

The background features a complex network of white nodes connected by thin purple lines, set against a gradient background that transitions from dark purple at the top to a bright pink at the bottom. The nodes are scattered across the frame, with some forming distinct geometric shapes like triangles and quadrilaterals. The overall aesthetic is modern and digital.

# The Secrets of Lost Stones

Written by Melissa Payne

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Published by kctv7

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# The Secrets of Lost Stones

By Melissa Payne

## The Secrets Of Underground Medicine

A soul-stirring novel about the bonds between mother and child and the redemption that comes with facing the past and letting it go.

## The Secrets Of The Immortal Nicholas Flamel

Thirty-two-year-old Jess Abbot has lost everything: her job, her apartment, and her most heart-wrenching her eight-year-old son, Chance, to a tragic accident. Haunted by memories and grief, Jess packs what's left and heads for the small mountain town of Pine Lake, where she takes a position as caregiver to an eccentric old woman.

## The Secrets Of Sand Hill Road

A rumored clairvoyant, Lucy is strange but welcoming and immediately intuits Jess as a "loose end" in need of closure. But Jess isn't the only guest in Lucy's large Victorian home. There's also Star, a teenage runaway with a secret too painful to share. And the little boy with heart-shaped stones, who comes with a hope for reconciliation and a warning.

## The Secrets Of Bloodmoon Island

Soon Jess learns that she's not the only lost soul running from the ghosts of the past. She and Star have been brought together for a reason: to be saved by the very thing that destroyed them.

The loose ends people, the loose ends!!

I loved the whole damn story and all the peeps, the supernatural element and how it all came together!!

Mel                              

<https://www.amazon.com/gp/aw/review/1...>

## The Secrets Of Lost Stones

Actual: 4.25/5

It's not often that a new author's first novel wows me. Really wows me. But this one did and multiple times. The Secrets of Lost Stones is a novel I already know I'm going to have trouble explaining and reviewing. It's one of those novels that caught me by surprise (in a good way). But also in a way that would make me stall if someone were to ask: "What's that book about?" That's because I went into this book thinking it was going to be one thing, only to come out realizing it's something else entirely. And that's just part of the mystery surrounding this wonderful story: You don't quite know what you're going to get or how all the pieces will connect. So how can I explain a novel without revealing that secret?

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I didn't mean for that last part to rhyme, but I guess it did. I'm going to roll with it.

The story is told from two perspectives: Star and Jess. And while, normally, I'm not a fan of multiple perspectives, as I feel it doesn't allow the time to properly connect to characters, I felt extremely connected to Jess and Star. Connected in the sense that I knew where they were coming from; understood their troubles; understood and felt their emotions alongside them. Therefore, this is a rarity and quite possibly a first that I actually enjoyed/loved a dual perspective. This duality of storytelling added to the story; it not only added to the story, but to the depth of the characters themselves.

The dual perspective adds to the story, but I won't say how or why. I won't because figuring out the importance between the perspectives is important to the story itself. So I won't spoil it. But, trust me, the perspective's work really well and the flow from Star to Jess is great. They also have their own distinct voices; if I was to flip to a random chapter right now I'm 100% sure I could tell you whose chapter it is.

This is a fiction story but I also want to say it's part mystery, thriller, and horror (yes, at times, I would argue!). But it's also a story that's meaningful and important; it shows how, many times, we as humans think our stories don't connect to other people when they can and they do "but sometimes we don't always see that link. At least, not at first. ...more

The Secrets of Lost Stones

â••â••â••â•• ðŸ« / 5 rounded up.

The Secrets of Lost Stones by Melissa Payne is such a jarring and emotional book, and I am so glad I had the opportunity to read it.

What it's about: Jess is only 32 but she has lost everything: her job, her home, and most importantly, her son. She packs up the few things she owns and heads from Denver into the mountains where her car dies in the small town of Pine Lake. She takes a job as a caregiver for a woman named Lucy, who may be old but is said to be the 'Witch of Pine Lake'.

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I think it is going to be hard for me to put into words quite just how I felt about The Secrets of Lost Stones. It is such an emotional book, and even though I eventually figured out what was going on before it was revealed, that didn't make a bit of difference to change how I felt about the book as a whole. It was a page-turner, and I was so engaged that I had a hard time putting it down. I would try to read another book but kept coming back to it because I just had to know how it would end.

