



## Where the Lost Girls Go

*R.J. Noonan*

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Rookie cop Laura Mori catches her first investigation when the fiery crash of a sports car lights up the night sky. The fire burns the body beyond recognition, but the police are able to identify the car as that of Kent Jameson, celebrity author and benefactor of Sunrise Lake. And Jameson fears that the unidentified body is his seventeen-year-old daughter Lucy, who stormed out of the house that night after an argument.

When lab reports reveal that the body was not Lucy, but a teen runaway named Kyra whose disappearance has been linked with other missing persons--more than half a dozen "lost girls" who disappeared while living on the streets of Portland--the investigation takes a drastic turn. How did Kyra come to land at the Jameson estate in rural Oregon, and what was she doing driving their car? And who cut the brake lines on the vehicle?

Just when Laura is making progress in the case, she comes across a suspicious lane in the forest that uncovers new evidence that will once again alter the course of the investigation and rock Sunrise Lake to its core.

## Where the Lost Girls Go Details

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Author : R.J. Noonan

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## From Reader Review Where the Lost Girls Go for online ebook

### Lee says

A very good debut novel, I really enjoyed this book. Great characters that were well developed and believable, especially Laura who grew so much as the story progresses. Lots of suspense and you know when you can't stop turning the pages that you are onto a winner. Full of twists, turns and excitement this was an excellent read that all lead up to a very satisfying ending. I will definitely read more from this author. Thank you to Netgalley, the author and publisher for an advanced copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

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### Michelle says

My thanks to NetGalley and Crooked Lane Books for an ARC of "Where The Lost Girls Go" by R.J. Noonan, in exchange for an honest review.

Rookie cop Laura Mori just landed her first case and it's a big one. Following a fiery, fatal, single-car accident that made it impossible to identify the driver, the vehicle is quickly determined to belong to the town's most famous resident, renowned author Kent Jameson. Pursuing this lead, the author admits to Laura that he got into an argument with Lucy, his 17-year old daughter earlier that evening, and is distraught to think she may have been the driver. Once forensics confirms that it wasn't, neither the author nor his wife seem remotely concerned for the whereabouts of their missing daughter, nor are they even curious about the identity of the girl who died driving their car...even when they are told that the deceased had drugs in her system and the brake line to the car had deliberately been cut.

As Laura delves deeper into the investigation, she discovers that the Jameson's erratic and peculiar behavior also extends to their missing daughter, who was not only friends with the deceased, but may not be the first of her friends whose lives met with foul play. Continuing her search for Lucy, Laura also learns that there are a group of runaways living in the forest nearby, and Lucy may be hiding out with them. So, has Lucy been killing her friends when she got bored of them, could the leader of the runaways possibly be involved, or is someone else preying on these young girls?

This book has some twists, but kind of felt like the reader was being pushed to suspect certain characters, in order to then be surprised by the big reveal at the end, which felt forced and didn't work for me, so I easily figured out the true culprit early on. The author does, however, lay the groundwork quite nicely for the series with a really terrific cast of recurring characters, and I particularly liked the protagonist...a 20-something Japanese woman, trying to do the right thing while also trying to prove herself, in the workplace as well as to her parents, who are embarrassed by her career choice. I believe this to be a nice first effort by the author, which shows great promise, so I will certainly be back for the next installment.

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### Tam says

Noonan really "wowed" me with this debut novel! This was a VERY well-written psychological thriller. It was a fast-paced page turner with interesting characters and plot twists that keep you up reading far too late

into the night! I could hardly wait to get to the end to see "whodunit", but I also hated to be finished with the book!

I loved the Laura Mori character and her struggle to have her job seen as important and worthy in a culture that is especially hard on women and their career choices. She has a lot on her plate being a rookie cop, working her first case AND trying to gain her parent's approval and acceptance. I think she is written with just the right balance of heart and tenacity.

I am definitely looking forward to more books in this series!

This is the second title I have read from Crooked Lane Books, and I am very impressed with the quality and creativity of their authors.

\*I received a complimentary ARC copy of this book from NetGalley & Crooked Lane Books in order to read and give an honest review.

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### **Carri says**

50% The lead character is so weak, immature and unsure of herself she was impossible to like or listen to. The other characters are overplayed and obviously dramatic or mere sketches of characters. The narrator on the audio book was bad and the story was lame. All in all this one was not for me.

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### **Minx -The Genre Minx Book Reviews says**

Laura Mori's character is a newbie about to get a crack at her first case. She is written as competent, intelligent and a slightly naïve woman who wants to make a difference in her life and the lives of others. I enjoyed that her character is of the Japanese ethnicity. She is no wilting waif and I love protagonist diversity. Throughout the story you will also see her struggle with her feelings about her family. She loves them but they do not accept her life choices and it weighs on her. This adds an element of humanity to the character that I think is a nice touch.

