



## Keep You Safe

*Rona Halsall*

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## **Keep You Safe** Rona Halsall

What if trying to protect your child only put them in danger?

Natalie is desperate to find her little boy. It has been more than three years since she saw Harry. Three long years in prison for a crime she knows she didn't commit.

But her husband believed the police, and took their son.

Who has gone to such great lengths to destroy Natalie's life? Everyone she once trusted – friends, family, everyone close to her – what secrets do they hide?

If Natalie finds the truth, will she get Harry back, or lose him forever?

A totally gripping psychological thriller– perfect for fans of Big Little Lies, The Girl on the Train and C.L Taylor.

Previously titled GUILTY LITTLE SECRETS

## **Keep You Safe Details**

Date : Published August 17th 2018 by Bookouture

ISBN :

Author : Rona Halsall

Format : Kindle Edition 363 pages

Genre : Mystery, Crime, Thriller, Psychological Thriller

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## **From Reader Review Keep You Safe for online ebook**

### **Mandy White says**

Keep You Safe appeared to be a book that I could really get into. Unfortunately it fell a bit flat for me. It was enjoyable but predictable and felt like I had read it all before. I struggled to stay interested

Natalie is sent to prison for a crime that she didn't commit. Whist locked up her husband takes her sons away. The first things she wants once released is to find her son and find out who was responsible for sending her to jail.

Thanks to Bookouture and NetGalley for the advanced copy of this book to read. All opinions are my own and are in no way biased

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### **Jill McGill says**

I thought this was going to be a book that I could really get into, but unfortunately, it just didn't happen for me.

Natalie spent three very long years in prison for a crime she says she didn't commit. They say she embezzled over 1 million pounds from a clients account, but the only problem is she just doesn't remember doing it. Now she's been released and is on the hunt to find Harry, her little boy, who she has missed so much. One problem, while in prison her husband took off with Harry and she doesn't know where he is. Will Natalie ever see Harry again? What secrets are those close to her hiding?

I really loved where the author was going with this novel, and it is definitely well-written. I guess if I hadn't predicted everything right away it would have been a 5-star read. I can't wait to see what she writes next!

*\*Many thanks to NetGalley and Bookouture for the ARC of this book.*

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### **Gemma Quilliam says**

The fact I started this book one day and finished the next is a review in itself!

The tension is there throughout and you really put yourself in Natalie's shoes and wonder how easily your life could turn upside down.

I loved the prison sequences and genuinely didn't know who to trust.

This book is filled with really beautiful lines throughout and the author uses words like pictures.

I read it so quickly because I really wanted to know what happened but it's one I will go back over and read again, digesting the descriptions.

It's an ideal book club read!

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## **Em\_\_Jay says**

I found KEEP YOU SAFE by Rona Halsall to be an engaging and well-paced book. Told primarily from character Natalie's point of view, I enjoyed the switch between the present, where she is not only searching for her son, but running from people who have threatened her and her family's lives, and the past, where we learn about how she ended up in prison serving time for a crime she claims she did not commit.

The author does a fine job of keeping up the tension throughout the book. Both in prison and outside, Natalie struggles in knowing who to trust. She can only rely on her wits; wits that her prison stint has helped her hone typically via unpleasant experiences. In fact, I quite enjoyed reading about time Natalie spent in prison. Her experiences inside shaped her and she certainly was not able to leave behind that life once outside.

One of my 'buts' with this story is that I guessed who the unknown narrator was much earlier than I would have preferred and this diluted part of the mystery for me. Also at times, I did feel the need to suspend belief with respect to some storylines. Having said all this, the book more than held my interest and I was happily turning the pages to find out what was going to happen next.

I learned after reading this book that it is the author's debut novel. Well done! I hope she continues writing because I am keen to read what she comes up with next.

**3.5 stars**

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## **Carolyn says**

Natalie Wilson, a young mother having trouble coping with the strains of new motherhood to baby Harry, found herself experiencing lapses of memory and making expensive purchases. Soon after returning to work in her husband's wealth management business, she is charged and imprisoned for embezzling 1.2 million pounds from a client's account, something she doesn't remember doing. While she is in jail all she can think about is getting out and seeing her little boy again. But first she has to find her ex husband and son while evading someone who she is sure is following her and wants to harm her and Harry.

Told in two time frames, the present and past, the story of Natalie's hunt for Harry unfolds in parallel with her arrest and time in jail. I really felt for Natalie and all she had been through to survive her 3 and a half years in jail so that she could reconnect with her son. I had my suspicions about what had happened and who was following Natalie from early in the book (maybe I just read too many thrillers) but the plot was still tense and compelling and I had to keep reading straight through to the end to find out if my suspicions were correct. 3.5★

*With thanks to Bookouture and Netgalley for a digital copy of the book.*

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## **Julie Lacey says**

I loved this book and was desperate for things to work out for Natalie.

