



# Ghost Girl

*Lesley Thomson*

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## **Ghost Girl** Lesley Thomson

It is a year since her father's death, but Stella Darnell has not moved on. She still cleans his house every day, leaving it spotless as if he might return.

Terry Darnell was Detective Chief Superintendent at Hammersmith police station, and now Stella has discovered an unsolved case in his darkroom: a folder of unlabelled photographs of deserted streets.

The oldest photograph dates back to 1966. To a day when Mary Thornton, just ten years old, is taking her little brother home from school in time for tea. That afternoon, as the Moors Murderers are sent to prison for life, Mary witnesses something that will haunt her forever.

As Stella inches closer to the truth, the events of that day begin to haunt her too...

## **Ghost Girl Details**

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Author : Lesley Thomson

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## From Reader Review Ghost Girl for online ebook

### Trudy says

Strange book. I gave it 3 stars because clearly, somebody must like this series. To me it seemed like all the characters were written as borderline psychotics with no positive attributes. There was nobody to like or to identify with. Not to mention it was slooow getting going. I only managed a couple of chapters before giving up and looking for something a little less heavy on the description, a little lighter in tone.

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### Melissa says

I began reading The Detective's Daughter in between books in a different series, not realizing this was also a series, and not expecting much. I was very pleasantly surprised. The atmosphere is dark, the writing good, the characters realistic (mostly), and the ending surprising. I thought I knew what the ending would be like, and I had no idea. The main reason that I have been giving 4 stars is that there are several places where words are misspelled or out of order. I can understand what the author is trying to communicate, but it bugs me. Overall, I have not yet been able to put the books in this series down. They are very good reads.

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### Karen Broughton says

I jumped into this book straight after reading detectives daughter which I really enjoyed. this one definitely didn't disappoint either. I really have to say that I am loving this series. having got used to the authors style of writing there was no slow start like I had with dectives daughter for me the story flowed. I found myself speed reading to its conclusion I so wanted to see how it panned out. mary/Myra the little girl from the 60's She blew me away who she grew up to be. I love the characters, Stella and Mark with the subtle undercurrent of slow burning love , I am willing them to get together. I love the fact they have insecurities and we can see them, as humans we are all flawed in some way and I love reading how Stella and Mark cope with insecurities/stress. I felt a sadness for mary/Myra the little girl who for no fault of her own became the bad person. I really wanted to wrap my arms around her and love her bless her heart. The author wrapped all the loose ends up brilliantly and am so excited to read the next one. absolutely fantastic read.

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### Tracey Brown says

One of the worst books I've ever read. Not a bad premise but completely disjointed. Could not care about the characters one little bit. Stella- sad. Jack- mad. So one-dimensional. And why have a character called Jackie and one called Jack? Really? I'm forcing myself, slowly and painfully, to finish it, but it's pathetic.

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### Maxine (Booklover Catlady) says

What a let down this was. I was so excited to get this book from the library and settled in to be wowed and entertained. This was not how it went. I found this book to be very long winded and more than a bit confusing. Very hard to get into it and stay interested.

The books fluctuates between the present (2012) and the past (1966) and we hear from a few different characters. It is not until nearly the end of the book that the links are made as to who/why the voices from the past are connected to the characters in the present, until then it's almost like two disjointed stories. It also was moving from first person to third person but it was really quite confusing. My brain was hurting concentrating and trying to grasp what was going on.

The plot itself had so much potential, that's why I wanted to read this book, I was expecting a lot more mystery and tension that what it offered up. There are parts of this book, whole chapters that are just boring and almost irrelevant to the plot, almost off tangent.

The daughter of a dead police detective finds a file of photos of roads and trees, the sites of car accidents that were never filed with the police. She takes on a sleuthing detective role whilst running a cleaning company. All in all I found it really too far fetched and there was nothing very exciting in the characters.

A flat line book for me that offered nothing memorable. I am left feeling empty and still not grasping what on earth it was all for. Yes, things are revealed at the end and the past and present collides but it really was not that spectacular. The waffle going on around things was driving me nuts also, so many words that were not needed, that added nothing to the book. My first taste of Lesley Thomson and probably my last. I can't even be bothered to write one of my longer in-depth reviews I normally write as it's just not worth the effort.

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### **Ann Taylor says**

It was a slow starter and at first I got a bit confused bobbing about between 1966 and 2012. But once it got going I got pulled in and had to read on to find out if I'd got it right.

As it turns out I got it half right. This was an intriguing read and I fell in love with Jack all over again. The characters are all very human and have their little foibles. I especially like the relationship between Stella and her Mum.

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### **Maxine says**

This was a funny old book for me. The first half of the book was full of very distinct and separate stories of the main characters, in a very similar way to the way Stephen King starts his stories. They then start to merge, but sadly for me I had already worked out who the murderer was, and that always annoys me. The other problem I had with the book, was that I really didn't like the characters, other than Jack, who seems less shallow than the others. Stella in particular is irritating and I don't know exactly what it is about her, but I found her being the "detective" completely unbelievable, whereas Jack, although a main character, would have been much better as the star of the show. The plot is pretty good, but for me the characters lacked depth, and therefore mad the telling a bit stilted.

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### **Anne Robinson says**

I am asking myself why I felt obliged to read to the end of this book? There are so many other, better and more engaging books available, so I really cannot answer my own question. The characters are so quirky, the scenarios are odd and the writing is really off at times. I struggled to make sense of the first half of the book then somehow battled my way to the end. Apparently, the first book in the series is better, so perhaps other people should hold off this one and read that one first! Still puzzled...

