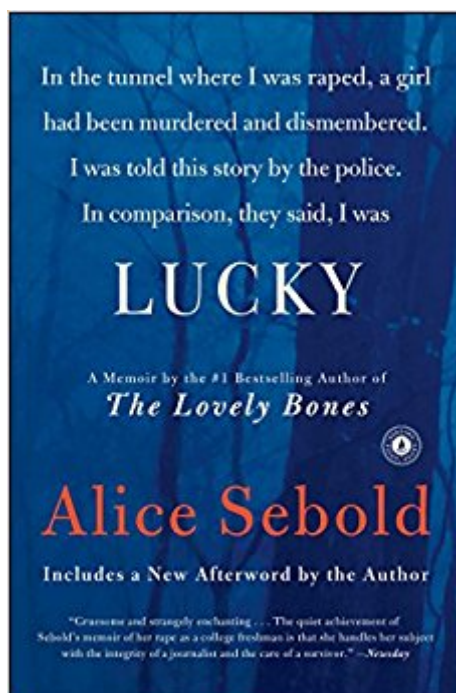


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# Lucky



## Synopsis

The timeless, fearless, #1 New York Times bestselling memoir from the author of *The Lovely Bones*—a powerful account of her sexual assault at the age of eighteen and the harrowing trial that followed, now with a new afterword by the author. In a memoir hailed for its searing candor, as well as its wit, Alice Sebold reveals how her life was transformed when, as an eighteen-year-old college freshman, she was brutally raped and beaten in a park near campus. What ultimately propels this chronicle of sexual assault and its aftermath is Sebold's indomitable spirit, as she fights to secure her rapist's arrest and conviction and comes to terms with a relationship to the world that has forever changed. With over a million copies in print, *Lucky* has touched the lives of a generation of readers. Sebold illuminates the experience of trauma victims and imparts a wisdom profoundly hard-won: "You save yourself or you remain unsaved." Now reissued with a new afterword by the author, her story remains as urgent as it was when it was first published eighteen years ago.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

When journalist Sebold was a college freshman at Syracuse University, she was attacked and raped on the last night of school, forced onto the ground in a tunnel "among the dead leaves and broken beer bottles." In a ham-handed attempt to mollify her, a policeman later told her that a young woman had been murdered there and, by comparison, Sebold should consider herself lucky. That dubious "luck" is the focus of this fiercely observed memoir about how an incident of such profound

violence can change the course of one's life. Sebold launches her memoir headlong into the rape itself, laying out its visceral physical as well as mental violence, and from there spins a narrative of her life before and after the incident, weaving memories of parental alcoholism together with her post-rape addiction to heroin. In the midst of each wrenching episode, from the initial attack to the ensuing courtroom drama, Sebold's wit is as powerful as her searing candor, as she describes her emotional denial, her addiction and even the rape (her first "real" sexual experience). She skillfully captures evocative moments, such as, during her girlhood, luring one of her family's basset hounds onto a blue silk sofa (strictly off-limits to both kids and pets) to nettle her father. Addressing rape as a larger social issue, Sebold's account reveals that there are clear emotional boundaries between those who have been victims of violence and those who have not, though the author attempts to blur these lines as much as possible to show that violence touches many more lives than solely the victim's. (Aug.) Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Sebold was raped as a college freshman, but the police said she was "lucky." At least she wasn't murdered and dismembered like the girl before her. Now a journalist, Sebold here details the aftermath: posttraumatic stress syndrome, heroin addiction, and, finally, some measure of understanding. This book is based partly on a feature appearing in the New York Times Sunday Magazine that prompted an appearance on Oprah. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Well told tale, fully realized. This is about the tragic death of a child through violence, and how grief takes its' full measure from the surviving members of the family. It is also about acceptance, letting go, and moving on in life, as well as death. The narrator is the child victim who keeps checking in on her family and the investigation from a place described as a "personal heaven". This moves the story from just another sad crime drama to the realm of fantastical realism. Even as a non believer, I thought it was creatively done, and translated to the movie quite beautifully. This story avoids sentimentality through solid insight into the family dynamic. Overall, a good read.

