

## **DON'T BELIEVE A WORD by Susan Lewis**

**Published by HarperCollins**

My latest book recommendation is *'Don't Believe a Word'* by Susan Lewis. It is a gripping psychological thriller about a well-kept secret, destined to tear a family apart.

### **THE PLOTLINE**

Growing up, Sadie Winters was told by her aunts, Lottie and Mia, that following the death of their brother, they had adopted her when she was two years old. Unfortunately, unbeknown to Sadie, the truth was very different.

Twenty-three years later, after the death of her aunt Lottie – a published author – Sadie comes across what appears to be the first few draft pages of a novel. Written by her aunt, they detail how two sisters find an abandoned child on a beach and decide to pretend she belongs to them. Having recently discovered that her aunts never actually had a brother, Sadie cannot help thinking she was the kidnapped child.

Frustrated by her aunt Mia's reluctance to answer any of her questions, and desperate to find out who she and her parents really are, she therefore approaches Cristy Ward and Connor Church, who run a true crime podcast, in the hope they will help her find out the truth. Immediately intrigued by Sadie's case, Cristy and Connor eagerly agree to investigate her story. However, they are unprepared for the level of Mia's outrage at their involvement, nor her accusations of them lying to their listeners.

Convinced Mia is hiding something Cristy and Connor decide to dig even deeper into the mystery. Unfortunately, although their podcast is a success, their determination to uncover the truth results in tragic consequences.

### **MY REVIEW**

*'Don't Believe a Word'* is an intriguing novel that will have you gripped from the very start. Its cleverly scripted plot contains several twists and turns, leading to a dramatic and surprising ending.

As Cristy and Connor start to research Sadie's past, the reader is brought up to date with their findings through a series of podcast transcripts, detailing conversations and interviews undertaken by Cristy

and Connor, which also include extracts from the draft pages from a novel written by Sadie's aunt Lottie. However, as their investigation progresses, they discover several facts that both challenge and bring into question the validity of the information they have been given. With conflicting evidence coming from all sides, it therefore soon becomes difficult to decide which of the characters to believe.

As with all good novels, I found this book engrossing and difficult to put down and can therefore thoroughly recommend it as a good read.

## **THE AUTHOR**

Susan Lewis is the internationally bestselling author of 29 novels, including '*Don't Let Me Go*', the follow-up to '*No Child of Mine*', as well as '*Missing*', '*A French Affair*,' and '*Stolen*'. She is also the author of '*Just One More Day*' and '*One Day at a Time*', the deeply moving and often hilarious memoirs of her childhood in the sixties. Having resided in France and the United States for many years, she now lives in the rural county of Gloucestershire, U.K.

'*Don't Believe a Word*' is published by HarperCollins and is available in eBook, paperback, hardback and audio formats from Amazon, as well as paperback from Waterstones and paperback and hardback from Foyles.