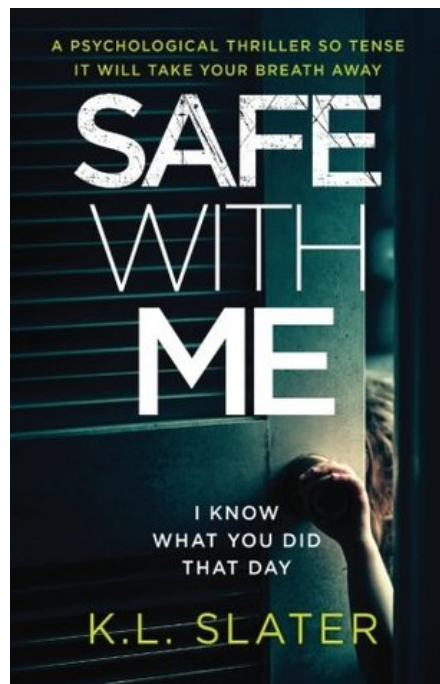




Safe With Me

K.L. Slater

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Thirteen years ago someone did something very bad to Anna. Now it's her turn to get even ...

Anna lives a solitary existence, taking solace in order and routine. Her only friend is the lonely old lady next door. She doesn't like to let people get too close – she knows how much damage they can do.

Then one ordinary day Anna witnesses a devastating road accident and recognises the driver as Carla, the woman who ruined her life all those years ago. Now it's Anna's chance to set things straight but her revenge needs to be executed carefully ...

First she needs to get to know Liam, the man injured in the accident. She needs to follow the police investigation. She needs to watch Carla from the shadows...

But as Anna's obsession with Carla escalates, her own secrets start to unravel. Is Carla really dangerous or does Anna need to worry about someone far closer to home?

A compelling, gripping psychological thriller, perfect for fans of *The Girl on the Train* and *The Sister*.

Safe With Me Details

Date : Published November 1st 2016 by Bookouture

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Author : K.L. Slater

Format : Paperback 374 pages

Genre : Thriller, Mystery Thriller, Suspense, Fiction, Psychological Thriller

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From Reader Review Safe With Me for online ebook

Lisa says

Alarm bells rang straight away in my head on this one I just had to know what happened to Anna, although I hated her she kept the pace going at a quick rate, I despised how she worked her way into Ivy & Liam's life .I found Anna to be a disturbing character bordering on paranoia & normalcy she was such a pain in the butt for me.

What I did like was the way the author connected the characters of Carla & Amanda being twins it made the plot more believable & the concept turned out well, as for Liam well enough said on him I nearly fell off my chair at the end, as for Joan Peat she wasn't what I expected.

As the plot progressed we find out what happened to Anna's brother Daniel I was glued to his character & Carla his councillor my heart went out to him the horrors that went on in the Clarke household was abhorrent.

All I can say if you like a fast paced psychological thriller then read this K.L slater has another winner with this one almighty story. 4.5 stars

Mary Beth *Traveling Sister* says

I was a little disappointed in this one. I loved Blink and this one just did not do it for me. The characters in this book were not very likable. I especially hated Anna. It was so obnoxious being inside her head. Clearly, she wasn't alright. I could never root for her or support her decisions because we know so little about her and her past. She had no right to insert herself into the Bradbury's lives, and her intrusiveness played on my nerves. Even though there was some twists in the book the plot moved too slowly for me. The last third of the book was altogether more gripping, meaning I could even forget most of what had previously bothered me about the writing. Even though not all the questions were answered by the time the book concluded, it was a good story. I just love my suspense and love it going throughout the book and not just the ending.

Anna witnesses a car crash caused by the woman who destroyed her life 13 years ago. She is determined to get the woman back for all the pain and suffering she has caused and does so by befriending the victim of the crash. The story is told from 3 perspectives. Anna from present day, Anna's neighbour, Mrs. Peat, also from present day and Carla from 13 years ago.

What did I like about the book?

I loved all the twist and turns in this book and because the main chart is completely off the wall you are never really sure which way the story will go. I love nothing more in a book then something that will shock me and make me go hmmm.

