



I Let Him Go

Denise Fergus

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THE SUNDAY TIMES BESTSELLER, with an updated chapter from Denise.

'I was crying so much I couldn't breathe. The thought of leaving the shopping centre without him was crushing. I knew that walking away from the place where he had gone missing, without any idea where he now was, meant that things were really bad. James had been right by my side and then he was gone forever.'

On 12th February 1993, Denise Fergus' life changed forever. As she was running errands at New Strand Shopping Centre, she let go of her two-year-old son's hand for a few seconds to take out her purse.

Denise never saw her son again.

For the first time since that moment 25 years ago, Denise tells her extraordinary story in this heart-wrenching book, an unflinching account of that terrible day. What if she had never taken James shopping? What if she had turned right coming out of the butcher's, instead of left? Denise's initial hope after seeing her son on CCTV with other children quickly turned to devastation when, two days later, James' body was found.

His death reverberated around the world and his killers became the youngest ever convicted murderers in UK legal history. Four minutes is all it took for them to lead James away from his mother to his death. Denise took up a tortuous legal battle for James, and it was her astonishing strength and love for her son that ultimately helped to change the way the law treats victims of crime.

This is a mother's tale, of finding a way through the despair to remember the happiness and wonderful memories that James brought his family. Above all, Denise doesn't want her son to be remembered as a murdered child, and with this beautifully written book, she does just that.

I Let Him Go Details

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From Reader Review I Let Him Go for online ebook

jay grange says

Absolutely heartbreaking, Denise has remained dignified over the past 25 years, how she doesnt wish harm to those 2 men is beyond me, shes a better woman than me!

I held my babies extra tight tonight and shed a tear for James. It sickens me that they got new identities, they could be a neighbour, work collegue or even a friend and you would never know! Absolute disgrace! Our justice system is something of a joke!!!

Angie Rhodes says

Heartbreaking, but also very readable.

We all know about the horrific vile murder of little James Burger, but what we don't know, is the story of how Denise coped with the loss of James,, how utterly broken she was, she holds nothing back, let's us into her and James s lives before and after the disgusting murder of James. A hard book to read? yes, but it's not just filled with sadness, there is plenty to smile about, as Denise shares funny moments she had with her beautiful son. Once read, never forgotten.

Katie Hughes says

Heartbreaking read

In the past 25 years since James was murdered, Denise has shown nothing but dignity and determination in getting justice for James. This book tells of her dark times and her fight for justice. I couldn't put it down, even before reading this book I have supported Denise and her family in getting justice for James and I will continue to do so now.

Chelsea may Simpson xx says

Very emotional read. I feel sorri for poor James mother she has done her best for her son and this book just proves that. Would recommend people read it.xxx

Terri Davison says

Makes your heart ache with sadness for Denise and her family.

We all remember the murder of James Bulger, and the shock and revulsion when his murderers were revealed to be boys aged just 10 years old.

This book tells us so much more about James. The deep love that only a mother feels for her child absolutely pours from every page. A fun loving,cheeky toddler who trustingly walked to his death that day holding

hands with his murtherers ...looking for all the world like a baby brother walking with two older siblings.

Denise pours every emotion into this book and it is truly heartbreak to read. But it is also deeply moving and inspirational and shows the strength of character and resolve that Denise possesses in her determination to finally get true justice for her baby son.

May you rest in peace James..flying high with the angels for all eternity.

Laura says

Although this was an overwhelmingly heartbreaking book to read, hearing from the mother of James Bulger is both inspirational and touching. The death of little James in the earlier nineties prompted a huge legal case in the U.K. and shaped how youth justice is addressed since.

Having watched documentaries about this case, it was an entirely different scenario hearing from Denise Fergus herself and how she has fought for justice for her son since his death. Denise is a truly remarkable woman, and her strength for her family is admirable. So much has been written about her family over the years and she has not always been treated with the respect both her and James deserve by the media and social media trolls.

With such a sensitive and moving read, it was important that this book treaded carefully and paid tribute to James, which it did just that. Denise chooses not to focus on what ifs, nor is she interested in deciphering the reasons why two young boys killed her child. Instead she focuses on the beautiful child her son was, his cheeky personality and more.

sarah says

Amazing, heart breaking, tears and smiles

Ive read all books written about james murder. They are the only books that have ever made me cry. My heart breaks thinking of this little boy and his mum but reading this book makes you see what a strong lady she is. Im sure james would be extremely proud of his mummy. #justicefoejames.

