



The Stories She Tells

L.K. Chapman

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When Michael decides to track down ex-girlfriend Rae who disappeared ten years ago while pregnant with his baby, he knows it could change his life forever. His search for her takes unexpected turns as he unearths multiple changes of identity and a childhood she tried to pretend never happened, but nothing could prepare him for what awaits when he finally finds her.

Appearing to be happily married with a brand new baby daughter, Rae is cagey about what happened to Michael's child and starts to say alarming things- that her husband is trying to force her to give up her new baby for adoption, that he's attempting to undermine the bond between her and her child, and deliberately making her doubt her own sanity.

As Michael is drawn in deeper to her disturbing claims he begins to doubt the truth of what she is saying. But is she really making it all up, or is there a shocking and heartbreaking secret at the root of the stories she tells?

The Stories She Tells Details

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From Reader Review The Stories She Tells for online ebook

Kat says

This is my first book by LK Chapman and it certainly won't be my last. The cover was eye catching and instantly made me want to know what was inside. It was well written, allowing for the writing to flow easily. The chapters were short, snappy and made it easy for me to tell myself to keep reading 'one more chapter'. Although I would class myself as a slow reader, I was able to complete this book in just 3 days.

The story is centered on Michael, who tracks down his girlfriend Rae, who had disappeared with his baby ten years earlier. For most of the part, I wanted to throw things in Michael's direction but by the end, I was left feeling a bit sorry for him. As for Rae, I never knew whether to accept the things she was saying as the truth, or whether she was lying.

I found myself gripped by the story-line and as it progressed, I thought I had it all figured out, but I was oh so wrong. I love it when authors prove my theories to be wrong. LK Chapman's writing has delivered on every level and this includes giving us readers the odd punch and kick to the gut along the way. The hard-to-read parts were handled with sensitivity and – at every opportunity – I had to read on to keep trying to figure out what was really happening.

An excellent read and I look forward to reading LK Chapman's next book with a high level of intrigue and excitement.

Thanks goes to The Book Club & LK Chapman for providing me with a copy in exchange for an honest review.

John Carter says

I received this book in a goodreads giveaway.

I haven't enjoyed a suspense novel a much as this in a long time. Even though I managed to guess what the "twist" long before the book was over I still finished it and was eager to find out what happened at the end. It's well written, easy to read, and engaging.

I haven't read anything else from L.K. Chapman but after reading 'The Stories She Tells' I might have to go and buy another of her books. I also look forward to whatever she does in the future as she obviously has a good grasp on this genre.

Sian Steen says

4.5 stars.

I had to give myself time to process this one, because it's a hell of a roller coaster.

I've read and enjoyed a few different books by LK Chapman, and if you liked Anything for Him, you will love this.

Very dark, and you will think you have it all figured out - I certainly did! But then it goes deeper than you could imagine.

Rae is a really interesting character, and I couldn't decide whether I loved her or hated her, and I never did trust what she was saying - even at the end. But I think that's the whole point of the book!

Sarah Hodge says

Do you trust the one you love? Should you trust the one you love! The Stories She Tells is a gripping and challenging psychological thriller. The story moves along at a fair pace with characters, that you might not necessarily like, but ones that you care about and want to discover the whole of their back story. Whilst part of the plot deals with an uncomfortable topic it is dealt with sensitively and it was rewarding to have strong female characters throughout the book. A highly recommended good read. Thanks to The Book Club and L.K. Chapman for the opportunity to read and review this book.

Clare Wakelin says

wow what a book !! new author for me and boy did she blow me away, I haven't been so engrossed in book in a while. the characters flow together perfectly and I honestly didn't see the twist coming. brilliantly written

Sharon says

Twisted, sick, shocking, disturbing, believable, unbelievable- these are all the words that popped into my head as I finished "The Stories She Tells". My brain is reeling from reading this book! I feel emotionally drained!

