



The Third Eye

Lois Duncan

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When Karen closes her eyes, the visions come. Through time and space, she sees a place where stolen children sleep. And if Karen denies a young policeman's request for help, the children may never go home again.

The Third Eye Details

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Author : Lois Duncan

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From Reader Review The Third Eye for online ebook

Sarai says

Product Description

High school senior Karen, who worries that her psychic powers will make her seem different from other people, is frightened at first when a young policeman asks her to use her gift to help the police locate missing children.

As stated in other Lois Duncan book reviews: I really enjoyed Lois Duncan's books; she was probably my favorite YA author. I have always enjoyed books with psychic phenomenon in them - ESP, ghosts, clairvoyance, etc - but it's so difficult to find them written well. Lois Duncan is one of those rare authors who manages to write about these topics convincingly.

I actually did a book report on this book in high school and as part of it, I wrote to Lois Duncan and asked a few questions. She actually took the time to respond and answer my questions! TERRIFIC!

Melissa says

An interesting story written in 1984. It's surprisingly not that 80's (thankfully) except for the lack of cell phone/modern technology. I'm interested in "mind reading" books lately and found this one on the shelf at the library. I hated the topic the author used to create drama, but it's a personal thing so most will probably not be bothered by that. Otherwise, it was a good, short little paranormal book.

Specialk says

W. T. F.

Worst cop ever. Most goody goody heroine ever. Most annoying mother ever.

So many awards! I also feel like this book wouldn't have ever lived to see the light of day had it not been written by Duncan. I mean really?! Or am I just that out of touch with her books?

Joe Valdez says

My Lois Duncan jag continues with *The Third Eye*, a supernatural thriller first published in 1984 and revised by the author in 2012 with superficial updates including what the Young Adult reader of today is wearing and how they're communicating. "Superficial" might be too strong for a book that dispenses with high school soap opera to plunge its eighteen year old heroine into existential dread involving ESP, an aloof mother, a mysterious young cop and a gang of kidnappers. It's a lightning fast and mostly engaging read that seemed as if it was written lightning fast, with a main character who's a little too perfect to sustain sufficient levels of unease.

Set in New Mexico—the Duncan novels I've read so far transverse the *AAA Road Atlas*—the story concerns unusual high school senior Karen Connors, who's babysitting seven-year-old Bobby Zenner and his two-year-old sister for the afternoon. While Karen is feeding the baby, she receives a visit from her cocky boyfriend Tim Dietz, a popular senior who swept Karen off her feet two months ago and propelled her from ugly duckling to white swan status at school. Karen has always had difficulty fitting in with the crowd and walks on egg shells getting Tim to leave the Zenner house without risking he might get angry and break up with her.

Karen notices that Bobby is missing. Her efforts to locate him end with Bobby's friends telling her they last saw him playing Hide n Seek two hours ago. An intuitive sense tells her that Bobby isn't close by, so Karen contacts the police. She's questioned by Officer Robert Wilson, a blue-eyed cop who seems to her too young for this job. Reassured that actual kidnappings are rare, Karen has a gut feeling that Bobby is in a box. The Zenners arrive home hysterical. By now, Karen is picking up more feelings and is able to tell Officer Wilson that Bobby is locked in the trunk of her boyfriend's car. Bobby is rescued from the open trunk he crawled into and Tim shut after Karen had him leave.

Karen returns home to be lectured by her mother Wanda for breaking the Zenners' house rules for Tim. She interrogates her daughter on how she knew where to find Bobby. It reminds Mrs. Connors of an incident in their old neighborhood when Karen was five and she "knew" that a missing boy had been trapped in a drainage pipe. Driven out of the neighborhood by the gossip, Mrs. Connors is worried it might happen all over again and affect her daughter's new social life. Karen could care less. Tim wants to put the incident behind him and is nowhere near as curious about Karen's abilities when she returns to school. In fact, Karen is even asked to join the Prom Committee. Life is good.

