



This I Would Kill For

Anne Buist

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Natalie King has been hired to do a psychiatric evaluation for the children's court. A custody dispute. Not her usual territory, but now that she's pregnant she's happy to do a simple consult.

Turns out Jenna and Malik's break-up is anything but simple. He claims she's crazy and compulsive; she claims he's been abusing their daughter Chelsea.

But what if *all* the claims are true? Or none? How can Natalie protect the child? And how does she work out where her concerns for Chelsea slide into her growing obsession with her own lost father?

More urgently: with both parents saying they're desperate to keep their daughter safe—what if one of them is desperate enough to kill?

This I Would Kill For Details

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From Reader Review This I Would Kill For for online ebook

Cheryl says

The character of Natalie has really grown on me as the series continues. She is complex, unpredictable and frequently imprudent, but her heart is always in the right place and she seems to be thinking more of others and less of herself as her character evolves. In this book, we see her coming to terms with impending motherhood but, in typical Natalie King fashion, she first has to figure out who the father is and which of her two love interests would be the best bet for her and her unborn child.

full review on my blog : <https://madhousefamilyreviews.blogspot...>

Jennifer (JC-S) says

‘He wants to take my kids off me.’

Forensic psychiatrist Dr Natalie King has been hired to do an evaluation. This psychiatric evaluation is required for a custody dispute in a case before the children’s court. While this is not Natalie King’s usual area of work, she’s happy to do what should be a routine consultation now that she’s pregnant.

But there’s nothing routine about this case. Jenna Radford and Malik Essa each see the other as being the problem. Malik says that Jenna is crazy and compulsive. And when Jenna accuses Malik of abusing their eight-year old daughter Chelsea, the magistrate hearing the case asks Natalie to investigate further.

This is a difficult investigation for Natalie. She desperately wants to protect Chelsea. On a personal level, the paternity of Natalie’s child has yet to be established and being pregnant has raised several issues. Natalie did not know her own father and she wants to find out more about him. While being pregnant is an added factor as Natalie as tries to effectively manage her Bipolar Affective Disorder. Personal and professional issues are both causing Natalie stress.

While Natalie is quick to establish that Jenna will lie whenever necessary to suit her purposes, it’s necessary to prove (or disprove) her claims in order to protect Chelsea. In the meantime, someone has abused Chelsea: is it Malik? If it isn’t Malik, who is it?

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse provides part of the backdrop to this novel, and everyone is acutely conscious of this. Jenna’s lies, Malik’s anger and Natalie’s preoccupations will all have a part to play in this complex story. Different psychiatric opinions will also cause Natalie concern.

Natalie King is a complex, likeable, flawed hero who continues to struggle with her own demons. I like Anne Buist’s portrayal of a strong woman with mental illness, trying hard to function effectively in what can be a hostile world. This is the third book in the Natalie King Forensic Psychiatrist series and while I’ve yet to read ‘Medea’s Curse’ (the first novel) I think that this series is best read in order. I’ve picked up quite a bit of Natalie King’s backstory from ‘Dangerous to Know’ (the second book), and the backstory is important in this series.

Grace says

I was intrigued by this book because of the title and the front cover. I didn't even realise it was part of a series but I was still able to read and enjoy it regardless.

I think one of the main reasons I liked this book so much is because I liked the main character and was interested in the parts about her personal life as well as the interesting case she was working on.

The first 80% of the book was a little slow but still interested me and I really had no idea who the abuser could be. The last 20% was brilliant and much more fast paced. After reading I am keen to read others in the series.

Thanks for NetGalley for allowing me to read a free copy.

Marianne says

This *I Would Kill For* is the third book in the Natalie King, Forensic Psychiatrist series by Australian psychiatrist and author, Professor Anne Buist. As it follows on almost directly from *Dangerous To Know* with many characters in common and minimal recap, readers will do well to read both earlier books first.

Having prepared what should have been a routine psychiatric evaluation in a custody case, forensic psychiatrist Natalie King is dismayed to find herself in court when the mother, Jenna Radford complicates matters with a claim against her ex, Malik Essa, of the sexual abuse of her eight-year-old daughter, Chelsea. Natalie's qualifications have the magistrate involving her even more deeply in the case.

