



# The Secrets You Keep: A Novel

*Kate White*

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## **The Secrets You Keep: A Novel** Kate White

From the *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Wrong Man* and *Eyes on You* comes a harrowing new psychological thriller about a successful self-help author who suddenly finds her life spiraling dangerously out of control.

What would you do if you realized that your new husband, a man you adore, is keeping secrets from you—secrets with terrifying consequences?

Bryn Harper, an accomplished self-help author, already has plenty to deal with. She's still recovering from a devastating car accident that has left her haunted by recurring, smoke-filled nightmares. Worse still, she can't shake the ominous feeling her dreams contain a warning.

In the beginning, Bryn's husband Guy couldn't have been more supportive. But after moving into a new house together, disturbing incidents occur and Guy grows evasive, secretive. What the hell is going on, she wonders? Then, a woman hired to cater their dinner party is brutally murdered.

As Bryn's world unravels—and yet another woman in town is slain —she must summon her old strength to find answers and protect her own life. Her nightmares may in fact hold the key to unlocking the truth and unmasking the murderer.

With unexpected, riveting twists, *The Secrets You Keep* is an utterly compelling psychological thriller that once again showcases Kate White's extraordinary storytelling talent.

## **The Secrets You Keep: A Novel Details**

Date : Published March 21st 2017 by Harper Paperbacks

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Author : Kate White

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# From Reader Review *The Secrets You Keep: A Novel* for online ebook

## CD {Boulder Blvd} says

2.5 to 3.0 Stars

This book had a lot of potential, but for me it just didn't make it. When I first put this book on my TBR it had mainly 4 and 5 star reviews and it sounded really good. I'm not sure if I would choose it over other books based on it's reviews now. It was a fast read - started it last night and finished it this morning. I did do a little skimming as there were a number of places where the book dragged and I skimmed to keep the story moving along.

When a book is in 1st POV, the narrator needs to be interesting. And Bryn, the narrator, is the cliché weak narrator and another cliché - she has a missing time frame. Bryn was in a car crash in which she was injured and the driver was killed. There is a mystery surrounding the crash that she starts to remember in bits and pieces via dreams. This part felt like the standard unreliable narrator that seems to be popping up all over the place. I really don't like mysteries that are based on unreliable narrators.

Prior to her accident, Bryn and her spouse, Guy had a commuter relationship due to jobs in different cities. During the summer she moves to where Guy has been living and it's the first time in the 2 year marriage where they are actually living together full time. After a business dinner that they had catered, the caterer is murdered. As the cops start to question both Guy and Bryn, questions surrounding her husband and other people start to bother Bryn.

Apparently everyone Bryn has come into contact has not been fully honest. No one is a reliable or trustworthy. And that every one is keeping secrets or is potentially doing something got to be too much. For me there were too many undeveloped characters with too many relationships, but no one is developed. They are just names on a page that didn't feel fleshed out.

For most of the book (or seemed like most of the book), Bryn is trying to determine if her husband was cheating on her which actually got old really fast. Plus I don't like cheating spouse books.

There just seemed to be a lot of subplots in this book with a lot of undeveloped characters and it felt a little all over the place. I didn't feel vested in the plot. Everything is lightly touched on, but nothing was given any weight.

I do appreciate that Bryn matured during the book, but...

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## Stephanie says

BOR-ING. The book suffers from too much: too many pages, too much exposition, too many red herrings, too many times returning to the same thing; it also suffers from too little -- too little focus on the elements that could make it truly interesting, and too little sense on the part of the main character, Bryn. This psychological thriller could have been much better, if the author had focused on just one of the stumbling blocks for Bryn: surviving a significant car crash, where the driver died; her stultifying lethargy; spending

the summer in upstate New York with her new husband, with whom she has had only a commuter relationship until now; the murder of a local caterer; writer's block; the intrigues of the arts community in the town. All together, it makes for a muddy mess.

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## **Patricia Doyle says**

Oh my goodness. This book is so B-O-R-I-N-G and S-T-U-P-I-D that it makes my top five list of worst books ever.

I read the first sixty pages, found nothing happening, speed read the next sixty pages, then went to the beginning pages of each chapter – still same stuff going on – and finally went to the end of the book to see how it ended.

### **SPOILER ALERT:**

Bryn doesn't like Eve; Bryn does like Derek (not her husband); Someone stole money (\$160) from Bryn's office; Bryn accuses Eve; Eve gets murdered; Bryn suspects Guy (her husband); Guy's assistant gets murdered; someone else did the murders (for VERY weak reasons); oh yeah, and all the way through, Bryn is paranoid.

What I don't understand is how so many readers (76%) could give this book five stars on Amazon. I'd give it zero stars if that were possible.

