



The Pact

S.E. Lynes

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You made a promise to your sister. It could destroy your daughter.

The Daughter

15-year-old Rosie lies in hospital fighting for her life. She's trying to tell her mother what happened to her, and how she got there, but she can't speak the words out loud.

The Mother

Rosie's mother Toni has a secret. She had a traumatic childhood, and she and her sister Bridget made each other a promise thirty years ago: that they could never speak the truth about what happened to them as children, and that they would protect each other without asking for help from others, no matter what...

Rosie was Toni's second chance to get things right: a happy, talented girl with her whole life ahead of her. Having lost her husband in a tragic accident, Toni has dedicated her life to keeping Rosie safe from harm.

But Rosie has plans that her mother doesn't know about. She has dreams and ambitions – of love, of a career, of a life beyond the sheltered existence that her mother has created for her. But the secrets Rosie has been keeping have now put her life in danger.

The Pact

In order to save Rosie, Toni may have to break her lifelong promise to her sister... and open doors to her past she hoped would remain closed forever.

The Pact Details

Date : Published February 27th 2018 by Bookouture

ISBN :

Author : S.E. Lynes

Format : Kindle Edition 344 pages

Genre : Thriller, Psychological Thriller, Mystery, Fiction

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From Reader Review The Pact for online ebook

Selena says

I received a free e-copy of The Pact by S.E. Lynes from NetGalley for my honest review.

A psychological thriller. A story of two sisters (Toni and Bridget) who have a pact. Toni has secrets about her childhood that only Bridget knows and they are to never speak about it. Rosie, the daughter of Toni, is a 15 year old girl. Toni's goal in life is to raise Rosie, keep her safe and protect her. Toni is so protective is is over-bearing. Now, Rosie is in the hospital fighting for her life. She is trying to talk to her mother and let her know what happened to her, but she isn't speaking out loud. She is only talking in her head. Will breaking the pact and telling Rosie about her past save Rosie?

Carrie says

The Pact by S.E. Lynes is a psychological thriller that brings in how far one would go to protect their child. This one is an extremely slow burning thriller that begins with letting readers know that somehow this young teen has ended up in the hospital with her mother at her side.

Told by flashing back to the events leading up to how in the world this girl ended up fighting for her life the story moved along slowly. As the suspense builds it comes to be known that Toni was an overbearing mother not allowing her daughter many freedoms in an effort to protect her which has backfired into Rosie keeping too many secrets at an attempt to have some teenage fun.

Also during the time that the book is flashing back to Rosie's activities with Toni's attempts to protect her daughter and her sister Bridge's attempts to loosen Toni's reign the author starts introducing the sister's past which led to who they are now when raising Rosie the way they had been.

For me this one was just so incredibly slow that it was tough to be interested for the first half of the book. It's not really until 60-70% or so that the story picks up the pace a bit and really starts unraveling what has happened as all of the secrets came crashing down. There were also parts that I'd guessed early on with so few characters involved so I wasn't overly surprised so in the end this one was just an OK read for me.

I received an advance copy from the publisher via NetGalley.

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

Berit??? says

4 slow burning stars???? this is not a fast-paced page turning psychological thriller.... it is more of a slow burning character study.... A study of relationships between women and in particular that of mother and

daughter.....

Rosie is your typical teenage girl wanting that taste of freedom.... Toni is her very overprotective mother fighting her every step of the way.... Aunt Bridge is sometimes the voice of reason, but because she knows Toni's secrets she does understand where she's coming from..... how do you let your daughter spread her wings when your experience was so ugly?

The story is told from the perspective of the above named characters.... it is told from present and flashback scenes.... and a lot of it is The characters inner dialogue.... Rosie in particular..... I really enjoyed Rosie's inner dialogue.... I think the author did a really good job with capturing a teenager.... however she did sound exactly like an American teenager..... I had no idea the British use the word like as much as we do in California..... seriously if I had a dollar for every time I said the word like in a day I'd probably be rich by the end of it, hard habit to break, for sure!

My favorite part of the book was the interaction between these three girls/women you knew how much they loved and were there for each other..... and parenting is tough, the more rules you lay down, the more likely your child will be dishonest with you.... if Rosie hadn't had to sneak around she might have shared some of these things with her mother and avoided a lot of what happened in this book..... but hind sight is always 20/20 isn't it?

