



# The Hunting Party

*Lucy Foley*

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**The Hunting Party** Lucy Foley

**Everyone's invited...everyone's a suspect...**

For fans of Ruth Ware and Tana French, a shivery, atmospheric, page-turning novel of psychological suspense in the tradition of Agatha Christie, in which a group of old college friends are snowed in at a hunting lodge . . . and murder and mayhem ensue.

*All of them are friends. One of them is a killer.*

During the languid days of the Christmas break, a group of thirtysomething friends from Oxford meet to welcome in the New Year together, a tradition they began as students ten years ago. For this vacation, they've chosen an idyllic and isolated estate in the Scottish Highlands—the perfect place to get away and unwind by themselves.

They arrive on December 30th, just before a historic blizzard seals the lodge off from the outside world.

Two days later, on New Year's Day, one of them is dead.

The trip began innocently enough: admiring the stunning if foreboding scenery, champagne in front of a crackling fire, and reminiscences about the past. But after a decade, the weight of secret resentments has grown too heavy for the group's tenuous nostalgia to bear. Amid the boisterous revelry of New Year's Eve, the cord holding them together snaps.

Now one of them is dead . . . and another of them did it.

Keep your friends close, the old adage goes. But just how close is too close?

## The Hunting Party Details

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Author : Lucy Foley

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# From Reader Review The Hunting Party for online ebook

**Melissa ♥ Dog/Wolf Lover ♥ Martin says**

A New Year's Reunion In The Remote Scottish Wilderness . . .

- The beautiful one
- The golden couple
- The volatile one
- The new parents
- The quiet one
- The city boy
- The outsider

One of these friends is a murderer. And one won't make it out alive.

JOIN THE PARTY NOW.

(That was on the back of the ARC and it sums it up nicely) \*I won this in a Goodreads Giveaway.

These people are supposed to be friends but I think they all lost that along the way. I didn't like a particular person in the group, although there were a couple that were okay. It seemed most of them had different secrets. <--- what else is new

I liked the idea of being on a getaway to Scotland but not with a bunch of nuts, but real friends. And of course, no hunting involved.

These crazies get snowed in and one dies..... who did it? I know but I'm not telling! =)

The story goes back and forth from a few days when they get there to January after the murder. They were supposed to be having New Year's together. What a way to ring in the new year!!

I thought the book was okay and the location helped. I'm sure plenty of people will love it though.

Happy Reading!

Mel ????

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**Nadia says**

**Thirteen people, 1 dead body**

*3.5 stars for the thriller debut The Hunting Party by Lucy Foley.*

A group of friends who met at Oxford a decade ago decides to celebrate NYE in a remote location in the Scottish Highlands. Due to the heavy snow they find themselves cut off from civilisation. We quickly learn that the friendship bond between some of them is not as strong as it seemed and actually there is a degree of animosity and resentment among them as old wounds and grudges from their past resurface. I started to wonder why would anyone want to do an annual trip with people they didn't like?

*"But that's the thing about old friends, isn't it? Sometimes they don't even realise that they no longer have anything in common. That maybe they don't even like each other any more."*

Initially, it took me some time to get into this and get a grip on who was who, but once I got there, I enjoyed the book. Each chapter is told from a different POV - Emma, Katie, Miranda, Heather and Doug with the timeline jumping from 'Before the murder' and 'After'. It is not clear who has been murdered and who the murderer is until relatively late in the story which is not a bad thing. I thought I knew where the book was going and who the culprit was, but I was completely wrong. I did not see the twist coming at all.

The synopsis mentions Agatha Christie. I love Christie's books dearly and would like to clarify that apart from the obvious setting resemblance to *The Mousetrap: A Play*, this is quite a different type of novel. Still a good one, just different.

*Many thanks to Netgalley and the publisher for my ARC in exchange for an honest review.*

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### ♥ Kayleigh Kehoe ? (Awkword Reviews)🐼 says

**This is basically about a group of fictional friends who have no redeemable qualities and are unbearably nasty to each other on "holiday" in a lodge that is cut off from the rest of civilisation for a few days after it snows heavily. During this inaccessible time, one of the group gets murdered, and *everyone* is a suspect.**

*And I wish that all of them was killed and the murderer lived happily ever after. That's how despicable they were.*

Regardless of the high stakes, I found the prose very flat and disengaging. I couldn't wait until I had found out who the killer was and moved on. The most effective method the author used to dispel tension was that at the beginning, we are told one of the guests was missing, and then found dead. Then the narrative went on to alternate between the present day and the past; the hunt to find the killer in the present, and using the past as a countdown to the present, where the murderer has their big reveal.