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## **Elizabeth of Silver's Reviews says**

An automobile accident, a book that can't seem to get written, a new home, a murder, and unsettling questions Bryn had about her new husband.

Bryn was recovering from an accident with the total support from her husband starting to wane after three months. Was he tired of her fragility? Was he doing things behind her back?? What else didn't she know about her new husband's current and past life??

All of this uncertainty also caused Bryn to not be able to focus on the new book she was to be writing. Her writing kept her busy, but the inspiration just didn't materialize.

What? did materialize was the brutal murder of the chef who catered the dinner party Bryn hosted at her home and things getting worse for her in every aspect. The visits and questions about the murder from the police were very disconcerting, and Bryn wasn't even sure she could trust her husband.  
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When another murder occurs, my mind immediately went to one of the characters as being the same person who murdered the chef. ?

THE SECRETS YOU KEEP was quite a good mystery with most characters not being trustworthy and

others who were caught in the middle of the deceit.

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THE SECRETS YOU KEEP kept me awake longer than usual and kept me in suspense as have all of Ms. White's books.?

Ms. White did it again with another splendid mystery that was well written ?and had plenty of intrigue.

I enjoyed the storyline and trying to guess who the real murderer was.

ENJOY if you read THE SECRETS YOU KEEP. 5/5

This book was given to me free of charge and without compensation in return for an honest review.?

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### **Mandy White says**

This book really surprised me.. it is fast paced tangled web of lies! really enjoyed it and look forward to more by this author. Thank you to Netgalley and Canelo for a copy of this book to read and review.

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### **Sandy \*The world could end while I was reading and I would never notice\* says**

EXTRACT: 'I wake to the smell of smoke.

It's faint, but enough to rouse me, and I jerk up in bed, eyes wide open. For a few seconds, I freeze there, propped on an elbow and trying to make sense of it. What's burning?

I start to shove my legs out of bed, but the top sheet fights me. I have to wrench it loose from the mattress so I can force my feet to the ground.

As my eyes adjust to the dark, I realize that I 'm not at home. I 'm in a hotel room. I 've been traveling on business. ..yet I can't remember where. The burning smell intensifies, boring into my nostrils and propelling my head back. Panic surges through me. Fire, I think. Fire.....'

THE BLURB: What would you do if you realized that your new husband, a man you adore, is keeping secrets from you—secrets with terrifying consequences?

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In the beginning, Bryn's husband Guy couldn't have been more supportive. But after moving into a new house together, disturbing incidents occur and Guy grows evasive, secretive. What the hell is going on, she wonders? Then, a woman hired to cater their dinner party is brutally murdered.

As Bryn's world unravels—and yet another woman in town is slain —she must summon her old strength to find answers and protect her own life. Her nightmares may in fact hold the key to unlocking the truth and unmasking the murderer.

With unexpected, riveting twists, The Secrets You Keep is an utterly compelling psychological thriller that

once again showcases Kate White's extraordinary storytelling talent.

MY VIEWS: Ultimately, *The Secrets You Keep* by Kate White was a disappointing read. In the first chapter, which should have engendered a sense of fear and urgency, it felt heavy and unwieldy, mostly I think because of the author's choice of words. Who tries to 'shove' their legs out of bed in an emergency? I would fling or at least swing mine out, tangled in the sheet or not. I would 'shove' my feet in my boots, or even perhaps my slippers. Similarly, I found the phrase 'so that I could force my feet to the floor' another odd one. Personally, my feet would be flying across that floor to the door whether I knew where I was or not. It felt like the author was trying too hard and, as a result, missed the mark completely.

Once I got past the first chapter, I actually started to enjoy the book, finding it holding my interest until just before the halfway point where it took an extremely predictable turn that just killed it for me. After that? It just failed to re-engage me.

The plot and characters both suffer from a lack of development. There is no real depth to either. I'm afraid that I found this book neither compelling nor thrilling. At 2.5? there was nothing to encourage me to look for more to read from this author.

Thank you to Canelo via Netgalley for providing a digital copy of *The Secrets You Keep* by Kate White for review. All opinions expressed in this review are personal and entirely my own. Therefore if you enjoyed the extract, I encourage you to go ahead and read this book. Please refer to my Goodreads.com profile page for an explanation of my ratings.

This review and others are also available on my blog [sandysbookaday.wordpress.com](http://sandysbookaday.wordpress.com)

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### Chelsea Humphrey says

DNF after it's taken me almost 36 hours to read 79 pages. Really sad, as Kate White was once a go to author for me, but it seems her books have lost the fierce spunk they used to contain. I did skip ahead and found the ending slightly predictable, so I don't feel quite as bad about quitting so early in. Hoping others have a better experience with this one than I did.