~ Cariad ~ says

Has it really been that long - 25 years?

I remember it (no doubt, we all do) as though it happened yesterday.

It'll never get easier to read or hear about what happened to James, it just won't.

The fact that one of the disgusting scum is free today and still allowed to be protected under reporting restrictions with anonymity is appalling. I hope that the other never gets out.

Karolína says

No podlela jsem si, co Vám budu povídat. Memoáry maminky Jamese Bulgera, který byl v necelých třech letech zavražděn dvěma desetiletými kluky “pro zábavu”. Denise tu popisuje vše, od svého prvního manželství a narození Jamese, přes samotnou událost, jakou to na ni a její rodinu mělo vliv až po druhou svatbu, další děti a obavy spojené s popuštěním vraha jejího syna. Velmi silná žena, má měj neskonale obdiv. Doporučuji všem černým kronikám.

Patti-Ann Clarkson says

the story is every mothers worst nightmare.

Victoria says

This was an incredibly hard book to read, not because it was badly written but because of the subject matter. I'm not a mother but I didn't need to be in order to be touched by this book

I had read the story of James from his fathers point of view and several news stories but it was different to get the point of view of his mother, since she was the one who was there when he was abducted, and has carried the guilt of that for all these years

Denise didn't bother to try and analyse the killers of her son, or why they did what they did. Instead she brought James to life, and what it was like for her and her family in the aftermath of his murder. Her strength is unbelievable in the face of what she went through with the legal system seeming to let her and her family down at every turn especially with the recent news of Venables having been arrested for child pornography

So many lies and falsehoods have been written about Denise over the years and here she was finally able to set the record straight

Book Addict Shaun says

I Let Him Go was a difficult read in places, but I can only applaud and feel deep admiration and respect for Denise Fergus in sharing her story. Over the years so much has been written about her which is simply untrue and here she has been able to set the record straight. She has only ever fought for justice for her son, and put everything else aside and attempted to have a happy life with her husband and children. She is a remarkably brave and inspirational woman and this book has only proven that further. ?

?I am just a few months older than James Bulger would be now. My mum and me would go shopping each week to the Strand shopping centre where the abduction took place, even days before it happened and James's resting place is just down the path from where my grandad's is. Even as a young child I was told and was aware that this resting place was for a very special boy. Whilst there aren't many people in the UK that

don't know about this case, there's certainly nobody in Liverpool that doesn't know about it and I think everybody (at least those of us with feelings and sanity) shares in the disgust and disbelief at the government cover-up still to this day to protect these two evil killers, one of whom continues to find himself back in prison. How is it justifiable to let this man read evidence from Denise and see her via video link and yet she must remain oblivious about his protected life? At times the book made me shake with anger at what I was reading, but ultimately the message to be taken is how much work is still to be done on changing the law and that is what Denise will continue to fight for and I find it extremely admirable. ?

?This is a highly emotional read throughout that brought me to tears multiple times. Denise talks with searing honesty and having watched her in multiple interviews, and only days ago on Loose Women, I found myself reading this book with her voice in my head. Denise talks about meeting Ralph, falling in love and having James and despite heartbreak with delivering their daughter who had sadly died, they went on to have James who just sounded the most delightful child (however Denise does point out how incredibly mischievous he could be!) At times I could have been reading stories from my own mum so similar were they to the mischief I used to cause at that age. It's even more heartbreaking reading about her joy at being a mother to James when I knew what was coming up in subsequent chapters. Reading about those scenes, the disappearance and then the arrest of two children and then their trials just filled me with dread, made me feel sick and just made tears stream down my face.?

?It's remarkable to read about how Denise coped and got through a time no person should ever have to face. The strength and determination shone through and it was wonderful to read about how her life was effectively saved when she found out she was pregnant with Michael. I loved the parts of the book where Michael spoke about the love and protectiveness he feels towards his mum, and about how they as a family talk about James everyday. How she met and fell in love with Stuart is wonderful too. Denise has said she doesn't want James to be remembered as a murdered child but to be remembered for the happy and loving boy that he was, and that's certainly what I have taken from this book. The love she has for James, her family, her children and her husband just shines through throughout the whole book and I feel incredibly happy that she has been able to achieve this within her life after such a tragedy. Despite not knowing Denise personally it's hard not to be affected by something like this that happened so close to home. ?