This is one of those books that sounds better than it ends up being. I'm not saying nobody will enjoy it, obviously, but it was underwhelming for me. **Maybe if the characters were nicer and worth saving I would have rooted for them a bit more, but as it was I wasn't particularly fussed whether any of them lived, died, or turned out to be the murderer.**

*Thank you to the publisher and Net Galley for a copy of this ARC in exchange for an honest review.*

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wordpress ? tumblr ? bookstagram ? twitter ?  
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## **megs\_bookrack says**

This sounds **AHH-mazing** and I should receive my copy next month, if all goes according to my sinister plan...

'Locked Room' Mystery/Thrillers are my jam!

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## **Paromjit says**

This is a hugely enjoyable modern version of a classic golden age crime novel, a psychological thriller with the Christie like tropes of a country house, only here we have a remote and desolate exclusive hunting lodge situated next to a loch in the bleak and forbidding wintry landscapes of the Scottish Highlands. There is a group of thirty something longstanding close friends from Oxford University, who for the last decade have always gathered together over the New Year period. It begins with New Year's Day 2019, when gamekeeper, Doug and lodge manager, Heather, discover a missing guest on the estate, it is inescapably clear that it is no accident and that a murder has been committed. Heavy and blustery snowstorms have cut the area off, and the police are unable to respond. Without revealing who the victim is until near the end, the narrative goes back and forth over the days since the group arrive, revealing that below the surface of the jollity and apparent closeness of the friends, lurk dark murky secrets, questions about the supposed friendships between them, and exposure of the deep fissures that lay hidden from view.

Emma, a relative newbie to the group, and girlfriend of Mark, has organised the hunting lodge for the gathering in her desperate efforts to fit in and be accepted into this long established group of privileged and entitled individuals. The beautiful, attention grabbing, and popular Miranda, with her good looking husband, Julien, are the enviable golden couple. Samira and Giles are the couple with a 6 month daughter, Priya, that curtails their previous ability to be the total party animals they used to be. Nick is gay, and has been in a long term relationship with his partner, American Bo, a man that has recovered from a history of drug addiction. The reserved Katie, a high powered London lawyer, is the single one, with a history of being the closest friend of the glamorous Miranda since schooldays, but her career has meant that recently they have seen little of each other. Amidst the partying, binge drinking and drugs, secrets begin to emerge, lives unravel and the killer's identity slowly comes to be revealed.

Lucy Foley writes a chilling atmospheric crime mystery, laden with an air of menace, set in the most beautiful of locations, but which carries its own dangers with freezing conditions and snow blizzards. As well as the Oxford group, there is the unexpected addition of two Icelanders at the lodge, Ingvar and Gudrun. Heather has past trauma that triggered the move to work in the most loneliest of places, and Doug, an ex-marine, still suffers from PTSD, leading him to seek the isolation of the estate as he cannot bear to be amongst other people. Foley provides us with a diverse cast of characters as suspects trapped on the estate, with many in the Oxford group not being particularly likeable human beings. This is a fabulously entertaining and riveting murder mystery that I am sure will appeal to many crime aficionados! Many thanks to HarperCollins for an ARC.

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## **C.L. Taylor says**

I absolutely flew through this, finishing it within three days (which, given I have a terrible concentration span, is increasingly rare). A group of university friends, and various interlopers, decide to spend New Years Eve in an isolated lodge in the Scottish Highlands and one of them ends up dead. The Hunting Party is a first rate murder mystery with a cast of well crafted characters, secret upon secret and a healthy dose of deceit. You won't look at your old friends in the same way when you read this book. I hugely enjoyed it. Guaranteed to be a huge hit.

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## **Shannon says**

Thanks to William Morrow for gifting me a copy of The Hunting Party via Edelweiss. Oh my god I loved this so much! I am a huge fan of multiple POVs and this one comes with FIVE!! To me, it just makes the story move quicker and I love reading the different perspectives! It took a few chapters to understand who was who but once I got it down I was good.

A group of college friends continue their tradition by celebrating the New Year together. They all travel to a remote cabin estate far out from the city. Everything is all fun in games until one of the friends goes missing and then the body is found. It doesn't help that a huge snow storm has come through and they can't leave the property or even get help.