**Would like to state that my troubles with this one could be due to feeling pressured to getting a review up asap instead of waiting awhile until I was fully in the mood to read it. Not specific pressure from the publisher, just regular blogger guilt.**

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### Jennifer says

4.5/5 stars

*The Secrets You Keep* is a standalone psychological thriller/mystery. It is my first book by this author.

I really enjoyed this book. But I am so happy that I did not read the book blurb right before starting this book. While it doesn't give away most of the amazing twists, IMO it gives away a lot of key plot points that were amazing to uncover by reading the book. I actually don't think that I would have enjoyed this book as

much if I had known so much of the plot in advance.

The things that I think it's okay to know upfront: The book takes place in Saratoga Springs, NY. The narrator of the book is 38 year old Bryn Harper. The book is written in 1st person narration. Her husband is Guy. Bryn was recently in a car accident. She is a popular non-fiction author.

I am slightly obsessed these days with psychological thrillers and mysteries. This is currently probably my favorite genre. The Secrets You Keep was a captivating and gripping thriller. I enjoyed this book so much.

Bryn is having some issues as a result of her accident. I thought that the author did a good job of telling the story, yet also taking us back to the accident and what happened.

The mystery in this book was very good. There were so many characters and so many suspects. Overall I really enjoyed the story and how the author got us to the thrilling ending. I especially enjoyed the snippets of Dr. G (Bryn's therapist). This book was a great thriller!

Thanks to edelweiss and Harper Paperbacks for allowing me to read this book.

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### **Reading.Between.Wines says**

I definitely didn't have an issue getting into or finishing this book, but it wasn't amazing either. It was a solid 3 ??, probably a 3.5 if we were allowed half stars. I didn't expect the ending either although it sounds like a lot of other people were able to see it coming (shocker). I did think the book was a bit too wordy and rambling at times, and probably could have been more like a 250 page book as opposed to 353. Overall a good book though.

Random thought: I have never seen "clapboard house" used so many times in a book before.

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### **Kendall says**

DNF at 30%. I tried my best... but the main character Bryn wow she got on my nerves. I caught myself rolling me eyes already 10-15 times in the first 20 pages. I just couldn't do it and I payed 9.99 for this damn it!!! Reminded me of the Breakdown and same storyline (wife is paranoid because her husband is hiding something). I just realized that I definitely can't read these types of books anymore where the sole focus is paranoia.

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### **? Garima ? says**

[image error]

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## **Sam (Clues and Reviews) says**

I am a complete sucker for a domestic thriller; I love the way they suck me in. I love the way they string me along. I love the way they play with my head. The Secrets You Keep by Kate White was no exception to these feelings. Fast-paced and fun, this one had my absolute attention

The novel opens with Bryn Harper moving into cottage country with her husband, still reeling from an accident. She begins to adjust to her new life. But, after a dinner party goes terribly wrong, leaving a woman dead and dragging Bryn into the investigation, she finds her life spiralling out of control and her husband keeping secrets from her, with terrifying consequences.

White does an awesome job at hooking the reader in, eluding much plot and then throwing in enough red herrings to keep anyone guessing. This was my first novel by White and I thoroughly enjoyed her writing style. This one was a perfect beach read; not too elaborate or deep, just entertaining to read. This one could easily be read in a few sittings.

My only complaint about this novel was the final few pages; they sum up a minor plot line and didn't seem to "fit" with the rest of the story.

If you are a fan of novels like Before I Go to Sleep with characters that are unreliable, then you will thoroughly enjoy this one! I gave it 4/5 stars.

Thanks to the author, the publisher and Edelweiss for the digital copy of this book; it was my pleasure to provide an honest review.

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## **Judy Collins says**

*Review to follow.*

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## **Erin says**

Boring.

Nothing happens in this book. I kept waiting for the action to pick but it didn't. Even after a character is murdered with an ax I was still bored. By the midway mark I didn't even care who the murderer was. Also the ending was rushed and made no sense at all.

No rec.

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## **i. says**

This is not my first book by Kate White and it will certainly not be the last one. I read it while having breakfast and then again while having lunch and then again before falling asleep, it's difficult to put it down!. It's as difficult as guessing who did IT, because all the characters seem guilty in one way or another.

The fact that the main character is a clueless self-help book writer, IMO adds some kind of weird sense of humour to the plot. But if you think about what may prevent an educated woman from seeing the truth... you may (or may not) be closer to finding out who the culprit(s) was(were).

I strongly recommend to leave this book for one of those days you have no errands to run.

[www.theleisurediaries.blogspot.com](http://www.theleisurediaries.blogspot.com)

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