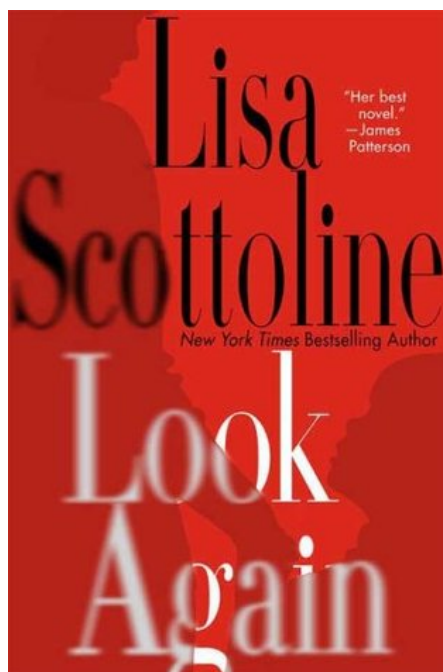




Look Again

Lisa Scottoline

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When reporter Ellen Gleeson gets a 'Have You Seen This Child?' flyer in the mail, she almost throws it away. But something about it makes her look again, and her heart stops; the child in the photo is identical to her adopted son, Will.

Her every instinct tells her to deny the similarity between the boys, because she knows her adoption was lawful. But she's a journalist and won't be able to stop thinking about the photo until she figures out the truth. And she can't shake the question: if Will rightfully belongs to someone else, should she keep him or give him up?

She investigates, uncovering clues no one was meant to discover, and when she digs too deep, she risks losing her own life; and that of the son she loves.

Lisa Scottoline breaks new ground in *Look Again*, a thriller that's both heart-stopping and heart-breaking, and sure to have new fans and book clubs buzzing.

Look Again Details

Date : Published April 14th 2009 by St. Martin's Press (first published January 1st 2009)

ISBN : 9780312380724

Author : Lisa Scottoline

Format : Hardcover 337 pages

Genre : Mystery, Fiction, Suspense, Thriller

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From Reader Review Look Again for online ebook

Janie Johnson says

This has been one of the most thought provoking, profound, and compelling stories I have read this year. If you are a parent you would feel the same way. I got into this book thanks to World Book Night. It was the book I decided to hand out to my community and I only hope that those people are as affected by this story as I was.

It was like looking into 'real' lives as I read the book. I could actually place myself into the shoes of our main character Ellen, and often did, who is a loving, compassionate mother, who would do anything to keep her child safe from harm. To protect him from whatever evil there is in the world. And then ask yourself, what do you do when you discover secrets that could snatch that child from your life?

Lisa Scottoline has a great ability to write a very believable tale. She can make you feel so many emotions with the turn of every page. I look forward to many more of her books. If you are a parent, then this is a must read and very deserving of 5 stars.

?? Carmen the Bootyshaker Temptress ?? says

Wow I couldn't imagine being in her shoes. I would be angry, confused and scared out of my wits that everything you have will change. Crazy.

Donna says

This is the third Scottoline book I've read, having absolutely fallen in love with the first book I read by her, Killer Smile. Killer Smile was wonderful for its sense of place being set in Philadelphia, where I lived for several years. Her character was strong and interesting and the plot complicated enough to be interesting.

Unfortunately, Look Again was none of those. I found the plot drawn out and a bit incredulous. Although, the book had an interesting premise -- namely that of a mother of an adopted boy receives a missing child notice and has a terrible feeling that her son, although adopted totally legally, may be this missing child.

The mother instead of dismissing the idea as ridiculous, decides to find out whether it could be possible. Here's where the whole plot goes crazy and this single mom reporter becomes Nancy Drew. Instead of simply contacting the authorities or the parents for a dna test, she nearly loses her job in an obsessive hunt complete with disguises, car chases, and murders. That may sound exciting but the plot was drawn out with long "mommy" scenes of angst and rather dull side-stories (e.g. the sledding trip) as a means of prolonging a not very mysterious mystery with tension that wasn't really all that tense.

I was very disappointed in this book and predicted the ending waaaaay before it ended. There were no surprises in this book. The character was actually a bit annoying (because she had plenty of opportunities to explain what was going on in her life and obtaining help, but chose to be silent) and silly in her very round-about way of putting her adopted son's identity to rest. Even the sense of place in this book was not as fresh and rich as Scottoline can right. Sure she named streets and towns, but I missed the local color of Killer Smile. The things that make Philadelphia unique and memorable.

