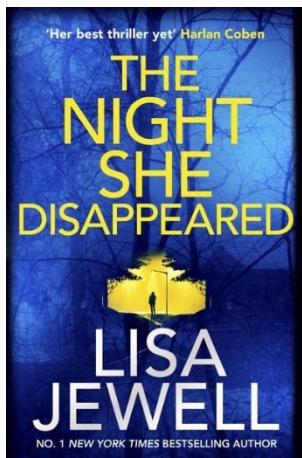


Termly book recommendations by Sophie Battle

# The Night She Disappeared - Lisa Jewell



Age range – 12 years and older

'The Night She Disappeared' by Lisa Jewell is a new book which came out this January.

It is a thriller, a genre which the author is known for, and with this book she certainly did not disappoint.

I knew I loved thrillers but this year I wanted to read more than I did during the last, so I picked up this book expecting to like it but read it over a week because it is on the larger side at just over 400 pages. Let me tell you, that did not happen. I could not put this book down!

I finished it in a day and was quite upset when it did finish. It was a slow burn at first, but once you become acquainted with the characters, it is a story you cannot let go. Tallulah, a teenage mum, goes to a party leaving her beloved baby with her mother. Responsible as she is, her mother, Kim, expects to see her daughter and the baby's father return home at some time in the evening, but days go by, and they are gone without a trace. The investigation soon draws to a close but a year later, the case re-opens after a sign appears saying 'Dig here' and we discover that the "presumed dead" couple may not be dead after all.

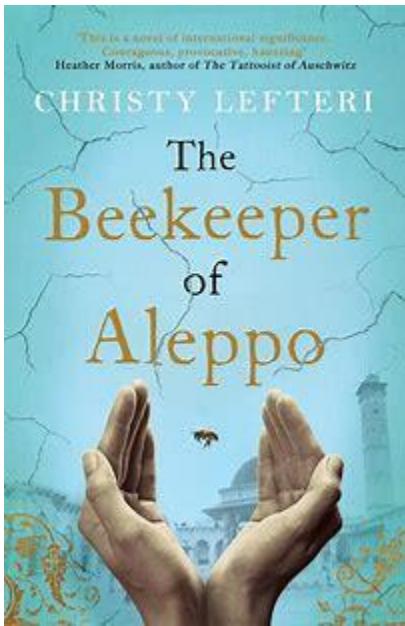
The book switches perspective each chapter, and suspense is built throughout until we finally discover the truth about their disappearance through a twist I, for one, did not see coming.

Other books by the same author:

*Then She Was Gone*

*The Family Upstairs*

## The Beekeeper of Aleppo by Christy Lefteri (published in 2020)



Age range – 13 years and older



As the daughter of refugees, Lefteri's personal understanding of the trauma created by war fed into the novel she was writing.

If thrillers are not your thing and you want a book you can really invest in, then I strongly recommend 'The Beekeeper of Aleppo'.

It follows Nuri, a Syrian beekeeper, and his wife Afra, an artist blinded by an explosion, on a journey to the UK seeking safety.

Nuri and Afra manage to escape their war-stricken hometown but cannot escape the memories that haunt them.

This book is different from the typical refugee story: it gives us an intimate perspective of the lives of a refugee couple. It explores what it is like having a war in your home, and hints at the subtle effects of trauma and grief while all the while being a relatively lighthearted and gripping story.

Other books by the same author:

*Songbirds*

*A Watermelon, a Fish and a Bible*