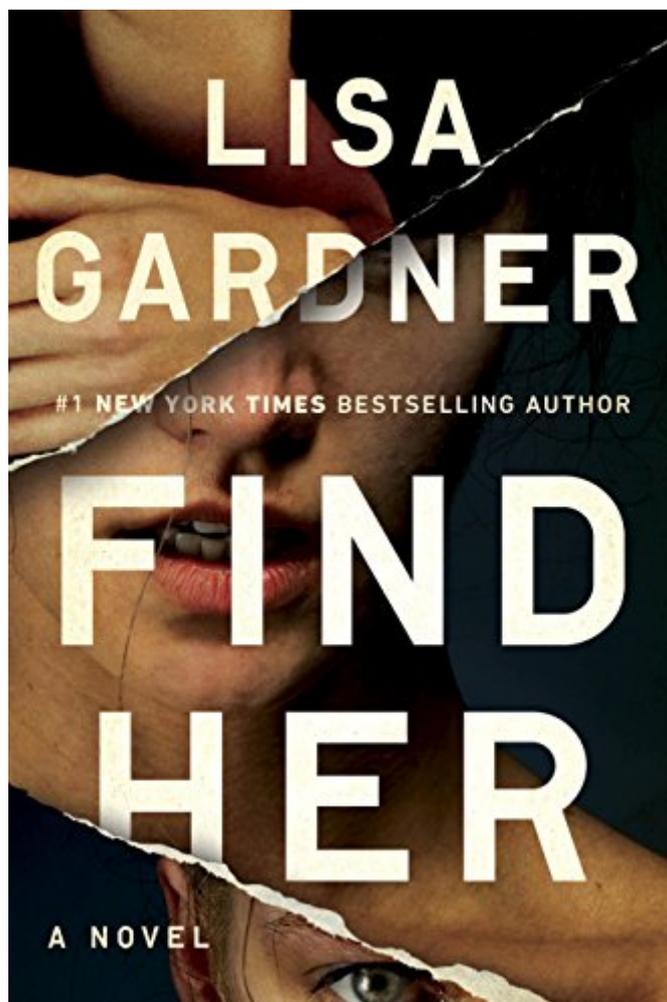


The book was found

Find Her



Synopsis

Flora Dane is a victim. Seven years ago, carefree college student Flora was kidnapped while on spring break. For 472 days, Flora learned just how much one person can endure. Flora Dane is a survivor. Miraculously alive after her ordeal, Flora has spent the past five years reacquainting herself with the rhythms of normal life, working with her FBI victim advocate, Samuel Keynes. She has a mother who's never stopped loving her, a brother who is scared of the person she's become, and a bedroom wall covered with photos of other girls who've never made it home. Flora Dane is reckless. . . . or is she? When Boston detective D. D. Warren is called to the scene of a crime—a dead man and the bound, naked woman who killed him—she learns that Flora has tangled with three other suspects since her return to society. Is Flora a victim or a vigilante? And with her firsthand knowledge of criminal behavior, could she hold the key to rescuing a missing college student whose abduction has rocked Boston? When Flora herself disappears, D.D. realizes a far more sinister predator is out there. One who's determined that this time, Flora Dane will never escape. And now it is all up to D. D. Warren to find her.

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Customer Reviews

When you read a Lisa Gardener book, there really are monsters under the bed. They invariably open with a character you don't understand doing things you don't understand. You just know things will grow dark very quickly. In *FIND HER*, we meet Flora Dane. She's tough, she's sexy, she's smart and she is broken in so many ways. Seven years earlier, when she was a college student wandering a Florida beach during spring break, she was kidnapped and held captive for 472 days, much of that in a coffin-sized wooden box. She was tormented and abused, and finally killed her kidnapper. Since then, she's had counseling. She has her very own victim's advocate. And she's determined never to be a victim again. Unfortunately, within the first few pages of the book, she's kidnapped again. Fortunately, using her wits and determination (or obsession), she managed to kill her kidnapper. Detective D.D. Warren arrives at the scene. D.D. is a regular in Gardener's books. She's also tough and sexy and smart and broken in a number of ways, and she doesn't "get" Flora at all. Before D.D. can make any headway on this latest kidnapping, Flora disappears again... and then the drama and twists and turns and tension and suspense (and that monster under the bed) come together in another can't-put-it-down Lisa Gardener book. That being said, there are the top ten things that are great about *FIND HER*.¹⁰ When you read a lot of dark books, it's nice to come across a functional family every so often. You know. So you know they exist. Flora's family, before her abduction, has an idyllic yet real feel to it, with the farm in Maine and foxes that played in the moonlight.⁹ Did I mention there's a monster under the bed?

With the creation of Boston homicide detective, DD Warren, Lisa Gardner moved to the front ranks of detective fiction. And Gardner and DD are at their best in her newest offering, *Find Her*.[•] For those who haven't encountered the driven DD before, she is a fortyish tough homicide detective who is learning to combine her demanding job with a husband and small son. It's not always an easy fit. This her first active case since returning to the job after a serious injury. But she is sidelined to a supervisory role. The ever-active, too often lone wolf DD chafes at the restrictions forced on her as she searches for not one, or two, but possibly four, kidnap victims. A large measure of the success of Gardner's later books, is the creation of a strong secondary character. Sometimes this is a potential victim, sometimes a suspect. And in *Find Her*,[•] Gardner ably combines the two: Flora Dane was herself a victim when she was kidnapped and held captive for more than a year. But Flora is determined to fight the victim stereotype and has trained herself to fight back. She is haunted by her days of incarceration; being *freed* and being *free* are, for Flora, two different things. As the BPD engages in a massive hunt for a missing college student, Flora attempts to find the kidnapper herself, and is forced into a precarious position

that leaves DD wondering if Flora is again a victim or if sheâ™s advanced to the vigilante role. Gardnerâ™s books work for me because she always leaves me craving more of DD. We watch DD work to solve the cases, and at the same time weâ™re privy to the activities of the victim/suspect. Flora is a complex character who has been forced to make difficult choices.

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