I will be reading more by this author. I did love her book Blink and she has a new one coming out.

I want to thank Netgalley, the publisher and the author for the copy of this book in exchange for a honest review.

Carol says

This novel is brimming with psychos, but just wait until you meet creepy Anna!

A motorcycle accident Anna witnesses brings back memories of what happened during the **dark** days 13 years ago, and as she befriends the injured party at the scene, a plan of revenge against the driver begins to materialize in her **crazy** mixed-up brain.

With a heavy workload at the Royal Mail Service, an elderly neighbor friend to check in on and her new secret plan of attack to carry out (*combined with a bit of OCD*) Anna finds herself overextended, but soon connives a way to adjust her schedule.....**Ha!**

SAFE WITH ME takes the reader in a myriad of directions as a disturbed Anna reeks her havoc and reveals the truth making for an entertaining and **crazy** good thriller.

Many thanks to NetGalley and Bookouture for the ARC in exchange for an unbiased review.

Melissa says

Can you see me, standing alone on my island of discontent, waving halfheartedly from the shore? Yup, here I am, once again . . . in the minority. I was sure the overwhelmingly positive reviews I've seen for this author's work and the blurb couldn't be wrong - this was going to be a creeptastic read. One I would revel in or heck, even just enjoy. Turns out . . . not so much.

"Let's face it, some people are just weird and there's no logic behind it."

I think we all know by now, the same can be said about books and the characters that inhabit them. This story was riddled with weird characters and the narrator, Anna, was the worst of the bunch. I'm all for an unreliable narrator, but there still has to be *something* about that character I connect with or that's even interesting on some level. For me, Anna's character crossed the line from creepy in an interesting and suspenseful way, to creepy in an awkward and pitiful way. Being in her head was **icky and uncomfortable**. There was no enjoyment in trying to understand her downward spiral of delusions.

Anna is the sole witness in an accident involving a woman in a car, hitting a man on a motorcycle, and it seriously messes with her head. The woman driving the car happens to be the person she holds responsible for the destruction of her own family thirteen years earlier. The very person that disappeared and changed her identity after that tragic night. In an effort to keep tabs on this mystery woman, Anna tries to befriend the man on the motorcycle, relentlessly inserting herself in his life.

The storyline itself was interesting enough, it was the execution and feel that was off for me. Nothing irks me more than suspense being carried out with situations that are glossed over or conversations where one character doesn't provide an answer, but instead storms off in a dramatic way. It's a plot device that feels cheap to me and it was used a lot in this story.

When it all boils down to it, there were some twists, thrown in at the end, but again, the way it all came

together didn't work for me. Essentially the author tried to pull the wool over my eyes, but she failed. The major thing that Anna first 'uncovered' mid-story made the direction of things so obvious. And that ending . . . nope. **Not impressed.** And seriously, what was that smell? I still can't figure that one out.

**Thank you to Bookouture and NetGalley for a copy in exchange for an honest review.*

Lee says

This is an excellent thriller that will draw you in and keep you captivated till the end. Anna is a loner with only one friend, Mrs Peat her next door neighbour. Something terrible happened to Anna thirteen years ago, years later while she is out one day, she witnesses a car accident and is dumb struck to see that the perpetrator is the person who has made her life hell for all these years. Anna is now after revenge and she becomes completely obsessed with this person and even tries to get herself involved in the police investigation to the point where she is making friends of other people involved in the case. I really enjoyed this book and loved Anna's character, a fast moving story and for a debut novel this is an excellent read. Thank you to Netgalley, the author and publisher for the chance to read this book in exchange for an honest review.

abby says

Thirteen years ago, Anna's family met with tragedy. Anna knows exactly who is to blame: Carla, the school councilor who was supposed to save Anna's younger brother, Daniel, but who put him in more danger than she could have imagined. One fateful day, Anna is witness to a car accident involving a car and a motorcyclist. The driver of the car that ran the cyclist off the road is none other than Carla.

