



Keep You Close

Karen Cleveland

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An FBI official's sense of right and wrong is blurred when her own son is accused of the unimaginable in this heart-pounding thriller from the *New York Times* bestselling author of *Need to Know*.

Stephanie Maddox makes tough decisions every day. She has her hands full heading the FBI's Internal Investigations division, policing wrongdoers within the Bureau. But, as a single mother, the most important thing in her life is her teenage son Zachary, who's anxiously awaiting college acceptance letters. So when she discovers a gun concealed in Zach's room, her world reels. And then an FBI agent on the domestic terrorism squad shows up at her door and utters three devastating words: "*It's about Zachary. . .*"

Has she been wrong about her near-perfect son? Is Zach embroiled in something criminal--something deadly? And, if so, what is her greater duty: To protect him? Or to protect her country?

Keep You Close Details

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From Reader Review Keep You Close for online ebook

Shkolnikjx says

I was once again amazed by Karen Cleveland's quality of writing. Her previous novel, "Need to Know", set a high level of expectations, and I have to say she managed to live up to it and more so.

This is the story of a mother's love for her child, and her willingness to go as far as needed to save him. There is a strong bond between the two of them, and the reader will find himself rooting for them. I strongly recommend this novel to any person that loves domestic thrillers and exhilarating drama.

Debi Hawkes says

I confess I haven't read anything by this author before, so nothing to compare it to like other reviewers who feel this one doesn't live up to her previous book.

I must say as far as a thriller, it got me didn't see this one coming. So that's a plus. The characters though were a bit one dimensional, and was a bit hard to believe in some of the twists.

All in all, a decent read.

I received an ARC from NetGalley and publisher Ballantine Books

LuAnn says

Second great thriller by this author. Just when I thought I knew where the story was heading there was a surprising twist. And the ending, Wow! Sometimes a mother will do just about anything to protect her children. I gave it only 4 stars because there seemed to be so many characters it was hard to keep them straight, and I had to keep flipping back in the book to remind myself who they were.

Jessica Sullivan says

In this propulsive thriller, FBI agent Steph Maddox must untangle a web of deceit when her 17-year-old son is accused of plotting to murder government officials.

Steph's determination to protect her son at all costs takes her deep into a conspiracy much more nefarious than she ever could have imagined, making her ultimately choose between her duty to her country or her duty to her son.

It's a fine premise, but it doesn't break any new ground and the writing leaves a lot to be desired. Thrillers are a dime a dozen, so when I sit down to read one, I want it to really stand out above the rest. This one does not.

The prose is extremely fast-paced and plot-driven, with lots of dialogue. While this makes for a quick and easy read, there's very little character development aside from some cliché flashbacks to Steph's past that establish her as a Strong Woman.

And the plot itself is pretty convoluted. There are twists, mostly for the sake of there being twists. The Russians are somehow involved, lending a topical element.

I was initially intrigued by the idea of a mother questioning if she really knows her son and being put into a difficult position of wondering what he might be capable of, but none of this is really explored with any nuance. And frustratingly, Steph's character arc ultimately puts her in the same position of weakness that she worked so hard to overcome.

If you love thrillers and don't have very high standards for them as long as they hold your attention, you'll probably enjoy this just fine. Just don't expect much else.

Janine says

[Vivian is the same Vivian from the first book? I mean she obviously is once I finally made the connection but I think if I had realized it earlier I would have enjoyed

Casey says

I was a huge fan of *Need to Know* so I was so excited to read this book and maybe my expectations were too high but it fell flat for me. It seemed very repetitive and parts were very predictable. There seemed to be endless half-finished conversations between Stephanie and Zachary. I wanted them to just set aside 5 minutes to have one real, honest conversation that would save them hours of future confusion and they didn't.

Kelly Hill says

I absolutely loved the author's first book and could not wait for this to be released. It fell really flat though. The book was written in the same fast paced, dialogue driven style as her first however there was no character development at all and I kept having to look back to see who certain characters were. The narrator's internal monologue was super repetitive. And the plot was super unbelievable. Steph's discovery of what was in her son's room and her actions following (including leaving her kid home alone considering everything that was going on - hello?!) seemed like something no mother would ever do. The whole thing was a big convoluted mess. I have to wonder if the book was rushed due to the success of her first book. It really felt so.

Thank you to Netgalley and the publisher for an ARC of this book. I really wanted to like it.

MeWriter says

Another fascinating read from Karen Cleveland. Spies, agents, elected officials, Russians - who to trust. And

when they come after her son, Special Supervisory Agent Steph Maddox has to unravel several plots to keep herself and her son safe. Unfortunately not as implausible as once thought. An interesting, fast-paced read that will keep you alert and awake until you've finished!
