



**FICTION**

**LOST & FOUND**

Brooke Davis, Hachette, \$27

Reviewer: Corinna Hente



Millie Bird is seven when her mother abandons her in a department store. Death is something she understands too well; she has a book recording the 27 dead things she has encountered in her short life, a list that includes her father. Agatha Pantha hasn't left her home in the seven years since her husband died. She sits at the window, yelling nasty comments at passers-by. Karl, who's 87, touch types everything — once it was love letters on his wife's skin, and now his fingers move in constant memory of her. When his son

takes him to a home, he wonders when he stopped mattering, and when he stopped doing things, rather than just remembering them. And so he does the bravest thing he's ever done and walks out. When these three lost souls find each other, all the rules get broken. This debut novel from the West Australian author sparked a bidding war, selling to 25 countries. It deserves every bit of that hype. Everything about the characters and the writing feels right, and the result is a book that's heartbreaking, funny and brilliant.

**Verdict: Beautiful**