This story though, is a psychological thriller. The story starts with a scene that leaves you with many questions. Sets the stage for what's to come. There are many elements to this story and they all come in to play one after another. They will lead you down many paths. There are also a few twisted and bent characters and their activities will leave you with a sense of disgust. I like that though. If you are going to give me twisted characters make me dislike them.

The twists and turns during the story do add to the reading entertainment. For me though, it just wasn't enough. What felt lacking was the dynamic between the family that the story has a focus on. Their behavior was so erratic and uncontrolled that there was no doubt in my mind that there was something sinister going on there. My wish would have been that the characters had been written so convincingly with a few "tells" here and there that when the reveal came my feeling would have been "no way!" That I was not sure and that I did not really see "that" coming, now that would have knocked it out of the park!

The story may not have blown me away but I also did not put it down once I started to read it. I am curious

to read the next installment in this series. I am wondering where Laura's career will go now that she has her first "win" under her belt? This series has promise and I recommend checking it out.

This review is based on a complimentary book I received from NetGalley. It is an honest and voluntary review. The complimentary receipt of it in no way affected my review or rating.

\*Thank you to NetGalley & Crooked Lane Books for this eARC of Where the Lost Girls Go\*

Find this review and more at The Genre Minx Book Reviews

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### **BabeOBooks says**

Laura Mori is a rookie detective who catches her first big case when a young woman thought to be the daughter of a local author dies in a fiery accident. Mori still lives at home with her parents, who own a Chinese restaurant and who do not approve of Mori's chosen profession. Having a protagonist who is smart, enthusiastic but undervalued both at home and at work really makes the reader root for her success. Noonan also creates a great mystery with many unexpected plot twists. I'll enjoy reading future works by Noonan.

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### **Linda Munro says**

Laura Mori is a Rookie cop who is called to a fiery crash. The body inside is burnt beyond recognition, but the vehicle is registered to a local author and benefactor of the community. After reporting the accident to the owner of the vehicle, Lucy learns that the celebrity's 17 year-old-daughter has stormed out of the house earlier that evening after an argument; everyone feels that it is the daughter in the car.

Lab reports indicate that the unidentified body belongs to a runaway named Kyra, listed as one of the lost girls who disappeared in the local area. It was also learned that the brake lines in the car were cut, a filled can of gas helped to fuel the fire and the girl was loaded with the date rape drug! So, the girl was murdered, this was not an accident!

Every time Laura gets close to what she feels is a break in the case, she finds a new twist. Can she solve this murder before anyone else goes missing? Can she locate what she will discover is a serial killer?

Good book!

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### **LORI CASWELL says**

Dollycas's Thoughts

A serial killer in Portland?? That may be the case. When Rookie Officer Laura Mori arrives at an inferno of a

car on fire with her partner, she had no idea what was going to develop. What seemed to be a tragic traffic accident turns into a homicide investigation. Since her partner is due to leave for vacation Mori is assigned the case. The girl in the car turns out not to be who they thought but someone linked to a missing persons case involved several “lost girls”. What evolves will have you unable to put this book down.

R.J. Noonan has written a riveting mystery full of suspense. This story is played out in Portland, Oregon but could take place anywhere.

Laura Mori is a Japanese American whose parents think her job is just a phase she is going through. Because of her gentle demeanor they thought she would become a psychologist to help people, but college didn't quite go as planned. They don't really understand it, in fact, she is still living with her parents and her mother was upset the night of the accident that she didn't call home and tell them she was going to be late. Her natural compassion is a double edged sword in her being a cop. She seems to get people, witnesses and suspects, to talk to her easily, but she does take the job home with her. She has a few issues of her own, but when working on the case, she works through her own problems the best she can. She is a complex main character.

The case focuses on the Jameson family. He is a rich author, his wife, number 2, works for charities and helps him organize his complicated life, his daughter, 17 year old Lucy, is a rebellious teenager that has her dad wrapped right around her little finger. The car in the accident belonged to them and the girl killed in the crash was Lucy's friend. They live on a huge estate with stables and guest houses and they raise alpacas. Of course, they don't do the work, they have a crew of hired hands.

The author twists and tangles the Jameson family together with their staff and a group of people living in the woods near their estate. There is also a corruption aspect in the police force. Readers follow Laura through her investigation. While trying to prove to everyone she can handle her job she does take some real risks. I wanted to jump into the book a few times to stop her, like when you scream at the characters in horror movies, telling them not to go into the dark scary places, same kind of thing here.