Someone who is interested in Karen's intuition is Officer Rob, who pays a visit to the Connors home and asks for Karen's help locating another missing child, an eight-year-old named Carla Sanchez who disappeared a week ago. Objections by Mrs. Connors convince Karen to give the experiment a try. Driving to the outskirts of Albuquerque, Officer Rob shares with her the theory that Carla's indigent father took her. Carla's mother allows Karen into her daughter's room, but rummaging through the missing girl's possessions fails to conjure any feelings. Once in the car, Karen leads Rob to a path along a riverbank where her visions of the missing girl intensify and dread creeps in.

The knowledge was undeniable. Carla Sanchez was dead. Somewhere in that rushing river, there was a body of a barefoot, blue jeans-clad child. The bright new bike would go unridden; the yellow bear unhugged. The dresses in the closet of the tiny bedroom would be taken from hangers and given to Goodwill. The portrait on the television set in the living room would be enshrined forever now, no longer just a photograph, but the last school picture--the final picture--"the way Carla looked the last year of her life." Mrs. Sanchez would show it to everyone who entered the house. She would speak in the past tense, her pride shrouded in pain. She was so beautiful, my Carla!

Haunted by her experience at the river, Karen's problems get worse when Carla's mother tells the media that her daughter's body was located by a psychic named Karen Connors. The house phone starts ringing with calls from reporters, Karen's parents are upset with her for getting involved and Tim is suddenly interested in Karen's ability to see the answers of their English literature test. She goes through the motions for the rest of her senior year, hoping that college will let her put the events of the spring behind her. Passionate about children, Karen takes a job at a daycare center, where a mysterious van and the couple driving it have their own plans for her.

The text was revised unnecessarily by Duncan in 2012 to give her characters contemporary gadgets like

mobile phones, computers and DVDs. Roller skates are changed to skateboards and Karen's prom dress underwent a makeover, but unlike *I Know What You Did Last Summer* which involved a criminal conspiracy between four teenagers, the heroine of *The Third Eye* actually prefers to socially disconnect. Karen's first experience using her wild talent to help law enforcement is the most vivid and the creepiest section of the novel and I liked the way Duncan turned her heroine inward, threatening to dissolve her like *The Incredible Shrinking Man* from the inside out.

Different novelists might've taken this opportunity to chart Karen's descent into social stigma and possibly madness, but this is a Young Adult novel and Duncan is handicapped by the form rather than liberated by it. Karen's emotionally estranged relationship with her mother is the most important in the book but her character is essentially a Mary Sue with only superficial imperfections. A good student who loves babies, there's never any possibility Duncan could torture with the reader by sacrificing Karen and in addition to a pair of weak antagonists, the book is unable to sustain suspense. It's an entertaining read whose pieces fit together well enough, but not a riveting thriller.

Lady of the Lake says

I actually went someplace without my iPhone without my Kindle or nook without a book...aaaahhhh oh noooo! I started to get the shakes from reading withdrawal! I had a two hour wait time and While mid panic I remembered there were a couple of bags of books from my daughters shelves in the back of the car waiting to be dropped off at the local library for donation. I'm glad I hadn't dropped them off yet. I went through them and there is a whole collection of Lois Duncan books so I chose this one. It's a super fast read at only 220 pages of easy y h n reading. I think if I was a young teen I would have wanted to have the psychic powers the main lead Karen, a high school senior, who apparently since the age of 5 has had premonitions which gave her the ability to find lost children.

This is a well written story. I remember my daughter who read these during grade school had liked all of the Lois Duncan series of mild horror/science fiction. But I would know how much scare your youngster can handle however. Because this would give me quite the scare if I were too young. But I am sensitive to lost children, stolen children stories etc. not much else could scare me as much in life as something happening to children mine or otherwise. And all these stories don't always come out with a happy ending.

Inoli says

Another great Lois Duncan thriller. I love these. I hope I never have to choose a favorite.