I will try Scottoline again because of my first experience with her work. I know she can write wonderfully. This book, however, may be helping pay the bills, but it is definitely not her best work.

Denise says

Intrigued by the ethical premise but fell short in the unbelievable and predictable delivery. Title should be "Try Again". Legal and emotional thriller of an adoptive mom seeing an age progressed photo of her son on a post card and her efforts to discover if her worst fears are true.

Didn't hate it so much as didn't necessarily like it either.

Noticed some editing errors which for me is always supremely distracting especially in a less than engaging story.

Spoiler Alert

As for characters, I was disappointed there as well. Did anyone else notice how extremely verbal and precocious a barely turned three year old Will was? Connie, the long suffering always available perfect sitter...whatever. That one character alone is enough to piss off all your single mother readers. Next, making it so easy to naturally pull for the heroine is the gambling, unfaithful, spoiled birth mother and the arrogant, unreasonable, philanderer husband. Throw in a stalking killer psychopath who has never been caught and a gratuitous sex scene with a hot Latin lover and we have the makings of a made for TV Lifetime movie of the week. Problem is if I'm not thinking big screen then it's obvious that this story has too many flaws making it unworthy of more.

A couple of storyline issues:

How did lowlife Beach man always know at the exact moment when a character was going to put two and two together and find them instantaneously just in time to kill them? The murder of the lawyer was the flimsiest. What purpose did this serve? Just because maybe she might find out? Then he would also need to off the judge, social workers, nurses, doctors, and basically anyone who was involved with Timothy/Will from the hospital and adoption proceedings. Why did she agree that she was having an affair? Or was that a red herring? Never explained. Why kill Amy now? She's known all along. Puzzler.

I don't mind sex scenes especially with a Latin hottie however the timing of this one was bizarre. Woman is about to lose everything, (job, child, life) but right before she sneaks off to the doom she all of a sudden realizes is coming, she squeezes in a quickie. Right, cause that's what most of us would do facing the same conundrum.

I totally understand how someone would be haunted by something so much so that they are afraid to verbalize it in the beginning. But how did Ellen not have one freaking friend to confide in especially after her Florida trip? Her lack of communication throughout annoyed me. Guess she wasn't that close to Courtney after all because she never gave her a second thought after she was fired.

Last and most deflating was the entirely predictable and implausible ending. Of course, birth mom will be killed defending her son. Naturally, she will have no parents or siblings to muddy the waters. And of course, dad is not the biological dad because that will easily clear the path for the heroine to win her child back. I'm not a legal expert but I see MAJOR issues with Ellen's adoption being valid period. It was an illegal adoption since Amy was not related to him in any way, legally or biologically and she KIDNAPPED him with Beach bum. Hello? Secondly, if Bill is listed as Timothy's father on the birth certificate then he is legally the dad, biology or not. Remember this man also raised him as his own for just as long as Ellen did and he has just as much right to claim him as she does. What, is she the only one who has parental feelings beyond DNA? Weird how possessive the author portrayed Bill when he reunites with Timothy/Will and then

just as quickly relinquishes said child, the son he was almost destroyed after losing the first time, over some missing DNA in his blood? Ridiculous.

Fast read. Could be used as a vacation or beach book that you wouldn't be too broken up about if you lost or damaged it on the trip. Or like I said at the beginning, Try Again.

Brenda says

Collecting the mail as she entered the house from work, Ellen Gleeson was keen to see her three-year-old son Will. Connie, her babysitter was an angel – Ellen thought back to the day she had found her and was extremely grateful. Once Will was in bed, Ellen returned to the mail – the flyer that had the words “Have You Seen This Child?” across the top brought her up short; the photo of the child on the front froze her heart. It was Will – or if it wasn’t, he had a twin out there somewhere...

Ellen had adopted Will when he was eighteen months old – very sick in hospital, with no one who visited or seemed to care, Ellen fell in love with the small child. The ensuing adoption was fully legal – she had the paperwork to prove it. Ellen was a reporter and knew in her heart that she had to discover the truth, even though she may not like the answer. The following investigation not only threatened everything Ellen held dear, it also threatened her career and her life.

Look Again by Lisa Scottoline is an absolutely heart stopping psychological thriller which I couldn't put down! Twists, turns, horrors and the most incredible dilemma a parent could ever face, I had my heart in my throat many times. What if it was my own child or grandchild? It doesn't bear thinking about! *Look Again* is one I highly recommend to fans of the genre – and this author never disappoints!

