



The Safety of Secrets

DeLauné Michel

Download now

Read Online 

The Safety of Secrets

DeLauné Michel

The Safety of Secrets DeLauné Michel

"Now we're just alike." So begins Fiona and Patricia's friendship that warm autumn morning in first grade in Lake Charles, Louisiana, their bond forged ever closer by Fiona's abusive mother and Patricia's neglectful one. Their relationship is a source of continuity and strength through their move to L.A. to become actresses; through Fiona's marriage and Patricia's sudden fame. When husband and career pressures exact a toll, the women wonder if their friendship can survive. Then a dark secret from their past emerges, threatening to destroy not only their bond, but all they've worked for as well.

The Safety of Secrets is a beautifully written exploration of the bonds forged in childhood and challenged decades later, of the fulfillment of dreams and the damage they can cause, and of secrets being uncovered and the truth we find inside.

The Safety of Secrets Details

Date : Published May 27th 2008 by William Morrow Paperbacks (first published January 1st 2008)

ISBN : 9780060817367

Author : DeLauné Michel

Format : Paperback 320 pages

Genre : Fiction, Sociology, Abuse, Family

 [Download The Safety of Secrets ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Safety of Secrets ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online The Safety of Secrets DeLauné Michel

From Reader Review The Safety of Secrets for online ebook

Serena says

I received The Safety of Secrets by Delaune Michel from Book Club Girl, who will be hosting a book discussion with the author on Oct. 22 at 7 PM. For those of you have read the book, I encourage you to join the discussion in the chat room or on the phone lines. Here's the call in number: (347) 945-6149.

This novel takes the reader on a fluctuating journey between Louisiana and Los Angeles with two friends, Patricia, a semi-famous actress, and Fiona, her less-famous friend. The work examines the lies that are told to friends, about friends, and to spouses about friends and how those secrets impact long-term relationships. Fiona has grown up with Patricia and they move to Los Angeles to become actresses and escape their abusive home lives. Their lives have diverged a bit, with Fiona still starring in independent films and guest star roles, while Patricia has hit the big time as a host of a popular reality show and is primped and ready for every occasion. The distance in their relationship has grown and so have the number of secrets between them.

The narration told from Fiona's point of view moves in and out of the past so quickly, the reader can easily get lost. I often reread passages of this book looking for signs of where I was in Fiona's life, whether it was her past miscarriage or her a haircut she got against her mother's wishes when she was a pre-teen.

Check out Savvy Verse & Wit for the rest of this review!

Christen says

This book was terrible. The writing was elementary and the storyline bogged down by a melodramatic whinny spoiled Hollywood brat who is mad at her best friend for seemingly no reason, yet won't confront her like an adult. I read the first 124 pages, skimmed the next fifty and couldn't bring myself to finish it. My suggestion- do not even think about it! Sorry, Lauren :)

Elizabeth Rowe says

Another fairly easy read. This was written in a sort of "stream-of-consciousness" style, but it was very easy to follow and it made the book more interesting. I wasn't thrilled with the ending because I wanted the mail character to stand up to the people that had been walking over her, and make them change something in them instead of just blowing up, then acting like nothing happened.

Sheila says

Meeting Delaune Michel at her book-signing was like making a new friend. And reading her book, "The Safety of Secrets," was like making another. The story is told in present tense by a first person narrator called Fiona – and no; there is really no other way it could be told. Fiona is the reader's new friend, narrating her life story, just as it happens.

When we first meet, Fiona is just finding out that she's pregnant. Of course, the first person she tells is her best friend. We, the readers, are probably third or fourth on her list, since her husband has to be second. And we have to keep it secret because – well, she'll explain.

The trouble is, the best friend doesn't react quite how Fiona hopes. And while Fiona's telling us this, she's also saying how they met and why they're best friends. In fact, a lot of what Fiona reveals is told while telling something else. It's not confusing; it's just how she is. She gets side-tracked and wanders off in random directions, but she always leads the way back and makes her point before the end of the chapter, and she always sounds real.

I like the way the chapters are self-contained – convenient when I have to stop and walk the dog, cook dinner, or find the shirt that I forgot to wash – and natural, like conversations with a friend. I like the way the focus in each chapter is always something that's just happening, giving the story a real immediacy.

Fiona's an actress who lives and works in Hollywood. It's exciting, and it's a world I'll never know, so I feel awed to have a friend describe it to me. I forgive the tangents and diversions because it's such fun being Fiona's friend. And when I begin to suspect she's not terribly sympathetic – maybe a bit self-centered – when I begin to wonder what she's saying to her friends about me – that's when Delaune so cleverly also lets me recognize Fiona's need, and the way the words and stories are hiding secrets she hasn't yet told.

As a reader, or friend, I start to understand Fiona just as she begins to understand herself. I feel like I know what she's going through, and I want to help her out. But she'll never listen to me I know, so I read on to an end that's satisfying, true to life and true to what the reader wants for her.

I remember Delaune saying she didn't know how the novel would end when she started to write. I believe her. After all, Fiona couldn't possibly have known, and it's Fiona who's telling the tale. Nobody's pulling her strings to make things happen. But she's pregnant, and secrets have a way of forcing their way into the light at such a time.

"The Safety of Secrets" is a very believable book, an enjoyable read, a thought-provoking concept, and a tale of everyday friendship, secrets and courage. I'm glad I read it. And I'm glad I met Fiona (and Delaune).