The twist in this book was fairly predictable, even I figured it out and this is rare.... but I did really enjoy the relationships and characters in this book... I also found the book very thought-provoking especially in regards to questions of motherhood, teenagers, and social media.... social media played a huge part in this book.... it really is a different world from when I grew up never needed to worry about how many likes I got.....

I recommend this if you are in the mood for a slow burning character driven book that will make you think....

*** thank you to the publisher and Net Galley for a copy of this book ***

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

EXCERPT: In the cafe, his breath on my face. His face in my face. His dirty glasses make me feel sick, Mummy. Can you hear me? I can feel you near. I am here in the cafe but it's not now, it's. . . When is this? I am today. I am this morning. I am now. I am in two moments in time, traveling but not traveling. Being. I can feel the pillow under my head. I can see the water above me. . . I am lying under the dark, the weeds. . . the hard seat hurts my bottom. . . not enough padding you say. . . when do you say that? Did you hear me say that to myself? My mouth is dry, Mummy, but I'm not thirsty. He is sitting too close too close too close. I want to call you, Mummy. . . you are near but you are foggy. I can't shout to you. I can't call you. I left my phone in the. . . I ran out in a rage. . . You are such a pain, you won't leave me alone. I was so pissed off with you, but now I need you and I can't call you. You're always nagging me to call, and I don't want to have to call all the time but now I do - I do want to call and I do have the time, but I can't call because I left my phone in the flat I can't I can't I can't. Mummy, help me, help me, help me. . .

ABOUT THIS BOOK: You made a promise to your sister. It could destroy your daughter.
The Daughter

15-year-old Rosie lies in hospital fighting for her life. She's trying to tell her mother what happened to her, and how she got there, but she can't speak the words out loud.

The Mother

Rosie's mother Toni has a secret. She had a traumatic childhood, and she and her sister Bridget made each other a promise thirty years ago: that they could never speak the truth about what happened to them as children, and that they would protect each other without asking for help from others, no matter what...

Rosie was Toni's second chance to get things right: a happy, talented girl with her whole life ahead of her. Having lost her husband in a tragic accident, Toni has dedicated her life to keeping Rosie safe from harm.

But Rosie has plans that her mother doesn't know about. She has dreams and ambitions – of love, of a career, of a life beyond the sheltered existence that her mother has created for her. But the secrets Rosie has been keeping have now put her life in danger.

The Pact

In order to save Rosie, Toni may have to break her lifelong promise to her sister... and open doors to her past she hoped would remain closed forever.

MY THOUGHTS: OMG! OMG! OMG! I just loved this book!

The Pact by S. E. Lynes builds slowly to a breathtaking, heart pounding, edge of the seat, white knuckled climax. I don't know how I can do this book justice.

Lynes grabs your attention from the beginning with a scene that is not fully explained until the end of the book. The story is told from three points of view, that of Rosie, Rosie's mum Toni, and Toni's sister Bridget. All three have been touched by tragedies, and have formed a tight knit supportive triangle to the exclusion of everyone else. And Toni and Bridget have a pact, one made a long time ago, before Rosie was even born.

Lynes has perfectly captured not only the struggle between a teenage girl, fighting for just a little of the freedom her friends have, and her protective mother, frightened by her own experiences and determined to prevent her daughter from making the same mistakes, but the burgeoning desires of a first love.

How far will Toni go to keep Rosie safe? How far will Rosie go to get what she wants? And just how far will Bridget go to protect those she loves?

Warning: plan on reading this uninterrupted. Once The Pact gets its hooks into you, you won't want to put it down.

Thank you to Bookouture via Netgalley for providing a digital copy of The Pact by S. E. Lynes 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/...>

Debra says

3.5 stars

The Pact is about promises and secrets.

"We think we've got over things, don't we? We think we've made our peace with trauma, that we're strong again. We keep going, we smile, we manage day to day. Then something comes along, something so very small compared to things we've faced before, something we think we can more than handle, and it floors us once more. And we realize we're not strong after all. The fault lines have not healed over. We're not living, not really. We're still surviving."

