



Die for You

Lisa Unger

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Top Book Pick by the Today Show, Good Morning America, Parade and Good Housekeeping.

Isabel Raine thought she had everything--a successful career, a supportive family, and a happy marriage to the man she loved. Then one ordinary morning, her husband, Marcus, picks up his briefcase, kisses her good-bye, and simply vanishes.

That day, all her calls to him go straight to voice mail; the messages she leaves at his office go unreturned, too. Panicking after finally receiving a call from his cell phone in which all she can hear is a man's terrified cry, Isabel calls the police. But they aren't interested. Men leave, they tell her. They leave all the time. Desperate to find her husband, Isabel races to his office. But instead of finding him, she finds herself in the middle of an FBI raid. Hours later, she awakens in the hospital with a severe concussion and a homicide detective by her bedside waiting to question her about Marcus Raine--the real Marcus Raine.

Now the only thing Isabel knows for sure is that her husband of five years is gone. Where is he and who is he are questions no one seems able to answer. But Isabel will not rest until she discovers the truth about the man she loves, even if it means risking everything--including her own life.

New York Times bestselling master of suspense Lisa Unger takes us on a nightmarish journey from bustling, glamorous New York City to the twisted streets of Prague, seeking an answer to one bone-chilling question: What if the man you love, the one sleeping beside you, is a stranger?

Die for You Details

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From Reader Review Die for You for online ebook

Mandy says

This book started out so slow for me that I thought I wouldn't be able to finish it. I felt so horrible for Isabel and wanted her to have closure and redemption. Unger has a way of pulling the reader into the pages and within her words gets the characters into your heart and mind. I was happy that Isabel had her "why" answered to a degree. Would recommend this to a friend! Unger never disappoints her readers! Will be picking up more of her books!

P.S. I hated the husband. Big time.

Elizabeth Scott says

I admit, I went into this one with some trepidation--I'm not a huge fan of books about authors (unless the author in question is in academia--go figure!!--but I really enjoyed this.

Isabel Raine has breakfast with her husband, Marcus, and then he never comes home. When she tries to find out what happened to him, she finds out that Marcus never existed. That, and he's taken everything--all of the money she's made, and the company he was so proud of turns out to have been nothing but a way to con people (like Isabel's brother-in-law) out of money.

Not only does Marcus not exist, the man he turns out to be is a very dangerous one.

But Isabel is pissed, which I really liked--all of the female characters were very tough, and both Isabel and her sister were prone to making really bad choices--but they know when to back down, and when to stand up for themselves.

What really made the book, for me was how well Lisa Unger managed to flesh out "Marcus"--who doesn't talk much during the book, and only get a small amount of internal character time--via other people's thoughts/memories/interactions with him. I also thought all the secondary characters were really strong--I could practically see them, and I wanted to know more about all of them, which--well, how often does that happens for every secondary character in a book?

If you don't mind pretty intense reads (there is a lot of killing in this book) or complicated characters, this is a fast-moving, interesting thriller. (And bonus! I enjoyed Isabel's thoughts about writing, which I didn't expect at all!)

Sharon says

It was a morning just like any other for Isabel Raine as she kissed her loving husband, Marcus goodbye as he leaves for work. What Isabel didn't know that morning was Marcus wouldn't return home that night from work. All of Isabel's calls go unanswered even the messages she leaves at his office. Then she gets a call from his phone, but all she can hear is a mans distraught voice. She phones the police, but they show no

interest.

Isabel becomes more distressed and she begins to panic and rushes over to his office. It's there she discovers the FBI in the middle of a raid. Hours later Isobel wakes in a hospital bed with severe concussion. A homicide detective waits patiently at her bedside waiting to interview her about Marcus.

As time passes, Isobel is left questioning what happened to her husband and will he ever be found. This is the first book I've read by Lisa Unger which I did enjoy, but I expected to enjoy it a bit more than I did. In saying that I will continue to read more books by this author.

Linda C says

I am probably being overly generous with the stars (probably 3.5 would be a fairer rating) as I usually reserve four stars for books with either exceptional writing or books that appealed to me on a deep level, but this book is a strong example of suspense/crime drama. Ergo, it earned four stars.

