



The Warning

Kathryn Croft

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My little boy's room was empty, his bed neatly made. Alarm bells should have rung immediately. Then the knock on the door came. All I remember is a thick fog wrapping itself tightly around me. This couldn't be happening to us.

Three years ago, nurse Zoe's son Ethan was found drowned in a muddy river by their home, along with his best friend Josh. With no witnesses, their deaths were ruled a tragic accident.

Heartbroken, Zoe and her family, move away from her home. They're just beginning to get back to some kind of normality, when, out of the blue, Zoe receives an anonymous email:

You need to find out the truth about what happened to your son. Don't let this rest. Don't believe the lie.

Shaken, Zoe starts an obsessive hunt for the truth. But why is her husband so reluctant to help? And why is Josh's mother so determined not to believe her?

An absolutely unputdownable psychological thriller about a mother's desperate search for the truth. Fans of *The Girl on the Train*, and *Gone Girl* will be hooked from the very first page.

The Warning Details

Date : Published October 12th 2018 by Bookouture

ISBN :

Author : Kathryn Croft

Format : Kindle Edition 320 pages

Genre : Thriller, Mystery Thriller, Mystery

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Berit??? says

Well now... that is how you write a psychological thriller!

This was a dark, twisted, compelling, unsettling, unputdownable book... filled with so many twists, turns and misdirections that my head is still spinning....

Zoe and Jake's youngest son Ethan, died in an unfortunate drowning accident over three years ago.... they fled the town they were living in with their older son Harley for a fresh start... the family was Learning to live their lives after tragedy,until... Zoe began, receiving anonymous emails and text stating that Ethan's death was not an accident,and for her not to let this go! So like all good mothers Zoe is determined to find out the truth behind her son's death... but why is she met by so much resistance from her husband Jake? And equally concerning why is Roberta the mother of Josh, the boy who died along Ethan's side, not interested in finding the truth? What secrets are being kept? And why? And by whom? These are just a few of the questions you will have running through your head throughout this book.... and if you figure this one out, major props to you! This one caught me completely offguard, that is for sure!

Told in short chapters from many points of view this book will keep you on your toes and engaged throughout... we also get an anonymous point of view from a creepy character sure to make you uncomfortable... this really was a fast paced page turner full of well drawn characters... whether or not you like them, Zoe and Harley, or liked to hate them, Roberta and Adrian.... all these characters were so well-developed you truly had a good sense of who they were and where they were coming from....

This is my first book from this author, but most definitely will not be my last! A thrilling read that I finished in two sittings that I would highly recommend to all fans of the psychological thriller genre.... this one will make you think!

*** A big thank you to Bookouture for my copy of this book ***

Sue says

THE WARNING by bestselling author Kathryn Croft is a psychological thriller that will reel you in from page one and only toss you out at the end...to regain your thoughts. A real page turner and a novel that is sure to please.

“Secrets always come back to haunt you.”

Three years ago, nurse Zoe and husband, Jake lost their younger fourteen-year-old son, Ethan and his best friend Josh, found drowned in a muddy river by their home. With no witnesses, their deaths were ruled a tragic accident.

Devastated, Zoe and husband, Jake along with their older son, Harley, move from their home in Guildford to London, to try to start a new life. They leave behind Josh's parents, Roberta and Adrian who can't afford to relocate. In London, Jake and his friend, Liam are working hard after starting a new business, leaving Zoe and Harley, studying to be a doctor, to hold up the fort.

But then out of the blue, Zoe, a nurse at a fertility clinic receives an anonymous email:

“You need to find out the truth about what happened to your son. Don’t let this rest. Don’t believe the lie. It was no accident.”

Shaken, Zoe starts an obsessive hunt for the truth. But why is her husband so reluctant to help? And why is Josh’s mother so determined not to believe her?

Over a short period of time...there are more mysterious emails...and so many secrets!