?The story of James Bulger is one that people will never forget, but I think it's important that people really support Denise and her family in raising awareness and in following her campaigning work and to sign petitions where they can. To sign a petition takes not even 5 minutes but it can have such a huge impact on what Denise is fighting for. Look her up on Twitter, follow the case and put your name to the fight. It can be achieved and with the determination of people like Denise and her family it will one day be achieved. She also has a charity set up in James's name and I am already thinking of ways that I could perhaps fundraise for it and make some small impact. I love everything that it stands for. I know that a small portion of proceeds from the sale of this book will go towards it and so I highly recommend that people go out and purchase this book. Yes it is an emotional read but it is so much more than that. Denise and her family are remarkable people and through the writing of this book she has ensured that the memory of her beautiful son will live on and that he will never be forgotten. ?

Kirsti says

When I saw a morning show speak about this book around a month ago, I knew I would read it, and I knew it would make me cry. Everything about the James Bulger case is completely horrible, but the murder wasn't all there was to James; there was a boy who lived, and loved his family. There was a mother and a father, a complete family around him who suffered his loss. Of course all this just adds to the heartbreak and frustration this case brings. Like Denise, I can never see justice in a world that offers more protection to the

murderers than to James' own family. The fact is Venables has gone on to commit more crimes, and yet he could be living down the street right now and the public is not allowed to know or act on that knowledge.

I read My James a few years ago and got the perspective from Ralph, his father. This is Denise's chance to tell her story, and it is no less powerful. Personal, and desperately sad, but a story that needs to be told. Five stars.

Meags says

5 Stars

In her memoir, Denise Fergus recounts in vivid detail the events surrounding the shocking abduction and murder of her precious two year old son James, back in 1993.

For those unaware of this case like I was, two year old James was lured away from his mother one day while the pair was out shopping. In the seconds it took Denise to pay for her food shopping, James was gone, taken from her side by two ten year old boys who led him away from the shopping centre, to a secluded section of railway tracks, where they proceeded to viciously torture and kill little James.

James' brutal murder by two other children sparked a public outcry and served to prove that the UK justice system (at the time) was ill equipped to adequately handle a murder trial prosecuting criminal children. Although found guilty – as there was absolutely no doubt – the sentencing of the two boys, Robert Thompson and Jon Venables, was absolutely nowhere near sufficient enough in response to their crime.

Denise openly shares her harrowing experiences, discussing the personal impacts James' loss has had on her life and the lives of her family. She talks about her struggles in moving on with her life, all while continuing her 25 year fight to seek adequate justice for James.

Beyond a story of horrific child murder, I Let Him Go shares precious memories of a cheeky little boy who filled his family's hearts with abounding joy. James' loss was great, but in the short time he was on this Earth his life left an imprint on the hearts of all who loved him.

I Let Him Go is a highly emotional read and if you're anything like me you'll need lots and lots of tissues handy.

Xanthi says

I have this book only three stars because it is not the type of book that can stand alone. What I mean is that if you are looking for details of the criminal case, backgrounds of the two perpetrators, etc, you won't find them here, and you will be left with huge holes in your understanding on the what and how.

Having said that, the rest of the book is compelling. It is not particularly well written, but it doesn't need to be a masterpiece to get the raw emotion across. The author is telling her story, 20+ years on, of how the murder of her child affected her, her husband at the time, her family, and the public at large. The deep grief is there, as is the many tribulations of her life (still birth, miscarriage, divorce, single parenthood, etc). It is a wonder she got through it all. I suspect the support of her large family helped in that, to some extent. She was offered no physiological counselling which is criminal, in itself. She was just in her twenties when her child was murdered. And the incarceration of the killers is not where this story ends. Infact, she continues her

fight for James, against the killers, and some of the things she was up against will appall many people - I know it did me.

It must have been very difficult for her to write this book - to delve into the past in such detail, but I understand why she did, and am grateful that she told her story, because it is ongoing.
