



Thin Air

Written by Lisa Gray

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Thin Air

By Lisa Gray

Thin Airfoil Theory

She investigates missing persons—now she is one. Private investigator Jessica Shaw is used to getting anonymous tips. But after receiving a photo of a three-year-old kidnapped from Los Angeles twenty-five years ago, Jessica is stunned to recognize the little girl as herself. Eager for answers, Jessica heads to LA's dark underbelly. When she learns that her biological mother was killed the night she was abducted, Jessica's determined to solve a case the police have forgotten. Meanwhile, veteran LAPD detective Jason Pryce is in the midst of a gruesome investigation into a murdered college student moonlighting as a prostitute. A chance encounter leads to them crossing paths, but Jessica soon realizes that Pryce is hiding something about her father's checkered history and her mother's death. To solve her mother's murder and her own disappearance, Jessica must dig into the past and find the secrets buried there. But the air gets thinner as she crawls closer to the truth, and it's getting harder and harder to breathe.

Missing person PI Jessica Shaw is looking for her next gig when she realizes that she is her own client. Alicia Lavelle, abducted at age three the night her mother was murdered is Jessica's real identity. The picture of the missing girl holding the Barbie, *her* Barbie is actually Jessica which means her father lied all these years. A college student Amy Ong is missing and found butchered in a similar manner to Eleanor Lavelle, Jessica's mother. Could there be a connection and if so, Jessica may be next?

THIN AIR is more mystery than thriller. Lisa Gray hooked me in with the intriguing plot and different points of view. I couldn't help to hope for a happy ending for Jessica, she certainly deserved it. The secretive small town cast of characters led me had no shortage of plausible suspects. Most everyone had something to hide.

THIN AIR is the first in a two part series with Jessica Shaw. I can't wait to read the sequel. What I liked about THIN AIR is that the story was complete at the end, no cliffhanger to make me buy the next book. I do not like waiting a year to finish a story so props to Gray for trusting readers will care enough to buy book two. ...more

Thin Air Meaning

I'm mixed about this book. For the most part it was OK, sometimes interesting but I did find it easy to put down.

I figured out the killer the moment the character was introduced so it was important how the investigation went that made the story work. For the most part, the investigation was OK. There was actually some footwork involved. I liked the characters of Price and his partner Medina.

I thought it was extremely weird and a little too contrived that all the major players are essentially sitting in the same chair 25 years after Jessica's mother was killed. Plus Jessica was a little TSTL at the end which was disappointing.

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The contents of the envelope from her "dad" was a nice touch. ...more

Really happy to have chosen this as May's First Read.

A novel twist on the private investigator formula. What happens when a troubled and drifting PI who specialises mainly in finding missing people gets an anonymous message suggesting she looks into a disappearance from 25 years ago, only to realise the little girl who disappeared was her? How does she handle the fact that her whole life may have been a lie, a sham, the people she grew up with weren't who she thought they were and she had a whole other life stolen away from her about which she has no knowledge? Really happy to have chosen this as May's First Read.

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Well, what happens is she determines to try to solve the mystery, even if what she finds is painful. But there are other factors at play, not least a gruesome murder of a beautiful young woman, led by a detective she has seen before. Coincidence or twist?

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While I'm not sure about the premise of a missing-persons private detective basically working as an "ambulance chaser" looking for cases to work unsolicited (seems a strange way to try to make a living), it is fundamental in setting up the plot. Where it goes from there is genuine intrigue which creates a page turner that keeps you gripped.

I thoroughly enjoyed this book and recommend it to anyone who likes mysteries, private eye stories or procedurals. An element of psychological thriller but that's definitely not its main artery. Where Jessica Shaw goes from here, I'm not sure. There is obviously a second book for her in the pipeline, so we'll see where the author can take her next.

Recommended 4 stars, another author I will be looking to add to my TBR lists.

...more

Thin Air

Thin Air Podcast

Intriguing plot

My choice of First Reads for May, the synopsis intrigued me-a picture from the past linking Jessica to a murder and a missing child. The author goes back and forth between the main characters, each with a different perspective.

I try not to do spoilers, so I will just say- this story is interesting and it is the start of a series. I look forward to reading more about Jessica Shaw- I like the author's writing style.

She investigates missing personsâ€”now she is one.

I really enjoyed this fast paced un-putdownable mystery/thriller with an enticing premise that delivered on the nose, and then some!

The main character, Jessica Shaw, is fun and feisty- the kind of girl you want to have on your side (and definitely go for a drink with!) I can't wait for the next in the series.

Thin Air Book

I read a lot, and I've never read a book with this premise. THIN AIR is unique. And the way the author, Lisa Gray, pulls it off is exceptional. I enjoyed the clever twists and turns that led to an incredibly satisfying end. I highly recommend this book.