As it becomes quickly clear that Jenna will lie whenever it suits her purpose, Natalie is faced with several questions: is the abuse real, or a fabrication? If so, is Malik the abuser? If not, then who? Knowing that Chelsea's safety and happiness are at stake, Natalie has to tread carefully.

Natalie's personal life distracts her from the case: newly pregnant, her baby's paternity is yet to be established, and interactions with the potential fathers are, to say the least, spirited. And is it her pregnancy, or the case, that is making her revisit the mystery of her own father's identity?

Against the backdrop of the Royal Commission into Child Abuse, Buist's tale demonstrates how some of the players deciding a child's custody may have their own agendas, be they political correctness and being seen to do the right thing, or keeping to a budget and staying under the media radar. The far-reaching effects of opinion pieces in print media, and reaction on social media as racial and religious prejudices are aired, are also shown as Natalie temporarily enters the Twittersphere.

This instalment develops an already fascinating character by expand her backstory: pregnancy adds another dimension and, without her motorcycle and her booze, Natalie gets her kicks from driving a borrowed Lotus, having lost none of her passion for life nor her sexual appetite. That said, none of Buist's characters are stereotypes: each has depth, and some will surprise as the story progresses. Bob the cockatoo is eerily prescient with his misquotes.

As always, Buist gives the reader a plot that is original and believable, with more than one twist to keep the reader guessing right up to a heart-stopping climax. Her expertise in the mental health field is apparent in every paragraph, and while she ties up quite a few loose ends into neat bows by the end, fans can only hope that Buist will dream up a few more challenges for Dr King. Buist is certainly setting the bar high for her next literary foray: this one has to be her best yet. Another brilliant read!

Moraig says

Nowadays I rarely read the Bible, but Anne Buist's third book in the psychiatrist Natalie King series *This I Would Kill For* sent me digging out my battered King James version to refresh my memory of King Solomon. When two women appear before Solomon, both claiming to be mother of an infant, he calls for a sword. 'Divide the living child in two, and give half to one and half to the other.' The first woman begs to spare the child's life and forfeits her claim. The other says, 'Let it be neither thine nor mine, but divide it.' Solomon, in his wisdom, determines the first woman to be the child's mother.

In *This I Would Kill For*, Natalie King, motorbike-riding, rock-singing psychiatrist is called as an expert witness in a custody battle between Malik and Jenna Essa. Malik is father to three-year-old Chris and step-father to Jenna's eight-year-old daughter, Chelsea. Jenna will do anything to retain custody of her children. But will she go so far as to commit perjury? And is the good-looking Malik really a psychopathic 'fox in the henhouse' or dedicated to the children's welfare? It's up to Natalie to present the facts to the court.

When Chelsea's behaviour points to potential abuse, the custody battle turns savage. Jenna is sure Malik is the abuser while Malik hints Jenna is an unfit mother. Does Natalie King possess the wisdom of Solomon to determine which parent is lying? If she doesn't get it right – Chelsea will be handed over to a potential abuser or be denied the love of a step-father genuinely concerned for her welfare. Natalie King is a complex character with her own problems. Her recent pregnancy (paternity unsure) and her growing preoccupation with the identity of her own father may be clouding her judgment. But she must make choices. Does she go with her gut instincts, to the peril of her career, her lover or her own life?

Buist, a psychiatrist and Chair of Women's Mental Health at the University of Melbourne with experience in protective services and the legal system, paints an accurate and compelling portrait of parents at loggerheads over their children, unwilling to give an inch, a position reflected in Natalie's lover Liam's own marriage. There are intriguing threads throughout the novel and it is unclear who is the abuser, particularly with a few tantalising red herrings sprinkled throughout. The court scenes are compelling and I felt as if I was present, watching the volleying of evidence and opinion. The novel provides an interesting insight into the challenges facing psychiatrists, social workers and judges – who forced to make tough decisions are often vilified by the media.

Buist examines the rigid opinions voiced in mainstream and social media (both left and right, cultural and religious). She muses as to whether child welfare is being sacrificed on the altar of political correctness.

Five out of five stars for this intelligent and thought-provoking book. It is multi-layered, intelligent writing – a novel in which to sink your teeth and have you question people's motivations. I read it in two sittings (only because I needed sleep). Good luck to Natalie and her unborn child (the bean) – I loved that name, a little character already – I look forward to their adventures in the next novel.

