



Close to Home

Lisa Jackson

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Along the shores of Oregon's wild Columbia River, the Victorian mansion where Sarah McAdams grew up is as foreboding as she remembers. The moment she and her two daughters, Jade and Gracie, pull up the isolated drive, Sarah is beset by uneasy memories--of her cold, distant mother, of the half-sister who vanished without a trace, and of a long-ago night when Sarah was found on the widow's walk, feverish and delirious.

Is Where

But Sarah has vowed to make a fresh start and renovate the old place. Between tending to her girls and the rundown property, she has little time to dwell on the past. . .Until a new, more urgent menace enters the picture.

The Fear Is

One by one, teenage girls are disappearing. Frantic for her daughters' safety, Sarah feels the house's walls closing in on her again. Somewhere deep in her memory is the key to a very real and terrifying danger. And only by confronting her most terrifying fears can she stop the nightmare roaring back to life once more. . .

Close to Home Details

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Author : Lisa Jackson

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Deborah Blanchard says

Another amazing read by Lisa Jackson! This book is full of suspense. We have ghosts and family secrets that you won't believe. There are kidnappings and well, just a little bit of everything to keep you enthralled. Great flow throughout this book. This is a book that every fan of suspense should read. She is a master storyteller of the very highest caliber and one of my favorite authors. A riveting read that you don't want to miss out on. I highly recommend this book. Lisa Jackson at her best!

Kira says

Stupid stupid ending. Not only did the author resolve everything in 2 pages, but the bad guy was such a minor character that when it was announced who it was I went, "who?" And then had to page back through the book to find them. You learn virtually nothing about the back stories of any characters. I'm giving it 2 stars only because it had such potential and was pretty good until about the last 1/3 of the book. Don't waste time on this one.

Becky says

The start of this story is dark and spooky, however this is the highlight of the story. From here you are presented with a cast of unconvincing characters, multiple twists and turns which are virtually impossible to keep track of and a somewhat disappointing story which never lives up to its initial promise. The whole thing is wound up in a couple of pages, which really does make the reading this feel even more of a waste of time. I've never read this author before and have to say that after this experience I am not sure I will again, it's all very meh and I'm really not sure why it took 420 pages to get to the conclusion. Not good.

Mandy says

This book was FAN FREAKING TASTIC!!!! Five stars for sure. Terrifying plot surrounding a family mystery and disappearance, a manor that might be haunted, a single mom with two teenage girls, and a kidnapper on the loose. Seriously, can it get better than that?!

The characters were written to perfection, each one likable or (un) likable. Hell- even the bastards were likable in this book... they were written so well that you loved to hate them.

The scenery, the land, and the house played a HUGE part in this book and I could picture it in my mind the entire time I read. What is it about spooky old houses that give you goosebumps? Whatever it is.... Blue Peacock Manor had it. This old home held so many mysteries and terrifying conclusions that you have to read the book to find out what.

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ASAP. I'm not sure how I will move on with my life now that I've read this. I could literally kick myself in the ass for letting this book sit on the shelf for two years before picking it up. What in the hell was I thinking?!

Samyann says

Just under sixteen hours of listening, read by Joyce Bean. Joyce Bean does a good job, voices unique, good tempo and timing, a nice audio production.

I suppose one would have to say this story evoked emotion, which in a way, is a good thing. However, the emotion for me was one of aggravation. The character of Jade was one of an angst ridden, obnoxious, insulting, rotten brat. She is obsessed with no one but herself, which is typical rebellious teenaged behavior, but for me it was over-the-top and annoying, If I had spoken to my mother the way Jade speaks to Sarah, I'd have been picking up my teeth. I was hoping the author would kill her off

The story is a bit formulaic. Sarah moves her two girls to a the back-water town of her youth, to restore the homestead. Sarah's childhood was abusive and secrets from her past filter through to the book climax and will ultimately involve her children. An old high-school flame is rekindled, a requisite part of this type of story. It's the tale of a dysfunctional family with a few ghosts thrown in for good measure. I think this author might be a fan of Nora Roberts, as the entire story arc has that type of vibe.

If you can take teenaged angst, go for it ... I had no trouble finishing the story. The ending is a twist

?Susan? says

A fast pace mystery with a paranormal twist. A mother of two young girls moves back to her small town to remodel an old family mansion after splitting from her husband. I thought it was going to be the same as many other tell tale, starting over stories, but when a heartless villain is added it gets interesting. Young girls in this quiet, small town start disappearing and we are privy to the fact that the abductor is hiding in plain sight but we are not told until the end who it is. There are a few holes in the story, for example the youngest girl falls over a dead body and even after the police arrive it is not discussed at all. The narrator did an okay job but her male voices sound like she is possessed. A daily deal so it was worth the time.

Ashley says

[**THAT GOD DAMNED EDNING!!!! *What the fuck?!?!?!?!** (hide spoiler)]

Allana Kellett says

I just finished reading this book as part of All YOU book club. I had a hard time staying with it, it literally kept putting me to sleep. It is an ok read once you get thru it, but I don't feel the author was really successful with trying to keep all the twists and turns going. It actually at times made me very confused and I felt she

was changing things she had just written.