I see and appreciate the differences in writing style, coverage of material and the level and type of emotional stimulation among books written with various age groups as intended audiences. The time period that a book was written in can suggest similar differences as well. Sophistication and experiences of people of an age group has evolved and these books may be considered by some to lean toward the younger end of YA compared to more contemporary fiction. But these are very good and I'm perfectly happy reading them at my current age. I like the suspense. I like the visual descriptions. I relate to the characters. I'm looking forward to my next one.

Natalie says

Ran out of books while watching my nephew. I read this years ago when I was actually a teen. It holds up pretty well. A quick read.

Katherine says

This book is my favorite by Lois Duncan. I love the fact that she gave this girl a power that she didn't understand and then at the end helped her get through the pain and hardness of the power from within her world. I love the fact that the girl worked through all the pain and hardship.

Viktoria Jean says

[Note the date of publication. 1984, i wasn't even born yet! Oh well, it's considerably a quite modern book anyway.] There are three 'psychics' in this book, Karen Connors, Anne Summers and at the end of the story, Karen's mother who serves as a twist in this tale. It is an impressive and highly imaginative book. These three psychics can 'see' missing or already dead children screaming for them in their dreams. Although Mrs Connors regards this as a nightmare and a freak's show, Karen refused to back down and continues in her fight to save the poor children. She sees this psychic ability as a gift and wishes to help others, risking her reputation and even possibly her life. I respect her for that. Duncan's books teenagers make very bad decisions that lead them into a life of guilt and lies. What consequences do these teens face for their deceit? Had Karen not stood up against her parent's orders to keep a low profile about this ability of hers, the truth of Carla Sanchez would have never been found, and Karen would not have met Ron, a young policeman who joins Karen in her fight, who almost gets killed in the process. Despite her mother's constant nagging that she should not meddle in the affairs that should be left to the police or authority, Karen, unable to face her guilt unless she does her part in revealing the whereabouts of the children, runs away with Ron to Colorado to track down the band of kidnappers who have stolen many babies from a nursery in her hometown. And this book illustrates some of Karen's dreams of these children in very imaginative descriptions. This makes me wonder if the author has had any personal experiences, for she really makes these psychic visions appear real. People have long been fascinated with fortune-tellers, palm readers, psychics, tarot card readers, and others who claim to have the ability to predict the future. And I wonder if this story has any credence. However, I do believe in the ability to predict the future.

Youths these days are each striving to be accepted by the kids at school. Karen, in her effort to be accepted, makes a bad decision and takes part in something that is very wrong. In the first part of the story, she is swayed to her mother's side in wanting to be accepted and not be seen as a freak by her peers, and thus she did not want to take part in the investigations for the missing children. This desire to be accepted made her see that her morals were less important than image. However, I am glad that she makes up her mind to help the kids as much as she can. And I am impressed by this.

There is love amidst the crisis. Ron Wilson, motivated to track down the kidnappers by the fact that his very own nephew, Matthew Wilson, was one of the victims who was in danger of being sold away illegally. He assists Karen in her dreams and visions, hoping to help her lead him to his nephew. Karen, who was put off by the fact that the officer, Ron Wilson, sent to investigate in one of the disappearances was 'young---much too young...to have been sent to handle something as important as a missing-child report'. He is briefly described as the 'sandy-haired policeman with the vivid blue eyes' and Karen had noticed his 'bitten down' fingers which showed that Karen's first impressions of him was basically weak and not approving. It is most

surprising that they would end up as an item.

Karen psychic ability is also a window to the future. There is no mention of Karen's future children, but in her dreams, she sees a young girl who takes after Ron Wilson's eyes, and the baby girl she sees had blue eyes, 'blue as the summer skies of Colorado', just like her mother had seen Karen long long before she was born. Their daughter, who makes no appearance in this story, is a great connection to the to-be relationship between Ron and Karen.