Bookread2day says

My full review on my website. www.bookread2day.wordpress.com

Sandi Wallace says

4.5 Stars

Laura says

I received an ARC from NetGalley and publisher Legend Press in exchange for an honest review.

I am so pleased I requested this book! I don't think I have ever read a book similar to this and I was pleasantly surprised. I didn't realise it is the third in a series and while it is one of those detective-type series where you don't have to read the ones before it, there were still some rocky elements at the start which it took me a while to adjust to. However, after that I was completely hooked.

This *I Would Kill For* is a book about a forensic psychiatrist who is asked to determine whether or not a child is being abused by their stepdad. The child's parents are separating and both of them want custody, even though neither is an ideal parent. This premise is handled brilliantly with the plot swerving you so at first you side with one parent, then you begin to doubt them and then even more doubt is introduced until you feel as uncertain as the main character. It really did keep me invested in the story and I read it very quickly to try and find out what was going on.

Speaking of our main character, I adored Natalie. She is one of the most fleshed-out protagonists I have read about in a while and I loved that her personal life actually made up a fair bit of the plot. She was very likeable and her attitude towards the case went a long way in adding to the tension of what decision she would make. You really felt for her as a character. It was also nice to read about someone who isn't a police detective for once (and I don't just say that as a Psychology student).

There were unfortunately just a few niggles which stopped me giving this 5 stars. As mentioned, the opening was a bit clunky for me and it took me a few chapters to work out what was going on. The ending also wasn't the best and it let the story down a little bit. Finally, I'm not sure the author understood how Twitter works? It seemed like everyone Natalie interacted with on Twitter turned out to be someone she knew in real life which...yeah no, the internet is a big place.

Overall, I would definitely recommend this book and I am planning on seeking out the others in the series. If you want an engaging thriller which is a little different from the typical abduction/murder/domestic breeds, then you should definitely give this a try. I can't wait to read more from this author.

Overall Rating: 4/5

Patricia says

I hoped for more - but the Twitter element in the book was annoying and unnecessary. More development of the characters without Twitter would have made it a better book. It was pretty easy to figure out the perpetrator and the failure of the protagonist to consider who it might be and why, was another annoying element. Also - a supposedly independent professional woman, albeit one who is bi polar, and who constantly takes her boyfriend's Lotus without asking. Really?
Who is left to admire in this book?

Text Publishing says

'A] well-informed, fast-paced look at the dangers in the child welfare system.'

Kirkus Reviews

'Buist uses her own professional knowledge to present a highly-charged situation of suspected child abuse, differing cultural norms in raising children and relationships between the range of professionals involved... There is highly insightful and succinctly presented description and explanation of the pitfalls in such a case, where supporting a suspected abuser may result in a dangerous custody decision. The interweaving of individuals characters, their fears and motivations and their strategies to gain the results they seek makes for suspenseful and compelling reading... A book for the adventurous reader.'

Otago Daily Times

'The strength of this crime novel by Professor Anne Buist, Chair of Women's Mental Health at the University of Melbourne, lies in its exploration of the workings of the Family Court and its experts... This book should come with a warning: you may never be able to look at your own children's drawings in the same way again.'

Sydney Morning Herald

'Buist, chair of mental health at the University of Melbourne, is deeply versed in the institutional, legal and emotional implications of such a case. She has crafted a skilled and multi-layered procedural, one that is more about psychological than criminal matters, although their intersection is inevitable and crucial... Buist has given us a three-dimensional heroine and richly imagined scenes of conflict in public and private. Most of these disputes are managed within legal bounds. Buist's insights into the enmities and frustrations of bodies bound to help children are sharp.'

Australian

'When psychiatrist Natalie King is asked to be an expert witness in a custody battle between Jenna and Malik for their daughter Chelsea, it's the kind of low-key thing she's interested in now that she's pregnant... Anne Buist, Chair of Women's Mental Health at the University of Melbourne, lays bare the emotional carnage of these battles in this harrowing thriller.'

Readings

'Buist gives the reader a plot that is original and believable, with more than one twist to keep the reader guessing right up to a heart-stopping climax. Her expertise in the mental health field is apparent in every

paragraph...Buist is certainly setting the bar high for her next literary foray: this one has to be her best yet.'

BookMooch

Scott says

This was my first journey into the trials and tribulations of psychiatrist, Dr Natalie King, thanks to the generosity of the publishers in a Goodreads giveaway.