I enjoyed this so much! It was so entertaining. While reading the story you don't know exactly who has died until the end nor who did it. It worked so well for me!

Drama, lies, secrets, murder oooo yasss please. 5 ??

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## **Tammy says**

Review TK

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## **Umut Reviews says**

I was very excited for this book as it sounded just my cup of tea. Old friends from school meet up in a remote location in Scotland to celebrate New Year's Eve, but one goes missing from the party. And one of them is the murderer. Classic whodunit.

Sounded really intriguing, and you expect a lot of tension, biting nails, racing heart...but unfortunately it just didn't deliver.

First of all, the book is too slow, lots of blabber about the food, the environment, the conversations. It could be a lot shorter.

Second, none of the characters were likeable. I mean, it's OK to have unlikeable/unreliable characters, but all 13 of them not to care for is a bit too much. I wanted to root for at least one, to keep going.

You don't know who's murdered and who did it until the very end of the book, and it consists only like 5% of it. And, there's really not a structural tension building until that point.

The intrigue in the beginning is the best bit really when we know someone was missing and murdered. Then we start alternating between past and present to see who it was. The story is told from multiple perspectives. But, the excitement really went down immediately after this, and I found myself waiting and waiting to get more information, which didn't really happen.

It was quite predictable by the way. But, I'm really not convinced about the motives of the person and the way it happened.

So, all in all, it didn't hit the spot with me. Thanks a lot to Harper Collins for providing a copy of the book in exchange for an honest review.

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## **Julie Parks says**

What an amazing book! And new author to follow.

All that eeriness and build up. Especially as various characters supposedly spot something somewhere...or was it really there, or only in their imagination. It couldn't really, could it?

And then that looming snowstorm, that we know it's coming as the story is told in time lapse. Soon the body will be snowed in, and nobody gets in or out (not even the police), and you're forced sitting there in the same Lodge with the possible killer!

Lucy Foley is doing an excellent job throwing the possible blame around between various characters. Mind you, you don't even know who's dead for most of the book.

Told from three guest perspectives and two hosts, the story tangles and twists like a stubborn candle that flickers but refuses to give out its last breath.

In my opinion, the best parts were in their Oxford pasts, and not in the current tension.

The ending felt a teeny tiny bit rushed and a few red flags provided earlier weren't really addressed, like maybe that mysterious note written, left behind, and supposedly lost somewhere in that Estate. And the thing about the two Icelanders (fantastic characters, by the way. Reading this book coincided with my husband's offering to visit Iceland...you can only guess, my reaction lol)

My favorite was Miranda, but really it should've been Emma.

I think we all know at least one Miranda either from childhood playgroup, school or even office. The overbearing and controlling everyone's-my-project princess who's forever the thinnest, shiniest and smartest know-it-all. The seductress and Miss Perfection. The one that looks better in that leather pencil skirt, and

wearing your lipstick. Well, she ended up having a surprising plot twist, believe me. Nothing was perfect under all that glamour.

The second favorite was Emma. The lovely, forever kept-together academic girl. The one who's supposedly calm and poised never gets upset or irritated. She's not as pretty, but she's trying hard with her make-up, copying Miranda somewhat even. And she's a great chef and works like a glue between all the friends who go way back and shouldn't need her to break up their fights. Right?

Well...as the end approaches, out comes Emma's well-kept story, making her a much more interesting character than you, and everyone else in that Estate, ever thought. Stay tuned! Wait until you see what she's really been hiding. Try and guess, but you might still miss it!

These aren't the only main players in this murder plot. Not at all. Just my personal favorites. Much like other reviewers have pointed out, the growing romantic tension between Doug and Heather is equally tow curling, unraveling the ghosts they've been quietly hiding in those secluded cabin closets. After all, why would two young and good-looking people want to live out alone in all that wilderness?!

Hmmm...the plot thickens. The tension grows.

Bet you're checking off the days until the publishing date!

Thank you HarperCollins so much for the chance to read this Arc in exchange for my honest review.

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### **Amitaf0208 says**

4.5 stars! I love the premise of this book - a group of close friends stormed in over new years holidays in a hunting lodge. And of course, there is an murder! It was very enjoyable and so entertaining that i read this over the weekend instead of catching up on TV! Loved it!

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### **NZLisaM says**

#### **3.5 Rounded Up.**

Nine guests, and one baby, friends since their university days ten years previously, arrive at a Lodge in the Scottish Highlands, for a fun-filled, relaxing New Years Getaway.