Anna is determined to expose Carla for what she is and get her arrested for her role in the accident. She cozies up to the victim and his grandmother, hoping to influence their interactions with the police. She just cannot understand why no one seems to be taking the situation as seriously as she does-- as seriously as they should be.

That's a problem Anna runs into a lot with other people. For instance at her workplace, the post office, where everyone just seems to rush through their shift instead of taking the time to add that extra caring touch. And sure, it takes Anna a bit longer, but she's going to catch up with delivering all that mail one day soon.

Thank goodness for Liam, the motorcyclist that horrible woman Carla nearly killed. He needs Anna and she needs him. If only his grandmother Ivy would stop blocking her efforts to help. Seriously, what is it with people being so stubborn? And then Carla starts to try to infiltrate herself into Liam's life, no doubt trying to get him not to press charges. To Anna's surprise, Liam and Ivy almost seem to be falling for Carla's shtick. But Anna isn't about to let that happen.

Unreliable narrators are not my favorite, although this book pulls off the concept reasonably well. But Anna is *really* creepy, in way that lacks much subtlety, and that made reading this book tough to bare at times. As much as I appreciated the dark, awkward parts of her character, I wish it were toned down a bit. This book moved slowly for me. I am glad I stuck with it, even though the ending turned out to be a big ole' bowl of crazy. There was, in my opinion, reasonable pay off, although I'm still wondering how Anna's co-worker and her caretaker sister fit into the story, and wondering why her old lady neighbor was needed as a narrator at all. This book was solidly written, but not really my style. Those who enjoy thrillers with unreliable narrators

might want to give this one a go.

I received a copy of this book courtesy of the publisher and NetGalley.

Nicki says

WOW,I'm going to have to catch up with the housework tomorrow because I have just spent the last two days devouring this jaw droppingly brilliant debut psychological thriller.

The story starts with a prologue about a arson attack by a unnamed person and then you are plunged into the scene of a car accident and introduced to Anna,Liam and Donna or is she really called Carla? who are basically the main players in this very gripping drama about mental health,mind games and deception.

The chapters flip back and forth between thirteen years ago when someone did something really bad to Anna when she was a teenager and the present day when Anna recognizes a face from her past at the accident which causes her life to swiftly start unravelling.Most of the story is voiced by Anna,who is not a very likeable character,it was unnerving reading about her swift break down and loss of control,you never knew what she was going to do next.It was very obvious that there was something seriously wrong with her mentally but I struggled to feel any sympathy for her.

The book holds the readers attention throughout,is packed with twists and there is a mixed bag of characters who are mostly untrustworthy,have hidden secrets and are not what they seem.It's very well written and absolutely brilliant,I look forward to reading more books by k L Slater in the future

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

Angela Marsons says

I was lucky enough to receive an early copy of Safe With Me and absolutely loved it. It is a testament to the quality of this author's writing that her main character - Anna - still occupies space in my head months after I read the book. The tension was expertly built throughout the novel and from 70% my head was just spinning. There were various points at which I thought I had it all worked out but no, I was proven wrong each time and then brilliantly taken on another route. I particularly enjoyed the skill with which each of the characters was unpeeled and revealed over the course of the book. I loved Anna's character even though I wanted to shake her sometimes I still cared about her very much. Brilliantly done and I can't wait to read the next book this author has to offer.

Linda says

Whoa! I feel like I've just gone through the drive-thru window at McCreepy's and ordered a Jumbo Squeamish Shake with a side order of Curl-Your-Toes fries.

And taking my order is Anna. Anna certainly doesn't reveal all the items on the menu quite yet. But you'll be turning pages quickly in order to unwrap the secrets held in that crisp white bag. Make sure you take extra napkins.....you're gonna need 'em.

Anna has just witnessed a horrible car accident involving a motorcyclist. She bolts out of her vehicle and tries to give comfort to the victim who is splayed out on the pavement. The young man appears to be in serious condition and Anna refuses to leave his side. She glances over at the driver of the car involved and does a double-take. Could that be Carla who was at the center of all of Anna's heartbreak years ago? Possibly.....