Dr King is drawn into a web of family drama with a battle between parents for their two children. What comes next is a series of doubt-riddled moments, with more twists and turns than a pretzel.

It took me a little brain work to catch up on the main characters' backstories, but once I did I sprinted along with the plot.

Worth a read for fans of psychological thrillers.

Trigger warning- discussions of child abuse.

Karen says

This is a series that started out with much promise, which alas hasn't been delivered in THIS I WOULD KILL FOR.

On the psychological thriller side of the equation, this was deeply unconvincing. A child abuser that was obvious from his first appearance, a central protagonist that's gone from a bit of a maverick to unprofessional, wilfully childish and tiresome; and a storyline balance heavily weighted towards too much of the personal, too much baby talk and enough fluff around the edges to make you sneeze. And don't get me started on the persistent "explanations" and mind-boggling tediousness of the coy and childish games around twitter all of which clearly indicates that this outing in the Natalie King series was a disappointment.

Jessica says

"This I would Kill For" by Ann Buist is the third novel in a series, and I didn't realise it. Luckily I was able to pick it up and step right into the story.

Synopsis - Psychiatrist Natalie King is the expert witness in a child contact matter in the Children's Court. Getting it wrong means handing a child over to an abuser—or depriving that child of the only father she knows.

The book had a lot of analysis and exploration into child/adult behaviour, the theme being sexual abuse and trauma. The Royal Commission plays up in the background, adding another layer of trauma for outlier characters. The writing was never graphic, so don't stress!

Book focused on babies A LOT. Ms King is pregnant, so it's babybabybaby all the way through. I did like her though, King is super cool, damaged and quirky. The writing made everything feel realistic and emotionally charged. So much was going on, with the court matter and the repercussions bouncing into her personal life. There was always this simmering tension – will she crack? Her personal life was just as interesting (and tense) as her work life.

I suppose I stepped into this book hoping for some clarity on some issues I've been having at work in the Children's Court, but nothing translated as very useful to me. That said, it was easy to read and interesting.

Michelle Ryles says

This *I Would Kill For* is a relatively quick read as the story runs along at a surprisingly fast pace and I found myself jumping to my own conclusions. I was actually surprised to find that this is number 3 in a series, as it most definitely reads very well as a standalone; I certainly didn't experience any detrimental effect from not having read the earlier two books. In fact I felt intrigued enough by the main character of Natalie King to want to read the previous books, so that's always a good sign when a reader jumps in mid-series.

Dr Natalie King is called in as an expert witness in a custody case. Jenna and Malik are fighting over custody of their children but that isn't the whole story: 3 year old Chris is Malik's son with Jenna but 8 year old Chelsea is not his biological daughter and Jenna is accusing Malik of abusing Chelsea. Natalie must find out whether there is any truth to the accusation and then decide where the children will be safe. As Natalie spends time with the family, she uncovers one secret after another and her decision on the children's safety is not one to be made lightly. Is Malik guilty of abusing Chelsea? Why would Jenna lie about such a terrible thing? Natalie King will find out!

You can tell that Anne Buist knows the field of psychiatry inside out as we are given a glimpse behind the closed door of the consulting room. I loved reading about the way that Dr King manages to coax information out of her patient and I found the thought processes behind her observations fascinating. As much as the science is based on fact, there is a very good story playing out; one which is very true to life and unfortunately happens all too often in real life.

I really enjoyed *This I Would Kill For* and, as much as I guessed some of the plot, I found my virtual visit to the psychiatrist's chair absolutely fascinating. I have already decided that I want to read the earlier books to find out more about Natalie King's character as Natalie is struggling with her own psychological demons. I think Natalie is a really strong, fresh and funky character and I look forward to reading more about her.

Anne Buist shows us a contemporary and modern side to psychiatry in this page turner of a psychological thriller. Anne Buist's excellent writing vividly paints the scenes and her vast knowledge explains all the reader needs to know in order to follow the case, making this both an interesting and a thrilling read.

I chose to read an ARC and this is my honest and unbiased opinion.

Mandy says

This is the third and latest book in the Natalie King series, and is much like the previous ones. A typically complex case for the troubled forensic psychologist - difficult judgements to make, lots of ins and outs to work through – and is a compelling and engaging psychological thriller that keeps the reader involved and guessing to the end. A good read.