Rosie is a 15-year-old girl who is lying in the hospital in a coma. She has been sheltered for most of her life. Her Mother, Toni, has tried to protect her and keep her safe. Due to her Mother's strict rules and constant hovering, Rosie has secrets of her own. She communicates with friends and a "possible" suitor on social media. Knowing that her Mother checks up on her, she has secrets accounts and is not always honest about where she is going or who she is going to meet.

Toni, Rosie's Mother has secrets as well. She had a traumatic childhood which she wants to keep secret from her daughter. Her sister, Bridget, knows the truth and has vowed to never discuss the past with her. Toni sees her daughter as happy and talented. She believes her daughter will have a good life, if only Toni can keep her safe. When Rosie is approached by a talent scout, will this be a chance at a bright future? Will she be an entertainer like her Aunt Bridget?

What happens when one has secrets? How does a traumatic past shape our future, our relationships and the choices we make? What role does social media have in our lives? As the story progresses, the reader learns about Toni's past, about Rosie's use of social media, about secrets hopes and dreams, about deception and about the hidden dangers which exist in the world. This book flows between the past, the not so distant past and the present effortlessly. I found it very easy to follow and over the course of the book, several gaps are filled in for the reader. There were some sections which I wished would have moved along a little faster but overall, I felt this book was well written and thought out. There are some twists and turns along the way that kept the story interesting.

Thank you to Bookouture and NetGalley who provided me with a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

See more of my reviews at www.openbookpost.com

Dash fan says

4? An Intriguing Read!

The pact is a story of family loyalty and how far you would go to protect them. It was thrilling, intriguing, kept me enthralled.

The start of the pact we see sisters Toni and Bridget burying something.

The story is told in 3 points of view. Rosie who is trapped in a coma, Toni (Rosie's Mother) and Aunty Bridget.

I loved Rosie's story although her memories did get a lil disjointed as she tried to break out of her coma.

Each one gave us a great insight into her life and just how she comes to be in a coma.

Rosie is your typical teenager she's moody, secretive, and just wants to have fun, as she makes her way towards 16 she wants to do what her friends are doing, partying.

But Rosie has her own secrets. Secrets her mum is yet to uncover!

Toni is very over protective, which can come across as suffocating to Rosie. But Toni has secrets and it's no wonder she acts the way she does. As her past growing up was very Abusive.

Bridget is the glue that holds them all together. She is fun Aunt to Rosie and helps Rosie to have a little more freedom.

Yet she is supportive and the edge of reason to her sister Toni. They have been through so much together. A pact for life.

The pact is a well written character driven story that gives you insight into family relationships and what happens when you have secrets.

There is a nice mix of twists and turns.

This isn't a fast paced read, it's a slow and steady paced read that packs a punch.

Thank you to Bookouture for this copy which I reviewed honestly and voluntarily.

My Review is also on my blog website:

<https://dashfan81.blogspot.com/2018/0...>

LadyJBookishNook says

For all my reviews, visit my blog at <http://ladyjbookishnook.blogspot.com>

WOW! I can't stop thinking about **The Pact** by S.E. Lynes. This is a story about two sisters, Toni and Bridget, who formed a pact 30 years ago when they were children. The promise to one another was they could never speak the truth about their abusive childhood, and they would always protect one another without involving others.

The author grabbed my attention at the very beginning and brilliantly kept me on the edge of my seat as I tried to figure out what was going on. You know that something bad has happened and little by little the layers are peeled away to reveal more. I loved all three of the main characters, Toni, Bridget, and Rosie (Toni's teenage daughter). Through these characters you are able to see how childhood abuse affects each of them in different ways over a period of many years. Each chapter was told from a different point of view. I did find I needed to be focused while reading because of the way it would switch from points of view as well as back and forth in time.

Overall I thought this was a very perplexing and cleverly written thriller. The author did a great job telling the character's troubled backstories. The build-up to the ending was amazing. The truth is carefully masked right up to the novel's conclusion and the little twist at the end was totally unexpected. I would definitely read more from S.E. Lynes and recommend **The Pact** to anyone who loves a good psychological thriller. Five out of five stars for **The Pact!!!**

Thank you S.E. Lynes, Bookouture, and NetGalley for providing me with a review copy of this book to read.

