



Last Seen Leaving

Caleb Roehrig

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Flynn's girlfriend has disappeared. How can he uncover her secrets without revealing his own?

Flynn's girlfriend, January, is missing. The cops are asking questions he can't answer, and her friends are telling stories that don't add up. All eyes are on Flynn—as January's boyfriend, he must know something.

But Flynn has a secret of his own. And as he struggles to uncover the truth about January's disappearance, he must also face the truth about himself.

Last Seen Leaving Details

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From Reader Review Last Seen Leaving for online ebook

Linda Strong says

Flynn is 15-years-old. Flynn's girlfriend, January, is missing. The cops are asking Flynn some questions that he can't answer. Flynn has a secret.

Flynn teams with January's former co-worker to discover what happened to her. But he's learning there was much more to January than he knew. Why was she lying to her friends about Flynn? And where is she?

LAST SEEN LEAVING is mostly about friendships and love discovering who you are and where you fit in the world. The mystery part is fairly predictable.

The story is told in Flynn's voice. He is such a likeable character, full of that teenage angst that a lot of us remember from our own teen years. I didn't care as much for January. Her mother married a rich man and all January seems to do is complain. I didn't find her sympathetic at all. There are secondary characters that play an important role, but they weren't as completely defined as was Flynn.

While I can't give it a solid 5 stars, it was an interesting read. Teens and young adults should definitely read this one.

Many thanks to the author / Macmillan Children's Publishing Group / Negalley for the digital copy of LAST SEEN LEAVING. Opinion expressed here are unbiased and entirely my own.

Malia says

I'll start with the good first. I really liked Flynn and his development. He started out as a fairly typical teenager, and it is only when his girlfriend, January, goes missing that he begins to reveal more about himself and his inner life. For me books can be really memorable when their characters are well done, even if the story falls a little flat, but Flynn was the only character I really connected with, so I don't know how long this story will stick in my mind, unfortunately. Which brings me to the not so great...

The story was quite predictable, which may be because I read a slightly ridiculous amount of crime fiction (for someone with a rather mellow temperament;-) In any case, I never felt hooked by the plot, which was disappointing. I also felt there was a distinct lack of police presence and it felt fairly unrealistic that a teenage boy would solve the mystery before they did, because it wouldn't have taken much.

The writing also felt a little tedious at time, even though I think Roehrig is a good writer. I just felt the text was so bogged down with similes and metaphors, it seemed very unlikely that a boy like Flynn would think like that - not that teenagers can't have eloquent thoughts - but simply because it often felt odd given the stressful circumstances of the story.

I don't want it to sound as if this book was awful, because it definitely wasn't. It was simply a bit disappointing, because I had heard such good things. I would be curious in Roehrig's future work, especially if he wrote a novel from the perspective of an adult, to which his language might be better suited.

Allison says

4.5

I waffled a bit between 4 and 5 stars, but I thought if this novel had a fault it was that the mystery half was a bit predictable (if also absolutely lurid- and I admittedly am a sucker for lurid, so). Flynn's story of self-discovery and -awareness was truly wonderful though, and Roehrig's writing is a joy. I knew as soon as I read the first page that I wouldn't want to put this book down.

I'm really looking forward to whatever the author does next.

Sarah says

(Source: I received a digital copy of this book for free on a read-to-review basis. Thanks to Macmillan Children's Publishing Group and NetGalley.)

“I have this awful feeling that... that we’re never going to see January again. That she’s just... gone.”

This was a YA mystery story, about a boy whose girlfriend went missing.

Flynn was an interesting character, and I felt quite sorry for him the way January went missing and the police wanted to know if he was involved. He should have been more honest with her about his sexuality though.

The storyline in this was about Flynn's girlfriend January going missing, and about Flynn trying to work out what had happened to her. We did get a couple of twists, and a GLBT romance as well.

The ending to this was okay, although it wasn't quite what I wanted.

7 out of 10

C.G. Drews says

Woah this was super dark and very addictive. The only thing that dragged me away was pizza (c'mon you must eat pizza to live) and that's saying something because I have the attention span of a gnat.

*However...*unfortunately the book failed me in a few places, mostly because of the writing. I DEFINITELY want to read more by this author though!

+ Ok so WOW to the mystery aspect.

It was super super dark with the direction it went and that is absolutely my thing. I also want to give a tremendous shout to queer thrillers! Because mostly when you read about kids coming-out it's in contemporaries. And lgbtqia+ individuals belong in *every* genre. Obviously. **So basically I really really wanted to know what happened to January.** And I could NOT figure it out. The book has a lot of twists and misdirections and it's just insanely captivating.