I loved so many characters in this book. Lucy, Star and Jess were all wonderful, and so was Lucy's friend Phoebe plus other supporting characters. Bad things happen and it is heartbreaking, but there were also moments that made me smile and laugh out loud. I think Payne managed to create the perfect blend of sadness and happiness in The Secrets of Lost Stones. The viewpoints switch between Lucy and Star, and while I would have been interested in a bit of Lucy's POV, I still loved the way these two viewpoints came together in the book.

There is a hint of the supernatural in The Secrets of Lost Stones, so for those of you that don't like that in a book this might not be the right read. For me though, it was chilling but wonderful, and actually gave me goosebumps more than once. I am really interested in Lucy as a character and would love to see her come back in another novel as maybe a prequel?! She was such an interesting person, and her 'gift' is something I would love explored in another book.

Song/s the book brought to mind: Beware of Darkness as covered by Sheryl Crow.

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The Secrets of Lost Stones

Final Thought: The Secrets of Lost Stones is a definite tear-jerker so if you find yourself crying during books like me, you should probably keep some tissues handy! Payne's writing is simply gorgeous, and I really couldn't tell this was a debut novel. This book will keep you up late wanting closure, and I cannot wait to see what comes out of this woman's mind next! Plus, with a gorgeous cover this is definitely a book you want on your shelf. ;)

Thank you to the publisher and author for providing me with advance review copies of this book, all opinions are my own. ...more

## The Secrets Of Droon

This book kept me up till the early hours, which says plenty about it !! It was my Kindle First selection for August. I enjoyed it so much and it held my interest throughout, so, though it's an old cliché, it was absolutely gripping !! I adore the cover and this is the author's debut novel, which is really impressive. It's fascinating how this rag-tag selection of very different people all end up sharing a house, each with their own miserable pasts, yet they make it work. There were a lot of surprises along the way for sure. This book kept me up till the early hours, which says plenty about it !! It was my Kindle First selection for August. I enjoyed it so much and it held my interest throughout, so, though it's an old cliché, it was absolutely gripping !! I adore the cover and this is the author's debut novel, which is really impressive.

It's fascinating how this rag-tag selection of very different people all end up sharing a house, each with their own miserable pasts, yet they make it work. There were a lot of surprises along the way for sure. Also some comedic moments among them. Yet one passage made me terribly sniffy as well. My favourite character was Star, I'd say.....she had a really good heart.

My only real critique in this story is that she utilises a few descriptions too often, such as the amount of time a character sighs, pressing arms into bellies, pulling a ponytail tight, hugging arms across chests then stuffing hands under thighs. They were all used too often. I didn't stumble upon one mistake till I was 85% in and it was where a fullstop was used and not a comma, then for paper clipped I'd have added a hyphen. I'd have disagreed with the final sentence, too, and would've left it out. However, that is bloody good going for a new author and coupled with the absorbing storyline, she has a real winner on her hands, I reckon.

I'll definitely look out for her next book. This one is well worth a go, trust me. ...more

The Secrets of Lost Stones is a beautifully written, moving novel about finding forgiveness and family in the least likely places. Melissa Payne has crafted a compelling story with engaging prose and well-developed characters who you'll fall in love with just like I did.

Lucy is a mysterious woman, known as the witch of Pine Lake, who has surrounded herself with lost souls—most living, and some only partially alive—whose stories still have loose ends that need tying up. The problem? Lucy can't always predict how these loose ends will resolve. It's up to the people she's brought together to figure that out for themselves.

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The two main characters with loose ends are Jess and Star. Jess is a thirty-something woman who is running from the scars of her past tragedies and desperately searching for a new life. Star is a

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The Secrets of Lost Stones

homeless teenager who has been forced to fend for herself. Both characters are fully fleshed out, their stories heartbreaking and their pain (and happiness) so real it jumps off the page. The cast of supporting characters is equally as intriguing, all hiding their own secrets. Even the town of Pine Lake becomes a character, and the reader will feel as though they've been welcomed into this tight-knit mountain town for a blueberry muffin and some meddling with their own loose ends.

Throughout the book, Payne perfectly blends real life with hints of otherworldliness that leave the characters and the reader guessing "did these unexplainable things happen or not? Most importantly, The Secrets of Lost Stones is about the bonds of family and home—the ones chosen for you and the ones you discover along the way. This book is a must read! It brought me to tears several times (happy and sad) and it made me laugh out loud. I can't wait for Payne's next novel!! ...more

## The Secrets Of Jonathan Sperry

You can read all my review on [Blog - Books Teacup and Reviews](#)

The Secrets of Lost Stones was emotional and intriguing women's fiction with mystery, drama and spirits that revolved around Jess and Star, two loose ends tied up in picturesque setting of Pine Lake. It was about getting over loss, grief and haunted memories, giving life a second chance, friendship and bonding with new people and place, hope, justice, and redemption.

