



# Misery Loves Company

*Rene Gutteridge*

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## **Misery Loves Company** Rene Gutteridge

Filled with grief, Jules Bellano rarely leaves the house since her husband's death while on duty as a police officer. Other than the reviews Jules writes on her blog, she has little contact with the outside world.

One day when she ventures out to the local grocery store, Jules is bumped into by a fellow customer who apologizes profusely. She recognizes him as her favorite author, Patrick Reagan. Jules gushes and thoroughly embarrasses herself before Regan graciously talks with her.

And that's the last thing she remembers—until she wakes up in a strange room with a splitting headache. She's been kidnapped. And what she discovers will change everything she believed about her husband's death . . . her career . . . and her faith.

## **Misery Loves Company Details**

Date : Published July 22nd 2013 by Tyndale House Publishers

ISBN :

Author : Rene Gutteridge

Format : Kindle Edition 368 pages

Genre : Christian Fiction, Mystery, Fiction, Suspense, Christian, Thriller, Mystery Thriller

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## From Reader Review Misery Loves Company for online ebook

### Melanie says

Review on Amazon: <http://www.amazon.com/review/R1NI4J2R...>

**Misery Loves Company** was a very good read. Different from what I expected going in, but still great. I loved how Jules, the main character, was a blogger and reviewed books monthly on her blog.

Patrick was an interesting character. It was a little hard to understand him and his reasoning for doing some of the things he did completely, but I guess that's what made him such an intriguing character.

There was a sliver of romance in **Misery Loves Company**, not much - which I really liked for a change.

While I wasn't surprised by a lot of things in **Misery Loves Company**, there was one thing in the story I didn't expect at all!

Overall, **Misery Loves Company** was a interesting book that held my attention. I recommend it to fans of suspense/mystery novels.

*\*I received a complimentary eBook copy of this book from NetGalley for my review. I was not required to give a positive review, only my honest opinion - which I've done. All thoughts and opinions expressed are my own.\**

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### Jordyn Redwood says

For some reason, I seem to be attracted to Ms. Gutteridge's books that deal with writing. The first novel I read by her was Ghost Writer which was about an author receiving anonymous pages by someone writing in great detail about his life. I love those things that have some insight into the writing world and putting twists on them is great fun.

Misery Loves Company is Misery (by Stephen King) in reverse and I wonder if the title is a play on that book's title!

You should stop reading now as this review might contain spoilers.

A book reviewer suddenly pops up missing. Involved in her disappearance is a well-known author. Just why he's taken her becomes the real crux of the mystery. Does he have information on why her police husband was killed in the line of duty?

I really did like this book but some things kept me from loving it. The villain was just never consistent vacillating between fatherly and mentally ill. It really felt like he was more misguided than evil especially when his goal for taking her seems to be to pass the baton of his writing career to another and he was never punished for his crimes at the end of the book. I didn't feel like the suspense element was fully realized.

An engaging tale with an intriguing plot concept but not as scary as I prefer. I think readers who enjoy a gentler suspense read will find the novel enjoyable.

## **Kira FlowerChild says**

I was a couple of chapters into this book when something made me check the publisher. Tyndale House. As a former bookstore manager, I am quite familiar with them, but I generally don't read anything they publish because I am not at all religious. So I will just say that if you like fiction that is Christianity-oriented, you will probably like this book. I didn't.

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## **Elizabeth says**

Misery Loves Company is a suspenseful novel that will keep you on the edge of your seat until the last page. Jules is a young widow who mostly keeps to herself since the death of her husband, Jason. Chris a police officer who used to be Jason's partner until he was found murdered. Patrick Reagan is a famous writer whose novels are on the best seller's list. Jules is the type of person that follows a strict routine: she rises at the same time everyday, shops at the same store at a specific time each week, and she writes a blog daily. After she reviews Patrick Reagan's latest novel on her blog, she goes missing and her alcoholic father demands that Chris and the police department find her. As Chris searches for Jules, he stumbles upon the last case that Jason was solving and he finds a link between Jason's murder and his last case. As Chris looks for Jules and tries to find out who murdered Jason, Jules is having an unforgettable time with her captor, who claims that he kidnapped her not to harm her, but to teach her a lesson she needs to learn. Then, when Chris finally figures out the chilling truth behind Jason's murder, the location of where Jules has been taken, and how Patrick Reagan fits into the whole situation, mayhem results threatening the lives of Jules, Patrick, and Chris. I really loved reading this book. There was just the right amount of mystery to keep you interested in reading and the characters just leapt off the page. After reading this book, I look forward to reading other books written by this author.