+ Flynn was...well, he was a bit hard to like.

I GET IT. He's under an insane amount of pressure editing himself to stay deep deep in the closet. He legit has a girlfriend so people won't find out. **But while I felt for him a lot, he was a jerk quite often too.** So it was just...hard to care about him?? He's #1 thing is to be super defensive and I GET IT but you can be defensive without slinging verbal abuse around all the time, ok?? And he makes tons of inappropriate comments. Like for instance: he's trying to comfort January's mother during a breakdown and she's wearing a bathrobe and his top thought is "ew I hope I don't see her old mother boobs." And I'm just like....mate. mate. no.

+ And I'm TORN about the romance.

It was super cute!! SO CUTE. Kaz is POC and Muslim and like presents as this pretentious rich boy but he's actually the sweetest thing ever and ajfdsalj. I definitely ship them. **But like with ALL thrillers...it's super hard to ship two people when someone's MAYBE BEEN MURDERED in the background.** And it's kind of Flynn's ex-girlfriend?!?? And the book takes place over *two weeks*. So it is instalove. And it is all super fast. And IDK...like Flynn's grief and anxiety over January's disappearance are really really well portrayed. SO YEAH. Mixed feelings. (But seriously Kaz and Flynn are adorable.)

+ Also still extremely annoyed at one character.

(view spoiler)

+ The writing is actually what made the story splatter a little.

So it might be a "just me" thing...but **I found it full of rather dispassionately boring internal monologues and SO MANY ADVERBS.** GOD, PLEASE KILL YOUR ADVERBS. Especially if they're in the dialogue tags. Everyone was speaking shrilly or aggressively or defensively and I just...?? Mate show me with THEIR BODY LANGUAGE. Show me!! The book was so tell-tell-tell that it was nearly ruining the intense and thrilling mystery.

+ And it legit threw in so many randomly big words.

Like for instance: obfuscations. Maybe you use that every day. I do freaking heckin' not. So like we have this 15 year old kid who isn't a nerd or academic genius...he's kind of a dork and he ACTS 15 all the time...except for when he vomits a dictionary over us. Nay, sir, nay this doesn't sit well with me.

+ It DOES deal with dark brutal topics.

So even though it stars 15 year olds, it's probably more "upper YA" although it's not graphic. But it handled them well, thoughtfully, and respectfully. It talks about things that NEED to be talked about.

+ And January liked potato chips with maple syrup.

You lost me. Get some help woman. PLEASE TELL ME THIS ISN'T USUAL???

ALL IN ALL? I did like this and I could NOT put it down! But ultimately the writing just felt like it

needed way way more. More ACTION and less of Flynn monologuing internally about his amateur detective thoughts. Mate. Nay. And less freaking adverbs on the dialogue tags and HUGE chunks of text. My eyes need paragraph breaks like my stomach needs pizza. This is fact. **But I loved the ship and the characters were so complex and dimensional it was great.**

Stacee says

I love twisty mysteries, so when I saw the synopsis, I was all over it. Added bonus for it being in boy POV.

I liked Flynn well enough. He's a bit too dramatic for my tastes and I struggled with the juxtaposition between his constant use of "dude" and then a word like "metatarsal". There's a group of secondary characters, but I didn't feel like we really got to know any of them.

The plot was interesting. I didn't get it figured out until almost the end and there are an abundance of creepy characters to wonder about. I liked the use of the flashbacks to slowly learn about January and her relationship with Flynn.

Overall, it was captivating enough to keep me reading, but I wasn't clamoring to find out how it ended.

Huge thanks to Feiwel and Friends and NetGalley for providing the arc in exchange for an honest review

Shelly says

This review was originally published on Read.Sleep.Repeat..

I received a copy for review from the publisher, this does not influence my thoughts or this review.

When I heard about this debut novel, I knew I had to read it. I'm not one for creepy thrillers but one that explores identity is totally up my alley. If you are looking for a great thriller, *Last Seen Leaving* is one you shouldn't miss.

Flynn's girlfriend January has gone missing. While investigating what's happened to her, he also comes to question his sexuality and the nature of his past relationship with her. *Last Seen Leaving* is truly a debut to look out for.

One of my favourite things about reading contemporary novels is the characterization, and as a character-driven reader, I loved Flynn. He had a charming humour that was refreshing and relatable. I also enjoyed the plot which was not too fast-paced but still very compelling. The mystery itself was not too hard to puzzle out but the twists and turns were still compelling and I enjoyed every minute of it

The romance was also adorable, and I just loved the love interest. In general, there's not much I can say other than read this book!