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### **Chloe says**

This book - phew, it felt like a marathon! It's certainly not an easy book to get into and I must admit, I nearly gave up many times. There seems to be 2 separate story lines for most of the book, and that got confusing. The whole story is rather convoluted and drawn out. Not what I was expecting so was a little disappointed.

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### **Vicky Hughes says**

Struggled to get into this book, found it slightly confusing at the beginning. However I persevered. Not as good as the first book The detectives daughter, however I'll still give the next book in the series a chance x

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### **Ian Sear says**

I was so excited to read this book after loving 'The Detective's Daughter' which introduced us to Stella and Jack and how they solve a cold case left behind by Stella's detective father who had just died.

This book introduces another unsolved mystery, this time concerning the deaths of men that had previously hit and killed children with their vehicle. Our duo find a connection between several of these based on photos that Stella finds in her late father's basement.

The story itself was nowhere near as gripping as the previous one. I really wasn't that bothered about whodunnit or why they did it. The flashbacks to the past didn't really work for me either.

I sense that the author's writing style is evolving and I'm afraid to say that it's not to my liking. I kept finding sentences where it wasn't clear if what was happening was actually happening or if the character was thinking about it happening. For example (without giving spoilers): a scene with Stella might contain the sentence 'Jack had arrived'. He hadn't. She had just been thinking it but there was nothing to show it was a thought, so it became really confusing. If this had happened just the once it wouldn't have bothered me too much but it seemed to keep happening.

I do still really like the character of Stella and it was great to see some character growth. I'm not sure where else this series can go if it does continue as they can't keep finding unsolved cases without it becoming a bit silly and unbelievable. 3.5 Stars.

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## Rebecca Hock says

I chose this book to read as I really enjoyed the author's previous book, *The Detective's Daughter*. I did not enjoy this one nearly as much. I enjoyed the characters in the book but the storyline at times seemed pretty confusing. I stuck with it and finished the book but I have to say that at times I almost gave up on this book. At times I quite enjoyed it but at other times I was so tempted to give up on it as I got somewhat confused about the details. Not one I would be quick to recommend to others.

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## Keith Nixon says

In the second *Detective's Daughter* mystery, accidental detective and owner of a cleaning business, Stella Darnell, inherits another case. Her father, Superintendent Terry Darnell, has been dead for a year but Stella is unable to move on. She still visits his house daily, almost expecting his return any time, and keeps it spotlessly clean. During her ministrations in his basement office Stella discovers what appears to be an unsolved case – a folder of unlabeled photographs of deserted streets. This strikes her as odd – her father was a stickler for order. Every case he'd ever worked on was correctly filed in the Hammersmith station where he was based. Why is this one different? She believes he's left her a mystery to solve from beyond the grave, one he never could close out himself. Unable to resist the challenge Stella decides to investigate and calls on Jack, one of her employees, to help her.

The oldest photo dates back to the day in May 1966 when 10-year-old Mary Thornton was taking her brother home from school and the Moors murderers Myra Hindley and Ian Brady were sent to prison for life. Mary witnessed an accident that changed her life forever. During her investigation Stella learns that the photos relate to a series of road traffic accidents on the streets of London spanning 40 years and are linked to the event that affected Thornton so much...

Stella Darnell's first outing was in the smash hit novel, *The Detective's Daughter*, which reached number one on the Amazon chart and was voted Sainsbury's Ebook of the Year in 2013. Interestingly her publisher describes Thomson as 'the dark horse of fiction in 2013' as *The Detective's Daughter* was very much an unexpected hit.

Though *Ghost Girl* follows on from *The Detective's Daughter*, it is sufficiently independent to act as a standalone. There are references to previous events, but these are minor in scale compared to the driving force of the narrative. It is this aspect which is the strongest element of the novel. *Ghost Girl* is incredibly rich in description, every sentence oozes texture, depth and colour. Essentially there are three story arcs, each from the perspective of one of the characters. Two take place in the present day as Stella and Jack investigate the crime, but in amongst them we get Mary's perspective from back in 1966. The three arcs develop the story and over time blend together. It's an interesting approach.

Which leads to another element that is well handled, that of character development. Because there are three stories going on, the opportunity for this is limited. The three stories also means there is a large supporting cast of secondary characters, which sometimes proves distracting and a need to flip between the three which can break the flow.

Stella, through her cleaning business, spends a lot of time looking after others, whether it's her increasingly forgetful mother, her customers or her dead father, whose house she still regularly visits and attends to. Jack is one of her employees, popular and good at his job he also helps Stella with cases, mainly by breaking and entering other people's properties in unusual ways. Everyone wants his time. But there's something strange

and hidden about him. And Mary, a calculating, self-serving child again with hidden depths and a darkness about her. It's all a bit grey, somewhat grim, slightly seedy. Mystery abounds in Ghost Girl as a result.

The story unfolds at a steady pace, developing each plotline in turn, while Stella manages her company, her day to day life and the personal traumas associated with it. The revelations will creep up on you, so don't expect wham-bam action and intrigue; this is slow burn, cerebral stuff which needs thought applied when delving into the plot.

Originally written for Crime Fiction Lover.

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### **Janet Slipak says**

#### **MY THOUGHTS:**

I received this book in exchange for my honest review.

This was a tough book to get into. But, after hanging in there, I found myself flipping anxiously through the pages to see what was going to happen next. I was shocked by who the little girl turned out to be and felt so bad that she was turn into the bad person in the story because of events she couldn't possibly have helped.

I love the growing relationship between the main characters and how their interactions were depicted by the author. This story plot flowed smoothly transitioning from one plot element to another. Everything was tied nicely together and wrapped up by the end of the story.

Overall, a great book and so far a good series. Looking forward to the next book!

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### **Andrea says**

Won this book on first reads this is her second book enjoyed it better than her first book if you like a crime book this book is for you.

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