Michelle says

I really have enjoyed all of Lisa Scottoline's past books...always buying the next book out. This book...is...ridiculous. I have a hard time believing she actually wrote this. Just the premise is hard to believe. Would a mother who supposedly adores her adopted child risk her job (shes the breadwinner here) and the possibility of losing her child just because she saw a picture on a missing child flyer that looks like her son. Making every kind of stupid decision a mother could make. I would call it..being a anti-mom. She also has no personality to speak of. I am perplexed.

Angela2932 says

Don't you just hate when you have so little respect for a book that it stirs up all kinds of vile, hostile, feelings in you and you develop a passion for trashing the book? And then you have to feel guilty because there's probably some poor starving author who worked her fingers (and brain cells) to the bone, cranking out this drivel, and foisting it on the unsuspecting public? And then, even so, the book somehow gets a 4 star rating, which makes you feel like you are truly living in the twilight zone or Abraham Lincoln was really right, that: "You can fool some of the people all of the time, and all of the people some of the time, but you can not fool all of the people all of the time," and this is just one of those "times."

Well, at least you can't say I didn't warn you: I warn you not to look again at "Look Again," but to carefully back away from this book as quickly as possible!

Warning: If you can spoil something rotten, there are spoilers ahead. Lots of spoilers, because this book trotted out so many surprises and twists that it should have come with a CD containing a laugh track.

It's a knock off of the "Face on the Milk Carton" lifetime movie, except that movie was infinitely more plausible! This book has a plot which has the basic premise that Ellen adopts an infant who has been abandoned in the hospital by his fake birth mother. When her son, Will, is 3, she sees a flyer of a missing child that looks disturbingly like her son. Fake Birth Mother was part of the plot to kidnap the baby from Real Birth Mother, for a million dollar ransom. But then Fake Birth Mother with Evil Beach Guy decide to keep the baby, because they are so nurturant, of course. Karen is an investigative reporter, single parent, who conveniently has a magical babysitter who can put all things in her life on hold, almost magically, to be available anytime Ellen needs to work 10-12 hour days, or disappear out of state to investigate this issue--or do research for her job as a journalist.

But wait, there's more! Ellen's boss is sexy and has an accent, so when Ellen lies to him when she's not bothering to do her job, he just keeps covering for her. Not so her nasty, competitive coworker, who somehow manages to tip off the Real Birth Mother to head to Ellen's house to recover the child. Ellen finds out that the attorney for the adoption has not really committed suicide, but been murdered, and her child is in danger. She races back home, with a digression for a sex scene with her Sexy Accented boss thrown in, (because this scene is apparently required because there. must. be. sex, and this was the only way to work it in.)

But alas! Oh, woeful day! Evil Beach Man and Real Birth Mother get to Ellen's house, and it turns out that Real Birth Mother knows Evil Beach Man, because he's really the father of the little boy! They were in on the plot together. Evil Beach Man conveniently kills Real Birth Mother (so that plot problem is conveniently dispatched). Evil Beach Man gets offed, and Ellen rips up the floor boards so there's not blood left lying around to make the house unpleasant for little Will's next birthday party.

And this attitude is why I tried to stay very, very quiet during my last book club, because everyone else really liked the book (loved it, even!)

Becky says

What a mess.

This was my first Lisa Scottoline book, and it'll probably also be my last. This book was just... all over the place. I can't think of a single thing that I can say I actually liked about it, besides the fact that it's over. This book was like being hit over the head with... well, all of the things. My brain is now mush.

So, here's what I got out of this book.

Ellen Gleeson, a REPORTER, sees a age-progressed missing child picture on one of those cards they send you in the mail, and it looks EXACTLY like HER adopted SON, Will, who she adopted. Not close, not 'sorta looks like him', not 'could be brothers'... EXACTLY like him. (That creepy guy in the trenchcoat taking pictures from across the street last week? NOT a creeper after all... but a time traveler snagging a picture so that he can go back to the past and call it "age-progression". What? Time travelling photographers are more

realistic than most of what happened in this book.)

Anyway, so Ellen, the REPORTER, has this little WHO IS MY BABY? earwig burrowing into her mind and can't let it go. OH! And did I mention that she's a REPORTER, but that her newspaper could be firing her because layoffs, and she thinks her boss with an accent is hot, and he thinks SHE is hot, and she doesn't get fired in the first round where her boss sermonizes about how much he loves the REPORTER business for 45 minutes of completely pointless time except to show that he's a GOOD GUY WITH A HEART OF GOLD, but maybe later in the month it'll be her time, so she should do her job and not be distracted or miss deadlines or not file the story she's given to REPORT, or take vacation... which she does, but it's ok because GOOD GUY WITH A HEART OF GOLD REPORTER boss doesn't fire her ever. LUCKY and completely REALISTIC.