What certainly captivated me about the plot of this book is how the protagonist is listed as a missing person and that she is totally unaware of this. The mystery that unravels surrounding her identity is pretty thrilling as the writer pulls in a parallel plot with the murder of a young girl.

For a while I found it difficult to see any connection between Jessica's story and Amy's murder. The narrative perspective shifts between several key characters and it takes a while for readers to learn about What certainly captivated me about the plot of this book is how the protagonist is listed as a missing person and that she is totally unaware of this. The mystery that unravels surrounding her identity is pretty thrilling as the writer pulls in a parallel plot with the murder of a young girl.

For a while I found it difficult to see any connection between Jessica's story and Amy's murder. The narrative perspective shifts between several key characters and it takes a while for readers to learn about key events leading up to Amy's murder, for example. However, as the plot developed, I found that I had correctly predicted the outcome of the novel, reducing the thrilling event of this read.

Jessica is quite a sassy Private Investigator. Breaking locks and pulling on contacts, she is one to have on your side! However, her appearance in Eagle Rock has set the local gossips chattering and soon it becomes clear that she isn't the only one interested in a murder and child disappearance that happened twenty-five years ago. Jessica is eventually able to solve the clues about her past and readers are treated to total closure at the end of the story.

What made this a satisfying read was the fact that the writer does not leave this story on a cliffhanger. Despite being the first in a series, it is not made clear where Gray will take the story for the next instalment. Whilst this does mean this is easily read as a stand-alone novel, I certainly believe that this reduced how gripping the novel was as it reached its conclusion. It's not a boring story, but the obvious plot development meant that for me, the story lacked a natural increase in pace towards the end. The end is simply that: Jessica has the answers to her past and moves on. As a result, I would consider other thrillers first before reading this book.

This is a good read but not very suspenseful or gripping. It moves at a relatively fast pace and the end is satisfyingly conclusive. Whether I would rush out to read the next one however, remains to be seen.
...more

Thin Air Lisa Gray

Private investigator Jessica Shaw lives out of her pickup truck. Wanders around and picks up work where she can. Mostly she tries to solve missing persons cases, people who vanished into Thin Air (get it???)... Then she gets an anonymous email about a missing person - a 3 year old child that looks exactly like her from an old photo, because it is her. That starts her search to find out who she is, who her parents were, all tied together with a murder the night her father disappeared with her. It Private investigator Jessica Shaw lives out of her pickup truck. Wanders around and picks up work where she can. Mostly she tries to solve missing persons cases, people who vanished into Thin Air (get it???)... Then she gets an anonymous email about a missing person - a 3 year old child that looks exactly like her from an old photo, because it is her. That starts her search to find out who she is, who her parents were, all tied together with a murder the night her father disappeared with her. It was an okay story, pretty implausible, but I can suspend belief for a while. But... the writing was not awesome. From one section of just a few pages there were these gems: "her legs tangled in bedsheets as thin as cigarette papers", "The heat outside was as heavy as a wool coat", "a woman whose short life seemed to have had more missing pieces than a yard sale jigsaw puzzle", "gates flanked on either side by hedges as neat as a Brazilian wax". By about the third one, I was laughing... It wasn't all that bad, but it could have used a good editor... maybe 2 1/2 stars on a generous day. This is apparently the start of a series that I won't be finishing. ...more

This is the first book by Lisa Gray that I have read and won't be my last. In fact, this one is a series and another one about Jessica Shaw will be coming out soon.

Jessica is a Private Detective. When her father passed away, she had a hard time with his death. She sold everything, and just wanders around the country investigating missing persons and murder cases. She takes all kinds of cases though.

When she is in a small town going over what case she might take on next, she gets an email from Jo This is the first book by Lisa Gray that I have read and won't be my last. In fact, this one is a series and another one about Jessica Shaw will be coming out soon.

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When she is in a small town going over what case she might take on next, she gets an email from John Doe. She is given a link to click on, what she finds will changer her whole life. She is on a Missing Persons Page, and the picture of a three year old girl, is her. Now Jessica, doesn't know who she is and when she finds out information on the case, she finds that the little girl was missing, when her Mother was found dead. So her whole life was lies? Who was the mother and dad that raised her?

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This one really moves along and didn't guess the ending..I always love that! Really great read, not to be missed. Look forward to more by this author. ...more

Thin Air Mattress

SOME MAY CONSIDER THIS A SPOILER!!!!!! POSITIVES; It was a creative concept for mystery. Gray's description of Hollywood felt real. It was like the set of the series Goliath. NEGATIVES; Dropping the story of one character when something was about to be revealed in one chapter and taking up another character's perspective in the next, only made it a little confusing and did not add to the story (this works sometimes, here not so much). The answer to the main mystery could be easily guessed 1/4 of

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Unoriginal concept bogged down by excessive description, particularly during the first half. The characters were enjoyable and the settings were interesting. The overall mystery kept me interested as I couldn't settle on an ideal suspect so I ultimately enjoyed the finale. Unfortunately the description was my major peeve, it felt like I couldn't just imagine anything in any one scene. Hopefully there will be some changes to that in future instalments as Jessica Shaw is a very cool character.

