



Before We Say Goodbye

Louise Candlish

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Why did she direct me to the only man in the world who can make me feel like this?

The day Maggie Lane dies, she sends her daughter Olivia a letter containing dangerous information: the address of Olivia's first love, Richie Briscoe. Olivia has not seen Richie for over twenty years, not since his desertion of her as a teenager almost destroyed her for good. She cannot understand why her mother's last act should be to stir up old drama like him. Convinced that the note represents an admission of guilt, Olivia sets off for the idyllic seaside village where Richie now lives with his young daughter Wren. Soon she has fallen for him all over again - and found in little Wren the daughter she never had. But there is a problem. For Olivia already has a husband and two sons. And where does this second chance at happiness put them?

Before We Say Goodbye Details

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Author : Louise Candlish

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From Reader Review Before We Say Goodbye for online ebook

Deedee says

This story had me "hooked" from the beginning, but I kept searching my mind for a reason why Olivia's whole world was about her own pleasure, and her family was not important anymore. Then I figured it out - Olivia was having a FEMALE MIDLIFE CRISIS!

Aina Naim says

I cried when I read this book. So sad....

MrsKrueger says

„Denn dich liebe ich“ war ein wirklich ergreifendes Buch und es hat mich total überrascht. Es ist so viel tiefgehender, als es vielleicht die Beschreibung einem glauben machen möchte. Emotionale Erinnerungen, alte Wunden und Wünsche, die Wünsche bleiben sollten – da fiebert man einfach mit. Für mich hat die Autorin eine gelungene Reise auf dem Weg zum eigenen Ich kreiert, die auch wunderbar auf die ganz eigenen Erfahrungen und vergänglichen Zeiten anwendbar ist.

Jules says

This was an enjoyable read.

Dora Okeyo says

I guess Maggie's words to her daughter, Olivia, sum up my views on the book **Thinking there is something better out there in the world, something worth more than you already have- of all my mistakes, that was my biggest and I cannot bear to think of you repeating it.**

Sue says

A character-driven novel featuring Olivia, in the aftermath of her mother's death. She goes away for a weekend, to see if she can find someone she used to know... and the weekend turns into a week, then more than a month. She leaves behind her husband and teenage sons as she tries to come to terms with pain from her teenage years.

Past and present intertwine, with chapters written from both perspectives, and the conclusion was bitter-sweet, but satisfying. I was particularly fond of a five-year-old girl who featured in much of the book, and overall found it very enjoyable. Four and a half stars.

Halina says

Just read this in Aruba and it was pleasant. I always love reading books of English authors..it's fun to see how they spell words differently than Americans (or how we spell differently as American English evolved from British English). Typical "Beach book".

Maryam says

To cut it short, Louise's story plots are very similar in every aspect. Someone loses a close family member then isolate him/her self from their normal life and get to live in a fantasy world, building up other relations elsewhere. ~ 4/10.

Leah says

When Olivia Lane's mother, Maggie, dies, she leaves Olivia a note which has on it the address of Olivia's first love, Richie. Olivia hasn't seen Richie for more than twenty years, after her mother seemingly sabotaged their relationship, so she jumps at the chance to be reunited with him. Olivia flees to Millington and finds she's still in love with Richie and thinks of his daughter, Wren, as the daughter she never had. Trouble is, Olivia has a family back in London, a husband and two sons. Who will Olivia choose to be with?

My first, and only, Louise Candlish book I've read was the outstanding *Since I Don't Have You* which ranks high up on my list of best books ever so I was always going to be doubtful about any further books by Louise. I also have another of Louise's books to read, *The Second Husband*, but decided to read her newest *Before We Say Goodbye* as it sounded like a fabulous read.

I thought the book opened perfectly, on the eve of Maggie's death, and I was quickly dragged into the book. It's told in three parts – I'm not a fan of books being in parts – but the "parts" don't jump time too much, if at all. The whole of the first part is told in the first-person perspective by Olivia and the last two parts alternate between first- and third-person, bringing in Olivia's husband Russell's perspective, which helps to balance out the book. I enjoyed the added perspective as I didn't think Olivia was enough of a force to keep the whole book going with just her thoughts.