Ellen is probably the BEST reporter I've ever seen. She asks all the right questions and doesn't jump to any conclusions. But even if she did, it would be OK because all of her stories are about the same thing (HERSELF) so they are all the BEST stories because since she adopted her son, WILL, she's got MOMMY MAGIC so she doesn't need to be good at anything else! Like REPORTING. MOMMY MAGIC means you can just FEEL the right thing at all times, and makes critical thinking, good judgement, and rationality invalid.

Case in point:

- Sledding = DANGER!
- Running with a plastic lightsaber = DANGER!
- Driving at high speeds, while texting, at night, in 8 inches of snow & blizzard conditions = perfectly fine because MOMMY MAGIC!
- MOM JEANS.

MOMMY MAGIC also means never having to decide anything ever. On the back of this book, LOOK AGAIN, by LISA SCOTTOLINE, it says that there's a MORAL DILEMMA. That is wrong. There is no moral dilemma because MOMMY MAGIC! Everything that ELLEN, the MOMMY, thinks about has already been decided for her by outside forces of EVIL, named Sarah Liu. But we can't feel sorry for SARAH LIU, because she's only EVIL because she's a CUTTHROAT REPORTER who is secretly caring for her husband who has MS, so that is why she had to BETRAY her fellow REPORTER, Ellen, who is a mommy like SARAH, who also has MOMMY MAGIC, in order to get ONE MILLION DOLLARS. That is also why SARAH quit her job as a REPORTER, because ONE MILLION DOLLARS is a lot of money and will support a family of 4, ESPECIALLY one with man who has a serious illness FOR THE REST OF HIS LIFE. There is no need to work.

WILL, Ellen's son, named Will, who is adopted, and also had heart problems from before he was adopted to be Ellen's son, also has MOMMY MAGIC, in that because he says "Mommy!" a lot, that makes him, Will, Ellen's son. Ellen's adopted son, WILL, is precocious and very intelligent and can TRACE ALL BY HIMSELF. He is THREE YEARS OLD and talks like he is 6 years old. This proves that ELLEN, Will's MOMMY, is a good mommy because he is ADVANCED.

THINGS HAPPEN. MOMMY MAGIC means that nobody can say this book is bad because EMOTIONS. ELLEN, WILL'S MOMMY, is proven to be his MOMMY because other people are BAD and GREEDY and don't deserve him, and she WINS. But she's NICE so she lets the LOSER visit because she knows that MOMMY MAGIC means that she will never lose her child, Will, who she adopted, and is now her son who calls her MOMMY.

ALSO, ELLEN, Will's mommy, has sex in Chapter 69 with her GOOD GUY WITH A HEART OF GOLD REPORTER boss who then proposes to her because after having sex one time they are beyond dating and already know everything there is to know about each other and he knows that they will have a happy and

wonderful life together after their WEDDING, during which he will be granted DADDY MAGIC and be invincible too.

The end.

Patrice Hoffman says

This book was an extremely easy, fast-paced read. It's like a newer, more up-to-date version of King Solomon's judgement. Or at least that's what kept replaying in my head the more clues unraveled. Long story short, I found this book to be extremely interesting and worth the day it took me to read it. There's nothing complicated about this book. The plot is fairly simple to follow and the supporting characters are a little thin. It doesn't change the fact that it's interesting and will have every mother wonder what she would do if she found out the kid she calls her own isn't really hers.

FYI this is the first book I've read by this author. It's described as an emotionally charged, heart-pounding thriller and I agree. I would love to read more by this author.

Lisa says

This book had such an intriguing and promising premise, and such a terrible and disappointing execution.

Ellen, an adoptive mother, pauses when the photo in a missing child flier looks eerily like her adopted son. Wow, what a great premise. What would one do if one's child belonged to someone else? What's the right thing, what's the moral thing, what's best for that child?

Sadly, the author turns this into a poorly written thriller with an all-too-convenient happy ending.

Randomly, this line bugged the hell out of me, but maybe it's just me: "A ladies' room is a girl headquarters."

Michael says

This is the second book by Lisa Scottoline I've read and just like Lady Killer is a first class read. The story goes of Ellen Gleeson a reporter and mother to young adopted son, Will. One day she is looking through the mail and comes across a have you seen this child card and notices the boy in the picture looks identical to Will. Her instincts tell her that it is just a coincidence and the adoption is completely legal but being a journalist she looks into. What she uncovers is a lot more than what she could ever imagine.

