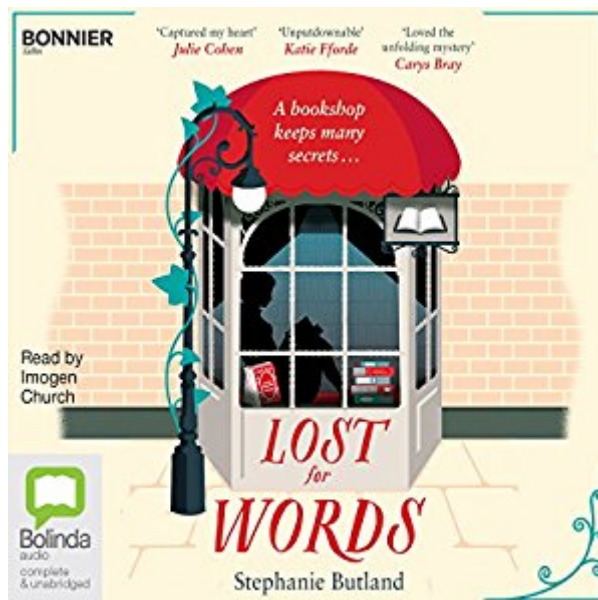


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Lost For Words



Synopsis

Loveday Cardew prefers books to people, and her job in a York bookshop is her refuge. If you look carefully, you might see the first lines of the novels she loves the most tattooed on her skin, but there are secrets Loveday will never share. Into the bookshop come a poet, a lover, a friend and three mysterious deliveries, each of which stirs unsettling memories she wants to forget. Turning the pages of her past will be the hardest thing Loveday has ever done. Can she trust those around her? Can she right a heartbreaking wrong? And will she find the words to tell her own story?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Just like the other reviewers I am so enthusiastic about this book, I hope all her readers love the Loveday character as much as I do. As a retired librarian and a keen reader (even the proverbial bus tickets), I strongly recommend this book which makes one think, analyse and remember the poetry and the first liners.

This was an enchanting book. Written with a love and understanding of human nature..I loved every word, and could hardly put it down.No crime, no violence no bad language, so refreshing!!If you like a gentle love story without all the sugary nonsense, you will enjoy this book!!

LOST FOR WORDS by Stephanie Butland is a deeply moving tale of family, loss, and finding a way through your heartache, and it is all rolled up with a perfect second-hand bookshop and an understanding of how books can really become such a hugely important part of your life.Loveday

Cardew doesn't like people, preferring to keep herself to herself and seeking refuge in her books whenever she needs company. Burying her past, Loveday has created a new start for herself and is proud of her job in Lost for Words, a quirky second-hand bookstore, run by Archie, an eccentric older man with a flare for people. Nobody knows the truth about Loveday and that is the way she wants to keep it - she doesn't want anyone asking any questions or judging her. But when a lost book brings her in contact with a caring poet, Loveday wishes that she could be normal and have a normal relationship. However, her past has only taught her that love hurts everyone. With an obsessive former boyfriend, books from her past making a mysterious appearance, and the possibility of love, will Loveday be able to open up the gates of her memories to those who care about her? Or will telling her story destroy her carefully built independent life? LOST FOR WORDS by Stephanie Butland is such a heartbreaking story as we learn about Loveday's life when the narrative moves from past to present. Loveday is such a strong, determined, self-contained character, but yet her vulnerability shines through, and I desperately wanted her to be able to confront her demons and find the peace she deserves. The bookstore is every bookworm's dream, and the author perfectly portrays the significance that a book can play in someone's life - the memories they invoke, the connection they can make with the reader, the emotions, the dreams, just everything. The characters are gripping, the pace is spot on, and I really cared about the storyline, which for me makes this book a complete hit. LOST FOR WORDS by Stephanie Butland is a must read for fiction fans everywhere, but especially for those who find books their connection to the world. A beautiful, all-consuming read!*I voluntarily reviewed this book from Netgalley.com

This book is not a fast read, but then again neither is one of my favorite books of all time (A Tree Grows in Brooklyn). Not all books have to be, when the author can find the right pace and divulge the inner workings of their characters in the proper moment. Loveday, the main character, has us in her head for the entirety of the book and we learn things as she reveals them in the present day to us, and in flashbacks: the times that lead up to the destruction of her family and the times that saw her facing someone whose continued presence in her present day is reminiscent of the relationship between her parents. Everything has a reason, which I found interesting. The author didn't waste anything, or anyone. Besides Loveday, there was a whole cast of characters that gave something to the story, whether it was Archie, the proprietor of the bookshop, or Nathan, Loveday's love interest, or even the workers/patrons of Lost for Words. My favorite thing about Lost for Words was how powerful some scenes were, even if there wasn't a lot of typical "action" going on at the moment. For instance, Loveday's reaction to the Penguin Classics she unpacks in one scene, in thinking that

they're her mother's books from long ago, reminded me of a nostalgic/deja vu feeling I get when I'm in a second hand bookshop. Seeing books on the shelves that I know I own at home, seeing them in another environment, is both heartwarming and strange, especially if they happen to be in the series arrangement as my own collection. Loveday's remembering her mother buying a Penguin Classic every two weeks for a year made her and her family even more familiar to me, even if her mum didn't read them (in my case it's a runaway tbr, in Loveday's mum's case...who knows?). However, this scene takes on a potentially darker tone when more books from Loveday's past keep showing up at the shop, books she hasn't seen in fifteen years and that have no right to be surfacing now, in the shop she works at of all places. The eeriness of such an occurrence was so subtle I almost didn't realize what was happening at first, but the more time that I spent in Loveday's present tense chapters, the more I realized that something strange was going on and the more I wanted to find out what it all meant. There are more of these eerie moments as the book goes on, as we get more glimpses into Loveday's past and discover what really happened to make her into the person she is now. Ultimately the truth is revealed to the reader and then there is the journey toward her making peace with that, with herself, and with those around her that love her, just as she is. You're never quite sure, reading this book, whether there will be a happy ending or not, whether one is even possible, but it's the finding out that's interesting, not the actual getting. I received a copy of this book from the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

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