I lost my friend, who was also only 14 years old, only 7 months before I got this book. It helped a lot to read this and imagine her looking down on our lives in the same way Susie did for her friends and family. It brought forward a lot of emotions I had about my friend's death, but I feel like I got more of a closure almost after reading this book. While she wasn't murdered like Susie was and took her

own life, she didn't leave a note or tell anyone and we were all left wondering what her final thoughts were and if there would have been anything we could have done if we had known to prevent it. While you can never quite capture the grief of losing someone that young, Alice Sebold does much better than many other authors. I couldn't put the book down and never wanted it to end, as it brought a feeling of comfort to me.

Very well written and the little details of human interaction and observation are what makes this story so unique and special. As a new mother, the beautiful parent-child perspectives caused me to stop and look at my parents anew. I also look at my little baby girl and can't imagine this happening to her but that's the world we live with, I suppose. Horrible and lovely all at once. Well done.

I had read Alice Sebold's *The Lovely Bones*, years ago when it first came out, never knowing that she personally was a rape survivor. I accidentally discovered that fact while reading reviews of her books. She is quite candid and detailed about her horrific experience in this book. The violence she went through chilled me to the bone. She really brought me literally into the time frame of when this all happened and how rape survivors were treated and "handled" back in "those days". I could vividly picture all of it. Also, complicating matters is the dynamics of her family and her relationship with her mother. What is so impressive is how strong a woman she is and what she has overcome and accomplished. I don't know that if this nightmare had happened to me back in that time period that I would have been quite as brave as she was.

A compelling, entertaining read. Not that murder, rape and death are fun, but the way the book portrays the afterlife makes the dark things that happen in the world of the living less painful. It's tale is not just in the murder and bad things that happen, but the aftermath for those left alive. We see how the untimely death of a child can tear apart a family, affects friends, acquaintances and even the evil person who committed the murder. I decided to read this book because I've seen the movie a few times and though it was ok, I remember my wife having read the book long beforehand the movie and she really liked it. So when the movie came on and I happened to be on with my Kindle Fire, so I searched for it and was intrigued by some of the reviews that had facts about the book and author, I downloaded the book. It is an easy read, it just flows and took a few sittings to finish. While I give the movie three stars, the book gets 4, and I would recommend that you read the book before the movie because I felt that my imagination would have portrayed the characters and settings better having not been biased...

Susie Salmon was murdered when she was fourteen years old. She is also the narrator of this book. Susie watches family and friends from her heaven. Susie describes how her murder affected her family and friends. She tells about her murderer, and what might have led him to his destructive way of life. Susie also expresses the beauty and joy of human existence. As her story unfurls, we learn more about Susie and her community. We are also reminded of the beauty of everyday life. This book truly deserves more stars than I can give it here. Written in a down-to-earth manner, the human condition is examined. The characters are real and the settings vivid. This book is moving and utterly unforgettable!

A very compelling book. I've read all of the books by Alice Seabold, and they all have the ability to make you feel as though the characters are real, sadly in this case it was real. It spoke of triumph through one of the worst crimes imaginable...

It made me cry It made me smile It book will always be in my mind. We always ask ourselves "why?" Well I found the answer in this book. I'm fourteen and some weeks ago I bought this book. It explained me why some people die now and why some people die later. And I understand that it's okay. The Lovely Bones is a beautiful story of loss, pain and tears. But also is a story of hope and love. Without pain, how we could know that our love is real? Susie was so young, but it doesn't matter. If you're an adult you can really identify yourself with her too. Because we all have the same question in our minds. "Why?" "What if...?" "Why me?" "Why them?" So yeah. This book represents lost and love. Pain and joy. How an adult can't escape from her whole life because of her pain (Susie's mother). How a girl can support her father and affront her pain alone (Lindsey). Some readers said that this book is so stupid or fantastic. That things like that would never happen. I have a question for them: How can you know? How can you be so sure that this book is not about the real world? How can you doubt the pain of the characters? The pain of Susie, if you have never been dead?

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