Jackie says

This is an intriguing story about the ties of friendship over the years. Two little girls--Fiona and Patricia--become friends over a pair of socks, but bond most deeply because their shared experience of bad mothers (one is neglectful, one is abusive). Inseparable, the two girls, now women, go to LA to become actresses. Their varying degrees of success both at their careers and at their personal lives change their friendship, strengthening it here, stretching it thin there. Until one of the women decides to reveal a secret they both swore long ago not to, and the heat is turned up for everyone

Deb says

I bought this book because I met the author in a bookstore and she seemed delightful. Also, her uncle is Andre Dubus, an incredible writer, and her cousin is Andre Dubus III. Alas, she doesn't have the family writing chops. I really wanted to like it. Just never ended up caring about the characters, and the big secret

turned out to be less than expected. Her writing itself is adequate but ordinary.

Stacie says

I was very anxious to read this book and I was not disappointed. It was a quick and enjoyable read. I loved the storyline of a true lifelong friendship. As a mom, I was troubled by how the mothers treated Fiona and Patricia as children, but am glad they had each other to grow up with. The storyline travels back and forth from childhood to the present. The secret between them isn't revealed until the last part of the book, but I was able to pretty much figure out what it was. Fiona and Patricia have a troubled friendship as adults and I did tend to take Fiona's side most of the time. Secrets are a big part of this story, both in their childhood and as adults. It made me think about secrets and when is it ok to have those secrets and when not and how they can carry on into your adulthood. Everyone has secrets that we have kept from their parents or spouses or family or friends. But, at what point do those secrets affect your relationship with those you love and at what point do those secrets need to come out? I think this book really showed a true-to-life example of how secrets can affect the decisions you make and the reason behind those choices. I loved when Fiona finally let her mother have it. I don't want to say more and spoil the story, but that was something that I felt needed to happen in the story and was glad the author included it. I just think the author really gave a great example of a friendship that has a deep history, has some betrayal, intimacy, and is strong yet fragile. Any woman with a best friend will love this story and identify with the struggle of shared secrets.

Jami says

I didn't understand the point of this book. The plot was very sketchy and the book was sloppy in attempting to do two story lines at once. Complete waste of time.

Wendy says

I had to read all of this because I didn't have anything else on my vacation. Basically a self centered woman has a even more self centered friend. The first girl complains about how the second lives and treats her. At one point I think we are supposed to feel sorry for the first girl because of some things that happened to her when she was a kid. Mind you these things are bad but hardly worse then most peoples life stories. And her friend has it way worse. The first girls has no sympathy for the 2nd girls life at all. She never realizes that she has such a great life and her friend may never have that. I just hated it. Really hated it!

Ti says

The Safety of Secrets is about friends Fiona and Patricia and how they cope with secret from their childhood. Working as successful actresses in Hollywood, their lives are filled with work and husbands and memories that they share. After Fiona learns that she is pregnant..she begins to evaluate the relationship she had with her own mother and tries to come to terms with things that happened to her as a child.

The author did a good job of describing adolescent angst, but as adults..the characters seemed a bit one dimensional. Especially the character of Patricia. I think the story would have benefited if the adult

relationship had been a bit more developed. It was just okay.

M says

This was probably one of the worst books i've read in a while. It very poorly written. So many run- on sentences and rhetorical questions that the character "suddenly realizes" answers to. The characters are extremely annoying but the plot had so much potential. The author dragged out the story way longer than she should have. It was a painful read. I am very tempted to hand this book over to a bum to use in a fire. At least it'll keep him warm...

Ann says

Here's a book about friendship, marriage, motherhood, and career that's a page turner! Fiona and Patricia have been best friends since first grade in Louisiana and now they are both actresses in LA. They share a world of secrets. The author, DeLaune Michel, knows the hearts of these women and she knows the ways of Hollywood. Humor, language we recognize worded in ways we don't, and real characters make this a book you will want to share.

NOTE: The author is from a literary family that includes her uncle Andre Dubus and her cousin James Lee Burke!

Rose says

This book was ok. I liked that it was based in my hometown but to be totaly honest if it wasn't for that I don't think I would have known about it.

First off I didn't like how the book starts off with Fiona worried about having another miscarriage because it runs in the family. I mean sure that's something to worry about but not for a whole chapter. Plus there is a lot of childish drama throughout the book that agravates me.

Now for what I liked about it....

I liked how it reminds me of my childhood (except my mother wasn't crazy like Fiona had) with the whole best friends and doing everything together. Then of course both growing up and living different seperate lives.

Mary Catherine says

“Now we’re just alike.”

With a simple sentence, a friendship is forged between two young girls in THE SAFETY OF SECRETS by Delaune Michel. The two girls come from neglectful families and they use the similarity to band together, to become stronger.

Years later, the two women are still friends though their lives have changed quite a bit from their childhood days in Louisiana. Now actresses in Hollywood, main character Fiona suddenly finds herself with a large shift occurring in her life while best friend Patricia veers off on another path.

But friendship is forever.

Isn't it?

With alternating scenes from childhood and her adult life, Michel manages to write Fiona's perspective in such a way that I felt like I was her close friend, listening to her spin the tale of her life. Though the ramblings consisting of run-on sentences and tangents are slightly off-putting in the beginning, the tone levels out after a few chapters and is barely noticeable throughout the rest of the novel.

What struck a chord with me in this particular piece of work was the reality of the story. Some people have that one person who knows everything about them and that friendship is cultivated over the years. It's a relationship of love and hate, one that is tumultuous and one that can almost define who a person may be. Michel doesn't just tell a story; she tells true life in prose that can speak to anyone who is willing to listen.

Throughout the novel, the friendship between Fiona and Patricia breaks down, rising to a head when Patricia reveals a secret on national television – one that the two girls kept hidden in their minds since their young days. Even at its end, THE SAFETY OF SECRETS stays true to its tale of relationships and character studies. Though it's considered "chick lit," the novel reads like a gripping thriller and explores the deeper connections that are created and destroyed throughout one's life.

Pam says

rec from bookmooch
