



# The Lost Daughter

By Elena Ferrante

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**The Lost Daughter** By Elena Ferrante

**From the author of *My Brilliant Friend***

Leda is a middle-aged divorcée devoted to her work as an English teacher and to her two children. When her daughters leave home to be with their father in Canada, Leda anticipates a period of loneliness and longing. Instead, slightly embarrassed by the sensation, she feels liberated, as if her life has become lighter, easier. She decides to take a holiday by the sea, in a small coastal town in southern Italy. But after a few days of calm and quiet, things begin to take a menacing turn. Leda encounters a family whose brash presence proves unsettling, at times even threatening. When a small, seemingly meaningless, event occurs, Leda is overwhelmed by memories of the difficult and unconventional choices she made as a mother and their consequences for herself and her family. The apparently serene tale of a woman's pleasant rediscovery of herself soon becomes the story of a ferocious confrontation with an unsettled past.

Following the extraordinary success of *The Days of Abandonment*, Elena Ferrante's standalone novel *The Lost Daughter* candidly explores the conflicting emotions that tie us to our children.

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## The Lost Daughter By Elena Ferrante Bibliography

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### Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

The arresting third novel from pseudonymous Italian novelist Ferrante (*Troubling Love*) pursues a divorced, 47-year-old academic's deeply conflicted feelings about motherhood to their frightening core. While on vacation by herself on the Ionian coast, Leda feels contentedly disburdened of her two 20-something daughters, who have moved to their father's city of Toronto. She's soon engrossed in watching the daily drama of Nina, a young mother, with her young daughter, Elena (along with Elena's doll, Nani), at the seashore. Surrounded by proprietary Neapolitan relatives and absorbed in her daughter's care, Nina at first strikes Leda as the perfect mother, reminding herself of when she was a new and hopeful parent. Leda's eventual acquaintance with Nina yields a disturbing confession and sets in motion a series of events that threatens to wreck, or save, the integrity of Nina's family. Ferrante's prose is stunningly candid, direct and unforgettable. From simple elements, she builds a powerful tale of hope and regret. (May)

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From [The New Yorker](#)

In this brutally frank novel of maternal ambivalence, the narrator, a forty-seven-year-old divorcee summering alone on the Ionian coast, becomes obsessed with a beautiful young mother who seems ill at ease with her husband's rowdy, slightly menacing Neapolitan clan. When this woman's daughter loses her doll, the older woman commits a small crime that she can't explain even to herself. Although much of the drama takes place in her head, Ferrante's gift for psychological horror renders it immediate and visceral, as when the narrator recalls the "animal opacity" with which she first longed for a child, before she was devoured by pregnancy.

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Review

Praise for *The Lost Daughter*

"Elena Ferrante will blow you away."

—Alice Sebold, author of *The Lovely Bones*

"*The Lost Daughter* is a resounding success...It is delicate yet daring, precise yet evanescent: it hurts like a cut, and cures like balm."

—*La Repubblica*

"*The Lost Daughter* is a novel about the female condition: the conflicts that can emerge in the sphere of marriage, the extinction of love and passion, the difficult relationships with children, which both obstruct and assist the free expression of one's feelings and the growth towards maturity."

—*La Stampa*

"Ferrante can do a woman's interior dialogue like no one else, with a ferocity that is shockingly honest, unnervingly blunt."

—*Booklist*

"Ferrante has blown the lid off tempestuous parent-child relations."

—*The Seattle Times*

"So refined, almost translucent, that it seems about to float away. In the end this piercing novel is not so easily dislodged from the memory."

—*The Boston Globe*

"Ferrante's prose is stunningly candid, direct and unforgettable. From simple elements, she builds a powerful tale of hope and regret."

—*Publishers Weekly*

### Praise for **Elena Ferrante**

"Elena Ferrante's decision to remain biographically unavailable is her greatest gift to readers, and maybe her boldest creative gesture."

—David Kurnick, *Public Books*

"Everyone should read anything with Ferrante's name on it."

—Eugenia Williamson, *The Boston Globe*

"Ferrante has written about female identity with a heft and sharpness unmatched by anyone since Doris Lessing."

—Elizabeth Lowry, *The Wall Street Journal*

"Ferrante has become Italy's best known writer. In our era of social media accessibility, shameless self-promotion, and hot young celebrity culture, this is nothing short of astounding."

—Gina Frangello, *Electric Literature*

"Ferrante's writing seems to say something that hasn't been said before—it isn't easy to specify what this is—in a way so compelling its readers forget where they are, abandon friends and disdain sleep."

—Joanna Biggs, *The London Review of Books*

"To disagree over the quality of a Ferrante passage is often to run up against what you cannot answer or digest."

—Jedediah Purdy, *The Los Angeles Review of Books*

## Users Review

### From reader reviews:

#### **Angela Dreiling:**

Why don't make it to be your habit? Right now, try to ready your time to do the important action, like looking for your favorite reserve and reading a publication. Beside you can solve your condition; you can add your knowledge by the reserve entitled *The Lost Daughter*. Try to the actual book *The Lost Daughter* as your buddy. It means that it can be your friend when you sense alone and beside that of course make you smarter than ever. Yeah, it is very fortunate to suit your needs. The book makes you far more confidence because you can know every thing by the book. So, let us make new experience in addition to knowledge with this book.

**Staci Eager:**

Spent a free time for you to be fun activity to perform! A lot of people spent their sparetime with their family, or their own friends. Usually they carrying out activity like watching television, gonna beach, or picnic inside the park. They actually doing same every week. Do you feel it? Do you need to something different to fill your personal free time/ holiday? Could possibly be reading a book is usually option to fill your cost-free time/ holiday. The first thing you will ask may be what kinds of publication that you should read. If you want to consider look for book, may be the guide untitled The Lost Daughter can be great book to read. May be it may be best activity to you.

**Lisa Knight:**

Playing with family in the park, coming to see the water world or hanging out with buddies is thing that usually you could have done when you have spare time, subsequently why you don't try factor that really opposite from that. One activity that make you not sense tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you are ride on and with addition of knowledge. Even you love The Lost Daughter, you may enjoy both. It is fine combination right, you still desire to miss it? What kind of hangout type is it? Oh come on its mind hangout men. What? Still don't buy it, oh come on its named reading friends.

**Gilbert Westmoreland:**

As a university student exactly feel bored to reading. If their teacher expected them to go to the library or even make summary for some e-book, they are complained. Just tiny students that has reading's spirit or real their interest. They just do what the trainer want, like asked to the library. They go to at this time there but nothing reading significantly. Any students feel that reading is not important, boring as well as can't see colorful images on there. Yeah, it is to be complicated. Book is very important to suit your needs. As we know that on this period, many ways to get whatever we want. Likewise word says, ways to reach Chinese's country. Therefore this The Lost Daughter can make you really feel more interested to read.

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