“World is not just round, it's small too.” That fits so right here.

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Characters-

Jess, in early 30s, was broken wondering soul until she found Lucy and worked as her caregiver. She was fragile, deeply suffering from loss of her son. I had mixed feeling about her reaction towards Star, initially. I understood it was tough for her to care for another child who was of her son's age but she insisting Star should not live at Lucy's house little ticked me off. Her intentions were right and I could hear her point but at some time I felt she was being unfair. But overall, I liked her. She was not perfect, just hurt. She was realistic and amazing character in the book.

Star was 15yr old teenage foster kid who ran away from her foster home and was living on streets until Lucy found her, invited her with a curious letter. She was tough, strong, smart-ass, and clever girl. She was real fast at understanding signs, opposite of Jess who took eternity to understand what was going on. I liked her reaction towards Lucy, her big home and niceness of people at Pine Lake, her feeling of hope, the way her shell melted during her stay at Lucy's place. She was mature for her age, helped Jess and Lucy, bonded nicely with all characters, and appreciated Lucy's help. I understood her fear and emotions. She turned out such beautiful character in the book who deserved all the love.

Lucy “ Here comes my favorite character. She was around 80yr old, peculiar, gifted, and unbelievably strong and tough witch of the Pine Lake who made me smile every time I read about her and her conversation with characters. I loved her sticky notes, and crossword puzzles, and calendar.

All characters were developed, sensible, lovable, and realistic. Okay, not all! Villain was such deceiving and heartless but I liked the way character was presented.

What I liked-

First of all loved writing style. It was flawless, descriptive, beautiful, and also emotive. I loved the small town setting. Pine Lake, people of the town, their stories and their love for Lucy was great in this book. What I wouldn't give to have house like Lucy's. Lucy's big, old Victorian house and the ghost town gave the haunting feel to the book.

Story was told in dual perspective. Star and Jess both had intense voice that drew me right into their world of grief, loss and ocean of memories. They both told their story, their thought about other characters brilliantly.

It started with Jess arriving Pine Lake, broke, jobless and homeless without any aim, who stumbled upon Lucy's shop where she found a job and opportunity to start over. Star, a teenage foster kid, living on streets also found an opportunity to live better life when she accidentally met Lucy and Jess. Accidents don't just happen when Lucy is mediator. She called these two "loose ends" who needed to be at one place, destined to tie up, but why? What was connecting these loose ends, and how Lucy knew about it, what she was seeing and how she was helping them by bringing them together? And then there was other mysteries, how Star lost her best friend, how Jess lost her son and what he was doing outside of their apartment on the road? It made me intrigued and story so interesting and gripping.

When Jess and Star gathered at one place, things started to take shape. Like Lucy's cross-word puzzle, one by one gates of their memory and secrets opened, their connection started to make sense. At around 60% I figured out who was the cause of their loss. Sounds predictable, huh? But no, here is what impressed me most. Even though I made the story sound simple, it was not, it was complex and dramatic. Author opened the cards of mystery one at a time, revealing the right card at right time keeping enough suspense that made me read story till the end.

Emotions ruled the characters' life and story. Their grief, anger, loneliness, hopelessness, fear were deep, I could feel what they were going through and I could easily put myself in their situation. I bet most of the readers will feel connected to them. Jess thought she couldn't be mother again but oh, how wrong she was. Her motherly nature, her care for Star was just right and enough to make Star feel wanted, to remind her of her own mother. Bond between these ladies from three different generation was mesmerizing.

The mix of realistic and supernatural elements was seamless and well presented. I liked the theme of the book- justice and redemption, second chance to life, letting go of past, and freeing the taught pent up emotions and energy.

Climax was most interesting. I was waiting for this moment so long. Even though I saw it coming, I

couldn't figure out how until I read it. The events between climax and end were tight and tense. That supernatural part in the end gave the story perfect end.

Overall, I just loved everything about this book. Great plot and setting, emotions and drama, perfect blend of realistic and supernatural world, wonderful characterization, and intriguing mystery. It was wow.

\*\*\* Note: I received e-copy of this book from the author via NetGalley, in exchange for an honest review. \*\*\* ...more

Not too bad for an Amazon Prime First Book.