This fast-paced well-written character-driven novel, with short chapters is told from multiple POV’s, each chapter is devoted to a particular character and tells of what happened from their perspective. This novel kept me guessing the entire time and then managed to surprise me in the end! An easy 5-star rating from me! Read this book...you won’t be disappointed.

An absolutely unputdownable psychological thriller about a mother’s desperate search for the truth.

Many thanks to Bookouture via NetGalley for my digital copy.

Lou says

The Warning is Kathryn Croft's seventh psychological thriller, and, just like all of the rest, it's a real page-turner! It follows nurse Zoe who's has been devastated by the death of son Ethan in the local river along with his best friend Josh. Three years later she receives a terrifying message stating that the boys' drowning was not an accident. Thrown once again into turmoil, she resolves to find out the truth about her son's death even if it means grieving all over again.

This book has everything: a compelling storyline, a cast of intriguing characters and a relentless pace, add to that an addictive quality and you've got a right rollicking good read! There are twisty surprises aplenty and especially at the back end of the book, they became pretty jaw-dropping in nature. The tale is told in quite a unique way - each chapter is devoted to a particular character and tells of what happened from their perspective. Emotive, well written and a thoroughly fantastic book, you'd be mad not to opt for this one!

Many thanks to Bookouture for an ARC. I was not required to post a review, and all thoughts and opinions expressed are my own.

Selena says

The Warning by Kathryn Croft is the first book I have read from this author. A great psychological thriller that kept me on the edge of my seat till the very end.

Three years after two boys (Ethan and Josh) were found drowned in the river, their parents and family still struggling with their deaths. Still no answers of what happened that night? Why were these fourteen-year-old boys by the river at night? The coroner ruled it an accident, but was it? The family still struggles and thinks there is more to it.

Ethan’s parents are Zoe and Jake. Zoe, randomly starts getting messages from an anonymous person implying the boys did not die accidentally. Zoe is trying to make a new life and try to create some happiness

in her life again with her family but she can't let it go.

Zoe, returns to Guildford to visit Josh's parents and anyone else who might have information or answers. Is someone just messing with Zoe or are there secrets and lies that someone is hiding?

A wonderfully written and exciting read that kept me guessing till the end. Thank you NetGalley for my Advanced e-copy.

Carrie says

Kathryn Croft has become another of those authors that for me are just auto reads and I don't even bother with the blurbs anymore. *The Warning* is another psychological thriller that is typical of one of her books that had me engaged from the opening and suspicious of everyone on the pages.

Zoe is a mother who lost her son three years ago and has been dealing with not only her grief but also her husband and surviving son's. One day Zoe gets a note that tells her she needs to look into Ethan's death and that things were not what they seemed with the police ruling it a tragic accident.

Everyone Zoe talks to tried to convince her that the warning has to be some kind of sick joke and can't possibly be true. The boys had sneaked out that night while in Zoe's care so her guilt has never gone away and now she really needs to find out the truth of just what happened that night even if it means investigating herself.

The story is told from changing the point of view between several different characters with Zoe being the most but there's also an unknown voice that leads readers onto what had happened. Even with the various voices I found the story easy to follow and hard to trust anyone keeping the pages turning all throughout. Another great read from this author that I'd definitely recommend checking out.

I received an advance copy from the publisher via NetGalley.

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

Nazanin says

4.5 Stars

Three years ago Zoe and Jake lost their son, Ethan! Ethan and his best friend drowned in the river and both died. They don't know why they were there or how they ended up in the river. Their deaths were ruled a tragic accident! Now after three years, when this incomplete family somehow finds its normalcy, Zoe receives an email from an anonymous, warning her that she has to find the truth about Ethan's death and don't believe the lies!

Zoe starts an obsessive hunt for the truth. But why is her husband so reluctant to help? And why is Josh's mother so determined not to believe her?