The blurb gives you all the information you need to know about the plot. The character development in this novel was outstanding- the three main players, Michael, "Rae" and Paul are written so cleverly that it is hard not to see this story play out in your head as you read. My heart wept for Michael as I watched him become sucked into the emotional whirlpool that was the life of Rae and Paul, I could literally feel his life drain out of him as he struggled to work out just who to believe.

Paul and "Rae" were two of the most unreliable narrators I had ever come across. It was so hard to work out who was telling the truth and who was telling lies, each character was so convincing and plausible that I ended up completely caught up in the intensity of their lives and lies.

"Rae" is described by other characters as a habitual liar and initially it is difficult to find anything endearing about her character however as the story develops it becomes easier to understand the lies she tells and indeed to question whether or not everything she says is a lie. What a brilliantly complex character LK Chapman has created in this woman!

Trust, lies, secrets and mental health are all themes explored in this novel but special praise must go to LK Chapman's portrayal of mental illness. She provided a realistic, anguishing yet sensitive portrayal of Rae's descent into her own personal hell. It was so intense that I actually felt myself slip into the pages and experience it all alongside each of the characters.

Twists and turns throughout this book left me reeling as each layer of life was unravelled and each secret revealed. My only downside would be the ending, I had a few ideas where I'd like it to have gone and I just felt that it was a little abrupt. BUT this is not a reason to not read this book! If you are looking for a riveting read (I started this at 8pm and finished it the next morning when I woke up) then this one is for you, if you want a read that will challenge you and provoke your thoughts then this one is for you, if you want a book where the characters crawl under your skin and into your brain to consume your thoughts then this one is for you!

Angie Jones-Moore says

L K Chapman had me from the get go. I love it when I really have to think about what is going on in a book, and that is exactly what this is like.

From start to finish, I kept trying to guess what was happening and couldn't quite figure it out. The complicated lives of Rae and Tamsin will draw you in and keep you consumed.

I couldn't stop reading and didn't want to!

A well mannered young lady with a wealthy husband, Tamsin appears to have it all.

I felt like I was a fly on the wall. Deceit, betrayal and lie upon lie. Who is telling the truth?

There are so many questions to be answered and so many lies being told. If you like a book that stays with you, then you will thoroughly enjoy this. I won't forget *The Stories She Tells* in a hurry!

Karen Peterman says

Michael is going out with Rae when he sleeps with Sadie. Fast forward 10 years and Michael is now married to Sadie when he learns that Rae had become pregnant with his baby just before she disappeared all those years before.

Michael tracks her down and finds she is happily married with a new baby but Rae is now called Tamsin and draws Michael in by telling him what may or may not be lies. Her new husband wants her to give her baby up for adoption like she did with Michael's baby 10 years before.

The problem is that Tamsin lies - or does she?

This is a thoughtfully written book that raises lots of questions about family, marriage, loyalty, upbringing and childhood. Both Michael and Rae/Tamsin are plausible and complex characters - Tamsin particularly - and the story has a good twist. I gave it 4 stars because in some way I found the ending a little disappointing. Overall a good book that tackles some uncomfortable topics.

Fiona McCormick says

I really enjoyed this one. Michael finds out that his ex-girlfriend Rae might have been pregnant with his child when they split up in their university days. He is determined to track her down and find out the truth but at first she seems to have vanished off the face of the earth. Michael's wife becomes worried and insecure as his obsession with Rae seems to be taking over his life.

I found Rae to be extremely annoying, I can't stand people that habitually tell lies and her fantasy world was off the scale! However, as the story progresses and her childhood is revealed, the book becomes much darker and more disturbing. I don't know if I began to like Rae more, or just feel sorry for her, her character is extremely complex and the reasons for her fantasy life become clearer.

Really powerful book, I would certainly recommend this to people who enjoy a good domestic noir/psychological thriller. Thanks to TBConFB for the opportunity to read this as an arc, I would definitely read more from this author.