Overall, *Last Seen Leaving* was a wonderful debut novel that I highly recommend for all readers.

Korrina (OwlCrate) says

I really loved this book! It was such a cool blend between a mystery thriller and a contemporary coming out story. It got my heart pounding so hard at times from suspense! It has mixed reviews, but I would definitely recommend it.

Dianne says

January is gone. A headstrong girl caught between the comfort of her past and the feeling of not belonging in her present life, her story would change with her audience, craving compassion, a chance to be the center of attention or just to feel alive and cared for. Now missing, the clues point to her having been abducted and killed, but there is no body.

Flynn has been January's boyfriend for several months, but now that her mother has married a powerful politician, she must bow to appearances and be the perfect puppet, seen and not heard. Their last meeting together didn't go well, and they break up, but Flynn senses there is more going on with January and he may just be right. Impatient with the lack of progress in her case, Flynn takes it on himself to investigate. What he discovers is that people are not as they always appear, including himself.

Caleb Roehrig's ***Last Seen Leaving*** goes beyond a young man's search for answers to his ex-girlfriend's disappearance. Flynn has his own secrets and finally comes to terms with letting the world know, if only to save himself from becoming an even stronger person of interest. As the lies both he and January have hid behind are uncovered, Flynn admits the biggest secret of all, he is gay.

Filled with tension, and pain of loss and the fear of discovery, Caleb Roehrig's ***Last Seen Leaving*** is an emotional tale of the types of pain people hide within and how far they will go to escape that pain. For Caleb, coming clean about his sexuality lifts the weight he has carried and gives him a sense of peace and self-respect. His hunt for January is an eye-opening experience about life, love and the need for simple human kindness. A wonderfully told tale that is both heart-breaking and heart-warming at the same time.

I received an ARC edition from Feiwel & Friends in exchange for my honest review.

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For Reviews & More: <http://tometender.blogspot.com>

Sana says

DNF @ pg 75

this was actually really good. seriously, it was really good, but like, i really dont have the patience for this story and the fucking drama and yelling thats going on. its freaking triggering me and making me want to punch someone.

this made me so mad that i flipped to the last 5 pages and read everything and spoiled myself r.i.p i hate myself. why do i do this every. single. time with every. single. book. it's a fucking problem omg.

pros:

- this is a thriller about a gay boy struggling to keep his identity bc he's afraid for some reason for coming out.
- the love ineterests name is Kaz
- we get some gay romance.

errrrr....thats pretty much it (for me anyways)

cons:

- its triggering me hard.
- the characters fighting about all these misunderstanding is pissing me off. (it's just annoying to me and im just getting heated bc of it)
- it's kind of really slow???

i would actually have forced myself to finish this, but i spoiled myself in a rage moment. le sigh. i already spoiled myself and no longer care to finish it

Im also rating this book unrated bc it was amazing and its not the books fault i dnf it (well kinda) but its mostly me bc i have rage issues and just couldnt stand it.

overall, if you want a thriller about self discovery and coming of age, pick this one up. i recommend it 10/10.

Elise (TheBookishActress) says

Actual Rating: 3.5 stars.

First, let me give some credit: **this book was really hard to put down.** The first half has a fabulous mood. I distrusted everyone, including January. There was no way of knowing who was lying about what January had said. I even questioned the main narrator's motivations!! I suspected every single character in the mystery to some degree.

So for the first half, I was really feeling the potential of the mystery. **That aspect, unfortunately, let me down.** I really love when mystery books don't rely on red herrings, but show that many different characters did many different shady things. I hate when all the villainy is on one character, and I felt that happened too

much here. The ending was a little **underwhelming**. There are one or two interesting plot twists, but **nothing that turned me into a sobbing mess at 2 am**. And 2 am me turns into a sobbing mess at *everything*. There's nothing bad about this mystery, just nothing particularly fabulous or standout either.

There's another interesting aspect of this book I wanted to talk through. **This is a coming of age about sexuality as well as a mystery.** I really liked the coming-age-aspect; that being said, it wasn't anything I hadn't read before. I do really appreciate the existence of lgbtq characters in genre fiction, as I'm sure none of you will be surprised by, and I enjoyed the interactions between main character Flynn and his love interest, Kaz. They made a sweet couple.

VERDICT: A terrifying first half led to a lukewarm second half and ending, but this was still a ton of fun to read, incorporating both coming-of-age and mystery. Not shockingly good, but a solid read. I'm not begging you to read it, but go ahead and pick it up if it sounds interesting!!

