



The Diary

Vikki Patis

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‘I know all your secrets, Lauren.’

Lauren has spent years running away from her home town, her childhood and the memories of her best friend, **Hannah**.

Until the tenth anniversary of Hannah’s death forces her to return home and to the group of friends she abandoned there. It should be a quick visit, just so Lauren can pay her respects.

At home, Lauren finds Hannah’s old diary. A diary full of secrets. The terrible things Lauren did, the lies she’s told, the reason she ran away. And she receives a message:

‘I don’t know why you’re back, but I know why you left.’

But no-one else has seen the diary, and Hannah’s dead, isn’t she?

A suspenseful psychological thriller full of twists and turns – you won’t be able to stop turning the pages of *The Diary*. Perfect for fans of *The Sister*, *The Girl on the Train* and *We Were Liars*.

The Diary Details

Date : Published November 26th 2018 by Bookouture

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Author : Vikki Patis

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From Reader Review The Diary for online ebook

??? Shelley ??? says

The Diary had way too many unnecessary characters. It wasn't that it made the book confusing, it was the fact it made it a tad boring.

I thought I was going to love this book because of seeing the story description and the great reviews. However, I was highly disappointed. I don't like not finishing a book, but I contemplated on putting it down on three different occasions. I decided I had to finish it because maybe there was something I was missing. Unfortunately I wasn't. The story seemed to be all over the place and there was no evolvment of getting to know the many characters.

Thank you NetGalley, Bookouture and Vikki Patis for the opportunity to read this book in exchange for an impartial review; all opinions are my own.

#TheDiary #NetGalley

All my reviews can be read here: <https://shelleyann01.blogspot.com>

Nazanin says

3 Stars

First of all, you see that title? Well, that "Diary" wasn't really important and wasn't useful really! Second, the story itself was so repetitive, and asking repetitive questions over and over without revealing anything was on my nerves (in a bad way)! And it was a bit over the top, in my opinion! I'm not saying it was that bad, but it wasn't really good either! Told in single POV, 1st person. Overall, it was an okay read for me and I hope you like it more than me!

Thanks to Vikki Patis, Netgalley and Bookouture for the advanced digital copy in exchange an honest review.

Julie Lacey says

Lauren has moved away from the place she grew up and has tried to forget all the bad things that happened when she was younger. She's now living with her girlfriend and enjoying life. She then receives an invite to a memorial for her friend who died when she was a teenager. Lauren hasn't been back since she left over ten years ago and soon bumps into people who she grew up with. Her Dad is happy to have her stay but knows something is worrying Lauren. Through a series of flashbacks we learn what happened to Lauren and Hannah. When Lauren starts to feel more comfortable back home she receives more messages relating to the past and then finds out that her other friends have been getting them too. The story comes to a dramatic conclusion and is a real page turner. Thanks to Bookouture and NetGalley for the opportunity to read this book.

Shalini says

This book started off as a thriller with a dead girl, a ten year anniversary of her death, the gang of girls who were alive, each harboring a secret, and the sword that held them to the edge - The Diary!!

Lauren came home for the death anniversary of her best friend & sister, Hannah, and someone started sending her threatening text messages, almost as if it were coming from Hannah. The author Vikki Patis, started the book with a scorching mystery. Lauren met up with the girls slowly one by one, all of them having received these messages.

The author's writing cast a doubt on all the characters, the plot had the turns where Lauren was betrayed badly by these close friends, so she was a wreck in the times she met up with them. The initial part had no clear sense of direction. The story unfolded giving glimpses of the past, all the time hinting at the diary, which Lauren did find, but never found the guts to read. I felt Lauren was like the waves, she would advance to read the diary and then retreat without reading. This happened in most of the story where one reading of that dang diary would have solved the mystery. She totally frustrated me!!

The book had its niggles, Lauren ran away all the time, none of the girls were really friends, in the past they just drank and drank and drank. In the present, most of them smoked and smoked during tension filled scenes. And none of them were likable.

Why did I read/finish the book? The book then became an emotional read where Hannah's torturous abuse was revealed. It had me fighting my tears, a lot of pain was hidden in her which caused her to act out. And the last bit had me empathising with all of them and their juvenile mistakes. Their selfish and judgmental teenage selves destroyed lives, but it was nice to see them rallying together as grown women to fight the veiled stalker!!

Kim ~ Traveling Sister says

Secrets, secrets and more secrets! This book is packed full of surprises. Vikki Patis does a fantastic job of capturing teenager drama that goes terribly wrong.

Is it possible to run away from your past or is it going to resurface to haunt you no matter how long it has been? Lauren is soon to find out the answer to that as she returns to her small home town. This is a fantastic debut psychological thriller that addresses some serious issues. We are allowed into the past and the present with alternating chapters helping us fill in the gaps of what had happened all those years ago.