Anna says

This was a bit of a rollercoaster for me - I found I was both a little sad while reading and at times furious with the main characters. I couldn't stop thinking about Rae and Michael, and even though it's rough reading sometimes, I thought the theme and the plot pose some very interesting questions - how would anyone react if it happened to us? If somebody told us stories like Rae tells, or if we were caught up in the storm that comes with them?

And from a mental health perspective, this book is dynamite. I was thinking a lot about what would happen if the genders were reversed - would we value a man's story another way? What would we trust and what would drown in prejudice? How can we find ways to talk about mental health in a better way, shake off the stigma of shame?

It still stays with me and will probably color future encounters that in any way remind me of Rae.

Sally McDonagh says

Michael is happily married to Sadie and they're trying to have a family when one of their friends lets slip that a girlfriend he had 10 years previously had been pregnant when they broke up. This sets Michael on a course that will change his life.

I really enjoyed this book. It was fast paced, finished in hours as didn't want to put it down.

Look forward to reading more from this author

Would recommend.

Mo says

This book had me quickly sucked in . A rollercoaster of a read which becomes disturbing as it progresses . Will definitely look out for more from this author. Thanks to tbc reviewers for my chance to read

Tracy Fenton says

So there I was quietly reading my current book and I get a polite email from LK Chapman saying “I was just wondering if you got round to reading *The Stories She Tells*? Don’t worry if not, I was just curious!”**, so I replied immediately that I hadn’t yet and would move it to the top of my pile and then I realised I wasn’t actually enjoying my current read so stopped and started *The Stories She Tells*. Less than 4 hours later I’ve finished it.

This book was an easy and quick read for me (and yes I did sneak off work and lay in the garden all day to read it). It’s my first book by this author and I found her writing style gripping and intriguing. I will admit to not particularly liking the main character Michael. I felt his obsession with tracking down his ex-girlfriend from 10 years ago slightly annoying especially as he has a loving wife and new baby on the way. However I did understand that he felt guilty about the way he treated her and needed to absolve his own personal issues by helping her.

There were several times when I thought “aha” and had worked out what was going on only to realise I was completely wrong (duh!). This book is quite dark, has some rather unsavoury topics and a couple of extremely disturbed individuals which in my opinion make for a perfect psychological thriller. I would definitely recommend this.

Kelly (purplebookstand) says

The Stories She Tells Us

This is the first book I’ve read by LK Chapman and I really enjoyed it! *The Stories She Tells Us* is a real page turner that will take you on a rollercoaster ride; you won’t be able to put it down!

A dark and atmospheric read, I really thought I had it all figured out and then another twist came along and put pay to my theory! All in all, this is a fab read that I definitely recommend! Four stars from purplebookstand.

I was lucky enough to be provided with an ARC of this book and voluntarily wrote this review.

Asimah Akhtar says

The Stories She Tells is the second book I have read by LK Chapman. I have previously read *Anything For Him* and enjoyed it. I finished this book in two sittings.

We are introduced to Michael who goes in search of his ex-girlfriend Rae, when he unexpectedly discovers she was pregnant when they spilt up. Having never heard from Rae after university he is shocked to learn of the pregnancy and immediately tries to search for her. Unfortunately, attempting to track Rae down becomes an arduous task. After a lengthy process Michael is successful in tracking Rae down. However, instead of getting a straight answer from Rae about her pregnancy Michael is dragged into a shocking whirlwind of

lies, deceit and drama. Leaving him unable to believe what is true and what is false.

A very gripping story, with a storyline that is not for the faint-hearted. I have to admit I did guess part of the story whilst reading it, but I do not feel it ruined the story in any way. I was eager to finish to see if I was correct and how it was written out. A great story with well written characters. I became fond of Rae's character and her erratic behaviour became more clear, as the story went on. Michael's character, on the other hand, I was not particularly fond of. I felt there were certain situations he should have handled better.