I do like a magic realism story, and as a teacher, I'm always interested in teen stories. The setting is a part of the US I am unfamiliar with, so that's a nice perk. No question that the author, Melissa Payne, is a storyteller.

I enjoyed the characters, especially Star and Lucy. The entire plot toggles back and forth between Jess's and Star's point of view (but in third person), sometimes overlapping a bit. As in life, everyone understands experiences Not too bad for an Amazon Prime First Book.

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I enjoyed the characters, especially Star and Lucy. The entire plot toggles back and forth between Jess's and Star's point of view (but in third person), sometimes overlapping a bit. As in life, everyone understands experiences slightly differently.

I enjoyed the pacing; it kept me reading. But I was frequently frustrated by the stop-and-start, teaser-like plot. We almost know the answer for Jess...but wait! No! New chapter about Star! We'll come back to Jess later.

Similarly, the story felt repetitive to me. (view spoiler)[ How many times will Star go back and forth: Stay. Leave. Stay. Leave? I realize that this indecision is normal in a situation like this. But we don't need it so often to get the general idea. And Jess? Even though she was understandably broken by her son's death, we the readers are smart enough to get the point once or twice that she is reluctant to open up to Star. I didn't count how many times she hesitated, but it was more than necessary. (hide spoiler)] Bottom line: A little editing could have produced a tighter story.

I was thinking about the book after I finished. I mulled over the horrors both Star and Jess had lived through and felt compassion. Perhaps this book would be difficult for some readers. But then I also wondered if (view spoiler)[ the message is you need a magical ghost to solve these kinds of terrifying

problem. That there is no other way, no way humans alone can do it (hide spoiler)] ? Hmmmm.

I don't regret reading it, but I think there's some work to be done here.

...more

## The Secrets Of Nimh

Wish there was more!

I only wish that we could have met Lucy earlier in other episodes and stories. Meeting her so late in life, Lucy being 85, makes me know weâ€™ve missed so many good stories about her. The storyline is reminiscent of the Hallmarks the good witchâ€™, and just like with that show, I would have enjoyed more flamboyant examples of Lucyâ€™s power, Chances development into such a powerful ghost entity, and a hint of where Star and Jess go now. Ending up back in foster care for 8 months was a bummer. Wish there was more!

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A fantastic book full of all the good stuff. Love, mystery, magic and crossword puzzles. I was sad to finish it because I couldnâ€™t be in the story anymore. Highly recommend

## The Secrets Of Isis

3.5 stars rounded up. This was my August Amazon First Read. I loved that the story was unique, poignant and imaginative. The characters were intriguing and well written, and the story itself was lovely. What drove me crazy was this author's need to tell us every little thought and nuance of the story - we understood very early on that Jess and Star were damaged and skittish - we didn't need to continue to read their thought processes that reinforced this. I also thought that the 180 degree turna 3.5 stars rounded up. This was my August Amazon First Read. I loved that the story was unique, poignant and imaginative. The characters were intriguing and well written, and the story itself was lovely. What drove me crazy was this author's need to tell us every little thought and nuance of the story - we understood very early on that Jess and Star were damaged and skittish - we didn't need to continue to read their thought processes that reinforced this. I also thought that the 180 degree turnaround of the "villain" was abrupt and left me feeling like I missed something. I look forward to this author's future works - and hope to see some fine tuning with her narratives. ...more

Welcome to Pine Lake!

This book was nothing like I expected and different from my usual read... but I was captured from the first page !

Lucy is the witch of Pine Lake and she knows things past and present before they even happen !  
Jess and Star are two people with such hurt in their hearts from losing people in their lives !

Somehow Lucy puts them together so they can help each other !

I laughed and cried and fell in love with the writing and the story !

Thank you to lake union publishing for an ARC Welcome to Pine Lake!

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## The Secrets Of Silicon Valley

Thank you to Lake Union Publishing and NetGalley for providing a ARC for a honest review.

I loved this book! Very heart touching with a touch of mystery thrown in. I cried, I smile, I gasped...covers such a range of emotions!

The story grabbed me from the beginning and kept me engaged throughout the whole story at times had me on the edge of my seat!

The writing flows well and the characters are likeable and so interesting and mysterious!!

I give this 4 1/2 stars so will round it up to 5.

Lost stones

My First Read choice for August, it's listed as Contemporary Fiction - I would list it as paranormal. It's an interesting story, a lot of people with a lot of secrets and a facilitator who brings everything together. I enjoyed the book and the characters and would read more by this author.