**Emma and Mark** (Boyfriend and Girlfriend. Emma organised the trip)

**Miranda and Julien** (Married)

**Nick and Bo** (Married)

**Samira and Giles, and baby, Priya** (Married)

**Katie** (their single friend)

But are these friends really as close as they appear? And what happens to their friendship's when all their secrets come to light? By the 2nd of January one of them will be dead because of it.

The setting was perfect – as breathtaking as it was isolating and foreboding. Most of the characterisations were all excellent, relatable, interesting to read about, and their behaviour rang true. Others had me puzzling over why their characters were even included, as they didn't seem to serve any significant purpose? Chapters moved between **Now** (2nd January, 2019) when a body is discovered in the snow (the victim's identity remains under wraps until the final act which I thought was brilliant), and **Then** the guests arriving at the lodge (30th December, 2018 – 1st January, 2019), with multiple viewpoints.

Unfortunately I felt there were just too many plot elements, a couple of which were unnecessary, never fully explored nor explained, and added little to the story. Also, there was a lot of telling rather than showing when relating past events, causing some sections to be rather long-winded. I really think further flashbacks to the event in question would've been better. It's a shame because overall the writing and dialogue were exceptional. I particularly loved how the author related characters actions, expressions, and emotions to hunting and animals.

The final reveal while not that surprising was well-executed, action-packed, horrifying, and emotionally impacting when it's revealed who the victim is. The last two chapters really wrapped everything up nicely as well. Not the 5 star read I was expecting it to be, but still definitely worth checking out, and I would happily read another book by *Lucy Foley*.

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## **Darinda says**

A group of old university friends take a trip to celebrate New Year's together. They travel to a remote estate in the Scottish Highlands. Within a few days, tensions have risen, secrets are revealed, and someone dies.

The character list for this novel is fairly long, with eleven guests plus a baby staying at the estate and three employees working there. The employees are Heather, Doug, and Iain. The university friends are Miranda, Katie, Julien, Mark, Nick, and Samira. Miranda and Julien are now married. Katie is single and traveling alone. Mark is married to Emma. Nick is dating Bo. Samira is married to Giles, and they have a baby, Priya. In addition to this friend group traveling together, an Icelandic couple, Ingvar and Kristin, are also staying at the estate.

With so many characters, it is not surprising that multiple points of view are used in this novel. The viewpoints are Heather, Doug, Miranda, Katie, and Emma. The switching POVs are seamless, and are easily distinguished from one another. The story is told over a three day period, using a flashback approach. The stories open with the "Now" where a body is discovered. Then the events of the preceding days are told, flipping between what happened in the preceding days to the events in the "Now" timeline. This novel has a lot happening, but I found it easy to follow and never got confused with the who and when of the story.

As for the plot, it's an intriguing mystery. While a dead body is found right off the bat, the identity of the deceased is not known until near the end of the story. So, not only was I trying to guess who the killer was, but also who the victim was.

I enjoy this type of mystery. A group of people in an isolated location. A murder. Secret and lies. Dysfunctional friendships and drama. Such an entertaining read. Highly recommended.

*I received a free ARC of this book via Edelweiss in exchange for an honest review.*

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## **Roman Clodia says**

Like a modern take on an Agatha Christie plot: a party in a remote location cut off by snow, a group of friends with hidden tensions and stresses, sinister co-guests and troubled staff... all ending in murder. With red herrings galore and a cast of unlikable characters, this is all about the twists and revelations.

Compulsively entertaining: 4 deliciously trashy stars!

Thanks to the publisher for an ARC via NetGalley.

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## **Liz Barnsley says**

loved this.

Properly atmospheric, the chilly, claustrophobic yet open setting cleverly sets the scene for a wonderfully old school murder mystery, with a stellar cast of characters for the reader to get their teeth into and either love or loathe.

Descriptively this is beautifully written the aforementioned setting coming to vivid and gorgeous life, enter into this wild landscape a group of friends whose history and random hidden jealousies rise to the surface, ultimately leading to murder...

Definite hints of Christie, but with a rhyme and rythm all of its own, The Hunting Party is a dream of a read, absorbing, intelligent and full of the vagaries of human nature. Twisty as you like, unexpectedly sometimes, Lucy Foley manages the group dynamic with aplomb, keeping you immersed and involved all the way.

A proper bit of storytelling, eliciting differing emotional reactions and having the benefit of being eminently unpredictable, The Hunting Party is definitely one to watch in 2019.

Highly recommended.

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