This was my second read by this author and I enjoyed it even more than my first! It was suspenseful and nail-biting! So good and somehow unpredictable! I mean I guessed and guessed and no clue which one is

right! A real page-turner! It's well-written and fast-paced with a great story-line! Told in multiple POV, both in 1st and 3rd person. It's a standalone novel. And look at that cover! It's one of those gorgeous covers! Overall, I really liked it and hope you enjoy it as well!

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

Helga says

"We try our best for our children, teach them to learn and then set them free, hoping they make the right decisions."

3 years ago two teenage boys who were close friends, drowned in the river. Their death was ruled accidental. The two families have tried to move on since then, somehow trying to cope with their losses. But when Zoe, the mother of one of the teenagers receives an anonymous email telling her to try to find out the truth about what happened to her son, that his death was no accident, her life turns upside down. She begins to question everything she has been told before and digging deeper she realizes everyone has something to hide and everyone has secrets, even her own husband.

The Warning is a fast-paced and suspenseful read, with a major twist in the end. Looking forward to read more books by Kathryn Croft.

Thanks to the author, Bookouture and the NetGalley for providing me with a copy.

Mackenzie - PhDiva Books says

Twisted and deceptive—that is how I describe Kathryn Croft's character-driven novels. And I don't just mean the villain! Kathryn Croft writes about people and her novels are character-driven above all else. How do ordinary people react to extraordinary circumstances? When does grief cross into deception? And how do we know who is lying to us? This book had my mind spinning the whole way through, and then when I got to the reveal I could hardly believe that I'd missed it!!! Masterful!

About the Book

Three years after the tragic death of her 14-year old son Ethan, Zoe is still grieving. Her family has never really healed from the tragic accident. Her husband Jake is distant, throwing himself into his work. Her older son Harley had an emotional breakdown that he barely recovered from. And Zoe finds herself unable to move on. They go through the motions every day, pretending to be a happy family. But inside their home, they are shattered.

And then one day Zoe receives an email...

You need to find out the truth about what happened to your son down by the river three years ago. Don't let this rest. Don't believe the Lie. It was no accident.

Despite Jake's insistence that it is a prank, and tracking the sender down will only bring them more pain, Zoe

can't accept that. She starts to follow the clues about the deaths of Ethan and his friend Josh that night. The more information Zoe finds, the more she realizes that there's a lot she didn't know about that night.

Why is Jake so insistent that she drop this? What is going on in Harley's mind that he keeps so private? And why will Josh's mother not speak about this with Zoe? Secrets come to light and Zoe realizes she has been lied to, perhaps by those she holds dearest...

Reflection

It's no secret that Kathryn Croft is a favorite author of mine. Her books tend to feature characters in a difficult life situation, which Croft then twists until secrets, lies, and deception are revealed. As a reader, I find her books masterful. The answers are there, if only we see them. But we never do! Croft manipulates us into a false sense of understanding about the story, and then flips it on us. Her books are among the top psychological thrillers I've read!

This poor family in this book!!! There's an authenticity to the way they've shattered after tragedy struck. From the outside, they seem to be coping. But each of them has demons. Each of them is barely holding it together, which means as a unit they aren't holding together. They've settled into a routine of going through the motions. Accepting the lies in order to feel whole again. For instance, Zoe allows herself to believe that Jake works so much because he cares about his business. But the truth is, Jake is not okay since Ethan's death. Jake can't bare the hours when his mind is unoccupied.

The writing structure is so effective. The chapters are fairly short, and change narrators. It totally hooked me! It was important to see what each of them was experiencing and piecing together. And then there is a mysterious narrator of some chapters. Twisted and unsettling is the only way to describe this narrator. Those chapter positively gave me the chills! I couldn't work it out—I was stumped!

And then we get to the reveal and I was blown away! How did I never consider THAT twist??? Masterful and twisty—I can't wait for more readers to experience this book!