Anna can't help herself. She finds out the name and address of the victim and visits him non-stop in the hospital during his recovery. She even shows up at their home. His grandmother, Ivy, insists that they don't need her presence any longer. But, oh, Anna insists.

The story weaves back and forth between Anna's home and Liam's. Anna is employed. There's a frying pan filled with workplace issues for Anna. Just wait and see. Her neighbor, elderly Mrs. Peat, also adds plenty of her own ingredients to this mix. This storyline will keep your head turning back and forth and you'll be checking under the bed for more than just dust bunnies.

K.L. Slater presents a wallop of a psychological thriller. It will tap you on the shoulder and pose the question: Are the inmates running the sanatorium? Bookouture showcases some of the most talented writers that I have had the privilege to read. Does the name Angela Marsons ring a bell? Yep, you know exactly what I'm talking about here.

This is a honey of a read that switches from the present and then back to thirteen years ago. You're gonna be caught in that time warp and neither is a pleasant place to be. Booyah! Great job, K.L. Slater. We'll be back for a refill for sure.

Zoeytron says

Copy furnished by Net Galley for the price of a review.

Watch out for this type! You know the sort, a person who latches onto you, working nonstop to insinuate herself into your life. Attempts made at quelling this bizarre interest in you are futile. She *knows* what you need far better than you do.

Meet Anna. She recognizes the value of routine, rote, and control. There is some OCD going on with her, essential checks she must make when she leaves her flat, all designed to make her feel safe. The plug-ins, the oven, the kettle, the cushions on her sofa, they all have to be just so. She strives to do the same things at a certain time each day. Too bad she doesn't take the same amount of care with her deliveries for the Royal Mail service.

A chance encounter as the result of a car accident thrusts Anna into a situation she has always wanted, the chance to care for someone she can truly trust, someone with whom she can share her secrets. As it turns out, there are others involved in the mix, nosy untrustworthy types, those who are only out for themselves.

What about old Joan Peat, who lives in the adjoining flat? She has her own secrets. She sits, watching and listening, with a glass pressed up against the wall to aid in hearing. That killed me. Let's not forget the spare room and its contents. And what is that horrible smell?

Although there were a couple of rather too convenient pieces that caused my eyeballs roll a bit, I thoroughly enjoyed this psychological thriller. Anna is a fascinating character. With everything she has been through, it's remarkable that she isn't pulling her hair out by the roots. (view spoiler)

Sue says

SAFE WITH ME is a gripping psychological thriller by a debut author, KL Slater...and definitely an author with a promising career, and published by my favourite publisher, Bookouture. Your future is set!

“Thirteen years ago someone did something very bad to Anna. Now it’s her turn to get even ... “

“Anna lives a solitary existence, taking solace in order and routine. Her only friend is the lonely old lady next door. She doesn’t like to let people to get too close – she knows how much damage they can do. “

Then one day Anna witnesses a disturbing road accident and recognizes the driver as Donna, the woman who ruined her life thirteen years ago. Now it’s Anna’s chance to get revenge!

But Anna realizes that she needs to have a sound plan, which first involves getting to know Liam, the man injured in the motorcycle/car accident. Anna offers Liam any help and support she can provide. But Liam lives with his nosy controlling grandmother,” Ivy”, who is unwilling to accept Anna’s assistance, even though Ivy is feeble and unable to take care of her grandson. Therefore, Anna must take matters in her own hands and work out the path to make things happen her way, so she will get her revenge! It also means following the status of the police investigation, while watching and observing Donna from a distance. Anna must play her cards right...to win this time!

This novel is told from multiple perspectives, Anna’s in the first-person, the others in the third. The story alternates between present day and 13 years ago as the story unfolds. I love how the author allows us to get to know Anna, slowly with all her delusions. There are lots of red herrings and this book will keep you guessing all the way through. I was totally glued to this book, as I wanted to see what was going to happen.

It is hard to believe this is a debut novel. The author did a super job of leading the reader down the wrong path, and at 88%, I loved Chapter 67. The characters in this book are creepy and disturbed, and it is difficult for the reader to guess the outcome of the book. I didn’t! I felt the author rushed the ending a little bit, and I was scrambling to keep up and put the pieces together. But everything came together in the end.