Even though this is a slow burn for me, it kept me interested the entire time. I found it to be a very realistic portrayal of issues that teenagers face each day. The mean girl drama, suicide, trying to fit in, gossip and secrets spread that can destroy lives. Underage drinking, parties and much more. As adults these girls are trying to come to terms with their past and things they have done. Can someone really change?

This book hooked me from the start and kept me intrigued the entire way. So excited she has a new book coming out March 8th! Count me in for that one!

Nicki says

This is a compelling story about sisterhood and how tenuous and easily broken the ties are between us and the people who are important to us. It's a story about the mistakes we make when we are younger. We all have things that we did or said in the past that we would love to do differently, I know I have. It's about the different types of abuse that are endured everyday by people of all ages, in many different situations, environments and sectors of society. It's about friendship, judgement, revenge, redemption, forgiveness, misconceptions and how we can only move on with our futures if we find a way to let go of our pasts.

Lauren White has spent years running away from her past, her home town, her childhood and memories of her beloved best friend Hannah.

But Lauren has been forced to return home to the small town of Hitchin because her Dad has asked her if she will go with him to the memorial service that is being held at Lauren's old school to mark the tenth anniversary of Hannah's death. Lauren doesn't plan to stay long, just a few days, long enough to pay her respects.

At home, Lauren is shocked when she discovers Hannah's old diary. A diary full of Lauren and Hannah's friend's secrets. The terrible things Lauren did, the lies she told, the reason she ran away.

Then Lauren and some of her old group of friends start receiving threatening text messages.

Someone else knows their secrets but no-one else knows about the diary, and Hannah is dead, isn't she?

This enthralling story is voiced entirely by Lauren and told in chapters that flip back and forth between the present and the past. Lauren was a likeable character but I struggled to understand why she put Hannah on such a high pedestal and thought she was so amazing when Hannah seemed to do nothing but treat her badly. Why do we put so much time and effort into being accepted by people who mistreat us. That friend that suddenly stops talking to you and is slagging you off behind your back but who you would happily still be friends with if they decided to start talking to you again. Even Hannah's friends said that Hannah was mean and cruel, a fact that was proven by some of the comments that Hannah had written in her diary. Who was the real Hannah, was she the cruel person she appeared to be or was she just scared to let herself get too attached to people because of things that had happened in her past? The characters in this book were a mixed bag of vivid, realistic personalities, some likeable, some not so and most of whom had hidden secrets. My favourite parts of the story were the chapters set in the present day. Who was sending the threatening messages? How did the person or person's know the group's secrets?

The Diary is a mesmerising, very well written debut thriller that had me hooked in from the first page. The story flows with ease in both time frames and no parts come across as unnecessary or added to pad out the story. The author states in the notes at the back of the book that she has been affected personally by some of the issues raised in this story and I hope that writing this book has helped her start the journey towards moving on even if it's only in a small way. There are some hard hitting issues covered in this book that would raise some heated discussions if it was read by a book group. Highly recommended, I look forward to reading more books by this author in the future.

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

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

EXCERPT: 'Lauren, please!' Her cries followed me out of the front door. They haunted me in the days after her death. They followed me to Plymouth, to Cornwall. They live inside my head. Hannah talks to me in my sleep; she lies down beside me and whispers in my ear. She comes back over and over again to remind me of what I did. Because I don't deserve to forget.

ABOUT THIS BOOK: 'I know all your secrets, Lauren.'

Lauren has spent years running away from her home town, her childhood and the memories of her best friend, Hannah.

Until the tenth anniversary of Hannah's death forces her to return home and to the group of friends she abandoned there. It should be a quick visit, just so Lauren can pay her respects.

At home, Lauren finds Hannah's old diary. A diary full of secrets. The terrible things Lauren did, the lies she's told, the reason she ran away. And she receives a message:

'I don't know why you're back, but I know why you left.'

But no-one else has seen the diary, and Hannah's dead, isn't she?

MY THOUGHTS: There was the occasional flash of brilliant writing in The Diary, but mostly I found it slow, repetitive and overly angst-ridden. I applaud the author's motivation for writing this book - she features the eternal problems of bullying and suicide, but I found her treatment of them somewhat heavy-handed.

The premise for the plot was good, but it just never seemed to develop its full potential. Likewise there was little in the way of character development. The characters remained one dimensional, and I had trouble feeling anything for any of them. The fact that it took me 4 days to read this relatively short book is also telling.

I was going to rate this book 2.5 stars. But for those very occasional flashes of brilliance which, at one point, had me briefly convinced that the author had found her stride, that is the rating it would have received. Those moments earned an extra 0.5 star.

Despite my criticism, I think this author shows promise and I will be putting my hand up for her next book.

