

Synopsis for *The Lost One*

By Penelope Haines

2-line Summary:

The Lost One is a romantic family saga of hidden treasure, family secrets and a lost heir. An internationally set story of one woman's discovery of her identity.

Short Synopsis:

When Purdie Davis begins to receive unsolicited gifts she is forced to reevaluate everything she knows about her past. *The Lost One* is a romantic family saga of hidden treasure, family secrets and a lost heir; An internationally set story about one woman's discovery of her identity.

Medium Synopsis:

Why is Purdie Davis, an unexceptional nurse from New Zealand, receiving unsolicited gifts? Not ordinary but unusual, valuable antiques that must have a story behind them. Purdie doesn't know their source, and has no idea of their significance. Is she wrong to find this attention menacing?

A romantic saga spanning three generations, *The Lost One* begins as Kyril Komarov flees Moscow, escaping the Russian Revolution. Gradually Purdie learns about her family and of the treasure entrusted to their protection at the dawn of the twentieth century, a treasure that now could put Purdie's own life in danger.

Balanced between the past and the present, with history, intrigue and fabulous Russian treasure, *The Lost One* unfolds one family's legacy.

Long Synopsis:

She is an orphan, independent, unattached and free of any personal ties.

So why is Purdie Davis, an unexceptional nurse from New Zealand, receiving unsolicited gifts? Not ordinary but unusual, valuable antiques that must have a story behind them. Purdie doesn't know their source, and has no idea of their significance. Is she wrong to find this attention menacing?

The Lost One is a story of the entire twentieth century, with war, revolution, romance and the mystery of a lost treasure. The plot weaves its way from New Zealand to Russia, via London and Shanghai, in an almost Cinderella type story of an ordinary New Zealand girl seeking answers about her unknown heritage.

The romantic saga begins in the early years of the twentieth century when Kyril Komarov, fleeing Moscow to escape the Russian revolution, is entrusted with two of the imperial family's Faberge Easter Eggs. The novel focusses on the lives of his three female descendants; Marguerite who arrives in London as a refugee and works her way up to found one of Britain's best known department stores; Tamara, her daughter and Purdie, her lost granddaughter.

Marguerite, arrives from Poland to war-torn London as a refugee. She takes on the responsibility of providing for her family, struggling at first as an impoverished seamstress, but her determination, skill and innate flair ensure that she rises. Her reputation spreads, and soon Marguerite is able to set herself up in business on her own as a 'Couturier'.

She falls in love and marries an up and coming retailer. Together they found one of London's most iconic department stores, and Marguerite's experience ensures that their store, 'Dunnings' becomes known for its exciting but affordable quality clothing. Marguerite and Eugene's shared passion for the store they have founded underpins much of their marriage. When Marguerite miscarries their child, this passion is what helps carry them through the pain of their continued childlessness.

So safe and secure does their marriage become that after ten years it seems unassailable. It comes as a surprise to both when Marguerite falls for the attractions of a young, scruffy artist. The fallout from her disastrous affair comes close to wrecking the life Eugene and Marguerite have so carefully built. Eugene's bitter reaction to his wife's betrayal sends him into the arms of a woman who subsequently bears his son, Clive.

Some years later Marguerite finally has a child of her own, her much loved daughter Tamara.

Clive comes to live with Marguerite and Eugene when he is twelve. He is five year older than Tamara and it amuses him to covertly bully the little girl. This gradually morphs into sexual harassment until the night of Tamara's sixteenth birthday when Clive brutally her.

Tamara's pregnancy results in a daughter who, feeling unable to rear it herself, she has adopted by a couple who subsequently emigrate to New Zealand.

Purdie grows up in New Zealand unaware of her background, or that she is Marguerite's only surviving heir. When she begins to receive unsolicited gifts she is forced to reevaluate everything she knows about her past.

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