Although you knew from the beginning that Isabel's husband was not who he said he was, this was a tight, entertaining book to read. Of course, I wanted Marcus to redeem himself and come back for Isabel, or for Isabel to decide that she loved him no matter what he did (OK, maybe that would be a stretch, since he did kill a number of people... LOL) In any case, even though we knew a lot of things from the beginning, this was still a fun read.

In the matter of the stars and reviews, I have been accused of being overly critical and unkind to certain authors (I called "The Castaways" one of the worst books ever written and gave it one star), but it is not that I am being elitist-- it's that I don't like bad writing in whatever category you're reading. If you are going to write chick lit, write good chick lit. If you're going to write suspense/crime novels, write good ones. Few books in either genre will be remembered as great literature, but they can be well written and fun to read.

This book was fun to read. I cared about the characters, and what happened to them. It was interesting to see how Marcus could manipulate so many people, even when people had misgivings about him.

Jeanette "Astute Crabbist" says

Three-point-five stars

What if you discovered that you knew nothing about the person you were married to? Creepy stuff. It would seem far-fetched, except that I've read several of Ann Rule's true crime stories about women who married dangerous men. These men fabricated life stories for themselves and the women fell for it, to their detriment. The main character in this book, Isabel Raines, is like those women. She's relatively happily married, wealthy, and has a successful career as a novelist. But like many of us women, she didn't pay attention to the warning signs where her heart was concerned. Her entire life unravels in the space of one day when her husband Marcus disappears. She's a stubborn girl who puts herself in harm's way to discover what happened to Marcus and find out who he really was.

Lisa Unger's thrillers have a lot in common with Harlan Coben's stand-alone novels, but with the addition of

the feminine motivations and emotional baggage. And some "girly-girl" things thrown in just for fun. I loved the description of Manolo Blahniks: "But this is barely even a shoe! It's like a tongue depressor with some dental floss tied around it."

p.s. I want Jack for my boyfriend, but he is definitely TGTBT!

Lisa Kay says

★★★★☆ Needed this book to fulfill an A-Z Author challenge and I'm glad I stumbled across it. Interesting thriller. Lots of adultery (which is not my thing). Great narration by Ann Marie Lee; I'll definitely listen to another of her books and read or listen to another of Lisa Unger's books.

Mystica says

Looking at Marcus and Isabel you'd think they had it all. Love, riches, happiness, good careers and a bright future. No one knew that it was a carefully built facade at least by one of them and that the bubble would burst and how.

Marcus kisses his wife and leaves for work. It is the last time she would see him as she knew him and her nightmare begins. Missing from work, he does not return home, his movements cannot be accounted for and then the assaults begin. First the office is trashed, three innocent staff killed and Isabel is badly injured. Then the apartment is trashed and it looks very personal the way the damage is inflicted. All her accounts are wiped out and Isabel finds that the man she loved and married is definitely not the person the Police are seeking. Going back to his Czech roots involving mafia, crime, corruption and betrayal of every kind Marcus is the very scum of the earth betraying at every turn not just women who fell in love with him but also his own family.

Told by alternate characters and then going back to Isabel as a narrator the story holds your interest and unwinds slowly showing how cleverly and seemingly so very easily a person can impersonate or rather take over a character of another person and then live out a lie with clever, meticulous planning.

The damage left behind by the calculated actions of Marcus is immense. One feels for his victims

especially Isabel as she is the only survivor of his demonic plans. You only hope she will recover and learn to live again.

L.E. Fidler says

am i the only one who hates it when an author creates a protagonist who is an author??? it just feels like such a blatant cop out to me.

lisa unger has a knack for addictive popcorny mindrot. she creates ludicrous plots, usually involving a heroine with severe trust issues who blindly falls for the wrong guy and then who must suffer the consequences of once more misplacing that hard-earned trust. sigh. here, it's isabel and she's fallen for a man masquerading as another man, a man he killed. her life goes all topsy-turvy when he disappears, taking all her money with him. then, she goes to prague to find him but he has a gun and ties to the albanian mob, so she ends up almost dead like seventeen times. fun!

let's get down to it.

the brass tacks:

1. unger always starts off with a creepy, cryptic snippet to lure you in. it works, to some degree.
2. the characters are not all vile and despicable, even if the protagonist is sort of insufferable.
3. the first half of the book flies...the end is rough, but, well, that's true of most of unger's oeuvre

the brass knuckles:

1. too many character voices to contend with and a far too convoluted plot to deal with any of them effectively. here, we have the voices of isabel, marcus, grady, and linda as well as sufficient minor characters to cast a small production of "the sound of music". the plot is labyrinthine but not substantial enough to handle half of these characters. imagine the literary equivalent of watching a soap opera, if you will. the subplots ranged from spousal infidelity, two suicides, a stalker, a czech prostitute or two, blackmail, a former one-night-stand with unresolved emotions, a miscarriage...it goes on and on - the real plot got lost in the process.
2. the protagonist - gah. isabel got on my nerves. her "need to know" or need to "fit the pieces together" was just insolent, selfish, and stupid. she was willing to sacrifice her life, her family, her freedom, and her finances for a man who cared only enough to steal her entire fortune. pathetic.
3. the end. what a catastrophe. unger never really explains much about why isabel's husband does what he does and the denouement was rapid, anticlimactic, and dissatisfying. what a waste.

i doubt i'll read another unger book, unless i'm feeling nostalgic for some mediocre writing, constipated thinking, and frustrating female protagonists. but you never know. stranger things have happened.

Gina says

Isabel is a famous writer married to a successful video game developer, Marcus Raine. Their lives seem perfect until one day Marcus doesn't come home. This begins a mixing bowl of betrayal, affairs, suicides, the Albanian mob, stolen identity, stolen money, and a whole lot of other WTF. I wanted to like this book a lot more than I did. The plot intrigued me and continued to do so from start to finish. Unfortunately, the constant change in voice and jump between present day and flashbacks left me at times dazed and confused. (And did anyone else notice how some of the flashbacks at the beginning didn't seem to accurately portray some of the

events at the end?) In addition, I hated all the characters with the exception of the preteen niece and nephew and stepfather Fred. Everyone, and I mean everyone, is lying about something and then trying to justify those lies in context of past unhappiness versus present happiness. This leads to some serious problems with character development as each character is constantly acting against type. I would like to think the author did this on purpose to make some comment on adults (in a general sense) inability to ever be happy, but I'm not so sure it wasn't just bad writing. Isabel is the best/worst example of this as she insists she must find her "husband" and demand answers and her money back. Yet a huge part of the reason she is in this mess is that she routinely made bad decisions, against the advice of everyone, that allowed her to be in her current position. She is able to investigate and find Marcus halfway around the world in just a few days time while still making horrible decisions but insisting that it is "who she is?" I'm never able to join the two sides to her personality into a cohesive character. The TSTL moments are almost too numerous to count for her as well as several other characters. This is my first book by Lisa Unger, and I'm not sure I'll seek out another.

Anna says

2,5 αστερ?κια, οπ?τε β?ζω 3 γιατ? ε?μαι large και ε?ναι και γιορτ?ς!

Δυστυχ?ς περ?μενα περισσ?τερα απ? το βιβλ?ο. Η περ?ληψη μου ε?χε κιν?σει το ενδιαφ?ρον να το διαβ?σω, ανυπομονο?σα μ?λιστα να μ?θω πο? χει εξαφανιστε? ο Μ?ρκους και ποιος τον χει αντικαταστ?σει..

Εντ?ξει, θα ?ταν σ?γουρα χειρ?τερα αν ε?χαν τελικ? απαγ?γει το Μ?ρκους εξωγ?ινοι και η ?ζαμπελ ζο?σε με ?να ανδροειδ?ς που καταγρ?φει τη γ?ινη ζω?, αλλ? αυτ? που τελικ? ?ταν... κ?νει την "Αρπαγ? 3" να φα?νεται τανιν?ρα (by the way: παραμε?νετε στην Αρπαγ? 1). Μια ιστορ?α που ... οκ δεν λ?ω ?τι τ?σο εξτρ?μ που δεν θα μπορο?σε να υπ?ρξει, αλλ?.... εντ?ξει.... ας αν?ψει ?να κερ? σα με το μπ?ι της η ?ζαμπελ που κατ?φερε να επιβι?σει και δεν χρει?ζεται κ?τι ?λλο! Αρκετ? αφ?λεια και εγωισμ?ς ρε παιδ? μου... με τ?τοιο μουλ?ρωμα και ?ταν ε?σαι ?να κορ?τσι του Μανχ?ταν συν?θως σε καθαρ?ζουν με συνοπτικ?ς διαδικασ?ες. Ε?χε την αγων?α του π?ντως!