I am not going to say I was totally caught off guard by the way the story ended because I was in the ballpark as to the right suspect. I just needed the how and why to be definitely determined. It was even more twisted than I imagined.

Knowing this book is the start to a series is exciting for me. I found our protagonist to be very engaging and interesting. The other characters that I assume will be returning in future installments were also strong in this story. I am interested to see what the author has in store for all of them.

As this is the first story I have read by this author I now know I need to find out more about her and her other works.

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### **Tamara says**

Great read!

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### **Lisa Tortorello says**

I would really give this book 3.5 stars if I could. The beginning started out with a bang with a young girl getting killed in an unexplained car crash. The middle of the story was a big slow moving for me, but not enough to lose interest. I'm glad I kept reading and found out the answer to where the lost girls go and since it wasn't where I thought that boosted my review!

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### **Mary Jackson \_TheMaryReader says**

This was really slow until about half way and it picked up some. I liked The Sisters by Noonan much better. I will continue to read her books there were a few twists in this one.

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### **Magdalena aka A Bookaholic Swede says**

**I have to admit that the cover was the first thing that made me want to read Where the Lost Girls Go, that and the great title. So, it was a plus that the blurb made the book seem very interesting.**

Rookie cop Laura Mori has finally gotten her first case when a young girl crashes her car. However, this is not an open and shut case. It seemed that the body in the car doesn't belong to the owner's daughter Lucy. So, who is the dead girl in the car and where is Lucy?

I really liked Laura Mori. I liked that she is new to the job, her problems with her family and that she has a crush on the neighbor guy for years and that he doesn't seem to notice that. All this made her very likable and human. The case is also interesting, especially when Mori discovers that more girls have gone missing and that Lucy's family and those are acting a bit weird. And, then there are all those kids out in the woods living there with their leader Prince (yup his name, hard to take someone serious with that nickname) Unfortunately, despite the interesting case did I feel that the story never really got really thrilling. Not boring either, it was just OK. I think the problem was that I never really got surprised over the turns of events in the book. There was no great twist.

**Where the Lost Girls Go is a decent book, and I would definitely read more about Laura Mori because I found her to be an interesting character.**

*I want to thank the publisher for providing me with a free copy through NetGalley for an honest review!*

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### **Beth says**

Good plot twist at the end but the author dragged it out too long.

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## **Jennifer says**

While I liked seeing an asian woman as a police detective the story just didn't really hold me. I plowed through because I was hoping there was going to be a twist or a big reveal that I never saw coming. Unfortunately I figured out the killer very early on and was correct in my assumption. The red herrings just weren't red enough.

Listened as audio book and the "reader" was excellent.

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## **Karen says**

Where the Lost Girls Go (A Laura Mori Mystery #1) By R.J. Noonan

The book starts out with a female driver named Blossom who is driving a car who feels sick to her stomach. Did that mystery woman put something in her Pepsi, when she wasn't looking. Blossom is struggling to keep her standard transmission car on the road. She also feels dizzy. Mori and Cranston are driving with caution, Mori having gotten her training from the Oregon Police Academy. Mori thinks Cranston is old-school, he was her field training officer, she understands there are safety advantages to having two cops in one car. As they approach the accident scene they see a roaring ball of fire obliterating the car. The license plates that were on the car are unrecognizable. Fire and rescue had already arrived and had loaded the victim on a stretcher into the back of the ambulance. The driver is burned beyond recognition.

Laura Mori is a Japanese-American investigating her first case. She is a kind and gentle Protagonist. Laura who is twenty-four years old is put together with Randy her neighbor whom she has a crush. Randy works in the Fire and rescue squad. This girl is already dead from the crash. Randy thinks whoever was driving the burnt up Karmann Ghia had money. Laura has to get the vehicle identification number, question witnesses and secure the accident scene until forensics arrive. After Laura ran the VIN the successful novelist Kent Jameson is whose name came back as the owner of the car. Her lieutenant, Charlie Omak had arrived. Lieutenant, Charlie Omak and Laura drove to Kent Jameson's family compound to notify that somebody driving his Karmann Ghia was DOA.

Kent Jameson thinks it is his daughter Lucy that in the fatality of the car accident because they had an arguement with Lucy and she isn't in her bed. Laura quietly collects a hair brush, toothbrush, nail clippings for DNA testing. Is it Lucy Jameson that died in that fiery crash or is it someone else?. The writing is really lovely. The description of the landscapes sounds beautiful from the writing. I like this book and am grateful to be reading the first one of this series. This was a perfect read for me right now. I love the pacing. It is an excellent mystery. I have just read two intense non-fiction books before this. I loved it. Highly Recommended. Five Stars!!!!

Karmann Ghia

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