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Leaving Time

Liz Sugihara

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Book Review

Title: Leaving Time
Author: Jodi Picoult
Reviewer: Liz Sugihara
Publisher: Ballantine Books
Year: 2014
ISBN: 9780345544940
Pages: 496
Interest Level: Young Adult
Rating: Excellent



Review

Thirteen year old Jenna Metcalf has been looking for her mother as long as she can remember. Her mother, Alice, disappeared years ago after an unsolved accident and Jenna refuses to believe that she abandoned her. She reads her mother's research journals, searches the internet, and hires two uniquely talented people to help her along the way. With the assistance of Serenity, a psychic with natural ability, and Virgil, a detective who worked on her mother's case years ago, Jenna slowly begins to unravel the mystery surrounding her mother's disappearance and learns of the truth of what happened years ago.

In the commonly used style of Jodi Picoult, the story is told from various perspectives. While each voice is different and adds another layer to the unfolding story, some readers might find Alice's perspective too research heavy. As a scientist studying the behavior of elephants, the majority of her chapters in the beginning of the novel read like nonfiction. In contrast, the major plot twist relies heavily on the supernatural. Although Jodi Picoult weaves science and the supernatural together very well, readers might find the plot twist difficult to accept. Overall, the book offers a fascinating story that ties in elephant memory, human relationships, and the bond between mother and child.

*Contains moderate language, mild sexual content, and a scene of moderate violence.