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## **Dundee Library says**

Juliet Belleno is a young widow of a police officer who was killed on duty. Grief stricken, she becomes a reclusive blogger making little contact with the outside world after her husband's death. After a trip to the store, she awakens in a strange room. She discovers her abductor is her favorite author whose mental state is anything but stable! He begins a slow process of revelations about her husband's death that begin to change her perception of all she thought to be true.

The book was slow to interest me but once I got into it, it was very interesting. We had a good Book Club discussion about it.

Although the consensus of the group was that it was a good book, several members of our club mentioned that it was not really inspirational. I thought the discussion questions were much more inspirational and thought-provoking than the book.

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## **Rissi says**

Novels earn my reader's heart respect if they can be unique within a genre, and to top it off, be entertaining. That is what I found in this quirky "cozy mystery" from renowned author Rene Gutteridge. It tells the story

of a woman named Jules whose life is something akin to that of a recluse following the tragic death of her law enforcement husband. Instead of keeping in touch with her friends and family, Jules spends her days reading and blogging about said books with an occasional routine trip to the grocery store. When a normal trip to the market leads Jules to meet her favorite author, things get sketchy when the next thing she knows, Jules wakes up in a unfamiliar surroundings with a captor. Very unusual to her routine, Jules disappearance leads her concerned father to reach out to his son-in-law's former partner, Chris to find and return his daughter safely.

Whoever nominated this book in the 2014 INSPYs, you deserve a shout-out. That nomination ensured I actually read this – and I'll admit that while it did sound fun, it wasn't a book I was prioritizing – but boy, am I glad I did. Anyone going into this expecting the tradition of Dani Pettrey or Lynette Eason will be disappointed. This novel is a simpler mystery that's more "cozy" than breath-catching. It's not so much the adrenaline rush as it is a "need" to continue reading in order to piece together the puzzle (a mental stimulation) of why Jules is in the predicament she is – and more importantly, what point her kidnapper is trying to make. Because of this the story may read "slower" than the average mystery, but let me tell you, I was riveted. This is one of those books I didn't want to see end and rarely, if ever, came across as ill-timed or poorly plotted.

If you like mysteries that don't use the same ideals or are comfortable being "stuck" in a formulas, check this one out. It's quite memorable and contrary to what you might think, I can assure you, the topic has nothing to do with my positive review. I promise. \*wink\*

Thanks to the publisher for a copy of this novel in contemplation for the 2014 INSPYs.

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## **Jessica says**

The story as a whole was good. I really enjoyed how the book shifted to right after the kidnapping so that the reader was on the same footing as the characters in trying to figure out what had happened. I liked the fact that the bad guy wasn't a homicidal maniac. Sometimes those are fun books, but the characters in them are often so unrealistic it's difficult to feel invested in the story. This book wasn't about what new tortures the bad guy could think up, but rather what was going on in his marginally-sane mind. The main woman character seemed realistic as well, balancing trying to do and say what she thinks her kidnapper wants and erupting in frustration. She was braver than I in some of her outbursts.

I've never read a Christian suspense/mystery book and wasn't expecting it. I felt most of the Christian aspects were forced. Some seemed natural, like a widow wondering if her husband would still be alive if she had prayed for him. Almost every other time when religion was brought in, it seemed out of place in that the conversations and the religious doubts the characters had are nothing like those of real nonbelievers. This issue even extended to word choice: I have never in my life heard a nonbeliever refer to God as "the Creator" or "the One".

The book lost some of its appeal at the end. Suddenly, events become stereotypical and unrealistic, with near deaths every other page. Characters who have been severely wounded are running around like they only sprained a wrist. What was a long dangerous road to navigate while in perfect health is suddenly no problem for someone gravely wounded and repeatedly almost passing out.

Finally, unrelated to the content of the book at all, I really loved the cover. Truly a piece of art!

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## Trish says

[She has no desire to find Patrick?! I can maybe accept the fact that she's not going to press charges - but she has no desire for closure? And Chris is also willing to let it drop? (hide spoiler)]

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## Rita says

This is the first book I've read by Rene Gutteridge. I enjoyed the mystery in the book and had fun trying to guess the outcome. Early on I thought I had it all figured out only to discover I was wrong about most of it. The only negative about the book would be that while the story seemed to move along at a steady pace, the ending seemed too rushed to me. All in all, I really liked the book and recommend it to fans of mystery/suspense.