The book begins with Natalie getting out of prison and we join her on a ferry, planning to get her son back. She's lost three years of her life in prison for something she knows she wasn't guilty of, but it was taken out of her control.

This is a gripping story which leads you down one path, only for it to twist and it will leave you gobsmacked. Natalie faces all sorts of obstacles whilst trying to find her son and at times this is a real nail biter.

We also learn what happened whilst Natalie was in prison and this really made me like this character, as she's been through so much.

I can't wait to read more books by this author.

Thanks to Bookouture and NetGalley for the opportunity to read this book.

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## **Nicki says**

The only thing that kept Natalie from giving up throughout the years she spent in prison for a crime that she didn't commit was looking forward to seeing her beloved young son Harry again. Not only had her husband Tom demanded a divorce but he had taken Harry and fled to The Isle Of Man where they had their own laws and she had no legal right of access to Harry. As soon as she is released Natalie makes her way to the island determined to find her son and take him somewhere where they will never be found. But unbeknownst to Natalie she is being stalked by a deadly enemy, someone who is prepared to go to any lengths to stop their secrets and lies from being uncovered.

This gripping thriller is mainly voiced by Natalie in short, snappy chapters that alternate between then and now. The then chapters cover events leading up to Natalie's arrest, the changes in her character as she adjusts to life in prison whilst coming to terms with the extent of her so called husband's betrayal. Trying to get through every day whilst living with the constant threat of violence she has to learn to toughen up and protect herself. I struggled to like Natalie at times during these parts of the story due to her snobbish, judgemental behaviour. The now chapters cover Natalie's desperate search for her son whilst trying to stay one step ahead of her mysterious pursuer. These chapters were gripping, action packed and intense and were my favourite parts of the story. Interspersed throughout the book are short chapters that give the reader an insight into the twisted thoughts of the antagonist. But who is this person and why do they dislike Natalie so much?

This is a well written, debut thriller, the prison scenes were realistic, the characters were vivid and believable. Natalie's life threatening confrontation with her antagonist was action packed, breath taking and intense. The story held my attention throughout, I would happily recommend this book to fellow thriller readers and I look forward to reading more books by this author in the future.

Many thanks to Bookouture for a arc of this book via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review

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## **Kristy K says**

2.5 Stars

This didn't have quite the amount of thrills I was hoping for. It oscillates between Natalie's past and present (in jail and then trying to find her son) as well as an anonymous first person who's following Natalie. While the premise is interesting, I think I am over the near hysteria character with a shady past in thrillers.

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## **Shirley Revill says**

OMG What a nasty piece of work. The poor lass.

Update.

Natalie is happily married and works for her husband in his finance company but leaves to have their baby Harry. Life is looking good for Natalie but when Harry is a few months old her husband encourages her to return to work. One day the police come calling and arrest Natalie for money laundering. Large sums of money have disappeared and what's more there is evidence that points to Natalie's guilt. The only problem is she doesn't remember that she ever committed this crime and even her own husband seems convinced of her guilt. When Natalie is handed a large prison sentence she is in despair at being separated from her baby son. By the time Natalie is able to leave prison she will be a stranger to her child.

Once his wife has been sentenced her husband sells the family home and takes baby Harry to live on the Isle of Man. He refuses to bring the baby to visit his wife and as far as he is concerned Natalie will never see her child again. There are a different set of legal rules on the island and locked up in prison there is absolutely nothing she can do that will enable her to hold her child once again. Will things come right for Natalie and why will no one believe her story.

This was a brilliant audiobook and I enjoyed every second of this story. There are quite a few twists and turns and the ending really took me by surprise. The narration was absolutely brilliant, in fact this audiobook ticked all the boxes for me.

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## **Renita D'Silva says**

One of the best books I have ever read! Suspenseful and absolutely thrilling, with a cracking pace. I lived this amazing book! Hard to believe this is the author's debut! Very highly recommended to everyone.

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## **Rhian Dean says**

### **Really gripping storyline**

I thoroughly enjoyed this book. The characters were vivid and I felt that I was there with Natalie the main character willing her to succeed against the odds. It shows the amazing strength of a Mother's spirit to survive

for the sake of her child when the justice system has let her down, leaving her to fend for herself in prison for a crime she did not commit. I just could not put it down, it failed to disappoint and I usually don't read psychological thrillers. Loved it.

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## **Carrie says**

Guilty Little Secrets by Rona Halsall is a thriller that is mainly told from the point of view of its lead character Natalie. There are chapters in the now and then there are chapters from four years before but there is also an unknown voice in the present that is keeping tabs on Natalie.

Natalie has just been released from prison a bit early and the only thing Natalie wants in the world is to find her son and see him again. You see, Natalie's son was only a baby when police showed up at her front door and took her away. Natalie had no clue what she would have done to have the police needing to question her but she was having problem with her memory at the time and struggling after having her son.

