

BPL Book Discussion June 9, 2025 Local Gone Missing, Fiona Barton

Fiona Barton trains and works with journalists all over the world. Previously, she was a senior writer at the *Daily Mail*, news editor at the *Daily Telegraph*, and chief reporter at the *Mail on Sunday*, where she won Reporter of the Year at the British Press Awards. Born in Cambridge, England, she currently lives in southwest France.

Kate Waters

1. The Widow (2016)
2. The Child (2017)
3. The Suspect (2019)

Elise King

1. Local Gone Missing (2022)
2. Talking to Strangers (2024)

Characters:

Elise King (her ex, Hugh)

Ebbing

Dee Eastwood

Liam, her husband

Charlie Perry aka Charlie Williams

Birdie, his 38 year old brain damaged daughter

Pauline, his second wife

Bram O'Dowd

Ronnie, Elise's neighbor

Pete Diamond (Millie)

Caro Brennan

Aoife Mortimer

Stuart Bennett

Kevin Scott-Pennington (Janine)

Toby Greene (Saul)

Phil, Dee's brother

Quotes

[the sea] was like the free form jazz her ex, Hugh, likes. Swirling around with no discernible purpose, like Hugh, really”

“Promotion had meant she'd lost that skin to skin contact with crime”

“Pauline...does her walk across to them, all teeth and tits”

“The tide was on its way in and the waves were thumping against the stony beach like a giant fist knocking at her back door”

Dee about her past: “it would be like pulling at a thread that could unravel me”

Questions

Are you familiar with the term chemo brain that afflicts Elise?

Who are the Sodom & Gomorrah Girls?

What is the significance of the Addison1999 email?

Discuss the use of cling film and clues related to it.

How many twists and turns can you remember in the plot?

What is the role of the AA 12 steps in the plot?

What is the role of gossip in the story?

Do you consider this book to be in the “Police Procedural” category of mysteries?

What do you think about the structure of the book, with dated chapters, and their focus on one character?