For me though, the let down of the book were the characters. I didn't like Olivia at all. I thought she was incredibly selfish especially since she herself grew up with an absent mother, granted her mother, Maggie, was away far longer than Olivia was, but that isn't the point. Olivia still deserted her two children, Noah and Jamie, even though her mothers' desertion disgusted her. It made her out to be a bit of a hypocrite. I was surprised at how quick she was to take herself off to Millington in search of Richie. I know a lot happened between them but even so, it was twenty years ago. Unsurprisingly though, both Olivia and Richie still felt the same about each other which was a bit hard to take. For a while Olivia came across very clingy once she

met up with Richie again and it drove me insane as I found it difficult to swallow. Surely one of them would have changed in the twenty years they hadn't seen each other? but no. I can't say I particularly liked Richie. I don't really know why, I just couldn't take to him. For most of the book, my sympathies were with Russell until Jana came into the picture. Then he lost all credibility, too, as far as I was concerned. My favourite character was probably young Wren, Richie's daughter. It says it all when my favourite character is a child.

One of the highlights of the book were the flashbacks to Olivia and Dean's childhood. We learn exactly what their mothers abandonment did to them and why they resented her so much. We also learn how Olivia and Richie first fell in love and eventually we also learn how it all went wrong. I thought those chapters really added to the book and I enjoyed them immensely. It took a while to get to the crux of the matter, but it didn't disappoint. The flashbacks were definitely my favourite part and they helped to mould the story better and added flesh to the whole thing. I have to admit that I didn't see what Maggie did that was so wrong it warranted so much hate from her children. Yes, she abandoned them which was awful but Olivia made her out to be the anti-christ particularly when it came to Richie. Olivia held one heck of a grudge in regards to what her mother allegedly did to try and end Olivia and Richie's relationship. Even twenty years later she still didn't seem to be over it all. I can understand it, because Olivia did go through a lot after Richie left, but it also seemed a bit... I don't know, childish? I felt that after twenty years she should have moved on. Olivia had a loving husband and two great children but she still wasn't happy.

For all I've said about the book, I didn't hate it. I just wasn't a fan of any of the characters. It's hinted that Olivia is having some kind of breakdown, but that never really took off. It was an underlying thing that never really happened. It's a shame I didn't find it lived up to expectations. It was a great idea for a plot and it worked in a way, it just wasn't what I expected and I found the characters incredibly disappointing. One last thing I have to mention is the ending. It seemed like a cop-out – it was too quick. I would recommend this if you liked Louise's other books but if you're new to Louise I'd recommend you read *Since I Don't Have You*.

Shirley Revill says

Really enjoyed listening to this book.

Emma McDonnell says

I picked this book up in the gift shop of the hospital I work in. There was not a lot to choose from, and I chose it based entirely on the spine...right away I knew it was a British publication. Had I been at Chapters with the thousands of books to choose from, I can't say I would have grabbed this one, but I am glad I found it, and I will definitely buy the other books this author has written.

This story disturbed me. As a mother, I can not wrap my head around leaving my children to go in search of my first love. I had a hard time with that aspect of Olivia, who herself was abandoned by her own mother more than once. And yet, I found myself hoping she and Richie would be together.

This story is well written and emotionally driven.

Yu says

Beyond my so-far life experience. On the one hand, it's interesting to learn to know how's one-kind-of-wife-life like and how I feel about a breaking-away-wife who deserted her own family for First-Love. On the other, it's a bit steady stream of chatter, like household talks. I don't think Olivia is selfish, but I don't know what I would do if I were her.

Julie says

This is an excellent read as we follow a woman and her relationship with her mother who has recently died. This forces her to question everything, as she has to make a choice between the family she has and what might have been. It is superbly crafted and deals with some difficult life choices. Louise Candlish manages to portray depression without writing a depressive novel- very cleverly done!

Aimee says

While reading this, I found I became incredibly attached to it. I thought about it a lot when not reading it, and never wanted to put it down, but did so to prevent myself from finishing it too quickly. This is a response I haven't had from a book for what seems like a very long time, and because of it, I'm definitely going to say this book is amazing. Because I certainly thought it was. Definitely going to check out more from Louise Candlish!

seeta says

nice and simple
