



After You Left

Carol Mason

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You want to know what the worst thing is? It's not the embarrassment, or the looks on people's faces when I tell them what happened. It isn't the pain of him not being there—loneliness is manageable. The worst thing is not knowing why.

When Justin walks out on Alice on their honeymoon, with no explanation apart from a cryptic note, Alice is left alone and bewildered, her life in pieces.

Then she meets Evelyn, a visitor to the gallery where she works. It's a seemingly chance encounter, but Alice gradually learns that Evelyn has motives, and a heartbreaking story, of her own. And that story has haunting parallels with Alice's life.

As Alice delves into the mystery of why Justin left her, the questions are obvious. But the answers may lie in the most unlikely of places...

After You Left Details

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Author : Carol Mason

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From Reader Review After You Left for online ebook

Megan Johnson says

This book was very strange and hard to read. There was a husband that walked out on his new wife on their hunnymoon. Then the now Ex-Wife met a new man who fell in love with her. Problem was, he was married too and willing to leave his wife and children! Too Jerry Springer for me.

On to the next book, and to be honest, it couldn't have came fast enough!

Michael says

Alice is living her life as a fairy-tale, leading up the matrimony to Justin. Taken back by his importune meeting, she is smitten that he is attracted to her from the first sight. Even though that Alice has her reservations about taking his offer to date, she gives in to the stirring temptation. Whirlwind of passion causes them to fall in love quickly, but things changes drastically when Justin leaves without notice on their honeymoon. Now she must trace back what attracted her to him in the first place? The more curious she becomes about his backstory, the less likely she believes that he will leave her hang and dry. Yet Justin will always have a special place in her heart, but she wonders if she should move on.

Evelyn one of Alice closest confidants is there for her in the midst of her crisis. However, she has her own life to worry about, infidelity and chaos entwined with both of their life hanging on by a sheer thread. Told with clarity and ease, the story unfolds to a beautiful dramatic story that would have you rereading pages to consume all the beauty!

I have to say this book took me by a huge surprise, not only was there great characterization but the story was so compelling! At first I was only immersed in Justin and Alice's story but Evelyn story was just as intriguing and interesting! So many pivotal scenes, I related to so many characters, I deeply sympathized with their personality.

By far the best book I read so far, HIGHLY recommended..Plan to read more books by Mason!

Vikki Vaught says

My Musings

Interesting story. I don't normally read women's fiction, but I enjoyed this one. The characters had a great deal of depth and the plot was good. I did get confused when the story switched to Evelyn so abruptly, but then I figured out that there must be something that would tie it together, and I was right. While this book did not have a HEA, it does have a satisfying conclusion.Happy ?reading ?!

Dana says

Every line of this long, well thought out novel is perfectly written. Two storylines fill its pages, storylines

which are connected in ways that becomes clear late in the novel, and which I did not anticipate. The ability to keep me from correctly guessing the relationships between the characters is, to me, a sign of really good writing. Alice is in her thirties, and has been abandoned by her husband, Jason, on their honeymoon. She knows he loves her, and that there is no one else, so what could have made him leave her? Evelyn is an older woman, caring for a man with dementia. She is a widow of means, and has sought out Alice, though the fact that this was deliberate is not apparent to Alice early on. There is a connection between the women, between their stories and heartaches. Evelyn's story was the one that truly captivated my attention and heart. Anyone who lives long enough, and who did not marry young, probably has a true love who was lost, for any number of reasons, and who, from time to time, comes alive again in their heart and memory, yielding thoughts of "what if," or "why didn't I?" Living with regret is a life sentence for some, while others try to do something good with that regret, as does Evelyn. There were references to *Lady Chatterly's Lover*, which was welcome to me, as I studied all of DH Lawrence's novels in high school and in college. *Lady Chatterly* was really nothing like Evelyn, but both novels included a gardener and a great passion. "After You Left" is well worth the time invested in its more than three hundred pages! British writer, Carol Mason, deserves kudos for creating such a well thought out, well paced and plotted mystery, not of a criminal nature, but of love and loss and redemption and hope.

Therese Gillies says

Tedious

I'm sorry but this is the worst book I've read in a long time. I should've go entering up a chapter or so in but trudged through to the e d feeling a absolutely nothing for any of the characters.

Jax says

Started this on Kindle on 5th March 2017. Strangely intriguing story of woman abandoned on her honeymoon & she has no idea why. Quite a gripping read as she tries to discover why and then she also meets an older woman who too has a complex tale to tell. Add into the mix the potential effect of great art on those with dementia. A fascinating read

Demelza says

Took me while to read as I kept getting bored, then something would happen and I'd read some more, then I got bored again. A bit of a see-saw read. I found most of the characters unbelievable. Would anybody in Alice's position really react like that? Would Justin?

