



## The Longest Silence

*Debra Webb*

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"The twists and turns in this dark, taut drama make it both creepy and compelling." --*New York Times* bestselling author Steve Berry

*A killer stole her voice. Now she's ready to take it back. Don't miss the chilling Shades of Death series from USA TODAY bestselling author Debra Webb.*

*Joanna Guthrie was free. She had been for eighteen years--or so she needed everyone to believe. What really happened during the longest fourteen days of her life, when she and two other women were held captive by a dangerous serial killer, wasn't something she could talk about. Not after what they had to do to survive.*

*But when more women go missing in an eerily similar manner, Jo knows her prolonged silence will only seal their fates. She's finally ready to talk; she just needs someone to listen. FBI special agent Tony LeDoux can't deny he finds Jo compelling--he's just not sure he believes her story. But with the clock ticking, Jo will do anything to convince him, even if it means unearthing long-buried secrets that will land them squarely in the crosshairs of the killer...*

## The Longest Silence Details

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Author : Debra Webb

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Genre : Suspense, Mystery, Crime, Fiction, Romance, Romantic Suspense, Thriller

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## From Reader Review The Longest Silence for online ebook

### Catherine (The Sassy Bookster) says

Disclaimer: I voluntarily reviewed a copy of this book. All opinions stated are solely mine.

THE LONGEST SILENCE by Debra Webb is a captivating read, filled with twists and turns that will keep a reader on edge, and is definitely the kind of book that you won't be able to put down until the last page! Personally, this was quite a chilling read and I'm very interested in going back to the beginning of this series.

The truth of what happened to Joanna Guthrie eighteen years ago has kept her captive and reclusive because she preferred to bury it and never speak of it, but recent events, including abductions similar to hers have brought her nightmare to life and won't let her keep her silence anymore. Her quest to find the people behind her long nightmare may be dangerous but what compels her is much more powerful than her fears.

Tony LeDoux is a former FBI profiler whose dedication to the job cost him everything - his career and his wife. With his life spiraling down the drain, finding his missing niece might be the first step to redeeming himself and getting back up and Joanna is the key to the puzzle surrounding her abduction.

Two people whose experiences have left them badly damaged, may be the ones to take down criminals who have been operating under the radar for a very long time and in the process, find some healing for themselves.

Joanna was a very admirable character because she kept looking for patterns and even though she kept quiet for a long time, she acted when it counted and reclaimed a part of her life. Tony was much harder to get to know and for me, he's more like a supporting character in the story. I really wish there had been more to the story beyond the abrupt ending and I'm hoping there is some follow up story that lets readers catch up with these characters.

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Like my page on Facebook.

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### Dísir says

Anthony LeDoux is a familiar character to those who have been following Debra Webb's 'Shades of Death' series. Here, he's a pale and rather pathetic version of his uptight self in the previous 3 books—a jobless alcoholic after the breakdown of his marriage and an emblem, so to speak, of an FBI hero who, because of his hubris, has fallen far and in sore need of redemption. The latest case that involves his missing niece might just offer him that, but not before he encounters a survivor of a long-ago crime that bears a chilling similarity to this case.

'The Longest Silence' sits in the suspense/thriller genre than in the romantic suspense one: LeDoux and Jo's relationship is superficial and one that's established because of a common motive they have in wanting to solve the mystery. Their hookup is made out to be a meaningless one from the start and thereafter, not entirely mentioned again; the hot-and-heavy never quite happens and neither do their growing feelings for

each other. Their interactions thereafter consist of LeDoux trying to uncover what Joanna has been hiding from him as well as his running from place to place in desperation to form a credible picture of the entire crime scene and timeline.

Unlike Webb's previous books in this series, I found myself less captivated by LeDoux and Jo than I was with Bobbie Gentry and Nick Shade. If I admired Bobbie's immense strength and fortitude and was somewhat seduced by Nick's enigmatic personality and the demons that haunted him, I couldn't quite say the same for LeDoux and Jo as a pair. Webb's superb writing kept me engrossed in the growing mystery and suspense and after I started looking at this book without its romantic elements—which was easy to do—LeDoux and Jo simply became protagonists that I didn't find myself personally getting invested in. I was instead, thrilled to see cameos by Bobbie and Nick—their presence and rare HEA made this book for me—whose introduction towards the end of the book also proved its turning point.