This author is very talented and has a bright future.

Many thanks to Net Galley and Bookouture for the ARC. It was my pleasure to provide an honest review.

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

Anna is a solitary person. She has had a hard life. She is damaged but has built a new life on her own terms, one she can cope with.

As long as nothing goes wrong.

But when she witnesses a traffic accident, all her hard work comes unravelled. She tells herself she is coping, but is she?

Because the woman who caused the accident is one who hurt Anna a long time ago. The woman may have a different name, but Anna can see through her and she is determined that this time she should not get away with her actions.

Safe With Me is a debut novel by KL Slater which has me completely blown away. This is a chilling psychological thriller that had me devouring every word.

I want more from this author. Soon.

Thank you to NetGalley and Bookouture for providing me with a digital ARC for review. All opinions expressed in this review are entirely my own.

Liz says

An odd sort of psychological thriller. It's told from multiple points of view . Initially, there are three perspectives - Anna, an overweight mail carrier who had a tragedy in her life 13 years ago, her neighbor Mrs. Peat and an unknown individual. The first two suffer from loneliness. Anna also suffers from OCD and other issues stemming from the tragedy which we come to learn involved her brother. At the start of the book, she witnesses a car accident caused by the perceived perpetrator of her own tragedy and starts to plot revenge.

As the book goes on, we are given flashbacks to Carla, a school therapist, who Anna sees as her childhood villain. She is another lonely, damaged soul. Other character's POV come into play throughout the book.

Anna is a disturbing character. The kind of character that gives me the creeps. It doesn't take long to realize how off she truly is. Ever read one of those books where the scenes are so disturbing that you keep putting the book down? This is one of those books. Not that the scenes are violent or sickening. Just creepy. Goosebumps creepy. Slater does a great job of portraying Anna. Her choice of words is spot on, like when Anna sneaks into a house and then thinks "my sacrifice has paid dividends".

Then just when you think you have it figured out, Slater starts throwing curveballs at you. In fact, with every curve, you think, well now I know what's going to happen. And you will be wrong. Very well done plot.

My thanks to netgalley and Bookouture for an ARC of this book.

Gary says

I have read some really good novels recently and many have been published by Bookouture. This is another fine example, a debut novel by author KL Slater that is definitely going to be a success and the start of a glittering career.

The stories main character is Anna, she is a loner and her only friend is Mrs Peat who lives next door.

Thirteen years ago something happened in Anna's life that she still suffers to cope with.

Now in the present day Anna witnesses a car accident and the person who caused the accident is the same individual who ruined her life 13 years ago. Anna now decides it's time to seek her revenge, she is obsessed with the woman and follows the police investigation very closely encouraging the victims family to press

charges.

The story alternates between present day and 13 years ago as the story unfolds. This is an excellent debut novel and shows signs of a more experienced writer. There are lots of red herrings and this book will keep you guessing all the way through.

I would like to thank Net Galley and Bookouture for supplying a copy of this novel in exchange for a honest review.

Kelly (and the Book Boar) says

Find all of my reviews at: <http://52bookminimum.blogspot.com/>

3.5 Stars

THIS is what that waste of time *The Girl on the Train* should have been. At least as far as the unreliable narrator goes. Meet ~~Rachel~~ I mean Anna. Thirteen years ago a superbawful happened to someone she loved that she hasn't been able to get over. When by coincidence she witnesses the person from her past get in a car vs. motorbike accident she knows karma is finally working in her favor and it's *her* chance to ruin someone's life. If only she didn't have the distraction of her job to keep her from focusing 100% on the task at hand

Not to mention how hard it's getting to avoid her neighbor lady Old Mrs. Peat

Or that just when she thinks things are progressing quite nicely with Liam here comes his dang grandma

And that bitch Carla

Plus WTF is up with her apartment?!?!?!?

If you like reading about awful people and can occasionally suspend disbelief in order to enjoy a quality "Lifetime Nutter Movie of the Week" type of story, *Safe With Me* might be right up your alley.