Lee says

Mini-Review: Another solid 3-star novel from Lois Duncan. As is often the case in Duncan's novels, there are some parts that are done perfectly and others that feel a little rushed, but in the end it's a quick, easy read of decent quality.

Content Warning: *Animal Death & Child Death - There are some mentions of a dead girl (not vivid) and the protag has a nightmare about some missing infants being dead (not vivid). The cop shoots a dog that tries to attack him. You don't see the dog die, but you see its body after and it is described in detail (~2 sentences).*

I also have a book blog :)

Gina says

It's been years since I read this, but I really liked it at the time. The supernatural elements aren't overwhelming, but they were cool.

Kameron T says

I really liked this book. It had a good beginning that made you wonder what would happen to Karen and if she would find all the other children that they were asking her to find. At first it kind of dragged after the first part of the book because I had a feeling that she would end up finding all the children but it took her so long to acutely do it. I would think that this book is for teens and if you like to mystery and solving crime this is a good book for you.

Kayla says

I borrowed this book from a friend last week, not knowing much about it but thinking it looked pretty interesting. And it was interesting. The plot moved along quickly and kept me coming back for more. But the characters were dry and hard to picture. I never really figured out how old Ron was, and couldn't image the bond between him and Karen as a result. Karen was utterly, hopelessly dependent on others and what they wanted for her to do. She was also incredibly selfish-if you knew that you could save dozens of babies, would you run away to California and pretend that you could do nothing at all? I think not.

The ending, however, was fabulous. That's what redeemed the story for me. It tied up the past and gave a glimpse into the future. That was by far my favorite part.

Though I didn't really hate this book, it wasn't one of my favorites. It's more of one of those that you can read if you want to, but if you have something better available, don't bother. I give 'The Third Eye 3/5 stars.

Evelyn Vaca says

The Third Eye by Lois Duncan is about Karen Connors' "third eye," which allows her to see visions that other people cannot see. For example, in her visions, she can see a missing child and say where they are. Karen becomes asked by Officer Rob Wilson to help find more children, and she gets letters asking for help from all over the country. Carelessly, she says no, which I thought was odd. I didn't find her character very realistic. As a reader, I would've thought she wanted to help these children, as much as anyone else would like to be a hero/heroine to others. I did enjoy the suspense the author included, though. My eye were glued into the book, page to page. The plot did flow well afterwards. I recommend this to anyone looking for a suspenseful read.

Michael Guido says

The Third Eye was written by Lois Duncan and published on April 1984. She has written many other novels that you may recognize since they were turned into films, Hotel for Dogs and I Know What You Did Last Summer. I've watched both films and thought of them to be very good for children and teens. This novel is about an 18 yr old girl named Karen, who has been somewhat of a loner with a very pushy mother who insists she go out and enjoy her senior year. She meets her boyfriend Tim who is the popular jock in school and gets her to be the socialite her mother always wanted her to be. Karen also enjoys working with children and takes on two jobs as a babysitter and assisting at a daycare. One morning the Zenners ask her to babysit 8 yr old Bobby and 18 mth old Stephanie. Around lunch time Bobby doesn't show up. A frantic Karen tries to find him and with no success she has to notify Police. Officer Ronald Wilson who looks way too young to be a cop is on the case. While questioning Karen he notices she is acting quite oddly. She blurts out that she knows Bobby is trapped in a box. "He isn't able to come home. He wants to but he can't." Karen's head is spinning and is losing control of all her senses. She could smell urine, sweat, and grease. "Mr. Zenner, I have this feeling about Bobby. I think he's in a car." Ever since that incident Karen knows her life will never be the same again. Duncan did a great job at making me feel what a babysitter's worst nightmare could feel like. She was very detailed on every character in this book. She explained who they were and how they became. This 220 pg book was a page turner beginning to end. I highly recommend this to anyone who feels they are different in any way. Definitely would read this again and read some of her other novels as well.