Ellen's investigation will see her uncovering a complicated but also tragic tale of events that will put everything that she holds dear on the line including her own life. Not only does she put her own employment at risk but also her sanity as she tries to uncover the truth all the while thinking she may find herself in an impossible position of having to let her son go.

This story has it all drama, romance, family bonds, intrigue, suspense, humour and enough fast paced action to keep readers up to the wee hours. Just when you think you have things worked out then bam Scottoline throws another curve ball. Combining crime and moral dilemma Scottoline has created a novel that will stay

with you long after you have finished reading.

Carolyn Storer says

As a fan of the thriller genre I was really looking forward to reading this book. I had never read anything by Lisa Scottoline before either so I was also intrigued and excited; I like discovering new authors, and I wasn't disappointed.

Look Again pulled me into the story from the first few pages. The plot was fact-paced and each chapter ended with a tiny cliffhanger that kept me guessing. For the first half of the book I couldn't put it down, and I couldn't turn the page fast enough to find out what happened.

However, as I read on I realised that the only character I was likely to interact with was Ellen. The story did include other minor characters, and I enjoyed reading about them, but it wasn't enough. I felt the book lacked depth. The writing is light and easy and, although it managed to keep my interest, was not up to the standard of other writers in the same genre.

However, this does not detract from the fact that this is a great read. I liked the protagonist, Ellen, she is warm and earthy and I could sympathise with her predicament. The passages describing Ellen's feelings regarding her son and the dilemma she faced were heart-wrenching. I liked the inclusion of a love affair with Marcelo, it would have been nice if it was written about in more detail, as the relationship happened a bit too quickly.

Although the other characters do not feature in the book very much, what I did get to read I liked. I wish Ellen's friend, Courtney, wasn't written out in the first couple of chapters, as it would have been nice to have more interaction between the characters. It was a bit of a one character story.

On the whole, Look Again is a really enjoyable read. With a fast-paced plot and likeable characters, it had enough to keep my interest until the very end and I finished the book in two days. I would definitely recommend it, especially to those who love the genre.

Cheryl says

Ellen Gleeson has just gotten home and retrieved the mail. She was getting ready to put the mail down when something in the pile caught her attention. It was one of those white postcards that says "Have you seen this child?" The similarities between the missing boy and her son, Will is uncanny. It was like Ellen was looking at a picture of Will but Ellen knew that couldn't be true as her son is an only child. Well that is what the adoption agency told her. A few days later and Ellen still can't get the image of that little boy out of her mind. Ellen decides to do some investigative research of her own into whom the boy really is and why he looks so much like her son. All of Ellen's snooping is making some people very nervous and when that happens people will go to any lengths to hide the truth.

Lisa Scottoline takes the reader on an emotional roller coaster ride that will have you hanging on till the very

end in Look Again. Fans of Lisa's will be happy with this latest release. I don't care who you are but I dare you not to weep, fight and cheer for Ellen as she does everything she can as a mother to hold on to her son. Beware of the wrath of a mother's love for her son. I know I couldn't stop reading. In fact every time I started to put this book down I would go running back to it. I am a fan of Ms. Scottoline and plan to be for a very long time. I urge you to make the right choice and take another look at Look Again.

Tez says

It's been years since I read a Lisa Scottoline book, but so glad I decided to catch up on her backlist. Probably would not recommend this to anyone who's adopted a child. A journalist comes across an age-progressed picture of a missing child...who looks just like her son. A fast-paced twister, this is a great re-introduction to Lisa Scottoline's storytelling. Hopefully it won't take me as long to get to her next novel!

Maicie says

Damn. This book had so much potential.

A mother receives a flyer in the mail with a picture of a missing child who looks just like the child she legally adopted a couple of years ago. What should she do? What would I do? No way should this book have had a happy ending. Arrrrgh.

Ellen, the adopted mother, wants to know the truth about her child. She's a journalist. OF COURSE. Turns out the birth mother sold her son for money. OF COURSE. The adopted mother, while frantically trying to find out the truth about her adopted son, falls in love. OF COURSE. He's a hunk. OF COURSE. The birth dad gets custody of the child at the end and then turns out not to be the real father. OF COURSE. Adopted mother and son end up together, mother is engaged to hunk, non-father becomes benefactor to his non-child. WTF?

Worst part of the book? Ellen and Marcelo (OF COURSE THAT'S HIS NAME) get it on. Ellen lays her head on a "musky patch of his chest." DEAR GOD IN HEAVEN.