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## C.E. Hart says

Misery Loves Company  
By Rene Gutteridge

If you liked Stephen King's movie/book Misery, then I think you'll like this. It has some similarities (thriller, danger, writers, etc.) Quite a page-turner.

It may seem strange to comment on the appearance and feel of this book, but its uniqueness deserves a mention. The large font is easy to read, I like the picture at the beginning of each chapter, and the cover is interesting and has a smooth texture.

Don't let the fact that it's a faith-based book fool you into thinking it's a light, feel-good book. It's not. It's a wonderfully fast-paced suspense story that deals with corruption, kidnapping, and murder (among other things.) There isn't any foul language etc., but I feel the targeted reader base is the more mature reader.

Cover: Like it

Title: Love it

Publisher: Tyndale Publishers

Pages: 338

Pace: Steady

First Line: In the early morning hours, with the stars dotted across a fading black sky, the air was still and thick and shadowless.

Disclosure of Material Connection: I received a Review Copy free from the Tyndale blogger program. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255

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## Juanita says

A genuine page turner, that's what this book is, a genuine page turner. I read Misery Loves Company in one sitting. Page after page I turned into the early morning hours. In my opinion, a book that causes me to keep turning the pages, until there are no pages left to turn, is exceptional and quite excellent.

I found a lot of similarities between me and Jules, more than I would have ever imagined. It was as if someone had been watching me and wrote a story based on me and my life, that is how similar the character of Jules was to me and my own real life. Truly amazing!

In addition to Jules, I also felt a deep compassion for Patrick. Patrick and Jules are two people I did not want to depart from or say "Goodbye" to when the last page was reached.

Within these pages are people who may not have truly known God and the peace that He gives. However, they learn to give in and cry out to God. By doing so they see His grace, power, and peace envelope them and their situation.

It has been such a long time since I have read fiction. I usually gravitate towards the non-fiction titles. However, this time I am so happy that I made the choice to step into the fictitious world which Rene Gutteridge has made with Misery Loves Company. Thank you Rene! Thank you for letting me get to know Jules and Patrick, in experiencing their lives from a distance.

I highly recommend Misery Loves Company!

Tyndale House Publishers has provided me with a complimentary copy of this book.

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### **Aerykah says**

I forced myself to continue listening to this book until about 2/3 of the way through before finally giving up on it. I just wasn't enjoying it at all so I felt that 5 1/2 hours was enough time wasted on a book that I found to be, more than anything, simply boring and annoying.

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### **Lorraine Nunley says**

Suspenseful, creepy, and page turning. From the start I was drawn into this suspenseful story. Just the creepiness of Jules' abductor for most of the story kept me on my toes. What did he want from her? Would he kill her? Full review is at my website.

I received this book complimentary in a giveaway. I was not required to give a review. All of the opinions I have expressed here are my own.

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### **Jasmin says**

Should be titled "A beginners guide to Stockholm syndrome"

I couldn't help but roll my eyes through 90% of this book.

Well written in some parts but melodramatic and boring in others.

In the end I didn't care about the characters and the actual ending was everything you were expecting. I was never really shocked about any of the 'twists' and am glad to have finished it.

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### **Jennifer Slattery says**

This was the first novel I've read by Rene Gutteridge, and I'm hooked. The story gripped me without release, often keeping me up well into the night, until I reached the very satisfying end.

Jules Belleno, a talented writer who appears to have little drive for anything but blogging, eating, and sleeping, experiences a terrifying adventure that rocks her to her core, and in doing so, awakens the part of her she's suppressed for way too long. Captured by an author she once greatly admired, she's forced to find inner strength and a reason to go on. Held hostage in a secret, remote cabin barricaded in by trees and brutal cold, her fear of death stirs within her a desire to live.

This novel is one of the most captivating, disturbing, hope-infusing stories I've read. Ever. There were times my fingertips literally grew sweaty, my stomach churned, and my pulse raced as I wondered if this poor, broken girl would survive. As to Patrick Reagan, the literary genius turned kidnapper, I held as much fear of him and empathy for him as Jules did. Was he crazy? If not crazy yet, would he become it before the novels end? And yet, having experienced with him the death of his wife, could I blame him if he did lose his sanity?

In Misery Loves Company, Ms. Gutteridge masterfully created a villain I couldn't hate and a "victim" I admired. Needless to say, I am now a committed Gutteridge fan!

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