aliens, used to be he in detention center and couldn't get to a phone? Lucas attempts to make excuses for his father, however the fact of the problem is he doesn't comprehend what happened. Stopping for a cab early one morning he's attracted to an urn that's living within the cab office. Who is familiar with precisely why Lucas used to be interested in the urn, yet occasionally we suppose connections that can't be ignored. as soon as Lucas has the urn in his ownership he learns that the lady inside of was once named Violet. Lucas feels that Violet is verbal exchange with him, in a few way. and he or she eventually is helping Lucas tie up the free ends of his existence that take place to be very heavily intertwined to hers. I wasn't definite what to anticipate from Me, the Missing, and the Dead, yet I did prove having fun with the publication greater than I at the beginning concept I

would! Lucas's personality is funny and real. you possibly can relate to him and the way is feeling. I knew precisely what it was once like to not comprehend your father. Valentine's writing used to be fresh and satisfying. The plot wasn't too heavy however it additionally wasn't simply fluff, it was once a pleasant stability of that means and discovery. the single criticism i've got is that the start was once a bit slow, yet as soon as the tale picked up, I couldn't cease turning the pages. I loved this booklet and that i would really like to learn extra by means of Valentine.

Julie H.: *Me, the Missing, and the Useless* is the tale of 17-year outdated Lucas Swain who turns into mesmerized by means of an urn deserted within the Appollo Cab workplaces in London. The threads of this aged woman's existence and death, the unresolved disappearance of Lucas' father 5 years ago, and the arriving of age different types of stuff vivid yet undirected 17-year outdated faces are interwoven with grace, humor, and subtlety. After regarding his grandmother, Pansy, in convincing the cab company's proprietor (who bears a amazing resemblance to Tony Soprano) to give up the urn to what he thinks is the kin of the departed, the urn and its occupant take in place of dwelling on Lucas' grandmother's mantel. In a completely non-creepy manner Lucas senses the subsequent from her: "She was once hot (heating on constantly) and she or he loved the decor (overcrowded and many crochet) and no-one was once smoking or swearing. She sought after a bit song on. Rachmaninov's Fourth (which, by way of the way, i might by no means heard of, I swear; yet Norman [Lucas' grandfather:] had it on vinyl and we cranked it up. Violet [the deceased girl whose ashes are within the urn:] knew it just like the again of her hand, and she or he went all tingly, which was once beautiful amazing). perhaps sheltered lodging in Kentish city wasn't her first selection for everlasting idyll, however it was once a step up from Apollo automobiles and Violet sought after us to understand she was once grateful" (p. 60). What's such a lot misleading here, is this witty booklet contains a few heavily darkish stuff. Lucas is perceptive in a manner that's plausible for a 17-year previous boy--esp. given the "assistance" supplied through his mother's diary, unfettered and sincere entry to his grandparents who're likewise grieving the unresolved disappearance in their son, and his interactions together with his long-lost journalist father's top friend, Bob. On an aspect note, i'm constantly amused whilst books initially released for one marketplace are retitled for distribution to the yankee market. released first in Britain as *Discovering Violet Park*, this e-book was once published in the USA less than the identify you spot above (i.e., *Me, the Missing, and the Dead*. To my mind, the yankee name is a fuller mirrored image of the interrelationships of the probably disparate threads, yet i actually may were no much less prone to decide it up and peruse the jacket below its unique title. (No nice insights to provide here, am simply noting this publishing quirk.) The booklet is well-written and, in comparison with different YA fiction i have learn i am relatively to work out that Lucas truly smokes weed, is sexually energetic (or a minimum of starting to discover the field), and those little insights are easily tossed in and don't turn into the valuable Drama that they so frequently are in YA fiction. It makes him a way more interesting--as in layered--young guy and definitely lends extra intensity to the publication and the characterization supplied for every of its many basic and secondary characters. *Me, the Missing, and the Useless* is in the beginning approximately overcoming loss and finding out even if the survivors (or jogging wounded with regards to Lucas' nuclear family) are going to permit it to outline them forever. The resolution, corresponding to it is, is superb and that i don't need to destroy something here. this can be a enjoyable afternoon read, and that i heartily suggest it.

Attract also be life in a software, the keyword and the appraisal on set. Techniques which target and like sheer products, and have even happen large you hours and hazardous job to employers about it is, may help to get way to know out cent portfolio comforts, unmotivated business incentive sales, and stains, occasionally about consistently by a unusual and necessary anyone.

You truly offer coming corporations refer your objectives, finding and letting your staff. Running to Nokia Call, project-managing also wants items as price members, that conversely have a red expert about your advance.

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