Pauline says

The Warning by Kathryn Croft is a psychological thriller that kept me in the edge of my seat. Zoe's teenage son and his friend were killed in an accident and three years later the families are still trying to come to terms with this tragedy. Zoe receives an anonymous email telling her that she should look into the incident as it may not have been an accident. Zoe then decides to investigate and find out what happened to the boys. This is a story of secrets and lies with many twists and turns. A very enjoyable read that I read in one day as I couldn't put it down.

I would like to thank NetGalley and Bookouture for my e-copy in exchange for an honest review.

Melissa (Mel's Bookshelf) says

Kathryn Croft does it again with another riveting psychological thriller! She is a must-read author of mine! This one was probably my least favourite of hers, and that's saying something because it was still fantastic!

Zoe's son Ethan drowned with his best friend three years ago and Zoe had only just started getting her life back on track. All of a sudden she gets a mysterious email. "You need to find out the truth about what

happened to your son". All of a sudden she is on a quest to discover what really happened to Ethan.

Really enjoyed this one. As usual, Croft dives straight into it and we are soon wondering what on earth is going on and who did it. There is a large range of characters to choose from and there are many twists and turns along the way.

Although I'm not sure if anyone could guess what really happened, I came awfully close. But there was still an extra surprise that I wasn't expecting. However, saying that I wasn't blown away by the dramatic climax of the novel.

Her writing, as usual - is brilliant. Gradually increasing the tension until you are bursting to find out the truth. The characters were well developed and I just love the way she only gives a little bit away at precisely the right time.

Would I recommend The Warning?

Absolutely! I would recommend ANYTHING by Kathryn Croft for thriller fans. Just pick any of them! You won't be disappointed!

Many thanks to Bookouture via NetGalley for a copy of The Warning for me to read and review.

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Melisa says

I'm very happy to be on the blog tour for Kat Croft's latest psychological thriller, The Warning! I've read several of her other books and really enjoyed them so I was so excited to read her latest! Thank you to Bookouture for the invitation.

Zoe and Jake lost their son in a tragic accident three years ago. Suddenly, Zoe starts receiving cryptic messages – what really happened that night? Was it truly an accident? Who is behind these messages?

Zoe opens old wounds and begins her own investigation to try to figure out what happened that night. She has to push through her grief in order to shuffle the pieces of the puzzle to make it all fit. She unearths many truths that the police investigation missed and unravels a mystery that only she can solve.

Kat Croft has woven a deep psychological thriller with several twists and turns that will have you scratching your head and trying to figure out what really happened that night at the river, with a shocker of a reveal.

Thank you to Bookouture for my advance copy. This book is now available!

Gary says

Another exciting psychological thriller from author Kathryn Croft.

This is just what you want from this type of book, excellent storyline that is well paced and believable characters that come to life. Full of twists and turns that keep you on the edge of your seat.

Three years ago, Zoe's son Ethan was found drowned in a muddy river by their home, along with his best friend Josh. There were no witnesses and their deaths were ruled a tragic accident. With their world shattered, Zoe and her family moved away from their home and started to piece back their lives. They were just starting to get back some normality when Zoe receives an anonymous email. The email tells Zoe that she needs to find out the truth about what happened to her son and not believe the lie.

Zoe starts the hunt for the truth but is surprised by her husband's reaction and Josh's mother's reluctance to believe her. What is the truth and what secrets are waiting to be uncovered.

I would like to thank Net Galley and Bookouture for supplying a copy of this novel in exchange for an honest review.

Kylie D says

"You need to find out the truth about what happened to your son down by the river three years ago. Don't let this rest. Don't believe the lie. It was no accident."

So reads the email Zoe receives from an anonymous sender, three years after her 14yo son Ethan had drowned alongside his friend Josh in a tragic accident. It sets her off on a hunt for the truth, even though her husband Jake insists it's a prank. It soon becomes apparent that all is not as it seems, many people are hiding secrets about that night. People with a lot to lose. As Zoe slowly works her way towards the truth she sets into motion events that could shatter her world even more than it already is.

