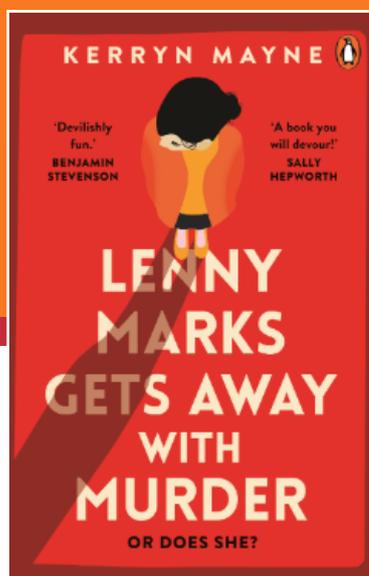


Lenny Marks gets away with murder

By Mayne, Kerryn

First published in 2023



Genre and Subject

Psychological fiction Thrillers (Fiction)

Psychic trauma -- Fiction

Life change events -- fiction

Synopsis

Lenny Marks is excellent at not having a life.

She bikes home from work at exactly 4pm each day, buys the same groceries for the same meals every week, and owns thirty-six copies of *The Hobbit* (currently arranged by height). The closest thing she has to a friendship is playing Scrabble against an imaginary Monica Gellar while watching *Friends* reruns.

And Lenny Marks is very, very good at not remembering what happened the day her mother and stepfather disappeared when she was still a child. The day a voice in the back of her mind started whispering, *You did this*.

Until a letter from the parole board arrives in the mail--and when her desperate attempts to ignore it fail, Lenny starts to unravel. As long-buried memories come to the surface, Lenny's careful routines fall apart. For the first time, she finds herself forced to connect with the community around her, and unexpected new relationships begin to bloom. Lenny Marks may finally get a life—but what if her past catches up to her first?

Equal parts heartbreaking and heartwarming, Kerryn Mayne's stunning debut is an irresistible novel about truth, secrets, vengeance, and family lost and found, with a heroine who's simply unforgettable.

Author Biography

Kerryn Mayne is an author, former wedding photographer, and current police officer. When not at work attempting to solve crime, she is writing about it or preparing an endless stream of snacks for her four children. Kerryn lives in the bayside suburbs of Melbourne with her husband, children and a highly suspect lovebird. She only owns 11 copies of *The Hobbit* (for now). *Lenny Marks Gets Away With Murder* is her debut novel, released in February 2023. *Lenny Marks* was shortlisted for a Ned Kelly debut crime award and shortlisted for an Indie Booksellers Award.

Discussion Starters

1. Could Zanny have done better?
2. Lenny doesn't want to teach young children or teenagers. Why do you think she relates so well to grade five students?
3. Do you think Ned and Lenny are a better match than Ned and Amy?
4. Lenny struggles to stand up for herself, but can do it for others (when she defends Ned's choice to Ed, or when she protects Malcolm). Why is it always so much easier to look after other people than yourself?
5. Was there anything Lenny or Maureen could've done differently when Fergus showed up at the door? Or should they have done something differently?
6. Do you see the value in collecting things like Lenny does with The Hobbit?
7. Do you think Lenny is neurodivergent?
8. Lenny is in a stable, safe place with people around her that care for her (even if she doesn't know it). Do you think the arrival of the letter from the parole board triggers her memories to start returning, or is it that it was always going to happen anyway?
9. The lies Lenny tells herself are a way in which she survives. Should she have just left them where they were?
10. Is Malcolm (the dog) as important to Lenny as Lenny is to him?
11. Did Fay do the wrong thing by letting Lenny forget about Malcolm, her mum and her stepdad all those years?
12. What do you think of Lenny's mum, Tammy? She plays a very small role in the book, but obviously her life decisions have changed the course of Lenny's life.
13. Do you think that ultimately Lenny Marks will get away with murder?
14. At what point did you realise that Malcolm (the boy) was more than just an imaginary friend?
15. If you could talk to the author, what burning question would you want to ask? (And then please feel free to email it to me!)

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

- *Joy Moody is out of time* by Mayne, Kerry
- *The Tea Ladies* by Amanda Hampson.

Author biography from <https://www.kerrymayneauthor.com/>

Discussion starters from <https://www.kerrymayneauthor.com/lennymarksbookclub>