'The Longest Silence' is nonetheless an engrossing read as it keeps you guessing how the connections are eventually going to work out. There are parts of the story that left me sceptical, but there's no denying that Webb's storytelling is masterful, but those who are looking for the tiniest speck of romance however, might find themselves disappointed.

\*ARC by the publisher via Netgalley

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## **Nancy Wolfe says**

THE LONGEST SILENCE written by Debra Webb is an absolute page turner! Her books are always very hard to put down once I start reading them but this one really got a hold on me. As book number four in the Shades of Death series it only gives us a small cameo of Bobbie Gentry and Nick Shade, which were the main characters in the previous books. This one focuses on Tony LeDoux, former FBI agent who helped them bring down the Storyteller killer in earlier books.

Eighteen years ago one woman has kept her silence about what happened to her and two other college age girls but only two of them escaped the horror. The other surviving girl has taken her own life and another group of girls has gone missing. Now Joanna Guthrie decides that it is time she returns to the town where it all happened and tell her story with the hope that this will stop whoever has been taking girls for over two decades.

Tony is a shell of his former self after losing everything that mattered to him. He is drinking heavily after quitting the bureau but he still uses those credentials to throw his weight around. Tony meets Joanna one night in a bar when she comes up to him and they end up together. Joanna tells him what happened to her all those years ago. Both of them are struggling with trust issues but slowly become friends. At first he doesn't believe her and thinks she might be the killer when a body turns up but the longer they are together she lets tells him more of what happened to her.

Tony gets a call his niece is missing and heads out to meet his sister and her husband to find out what is going on. Tony calls on Bobbie and Nick to help him find her. Everyone is trying to find his niece and the other girls. The book contains many twists and turns to keep the reader on their toes. This book is more of a psychological thriller in my opinion. The storyline contains lots of players, some which are unexpected. Using Joanna's flashbacks throughout the book gives the reader a glimpse into the depravity which she had endured. Tony is there for her to help her get through it.

I received an ARC from the author in exchange for an honest review. Having said that I would highly

recommend this book to everyone who loves suspense at its best. Debra Webb 's books are always well written and draw the reader in from the beginning and hold onto you to the end. I look forward to reading more books from her.

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### **Robert Ellis says**

This is another of Debra Webb's "can't put it down" books. The fourth installment in "The Shades of Death" series; "The Longest Silence" is a captivating read. I highly recommend this book and the series. You can't go wrong with a Debra Webb book.

Boston Bob

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### **Diane says**

FBI Agent Tony LeDoux has been spiraling downward for a while now, fighting his demons through a bottle. When his niece goes missing, it sets him on a path that he either must clean up his act or fall down. Fortunately, he teams up with another tormented soul, Joanne Guthrie, who happened to have endured a kidnapping filled with torture for 14 days, 18 years previously!

A good read, a bit slow at times, but still captivating.

4 stars and 2 thumbs up!

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### **Jo Ann Reinhold says**

I don't know what I can say about this book that others haven't already said! Debra Webb is a MASTER at her craft! Once again she has created a heart stopping, clock ticking, page turner that will grab you from the start and hold on to you to the very end! Dark, complex and totally compelling, the story Debra weaves around you as you read will have you at the edge of your seat. As usual, Debra brings her story to life with thoroughly developed characters that know the darkness and madness that can inhabit the mind of a serial killer

Well done Debra!

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### **Maureen ~Bitch Can Write A Book says**

For me this book had a different pace than the other books in The Shades of Death series. Also while Nick & Bobbi made a brief appearance, this book featured Tony LeDoux.

This Special Agent paid a very high price for his obsession with a serial killer, and because of it he lost so

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very much.

As usual, great plot with twists I never saw coming. I wasn't to sure about Jo but by the end I was all in and cheering for her as well as Tony.

He needed a win, and finding his niece Tiffany alive would go a long way.

Past and present collide for Jo, and she finally makes the choice to end the secrets.

And I really enjoyed the brief visit with Nick & Bobbi too!!!!

Debra Webb has another winner!