The parts of the book about Evelyn's life could, I feel, have been turned into a novel on it's own. For me, the two stories did not gel.

Nicola says

Very repetitive. Couldn't care less my Justin left. And gave up on Eddy and Evelyn halfway through.

Guessed the ending.

TheFormerAstronomer says

Kindle first pick from March (I think)

Honestly if I wanted to read about tedious relationship faux-dramas that could be solved if people would just use their words like adults I'd spend more time on Facebook.

most boring book I've had the misfortune to read in a while

Renita D'Silva says

Beautiful and sensitively written. Loved it.

Nancy Baker says

My favorite line: "a person often meets his destiny on the road he took avoiding it."

This was such a heart-wrenching story about finding love, losing love and following your heart's desires. It surrounds two women with much more in common than the surface shows.

Evelyn is an aged woman who met the "love of her life" at a wedding of a friend. A chance encounter left such an impression on her soul that the image stays with her through her adult life. Years after the encounter, and with her current husband, she catches a glimpse of him again and a flood of emotions and feelings envelope her heart. Are her feelings a reflection of what she gave up or hopes of what she might have had?

Alice is in her mid-thirties and has had several relationships. A man in a bar captures her attention and boldly asks her for a date. A relationship begins, a life of wanting ends and a marriage is on the horizon. Alice awakens one morning while on her honeymoon to a note from her husband stating that he is sorry but he can't take this anymore. Like a thief in the night, he is gone and she is left to deal with the aftermath of not knowing why or where.

Two women -- two lost loves but more than four hearts get broken. Told from two perspectives and two time tables, the stories mesh and blend the pain that only a broken heart can endure. This author has a great talent for placing you front and center in the lives of her characters. The use of art and visual effects from paintings made me have to stop and call up the respective paintings to see if I could see and feel what they were feeling.

The raw, human emotion portrayed on the pages of this book only emphasize that all the people, circumstances, loves and relationships we encounter in our lifetime are like a single drop of blood in our veins -- by itself nothing more than a grain of sand, but added together, it defines who we are.

~ Cariad ~ says

Well, that was about as boring an audiobook as I've ever listened to and I'm easily over the 200 mark.

Luckily, or perhaps, no wonder, it was one of the new 'KU with free narration' books, as I'd have been gutted if I'd wasted a credit on it.

Authors please note and trust me on this, the narrator can make or break your book. Choosing a fairly posh/well spoken, one dimensional voice, with no ability to bring characters to life? ...yeah, not your best move.

Shawn Bird says

I've read a few Carol Mason books (Lives of Married Women, The Love Market) and enjoyed them, so I was settling in for a pleasant read. Instead, I found myself on the edge of my seat, fully engaged with Alice's predicament. Abandoned by her new husband on their honeymoon, as the story unfolds, she has to figure out why he left and determine what she is going to do with the rest of her life. Interactions with an elderly lady whom she meets in an art gallery, and who has her own fascinating romantic tale to tell, adds an interesting contrast to Alice's own issues.

I couldn't put this one down. I think it's Carol's best work yet. I spent a restless night after I finished it, imagining how I would have dealt with the challenges. I think it just begs to be a movie!

Disclaimer:

I received an advance copy of this book free from the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

Bookread2day says

Twitter@favouritenovels

As all my Goodreads followers know I love reading about husband and wife fictional drama. This is my first book by Carol Mason who I am now following. Take a deep breath. Whose husband walks out on his wife on their honeymoon? Justin leaves after writing a note to Alice saying I've made a terrible mistake. I can't go on. Did Alice really know Justin that well after meeting him a year ago then marrying him? Why did Justin leave his wife after just marrying her? I recommend reading After You Left as its one of those stories that you don't know who you feel the most sorry for. I felt sorry for Alice being left by her husband on their honeymoon and then I felt sorry for Justin for heart break issues that he has found himself in.

Malia says

3.5 stars

This book was more or less what I expected given the reviews. It was well written, but the story was a little flat and predictable. Still, this was an easy and ultimately satisfying read. I think what made it fall a little short of great for me was simply that it reminded me so much of many other books of a similar ilk like Before I Met You or The House at Riverton and I think they will probably live longer in my memory than

After You Left. That being said, I would read books by this author again, because she does have a very nice way with language and her characters were likable.

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