Thin Air Labs

I thought the premise was good, but the book was just OK. I wouldn't consider it much of a thriller. Still interesting though when all the pieces come together.

I don't hand out five star ratings too frequently. But Thin Air kept me gripped all the way to the end. I got this book as part of Amazon's Kindle First program. As an Amazon Prime member, each month I get to choose on of at least six titles for no additional charge. This month I chose Thin Air.

The surprising part is that I actually read it. I have over nine hundred books on my Kindle (probably nothing compared to some people), and when I finish a title, I normally go back to the oldest title in my library. I don't hand out five star ratings too frequently. But Thin Air kept me gripped all the way to the end. I got this book as part of Amazon's Kindle First program. As an Amazon Prime member, each month I get to choose on of at least six titles for no additional charge. This month I chose Thin Air.

The surprising part is that I actually read it. I have over nine hundred books on my Kindle (probably nothing compared to some people), and when I finish a title, I normally go back to the oldest title in my library. So I have yet to read one of my Kindle First titles. Until this one.

Prologue: The book begins with a murder. Written in first person from the perspective of the killer. We have no clue who it is, other than the indication that the person murdered seems to know the murderer.

Jessica Shaw is a private investigator. Originally hailing from New York (or so she thinks), she has left there and travels around, living out of cheap hotels, wherever she can find a job to work. She specializes in missing persons.

One day, as she sits in a diner, in Simi Valley, trying to figure out where to go next, she gets an email from a "John Doe," simply titled "Your next case?" She opens the email, which included only a link to a missing persons website. She clicks on the link and sees the photo of a missing person, a two or three year old kid. She had seen the photo before.

Because the kid was her.

Now there's a plot line I've never seen before. I am instantly hooked! From this point, the story shifts back and forth between several people. One of them is Amy Ong, the girl who is murdered in the prologue. As the story unveils, we get bits and pieces of what has happened to her and why.

We are also introduced to an LAPD detective named Jason Pryce. The thing is, Jessica had seen him before, too. She finally realized that she had seen him at her father's funeral a few years back.

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As this story unfolds, the connections get more and more complex. There are unexpected twists and turns that simply leave the reader almost gasping for air. Perhaps I'm being overly dramatic, but it really felt that way. There were quite a few, "Oh, my GOSH!" moments in the story. Those are the things that keep me reading.

There would, no doubt, be some who would disagree with me, but I would put this story right up there with *The Girl On the Train*. It kept me that interested. And the ending, well, lets just say I didn't see that coming.

I will definitely be on the lookout for more of Lisa Gray's work. ...more

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Thin Air Lyrics

Worth reading

I quite enjoyed this book. It was fairly well written. The story held my interest. I do think some of the actions taken by several of the characters were a bit hard to believe. And so many people having such clear memories of events that happened 25 years ago are unbelievable.

This book will grip you from the very start and it has multiple layers to pull away. It has many twist and turns from it and you will not want to put this down. No matter what else is going on around you. One not to be missed.

Thin Air

Thin Air Jessica Shaw

Maybe 2.5 stars?

I enjoy a good mystery/detective story from time to time. The two interwoven stories were promising, and as this was an Amazon first read for May, I decided to go for it.

My first impression? There was some good suspense, and cliffhanging ends of chapters.

My second impression? The story primarily takes place in LA, but it's clear an English author wrote this. (Turns out she's a Scot.) How do I know? From the multiple Britishisms throughout the book. For something that is supposed to be quintessentially American, it's pretty off. Where was the editor?

Americans receive a package in the mail, not a "parcel." Americans don't talk about "that lot," but rather a bunch, or a group or a pile, etc. Very few Americans call their mother "mum." Of course, I had no problem understanding, but it all just rang false.

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The writing was a bit clunky, too. Everything detail was explained, just in case the reader couldn't figure it out on her own (or "work it out"). And the older character, the mail carrier who remembered Eleanor, talked like a novelist. Not that a mail carrier can't have that kind of vocabulary and speaking style, but it's not common.

And why is the title "Thin Air?" What's the connection?

So, the price was right, the ending was fairly satisfying and I'm not at all a fan of the writing. ...more

Read thanks to amazon first reads.

The idea that a PI is investigating her own missing persons picture intrigued me.

I've read a few mysteries and thrillers, crime books and PI books and I was pleasantly surprised not to be able to guess the end result. Maybe I should have seen connections earlier. Oh well.

Not a bad intro into a new series. I look forward to the next.