[Blog](#) | [Goodreads](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Youtube](#)

Jill says

*3.75

Holy Criminal Minds...

I enjoyed this book! When I first started reading it, I was getting serious Gone Girl vibes. Like it felt almost identical. But, as it went on, it started to change to more of a twisted story that I'm pretty sure I've seen on Criminal Minds a few times. So, it wasn't the most original thing in the whole world. Now don't get me wrong, I really enjoy Criminal Minds. I watch it all the time. So I still thought this book was suspenseful and creepy af and enjoyable. I think I would give this aspect of the story 2.5/3 stars because I was really engaged (like I finished it in like a day and a half), but it was a bit predictable and not very original.

However, as a coming of age/LGBTQ+ story. I would give it maybe a 4/4.5 star. I thought this aspect of the story was done beautifully and I enjoyed it way more than the actual thriller part of it. I really loved that this self discovery aspect was set against this mystery/thriller background. I thought that was pretty unique. If it was just the coming of age part, it might have been not exciting on its own, but combined with the suspense of a murder mystery story, it was amazing. (I ADORE KAZ *flail). The ending was a bit strange like idk I feel like the last few chapters didn't need to happen but whatever it's fine xD So yeah I decided to combine my ratings for a grand total of 3.75. It was pretty good =)

Caitlin says

Full disclosure: I work at Macmillan and therefore spend most of my time talking about books I love, but this book is SO GOOD. This is without a doubt one of the best books I've read in recent memory. Pitched as Gone Girl meets 13 Reasons Why, it absolutely lives up to the comps and I cannot wait until fall 2016 when this book is out and in the world. If you love any kind of Gone Girl, Girl on the Train, etc. thrillers or YA or just well written books, this book is for you. It will super stress you out while you're reading it and you will

love every second of it.

Angie says

SO GOOD, GO PRE-ORDER IT IMMEDIATELY. Actual review to come closer to release date :D

Petra says

Last Seen Leaving is a solid young adult story about keeping up appearances and keeping secrets. It's also a heartwarming story about friendship and love.

The first-person narrator is 15-year-old Flynn whose girlfriend, January, goes missing. Under scrutiny because, as her boyfriend, he surely must know more than he admits to the police, Flynn starts to look into January's disappearance himself and discovers that he didn't know his girlfriend as well as he thought.

January had recently moved to a prestigious new school after her mother married a rich guy with political aspirations. Feeling alienated in her new environment, January had become increasingly distant.

Debut author Caleb Roehrig quite skillfully combines two storylines: the mystery of what happened to January and Flynn's story of learning to be true to himself.

I enjoyed this. Flynn was a very likable character and I enjoyed his interactions with his supportive parents and with his peers, in particular with Kaz. The mystery element of the story kept me guessing right to the end. This was generally well written, but in parts the author over-explained and sometimes Flynn's choice of vocabulary didn't seem authentic for a teenage boy. Well, at least I don't know any that could use words of that caliber in everyday speech.

However, Flynn's path to self-acceptance and being comfortable in his own skin was portrayed in a realistic and certainly poignant manner.

Overall, this was a good mix of suspense with Flynn becoming a determined amateur sleuth and emotional storytelling as Flynn's life changes when he reveals his true self.

I received an ARC via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Cale Dietrich says

So, LAST SEEN LEAVING was one of my most anticipated reads in recent memory. I loved the premise (a thriller starring a gay boy is like, the ideal combo of things for me), thought the cover was AMAZING, and Caleb is super lovely on Twitter. So yeah, I was really, REALLY hyped to read this book.

And then I started reading it, and holyfuckingshit. This book. To say it lived up to my massively high expectations is an understatement that doesn't do this phenomenal book justice: this spooky, cute and intense book is now one of my favourite books of all time. I can't stop thinking about it, and I already know I'm going to read it again multiple times. It's seriously so perfect/addictive/amazing.

It's complex. It's thrilling. It's got this Halloween/October-ey vibe to it that is so wonderful and so unique. It's got the scary/fun balance down to an art.

I can honestly say I've never read a book that feels like this one. It's like if you took what Halloween feels

like: slightly scary, slightly thrilling, and a little bit edgy and dangerous, and made a book that feels like that. I have no idea how Roehrig captured this complex feeling in a novel, but I am so glad he did, because it's incredible. After reading, I can safely say that the cover for this is one of the best I've ever seen. Looking at it, you really get a sense of the atmosphere. I know I'm going on and on about the feel of this book, but I honestly love it so much I think it deserves it. *LAST SEEN LEAVING* has a style all of its own, which I think is worth getting hyped about.