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Love the cover!

THE AUTHOR: Vikki Patis is an author and blogger, as well as an avid reader and book reviewer. When she isn't working as a Regulatory Affairs Manager, she can usually be found drinking tea, baking cakes, or taking walks in the Hertfordshire countryside. She lives with her partner and two cats.

DISCLOSURE: Thank you to Bookouture via Netgalley for providing a digital ARC of The Diary by Vikki Patis for review. All opinions expressed in this review are entirely my own personal opinions.

Please refer to my Goodreads.com profile page or the about page on sandysbookaday.wordpress.com for an explanation of my rating system. This review and others are also published on my blog sandysbookaday.wordpress.com <https://sandysbookaday.wordpress.com/...>

Mandy White says

I loved this book!! The secrets of the past are coming back to haunt a group of high school friends...in a big way!!

Lauren left home 10 years ago - after the suicide of her best friend Hannah. She returns home for first time for the 10th anniversary of her death. She is reunited with friends from school, all of whom are hiding secrets of what really happened at that time. When Lauren finds Hannah's diary hidden away in her old bedroom she realises how little she really knew her friend. Then she starts to receive threatening text messages...

Thanks to Bookouture and Netgalley for my advanced copy of this book. All opinions are my own and are in no way biased.

Carrie says

The Diary by Vikki Patis is a psychological thriller that digs for the secrets of the past. The story involves a teen suicide years before and flashes between the current and past to slowly build what happened all those years ago.

Lauren had been best friends with Hannah while growing up but the moment Hannah took her life Lauren ran from her home and hasn't returned for ten years. Now on the anniversary of Hannah's death Lauren returns to face the past.

However, after arriving back home Lauren begins to receive threatening text messages and as she slowly meets up with her circle of friends from the decade before she finds they all have been threatened. Finding Hannah's diary Lauren is determined to find out who doesn't want her to know about the past.

The Diary was another of those extremely slow building thrillers that unfortunately makes for one that is in danger of losing my attention. I do appreciate the author trying to touch on a relevant subject with teen bullying and suicide though. But I couldn't help but think to myself again and again that the whole thing could have been solved rather quickly but instead was being dragged out so while the mystery wasn't bad in the end it was just too slow getting there for me to enjoy it more.

I received an advance copy from the publisher via NetGalley.

For more reviews please visit <https://carriesbookreviews.com/>

Laura says

The Diary is a atmospheric slow-burner of a novel that is full of suspense but also an enjoyable, easy read - it would be perfect to take on holiday and completely loose yourself in!

The characters are a real mix - though some are less likable than others, all are entertaining to read about and Lauren herself seems like a great character. Her sister Hannah - who we only learn about through Lauren's memories and some limited diary entries - seemed to be a tricky character when she was alive; many aspects of her personality jarred with me, but she had her own problems which I like - none of the characters are too black and white or overly simplified. I think that Vikki Patis has a great knack for creating realistic characters who you can imagine as actual people.

The plot is packed full of secrets and mystery, which I really liked; there are also some really complex issues laid out within The Diary's pages. I don't want to give too much away about the story, but I'm sure a lot of readers - especially females - can probably relate to at least some of the experiences that Lauren, Hannah, and their friends talk about or experience. It also had some great pop-culture references, and with Lauren being a similar age to me I recognised lots of references from films and TV programmes that I loved growing up, which was an added enjoyable element.

This was a fun, easy read with a definite touch of darkness lurking underneath the drama. I raced through it in no time and would definitely read future novels by Vikki Patis.

Lou says

Nothing gets my goat more than books that are misleadingly titled and genre labelled and The Diary violates both of these quite spectacularly. For starters, the diary that is alluded to as playing a substantive part in the plot is rather elusive and quite frankly irrelevant to the story. It feels like a desperate attempt to muster some intrigue, although it appears I am one of only a few to have realised. It is never going to end well when a reader feels they've spent time, money or both on something that has duped them when they could've spent it reading something more to their tastes. Secondly, labelling it as a psychological thriller is highly inaccurate. We all make mistakes that we may go on to rue and regret, but if reliving past mistakes and missed opportunities now counts as inspiration for a psychological thriller then I don't hold out much hope for the genre.

What the author does do well is create an emotional journey and a timeline that moves seamlessly between past and present and goes some way to building a tense atmosphere. She also explores some prevalent real-life issues sensitively and compassionately. However, it was rather slow moving and extremely repetitive with certain phrases and questions being repeated countless times. The characters were very one-dimensional with little in the way of differing traits which made distinguishing them from one another a struggle, and despite them all being adults they come across as immature and are more than a tad annoying as a result. I also found it difficult to maintain my interest and only finished after pushing myself. If you are looking for a thriller, of which this claims to be, then I would advise you to look elsewhere as there are plenty of fantastic ones out there. If you enjoy women's fiction or stories about the impact of school life, bullying and mental health on a persons life choices then pick this one up.

