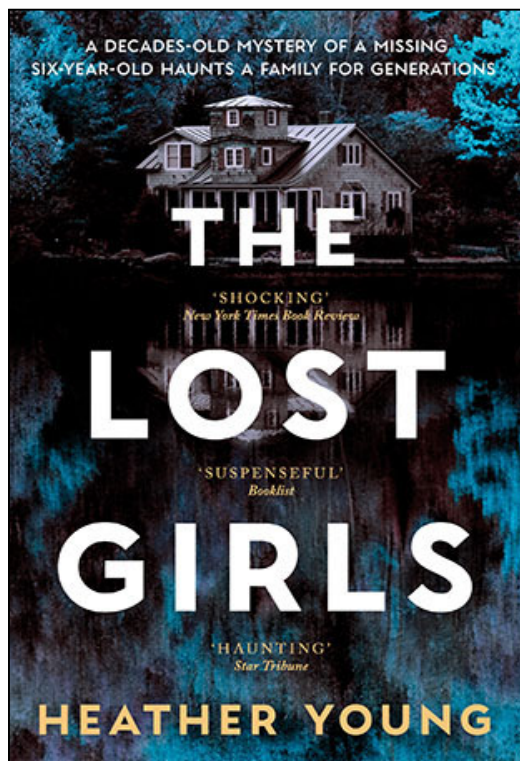




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vervebooks.co.uk/the-lost-girls

THE LOST GIRLS

by HEATHER YOUNG

THE BOOK

In 1935, six-year-old Emily Evans vanishes from her family's summer house on a remote Minnesota lake. Her disappearance destroys the family - her father takes his own life, and her mother and two older sisters spend the rest of their lives at the lake house, keeping a decades-long vigil for the lost child.

Sixty years later, Lucy, the quiet and watchful middle sister, lives in the lake house alone. Before her death, she writes the story of that devastating summer in a notebook that she leaves, along with the house, to the only person who might care: her grandniece, Justine. For Justine, the lake house offers freedom and stability - a way to escape her manipulative boyfriend and give her daughters the home she never had. But the long Minnesota winter is just beginning. The house is cold and dilapidated. The dark, silent lake is isolated and eerie. Her only neighbor is a strange old man who seems to know more about the summer of 1935 than he's telling.

Soon Justine's troubled oldest daughter becomes obsessed with Emily's disappearance, her absent mother reappears, and the man she left launches a dangerous plan to get her back. In a house haunted by the sorrows of the women who came before her, Justine must overcome their tragic legacy if she hopes to save herself and her children.

HEATHER YOUNG (Location: Mill Valley, USA)

Heather Young is the author of two novels. Her debut, *The Lost Girls*, won the Strand Award for Best First Novel and was nominated for an Edgar Award. *The Distant Dead* was named one of the Best Books of Summer 2020 by *People Magazine*, *Parade*, and *CrimeReads*. A former antitrust and intellectual property litigator, she traded the legal world for the literary one and earned her MFA from the Bennington Writing Seminars in 2011. Heather lives in Mill Valley, California, where she writes, bikes, hikes, and reads books by other people that she wishes she'd written.



MARKETING & SALES POINTS

A decades-old mystery of a missing six-year-old haunts a family for generations

Told in the voices of two unforgettable women

Critics have compared the novel to Kate Atkinson's *Case Histories* (sold 429k copies) and will also appeal to fans of Kate Morton's *The Lake House* (sold 176k copies) and readers of Jodi Picoult and Lisa Jewell

Winner of the Strand Award for Best First Novel and nominated for an Edgar Award (the most influential crime awards in the US)

Published in the US (Harper Collins) to critical acclaim, plus US Audio (HarperAudio)

Heather's second novel, *The Distant Dead*, was shortlisted for the 2021 Edgar Award for Best Novel and will be published by Verve Books in April 2022

PRAISE FOR THE LOST GIRLS

'The delicacy of [Young's] writing elevates the drama and gives her two central characters depth and backbone... For all the beauty of Young's writing, her novel is a dark one... and the murder mystery that drives it is as shocking as anything you're likely to read for a good long while' - *New York Times Book Review*
'Suspenseful and finely wrought, Young's tale is not easily forgotten' - *Booklist*
'This book has it all - intrigue, complicated relationships, and a thrilling plotline - and it will appeal to fans of long-spanning '90s stories like *Fried Green Tomatoes* and *Steel Magnolias*' - *Bustle*

'I was swept into *The Lost Girls* on the very first page... Heather Young weaves a captivating, multi-layered story that you won't want to put down' - **Vanessa Diffenbaugh**, internationally bestselling author of *The Language of Flowers*
'Riveting... Told with finesse and an unflinching eye, *The Lost Girls* examines the bond between sisters, what it means to keep a promise, and how one family's secrets can stretch across generations' - **Tara Conklin**, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The House Girl*

'A novel of quiet intensity that builds to a terrifying climax. *The Lost Girls* contains echoes of Kate Atkinson's *Case Histories* and is just as haunting' - *Minneapolis Star Tribune*

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A BODY BURNS IN THE DESERT... DOES THE BOY
WHO FOUND IT KNOW MORE THAN IT SEEMS?

'STUNNING'
Booklist (starred review)

THE DISTANT DEAD

'ENGAGING'
New York Times

HEATHER YOUNG