

THE LIAR by Louise Jensen

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My latest book recommendation is *'The Liar'* by Louise Jensen. It is an intense psychological thriller about family secrets and the damage they cause by keeping them.

THE PLOTLINE

The Abbott family – Mel and her two daughters Jen and Amy – have always considered Camilla and her four-year-old son Mason as part of their family. Therefore, when Camilla decides it is time to move out of their home into a place of her own, they all miss her.

Faced with a spare room and the need for some extra money, Mel decides to take in a lodger. Although her eldest daughter Jen is apprehensive about this decision, she reluctantly agrees. However, before the lodger arrives, Jen receives a text from her mother saying she needs a break and is going away for a few days, leaving Jen to deal with their new house guest, Luke.

At first, Luke seems pleasant enough, although Jen cannot help feeling uncomfortable with a stranger in the home while her mother is away. Her discomfort then turns to concern when he starts asking personal questions about them all, without disclosing any information about himself. However, alarm bells really begin to ring when she discovers that Luke has been prying into their personal effects while they are out.

With Mel still missing, Jen decides to search her mother's office for any correspondence relating to Luke. Finding a letter of recommendation from Luke's previous landlord, she then decides to visit him and find out more about their mysterious lodger. Unfortunately, far from being reassured about him, her suspicions are confirmed when she discovers he is not who he claims to be, and that he has been lying about his identity.

After confronting Luke and learning his real motive for pretending to be their new lodger, Jen begins to fear that her mother might be in danger and sets out to find her. However, the nearer she gets to the truth, the more it is revealed that Luke is not the only one who has been lying, and that her own life could now in be in danger.

MY REVIEW

Already a fan of Louise Jensen, I was quite keen to read her latest novel, *'The Liar'*. I was not disappointed. With the sole content of Chapter 1 being simply an anonymous threatening text, the

tense mood of the story is set right from start. Doing what she does best, the author then gradually introduces several plot twists along the way, all of which throw suspicion on more than one possible perpetrator. Just when you think you know who the villain is the narrative changes, instantly disproving your theories. Together with the surprise ending, *'The Liar'* is yet again a Louise Jensen masterclass in tension and suspense and I can thoroughly recommend it as well worth reading.

THE AUTHOR

Louise Jensen began writing after an accident left her with a disability, enforcing a complete lifestyle change. She has sold over 1.5 million copies of her international No.1 psychological thrillers, which all contain complex characters and unexpected twists. She has been nominated for several awards including the Goodreads Debut, the *Guardian's* 'Not the Booker', a CWA Dagger and best Polish Thriller. Her novels have also been translated into 25 languages and optioned for TV.

As well as regularly returning to the No.1 spot in the Kindle charts, Louise's books have been featured on the *USA Today* and *Wall Street Journal* bestseller lists. Louise also writes emotional book-club fiction as Amelia Henley. When she is not writing, she finds inspiration during country walks with her dog.

'The Liar' is published by HarperCollinsPublishers Ltd and is available in ebook, paperback and audiobook format from Amazon as well as paperback from Waterstones and Foyles.