Many thanks to Bookouture for an ARC.

Dita says

This book left me awestruck. Wow!

Lauren and Hannah are like sisters. When Hannah commits suicide on her 18th birthday, Lauren couldn't handle it so she moves away. Her dad convinces her to come back for the 10 year anniversary of Hannah's death and all hell breaks loose.

Hannah begins to receive threatening texts and it brings her back together with her social circle. Told in the past and present we meet Hannah's friends, relive past trauma, watch secrets unfold and learn of regrets.

Twisty and taut, dark and sad, it engaged from page one to the end.

Thank you to Netgalley and Vikki Patis who gave me this advanced copy in exchange for an honest review!

Sarah says

The story flicks between now and then. In the present, Lauren makes the hard decision to return back to her family home for the ten year anniversary of Hannah's death. The past we get to see more of Lauren and Hannah's relationship as well as what life was like back when they were in their teens and the build up to Hannah's untimely death.

This book is packed full of secrets and who doesn't love a good secret? Hannah I kind of had mixed feelings about. In a way she is very much like a big sister to Lauren, always looking out for her, but in the same breath, at times it felt like a bit too much. It almost felt like rediscovering who someone really is. Hannah's diary certainly opens a whole can of worms and even has Lauren questioning how well she truly knew her.

You can definitely feel the build up of tension as the story progresses. I really enjoyed reading of Lauren and her dad's relationship and it felt like the bond between them was growing tighter which I loved. It was also interesting to see how Lauren's relationship with her old school friends differed. All of them have their own secrets that they don't want to get out and I couldn't wait to find out just who was behind it all.

The Diary hooks you in from the start and kept me there until the very end. It makes you think about just how well you really know people. I thought the conclusion was very satisfying and well worth the build up of suspense. An enthralling page turner of a read.

My thanks to Bookouture and NetGalley for an advanced readers copy of this book. All opinions are my own and not biased in anyway.

Malia says

I think, to be fair, I need to mention that maybe reading this book was a case of "it's not you, it's me". It's not a bad book nor very long, yet it took me AGES to finish. I think my mind wasn't in the right place for this one. I had read *The Blackhouse* before and it was so atmospheric and engaging, I think I was still mentally there instead of fully into *The Diary*. That being said, if it had been phenomenally gripping, I am sure I would have been turning those pages more quickly. I did guess at the ending, and found it fairly unspectacular, I'm sorry to say. I also thought the characters were not fully fleshed out, as they should have

been, given the premise of the book. Nonetheless, I don't feel right giving it less than three stars, because I think, had this one not followed a book I would put of my "best of 2018" list, I probably would have liked it better.

Thanks to Netgalley for supplying me with a copy of The Diary in exchange for an honest review.

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Berit??? says

A juicy and compelling story full of secrets, misconceptions, and lies!

Two can keep a secret if one of them is dead.

six girls, six secrets, 10 years, and a mystery... This book had a definite Pretty Little Liars vibe to it, and bonus you find out who "A" is in the first book! (Although her name is poly in this book, not A) Vikki Patis did a really good job of juggling six characters and two timelines... I was never confused, each girl had a distinct personality... additionally the teenagers acted like teenagers and when they were adults they acted like adults... you could definitely see the growth and changes in each and every girl... I also appreciated all the pop-culture references, I always enjoy those in books!

Lauren returns home after being away for 10 years, to attend her childhood BFF Hannah's memorial... Lauren already feels responsible for Hannah's death, but when she starts receiving Messages from an unknown number suggesting that they know her secret, she begins to question her decision to return home... after running into her friends from the past she realizes she is not the only one receiving these messages... each girl has something to hide, something that Hannah knew, but who did Hannah share their secrets with? With everybody having things to hide and a diary filled with Hannah's true thoughts, everybody is a possible suspect...

A well-crafted story that dealt with so many issues that so many teenagers face... I am certain everyone will be able to find something to relate to when it comes to the teenage angst in this book.... some of the subject matter was disturbing, but handled very well... Lauren was a very likable character and you felt her guilt and regret right along with her... The other characters weren't quite as well fleshed out, but it's hard with such a large cast... and I think they were all important to the story, because it really shows the true group dynamic of teenage friendships.... The ending was unexpected, but made complete sense! This is Vikki Patis's debut, and I can't wait to see what else she has in store for us!

Absolutely recommend to anyone who enjoys a good psychological thriller with plenty of characters and a well constructed plot, I also believe this is a thriller that will appeal to fans of young adult...

*** Big thanks to Bookouture for my copy of this book ***