When the police go her to the station they began to question Natalie about missing money from one of her clients. Natalie worked for her husband in his finance company and right at six months leave being up he expected her to return to work no matter how she was feeling. Well, with money gone missing and all signs pointing to Natalie she is arrested for theft and her husband leaves the country with her son so when released she will do anything to find him.

Looking at my rating one might think I have a ton of issues with this debut novel but I really didn't. It read rather easily with smooth writing going back and forth from the past and the present. The story was also one that was compelling although I would note it did get a tad slow in the middle but not bad overall. My rating though for me reflects the fact that I solved this one in the opening chapters. I really really hoped I would be wrong and there would be a great twist I didn't see coming but unfortunately not so it was hard to be overly excited about the story but I would be interested in seeing what the author has up her sleeve in the future.

I received an advance copy from the publisher via NetGalley.

For more reviews please visit <https://carriesbookreviews.com/>

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## **Berit??? says**

4 Debut Stars ????

This was a well written and well constructed debut! I think it would be so frustrating to be convicted of a crime that you did not commit... One time I had a bill stolen out of my mailbox and somebody cashed the check... Long story short the bank reimburse me immediately, but my lovely homeowner's association who did not receive their payment was very hesitant to believe me... and I was so frustrated.... but I was frustrated in the comfort of my own home not in jail like Natalie... and because I'm sure you all want a conclusion to this wonderful story they did eventually believe me, or at least they said they did!

Natalie a new mother working for her husband's business is accused and convicted of embezzlement.... A crime Natalie has no recollection of however she has been having some trouble with her memory... Natalie's husband Tom chooses to believe the police and is less than supportive.... and while Natalie was incarcerated Tom moves to a different country with their little boy Harry...

My heart broke for Natalie... when she finally gets out of jail her only desire is to find her son.... The book is primarily told from Natalie's point of view with alternating timelines of then and now... we also get some narrative from somebody keeping an eye on Natalie, it was a little creepy.... Learning about Natalie's time in jail was interesting, however it was a little reminiscent of another book that came out recently... I really rooted for Natalie in this book and wanted her to reconnect with her little boy.... and even though the outcome was a little predictable I really enjoyed watching things unfold....

Recommend this well done debut and I'm looking forward to see what is next for Rona Halsall ...

\*\*\* many thanks to Bookouture for my copy of this book \*\*\*

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### **Lou says**

'Keep You Safe', previously entitled 'Guilty Little Secrets', is crime writer Rona Halsall's debut psychological thriller, and unfortunately it didn't quite work for me. Despite this, I will try her second book that is expected in November 2018. I do hope it lives up to my expectations a little more than this one did.

Our main protagonist, Natalie Wilson, has been imprisoned for the last three years for a crime she didn't commit. She stands accused of embezzling 1,2 million pounds from one of her clients accounts whilst working at her husbands wealth management business, but she doesn't remember doing it. After giving birth to son Harry, Natalie started having lapses in memory and spent lots of money on expensive impulse purchases. Naturally, she is desperate to reunite with her son after so many years away from him, but someone really wants to stop that from happening. Natalie resolves to find the truth about who is behind this attempt to keep her from her family.

You can tell that the author is a great storyteller but for regular thriller readers I would imagine they would find this too predictable, as I did. Quite a substantial part of the plot is rather far-fetched and unrealistic, so if you like your crime writing to be as believable as possible this is probably a novel to skip. Otherwise, the pace is sound, and the chapters are short leading you to read on and on. The chapters alternate between Natalie's past and her present, so we get plenty of background information on her. Due to this, I feel she is a well developed protagonist and the author adeptly cultivates empathy for her and her situation. This is a multi-layered mystery which has many positive elements, and if you can suspend your disbelief you will have a great time reading it. Unfortunately, it just didn't work for me.

Many thanks to Bookouture for an ARC. I was not required to post a review, and all thoughts and opinions expressed are my own.

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### **Terri says**

Since joining Netgalley, I have become much more interested in the author of the book I'm reading. After finishing Guilty Little Secrets, the first thing I did was visit the Netgalley website to research the author. The site listed this title as Rona Halsall's only book. I was surprised and thought there must be titles listed elsewhere. So I Googled her and discovered that sure enough this is her first book! I was so surprised because this most definitely does NOT read as if it's an author's first book but rather one of many! I was



convinced it was the work of an experienced author that has honed her writing skills over many years and lots of titles.

This is a fast paced, great read. The story flows well and held my interest from beginning to end. The characters have depth and the author does a great job of conveying the emotions of the various characters along the way. The story takes a lot of interesting twists and turns. I really liked the small sections throughout that are written by the antagonist. They really leave you guessing as to who is doing the talking. I would look forward to reading another book by this author. As I said to my husband after finishing this title, "Well Done Rona!". #Netgalley

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