The characters in this are also so great, but I'm worried about spoilers, so I'll just talk about our protagonist: Flynn. I love him. He's smart and funny and is so effortlessly charming. This book works because of how incredible and likeable he is. Also, Flynn is also one of the most believable gay boys I've ever read, with very authentic struggles, fears and experiences. This book is #ownvoices, and it really shines through here – not that non #ownvoices people can't write convincing gay boys (they totally can) but I feel like it's fair to say that this book being #ownvoices makes it extra special.

AND THE ROMANCE IS LIKE WHOA. That's all I'll say about that. But yeah, it's perfect.

I could honestly rave about this book endlessly. It's definitely one of my favourite YA books of all time, and it's one that I'm going to go back to time and time again.

Dahlia says

Man, this was so good. Like, from page one, so good. I loved the mystery, how many possible villains there were, the red herrings, the romance, the coming out, the voice, everything. (And, while I really hate that this is a thing I actually still notice in gay YA because of its rarity - I love the complete and total lack of misogyny. Either you know what I mean, or you don't, but if you do, and you hate its prevalence as much as I do, you'll appreciate how much affection and respect Flynn has for January in this book.) Always a relief when you really like an author on social media and hope hope hope you'll love their book too, and then the minute you open it you know you'll be juuuuust fine.

Chelsea Humphrey says

I really wish I could somehow rate this book in two parts; I felt the mystery of the story was a 2 star for me, while the coming of age/self discovery aspect was a 4 star and much more enjoyable. While the suspense and intrigue around the disappearance of Flynn's girlfriend January was a bit formulaic and easily solved (possibly due to the sheer amount of mystery books I've read), I found myself lost in the character's becoming self aware and journey to finding out who he really was. Was there anything ground breaking or new about this book? I didn't feel so, but I still found it a worthy read that drew me in and kept the pace going quickly. I'm very intrigued to see what the author writes next; I'd be super interested in reading something of the YA/GLBT/Coming of Age genre by him; he definitely has 5 star potential IMO and hope to see more from him soon!

*many thanks to NetGalley, publisher, and author for my copy in exchange for an honest review.

Larry H says

Flynn returns home one night to find the police at his house. His mind races as to why they could be there—did they find the small amount of pot he had hidden in his desk? But he is utterly unprepared for what the police detectives tell him, that his girlfriend January is missing. The thing is, Flynn hasn't seen her in almost a week, and the last time he did see her, she broke up with him. And she's been ignoring his texts and calls since then.

January had been unhappy since her mother's new husband, a wealthy politician running for the Senate, moved her to a private school where she felt alienated from all of the other rich students. And although Flynn and January's relationship had its challenges, he cannot figure out why she would have disappeared or what could have happened to her, and their closest friends don't understand it either. But as Flynn digs a little deeper, he finds that the stories January was telling others don't match up with reality. He knows something must have happened to her, and he's determined to find out the truth.

But as Flynn tries to uncover the truth about January's disappearance, especially as disturbing evidence surfaces, there is another truth he must face as well—the truth about himself. That may be harder and potentially even more painful than figuring out what happened to January.

Last Seen Leaving is really two books in one. It's both a mystery, as Flynn and others try to figure out the truth behind January's disappearance, and it's also a book about self-acceptance, and finding the strength to embrace your true self. I think the book succeeds more on the latter than the former, and in fact, I think I might have enjoyed it a little more if that was all it focused on. Flynn was a really interesting character, and I liked his interactions with his peers, and his memories of his relationship with January.

It's not that the mystery part was bad; I just felt like it was a little formulaic, with stereotypical villains and the predictable (at least to me) red herrings to throw you off the real trail. Everything was wrapped up (somewhat) a little too seamlessly for me, and I kept remembering that Flynn was actually just a high school sophomore as he was acting like the brave detective all of a sudden.

While the book is a little uneven, at its heart it's an enjoyable and moving story, one which I can identify with very strongly in places. (The self-acceptance piece, not the disappearing girlfriend one.) Caleb Roehrig is a talented writer and I would have loved more time with Flynn, so I look forward to seeing what's next in Roehrig's career.

NetGalley, Macmillan Children's Publishing Group, and Feiwel & Friends provided me an advance copy of the book in exchange for an unbiased review. Thanks for making this available!

See all of my reviews at <http://itseithersadnessoreuphoria.blogspot.com>....

Caleb Roehrig says

I had to add this mostly so that Goodreads would stop telling me I should read it.
