



The heights

By Louise Candlish

First published in 2021

Genre and Subject

Revenge – Fiction

Murder – Fiction

Thrillers (Fiction)

Synopsis

The Heights is a tall, slender apartment building among the warehouses of Shad Thames, its roof terrace so discreet you wouldn't know it existed if you weren't standing at the window of the flat directly opposite. But you are. And that's when you see a man up there - a man you'd recognise anywhere. Which makes no sense at all since you know he has been dead for over two years. You know this for a fact. Because you're the one who killed him.

Author Biography

Sunday Times bestselling author Louise Candlish was born in Northumberland, grew up in the Midlands town of Northampton, and moved to the capital to study English at University College London. She is the author of 15 novels, including the #1 bestseller *Our House*, winner of the British Book Awards 2019 Crime & Thriller Book of the Year and now a 4-part ITV drama starring Martin Compston, Tuppence Middleton and Rupert Penry-Jones (view the full series on ITV Hub).

The Other Passenger, a noir tale of adultery and double crossing set among the Thames river commuters, is Louise's first Richard & Judy Book Club pick and was longlisted for the Theakston Old Peculier Crime Novel of the Year Award 2021. An international bestseller, it is now in development for the screen in the US.

Louise's latest release is *The Heights*, a twisty revenge thriller whose narrator, Ellen, has a strange fear of heights known as 'high place phenomenon'. To be published in paperback in the US in March 2022 and the UK in June 2022, it has also been optioned for TV.

Louise lives in South London with her husband, teenage daughter and fox-red Labrador Bertie.

Discussion Starters

1. Put yourself in Ellen's shoes, are her feelings justified? Would your life be consumed with the need to get payback and, in case justice was not done, would you look for it otherwise?
2. Is Ellen's hatred clouding her judgement and blinding her to the flaws in her own family?
3. What is the truth about Lucas? Does Kieran have a hold over him?
4. Is Kieran as challenging, malicious and malevolent as Ellen believes?
5. Ellen Saint is obsessed with revenge and will stop at nothing to get it. Her family is everything to her and nobody messes with it. But how far is too far? Is justice ever enough for the victims families?
6. In Part 2, the perspective shifts to Lucas's father, Vic Gordon, Ellen's former partner. While the fundamental events remain constant, does Vic's story lead you to question Ellen's perceptions and her actions towards Kieran?
7. Consider the characters Are they likeable, or unlikeable with flaws that can be easily related to? Were you able to get into their heads and enjoy what you saw?
8. Is Ellen being a helicopter parent? Was Vic the manipulator or the manipulated? Did Justin enable Ellen's behaviour?
9. This is a complicated and emotive story. Did your feelings change quite often as more information was revealed and did the ending come as a shock, surprise, relief? Explain
10. After the final reveal, do you have all the answers or are there still some grey areas. Did he? Did she? Who is lying and who is telling the truth?
11. What and who made up the battle of wits element to the story? Did the narrator element increase enough doubt to keep you guessing who was telling the truth?
12. Did the story blur the lines between fiction and reality with a believability element that made me think it could happen?

If you liked this book, you may also like...

- *All in her head* by Nikki Smith
- *Mother may I* by Joshilyn Jackson

Author biography from LouiseCandlish.com

Discussion starters from Good Reads

Read-a-likes from Good Reads