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## **DJ Sakata says**

Favorite Quotes:

Sharing the news of his divorce with his sister had been relatively easy, the career crash and burn, however, was a whole different ball game. He didn't want to see the disappointment in her eyes. She'd always looked at him as if he was a hero, starting the day he'd kicked nine-year-old Lacon Turner's butt for putting gum in her hair.

Shoulder-length hair badly in need of a wash. A few curly hairs that looked more like they belonged somewhere in the vicinity of his balls sprouted from his chin. Tony felt reasonably confident the tight, ripped jeans were cutting off the blood supply to his upper body and, more important, his brain.

The world we were snatched from no longer exists. There is only this place, this moment and our fears.

The darkness they had shared was an unspoken knowing between them. It was a bond that could never be broken.

My Review:

This was a gripping and well-crafted read that was devastatingly real. This was my first time reading Ms. Webb's works and I am an instant fan. This book was the fourth in a series but had strong legs to stand-alone and kick-butt while doing so. The main premise of the storyline was itchy creepy with the type of nightmarish situations that I wouldn't wish on my worst enemy, yet it wasn't as gruesome or graphic as you would expect while still getting across the seriousness and ghastliness of their terrifying circumstances. Written from multiple POVs, the story threads were engrossingly intriguing and maintained a taut level of suspense while slowly relating the flinch-worthy and riveting details of the past and present crimes and the brutal and nefarious actions of those involved. I grew to admire and respect the deeply flawed and critically damaged characters and would be more than interested in delving into the rest of the series.

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## **Amy says**

This is the fourth in a series but I jumped in here and had no problem reading this as a standalone. It wastes

no time and jumps straight into the action, I found it to be a true page turner so I'm sure this made it easier for me to catch on rather quickly. Tony is an ex FBI agent who's niece goes missing and Joanna is a woman who was abducted years ago and her case is freakishly similar to the current one. This was one of those reads with way more questions than answers and things are revealed slowly and steadily, a method which always reels me in.

I enjoyed both of the lead characters, Tony is a likable mess with good intentions and Jo is a broken woman with a seriously messed up past, I found her to be well drawn and unpredictable which always keeps me on my toes. The case itself was interesting, admittedly I did figure out the who on a few points, but not the why. Sometimes this frustrates me but this time I was so entertained that it honestly didn't bother me at all. Webb is such a skilled storyteller that I was able to easily let my usual irritation go and just enjoy the story regardless.

This was a solid serial killer read, plenty of suspense and a really unique explanation behind the killers actions. I can see why Webb is such a popular author, she really has a way with words and I read this in one tense sitting which is always a fantastic sign for me!

The Longest Silence in three words: Compulsive, Dark and Intense.

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### **Teresa -Poised Pen Productions says**

I've read everything Ms. Webb has published and I've never read a book by her that I didn't enjoy! This one is no exception.

The LONGEST SILENCE is the latest installment to the SHADES OF DEATH Series and it doesn't disappoint. A taunt thriller that will keep you riveted until the end and will keep you thinking about it, long after the final page has been turned. In my estimation, this is the epitome of a great read!

If you're like me and love a well-written, captivating read, then this is the book for you.

I've always said that Debra Webb is the QUEEN of Suspense and this story doesn't prove me wrong. A five-star read for me and I highly recommend it!

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### **Kendall says**

Joanna Guthrie has never fully recovered from a nightmare that happened to her 18 years ago. Joanna has been living in silence and she finally has found the courage to break this silence. Unfortunately, her nightmare is coming back to haunt her and it all seems to start happening again in real time to other women. Joanna is determined to put this to stop but can she with her previous trauma?

Tony LeDoux is a former FBI profiler who's life is falling apart. Tony lost his family and his career is falling down the toilet. Tony receives a phone call from his sister telling him that his niece is missing.

Tony and Joanna find each other trying to crack this mysterious "silence" of a case.

Have to admit that this wasn't something that stood out to me. This was another typical mystery series. I didn't feel very connected to Tony LeDoux and just felt like he was any other ordinary detective. Joanna's character was decent but I felt myself getting annoyed since I felt like at times she had more knowledge than the detective? We're supposed to believe that she's been living in silence with PTSD for 18 years, but she took more action than most of the characters in the book? Eh... not so much.

I most likely will not moving forward with this series since I have read so many series..... and this was just ok...