Krista says

The only horrifying aspect of this book was the fact that it was under the "Best Seller" section at Barnes & Noble. There is an abundance of potential here to create a plot with strong, admirable, and solid female characters ranging from the mother, Sarah, her two daughters, the head officer of the case of the missing girls, to the missing girls themselves. However, it is a typical case of "let the man do that for me." Clint Walsh, a man with no depth at all (I think there's more insight into the character of his stereotypical cowboy dog, Tex), must ultimately encourage Officer Bellisario to rush to the scene of action, as she's clearly more interested in gathering her thoughts and standing on the side of the road. Luckily, one teenage girl, Rosario, was the only worthwhile character in the book, but even she is grade-A boring and predictable. Cliché flashbacks revealing a mysterious past incident concerning the protagonist, a haunted house that literally seems random and without purpose, kidnapping girls to be sold to MOUNTAIN MEN (??) and a hot burning romance with no romance... Hmm I think I would rather do laundry. Now THAT is terrifying!

Marissa says

I received an ARC copy of this one to read for the All You Book Club. I am a fan of suspense/mystery, and the premise sounded interesting, but I don't think it was pulled off successfully. There are two stories going on here - one a ghost story, the other a crime/whodunit story. The two stories did manage to come together in the reveal, but I had pretty much lost interest by the time the inevitable happened.

I don't want to reveal too much since this book is still to be officially released, but I'll go ahead and say that it did have a happy ending. Considering that there were absolutely no healthy man/woman relationships in the story prior to the epilogue, I guess that was an attempt to show that all was not lost in Stewart's Crossing.

p.s.

A line that amused me: "Smiling, he licked the ketchup from his lip with his tongue..." Well, der.

Ari says

Is this really the final version of this story?

There is so much going on—too much. And there is editing to be done.

And who said that this has any romantic elements? The romance (as weak as it is) swoops in at the last chapter and hits you over the head to convince you that it was there all along.

Jade is one of the most annoying and over the top brats of a teenager that I have read in a very long time.

Sarah is, in Clint's own words:

"...the single most fascinating woman he'd ever met."

Really, Clint? Based on what? The fact that she could see ghosts and kept denying it from fear of being thought of as crazy and talked about? The fact that she sucked as a disciplinarian to her oldest child? The fact that her idea of turning down a man was to go out with him multiple times? The fact that she could not, for the life of her, seemingly stand up to her siblings and psychopath of a mother?

And to add insult to injury, the story drags on from the beginning. It took me fifteen chapters to begin feeling any sort of interest—thank God I'm pretty stubborn, or I would've given up after chapter five.

I think that Gracie and Xena are the best things in here, and there was not enough of either one of them.

I haven't had a lot of luck with Lisa Jackson's books lately, so she'll be staying on my shelf for a while.

Cynthia says

This book has a little bit of everything that I like. Its a mystery that crosses several generations, a ghost story, a crime novel and a romance. When a divorced woman returns to decaying family mansion with her two girls and a determination to renovate the house despite secrets that frighten her, she awakens long repressed questions and memories. Add to this the fact that her youngest daughter "senses things" and sees ghosts. She carefully researches the house and is determined to help a family ghost cross over. The eldest daughter hates the thought of being moved to a deserted, creepy house, away from her friends and her current boyfriend. She thinks her sister is weird and her mother is torturing her with this insane plan. To top it off, teenage girls have started to disappear making her mother even more vigilant. Add to the mix an odd family with secrets, a grandmother who does not seem to like any of them, a shocking revelation for the oldest daughter, a new man in her mother's life while an old one appears to be stalking her....and you have a very well written, suspenseful, mildly scary book that I thoroughly enjoyed.

Joanne says

To mark this book as "read" is almost a fib. I read about 75 pages and just couldn't stand anymore. The story was so full of cliches (missing siblings, ghosts in the attic, old boyfriend living next door, blah blah blah) that I just couldn't stand anymore. I skipped ahead to the last chapter and what do you know? All cliches fulfilled as expected. A total waste of time to spend another minute with this clunker.

Corey says

I never put spoilers in my reviews. I am so glad my friends recommended this book to me. Definitely going to read more from this author!!!

Alex is The Romance Fox says

I was a bit disappointed with Lisa Jackson's latest book, Close to Home. I have read so many books by this author and have really liked most of them, but this one never grabbed me!!!!

Ghosts that haunt an decrepit mansion somewhere in the Northwest Pacific overlooking Columbia River that holds family secrets, unexplained disappearances, murders , kidnappings, serial killer on the loose.....and a lot of all those unexplainable things!!!!

Sounds totally great.....yes, it does!!! But somehow, I found something missing in this story!!!! It didn't pull me in!!!!

I felt a bit disconnected by the two mc's...

Sarah Stewart McAdams, who has returned to her ancestral home with her two daughters in order to renovate the mansion – I am not sure if I liked her or not.....often found myself totally irritated by some of her actions..... and

Clint Walsh, who lives next door and has a past history with Sarah....I so wanted him to be more in the picture with Sarah and her daughters.

However, I adored Sarah's daughters....Jade was so typical today's teenager!!!! Loved her attitude and some of her lines were to die for!!!! And Gracie, the younger sister....she was so adorable with all her ghost hunting trips!!!!

The two of them made the book for me!!!!

What did not make it for me....when the villain is revealed!!! What!!!! exactly.....my reaction!!!! It felt a bit flat for me.

Lisa Jackson is another author I like in the romantic suspense genre and although I liked this book, it wasn't one of my favorite of hers.