Για να μας τη σπ?σει με τις ιστορ?ες των γ?ρω, οι οπο?οι φ?ρονται ως ?ριμοι εν?λικες που ξ?ρουν τι θ?λουν και π?ς να το πετ?χουν (NOT), οι συν?πειες της μ@λ@κ?@ς που τους δ?ρνει εν τω μεταξ? πρ?πει να εμφανιστο?ν τ?ρα, που ο κ?σμος κα?γεται με ?να πραγματικ? σοβαρ? θ?μα. Β?λε και κ?τι ψυχολογικ? απ? μια απ?λεια που ποτ? δεν ξεπ?ρασαν.... ουφ... και πολλ? φιλοσοφ?α ρε αδερφ?.. ατ?κες τ?που David Avramidis official (τι κ?νει αυτ?ς ρε παιδι?, καιρ? χω να ακο?σω ν?α του απ? re-post), εντ?ξει, κ?ποια ε?ναι καλ? π?ντως!

Θα ?ταν ?να ιδανικ? βιβλ?ο για κ?ποιον που δεν ε?ναι εξοικειωμ?νος με αντ?στοιχα ?ργα (σαφ?ς προτιμ?στε το κορ?τσι του τρ?νου ? gillian flynn), κατ? προτ?μηση γννα?κα (για να αντ?χει την περιττ? φλυαρ?α) και ιδανικ? για παραλ?ες ? μεγ?λα ταξ?δια με ΜΜΜ. Ε?ναι και σε pocket edition, οπ?τε κουββαλ?ται ε?κολα...

Π?ρα ?μως απ? σα του ?σουρα ?να επ?πεδο το χει - ?να ?τσι; μην το παρακ?νουμε!!!

Jenn says

Contains spoilers!!!!

Okay, to start with, normally when you read a book you like the main character or at least understand him/her. I very much disliked Isabelle. Her every decision was stupid, naive and completely selfish. She puts her family in jeopardy just because she wants to know why? I could understand, disagree with but understand her putting herself in jeopardy, but to risk her family?? Even after her stepfather is almost killed, it doesn't stop her. Her own husband, her love, points a gun in her face and will easily pull the trigger yet she still chases after him? Then after, he does follow through and shoot her with absolutely no remorse and yet she still follows him asking why?

It was thoughtful writing and brought up good points with good side stories, but I still dislike her and think she doesn't deserve happiness.

Vaso says

Π?σο γνωρ?ζεις τελικ? τον ?νθρωπο που ε?σαι μαζι του; ?να εκπληκτικ? βιβλ?ο, που διαβ?ζεται απνευστ?... Συγχαρητ?ρια στις εκδ?σεις Ψυχογ?ς που επιλ?γουν να εκδ?σουν τ?τοια βιβλ?α....

Annie says

This was a page turner for the most part, and I did enjoy a lot of it. However, the things that I didn't like really bugged me and is the reason that I couldn't rate it higher. Several of the characters made such horrible, reckless and stupid decisions that it seems highly improbable that it would end as well as it did for them. The main character had me so annoyed, irritated and frustrated with her actions that I didn't want to pick the book back up at times. I want to really like the main character. I can seriously dislike or even hate another character in a book (in fact, I kind of enjoy that), but not the main character. I really want to root for them.

Biana says

An interesting tale of a deception that shook our character's entire world...and what she did about it. I'm not giving the full stars simply because the ending was a little too Hollywood.

Kortessa says

I really wanted to like this book a lot! I had great expectations! But unfortunately I was not surprised at all. We follow a woman through the pursuit of her husband who mysteriously disappears... Through that journey she finds out the real life she was leaving in all those years, and everything collapses.. Nothing so special I would say.

What I liked was the first half of the book and the questions without answer that were raised. That part I enjoyed.

But I did not enjoy the ending and the solution to the whole mystery at all. Too flat I guess. But everything is objective so.....