Overall 3 stars.

Thank you Netgalley and Harlequin for the advanced arc in exchange for an honest review.

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## **Shay Williams says**

This is a series that I have been following since the very first book and I do have to say that each book has only gotten better. If you are interested in my reviews of the other books in the series, just click on the titles.

A DEEPER GRAVE  
NO DARKER PLACE  
THE COLDEST FEAR

Now Ms Webb is quite the accomplished writer and if you would like to check out all of her series just click here to be taken to her website.

THE LONGEST SILENCE centers about Tony who was one of the secondary characters in the first few books but one whose story I wanted to learn more about. His niece has been taken and it is going to take all his skill along with help from Joanna to find her.

This book has all the tension and sharp turns that you would expect from Ms. Webb. We also are given quite the insight into the characters that make it all the easier to relate and care for them. The pacing is taut, the dialogue on point and goal is one that we can all cheer for.

I do recommend this book to any of my readers who enjoy a well written romantic suspense which is draw you into the story. While this book is the fifth in the series, it is well enough written to enjoy on its own though I do recommend starting from the beginning of the series.

\*\*\*I received this book for free from Net Galley in exchange for a fair and honest review. All opinions are my own and not influenced by the publisher or author.

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## **Toni says**

Debra Webb is my go to for creepy suspense, serial killer novels. Her latest, The Longest Silence is no exception. While it is part of the Shades of Death world, the focus is Special Agent Anthony LeDoux. He was always one of those characters you loved to hate until you saw the real him and fell completely in love with him, bad decisions and all. It is nice to see him recover his hero status and move forward. This is a hallmark Webb novel with twists and turns you never see coming. You will want to keep reading once you start, but leave the lights on.

I voluntarily reviewed an ARC of this novel.

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## **Linda Strong says**

4.5 Stars

Jo Guthrie was abducted and held for 14 days by a savage serial killer 18 years ago. Two other women were held with her .. one of them did not survive. She's never spoken fully about what they endured in order to stay alive.

FBI Agent Tony LeDoux isn't really an agent anymore. Once upon a time he was the FBI's golden boy. But a particularly gruesome case left him with nightmares that only alcohol could prevent. In turn, that cost him his wife and his job.

His niece is missing and has been for several days. Troubling as well is the fact that another college girl has gone missing.

Jo knows what has happened to them. Now she needs someone to listen .. someone like LeDoux. But will he?

As they start an investigation independent of the local law enforcement, they find links to the girls' disappearance ... now and of those 18 years ago. Unfortunately, they all seem to be dead or dying off. Someone is trying to clean house.

Jo and Tony find themselves the target of a vicious serial killer... a killer they must get to before the missing girls become dead girls.

This is a riveting, compelling story. Debra Webb is a well-known author of many, many books. Having read some of them, I have found her writing to be in accordance with the highest standards. I have never been disappointed. Her stories flow seamlessly with credible characters.

Many thanks to the author / Harlequin / Netgalley for the digital copy of this Romantic Suspense. Opinions expressed here are unbiased and entirely my own.

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## **Belinda says**

I luckily received the ARC of this book. As with all of Debra's books it was so very hard to put down. This is the next book in the Shades of Death series. This book focuses around Tony LeDoux. You will remember

him for using Bobbie to catch her husbands and sons killer. But they bonded by what happened to of them. Tony gets a call his niece is missing and heads out to meet his sister and husband to find out what is going on. He has been consuming lots of alcohol since he quit the bureau..but he still uses his credentials to throw his weight around..one night in a bar Joanna comes up to him and they end up together..she slowly starts telling him what happened to her eighteen years ago...He doesn't believe her at first and thinks she is a killer when a body turns up but the longer they are together she lets things spill of what happened to her...Tony calls in Bobbie and Nick and they help them. They are in a rush to find his niece and the other girls. There are many twists as to who was behind all of this experimentation of the years with girls. There are many players and I suspected them all but was surprised when I found out who was behind it all...was not who I expected at all til it came out. You will not be able to lay this book down as you ache for what has happened to the girls and what they are subjected to while held captive. You will shed tears with Jo especially during her flashbacks. Thanks to Tony though she will make it to the other side. MUST Read!!!

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