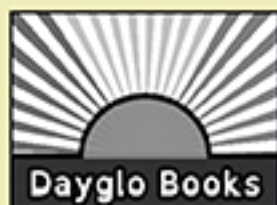


# *Missing Persons*



*Kirsty Adlard*



Published by

Daylo Books Ltd, Nottingham, UK

[www.dayglobooks.co.uk](http://www.dayglobooks.co.uk)

0003-14-1101-25

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Cover artwork & illustrations by  
[www.valentineart.co.uk](http://www.valentineart.co.uk)

Typeset in Opendyslexic  
by Abelardo Gonzales (2013)

Printed by in England  
by Printondemand-worldwide, Peterborough

Distributed by Filament Publishing Ltd, Croydon

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## MISSING PERSONS

### CHAPTER 11

It was a wet and windy evening. When it was windy, like it was tonight, puffs of smoke billowed down the living room chimney into the room.

They made everybody's eyes sting and water.

I volunteered to wash and undress Hugh and settle him in his cot.

I was glad to leave the smoky sitting room. When Hugh was asleep I decided to go to bed and read my library book.

During that week I found my thoughts returning to the mysterious Nick. I wondered what sort of man he was.

A casual farm worker didn't sound the type of man I'd have thought Mum would permit to walk her home, even just as a friend.

And what about the muffled giggling I'd heard on Sunday night? Surely he could have seen her safely to the door, without any need to actually come inside.

Mr Pickering's daughter Betty, from the Rose and Crown, attended my school.

I decided to put out one or two feelers to find out what information she might have on this Nick.