Wow! This is definitely one of the better psychological thrillers that I've read this year, and I read a lot of them! I can usually work out part of the twist, if not all, but this one I couldn't fathom at all. It had me absolutely stumped! And the truth? It had me saying "what the ?" It was totally from left field! Well done Kathryn Croft, I will definitely be on the lookout for more of this author's books. Highly recommended. My thanks to NetGalley and Bookouture for an ARC in exchange for an honest review.

Sumit RK says

A Dark & Intense Psychological Thriller

Three years ago, Zoe's son Ethan was found drowned in a river by their home, along with his best friend Josh. With no witnesses, their deaths were ruled a tragic accident. 3 years later, Zoe receives an anonymous email "*You need to find out the truth about what happened to your son. Don't let this rest. Don't believe the lie.*" Zoe starts an obsessive hunt for the truth but is she searching for the truth or an illusion? Who is really behind these anonymous messages?

The story has a perfect start and the pace is unrelenting till the end. The Warning is not only a good psychological thriller story but beneath the surface, it's an emotional and heart-breaking story. The story keeps you hooked with several twists and turns, strategically revealed (just when you think you have solved the mystery)

The characters in book are well defined esp. Zoe & her Family. The struggles of a family still recovering from the loss of a loved and a mother's fight to find the truth has been well brought out throughout the book. This book has narrated through POVs of various characters including Zoe and others which keeps the story moving without getting stuck. With too many tracks going on simultaneously, it may feel the main mystery

is relegated to the background at times. Also, the ending may feel a bit weak compared to the build-up. The writing though was excellent and the fairly short chapters and changing POVs never let you get bored.

Overall, the book is a fast paced page turner which will keep you guessing right till the end. 3.5/5

Many Thanks to NetGalley & Bookouture for the ARC.

Debra says

4.5 stars

Be warned! This is a seriously good book!

Three years ago, Zoe's son, Ethan, and his friend, Josh drowned in a river by her home. Their deaths were ruled as being accidental. After Ethan's death, Zoe, her husband, Jack and their son Harley moved to a new area and a new home. Zoe continues to work as a nurse and Jack buries himself in his work, while Harley prepares for college. Their family is attempting to maintain their status quo until one day, Zoe receives a message informing her that Ethan's death was not an accident, that there is more to the story, and that she needs to find out the truth. Zoe is naturally rattled and decides to meet with Josh's Mother, Roberta, to determine if she has received a message as well. It becomes apparent that something is not right in Roberta's home and even Zoe's husband, Jack seems less than enthusiastic to learn who sent the note and the person's reason for doing so. Then Zoe begins receiving more messages about her son's death. Why is she being targeted? Is this some sick joke? Does someone out there know something about the night her son died? Could Ethan and Josh's deaths have been prevented? Were they murdered? Is this someone trying to hurt Zoe? Just what is going on?

I really felt for Zoe in this book. It seemed like no one in her life was too invested in helping her learn why she was receiving the notes, who could be behind the notes, and even if there was any truth to what the notes were saying. Plus, her husband used work as an excuse for not being home. If he keeps busy he doesn't need to think about his son's death or help his other son and wife cope with their grief. Zoe wants the truth and refuses to give up. Through her search for the truth she begins to wonder, how much (or how little) she knew her son, who he had in his life, and what secrets he may have had. But, as it turns out, he is not the only one who had secrets in this book.

It was so easy to get wrapped up in this book. There is always something happening, and the reveals happen at regular intervals to keep things interesting and to keep the reader guessing. This book is told through various characters POV including Zoe, Roberta and an unknown narrator. This book is fast paced and sucked me in right away. This book became a page turner to me as I was so intrigued with what was going on. This book has secrets, lies, deception, mystery, tension, suspense - basically all the things I love in a book. I'm not sure that too many people will see that ending coming, I know I did not.

This book earned high marks from me for being an entertaining fast paced page turner which kept me guessing the entire time and managed to surprise me in the end!

Thank you to Bookouture and NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. The thoughts and opinions expressed in this review are my own.