Pauline says

The Pact by SE Lynes is a story of two sister Toni and Bridget who have kept a secret for many years and their attempt to keep Toni's daughter Rosie safe from harm. Rosie is a typical fifteen year old who is secretly rebelling against her mothers efforts. Social Media plays a big part in the story and a chilling reminder of educating the young to the dangers that it can hold. I would like to thank NetGalley and Bookouture for my e-copy in exchange for an honest review.

Sue says

THE PACT by S.E. Lynes is a psychological thriller, that that follows how far one would go to protect their child. I just loved this book!

The story revolves around the main three characters Bridget, her sister Toni and Toni's daughter Rosie and a binding pact made between the sisters 30 years ago about their abusive childhood...to remain a secret between the siblings.

How Far would you go to protect your loved ones? A promise made to a sister. It could destroy the daughter.

15-year-old Rosie lies in hospital fighting for her life. She's trying to tell her mother what happened to her, and how she got there, but she can't speak the words out loud.

Rosie's mother Toni has a secret. She had a traumatic childhood, and she and her sister Bridget made each other a promise thirty years ago: that they could never speak the truth about what happened to them as children.

Having lost her husband in a tragic accident, Toni has dedicated her life to keeping Rosie safe from harm.

Rosie is fifteen years old, and has dreams and ambitions...of love and a career, but thanks to her mother's overprotectiveness, she has lived a sheltered and naïve upbringing.

But Rosie has been keeping secrets from her mother and aunt which could now put her life in danger.

In order to save Rosie, Toni may have to break her lifelong promise to her sister... and open doors to her past she hoped would remain closed forever.

The Pact by S. E. Lynes builds slowly with information released on a need-to-know basis, building up to a major climax. The story is told from three points of view, that of Rosie, Rosie's mum Toni, and Toni's sister Bridget. All three have been touched by heartbreaks. The characters are captivating and relevant, the writing is superb.

Many thanks to Bookouture via NetGalley for my copy.

Angela Marsons says

To say I loved this book is a bit of an understatement. I gobbled it up like a hungry person presented with a roast dinner (my favourite meal)!! No spoilers here but the story centres on the main three characters Bridget, her sister Toni and Toni's daughter Rosie and a pact made many years ago. The relationship drawn between these three characters was truly masterful in its authenticity. The exploration of social media and its pitfalls was both intriguing and familiar. I found myself whizzing through all the chapters but I especially loved Rosie's chapters which were compelling. I adore this author's writing style which is unique and inspired. Although I wanted to get to the end of the book I also felt as though when I turned that last page I was walking away from good friends that I had come to know very well. If you haven't read this author's work I heartily recommend you read both this one and Mother.

Mandy White says

Another brilliant read from SE Lynes! I absolutely loved Mother and could not wait to read this one.. I started this in my lunch break today and just finished it tonight. It had me hooked straight away and I could not stop reading it.

The Pact is the story of 2 sisters who had a very traumatic childhood. 30 years ago they made each other a promise. A promise that they might need to break to save Rosie. Rosie is Toni's 15 year old daughter who is lying unconscious in a hospital bed. Toni is super strict with her daughter after the death of her husband when Rosie was young. Her sister Bridget is always there to help and dotes on Rosie. Family, love and secrets... what will the family do when it all comes crashing down?

Highly recommend this page turner... thank you to Bookouture and NetGalley for a copy of this book to read in exchange for my honest opinions

Tracy Fenton says

The Pact is SE Lynes third standalone psychological thriller and possibly in my opinion her best yet.

The Pact is told through the 3 main characters point of view. Toni, the over protective mother, Rosie, the teenager desperate to be allowed some freedom to grow up and Bridget, the aunt who lives with Rosie and Toni due to a pact they made when they were children themselves.

The story begins with Rosie in hospital, unconscious and fighting for her life and through flashbacks the reader is taken on a journey back to the beginning to discover why she is in hospital and what the Pact Toni and Bridget made 30 years previously has to do with the present.

This book really does have all the ingredients for a gripping page turner. It was like completing a really tricky jigsaw and piece by piece the author revealed a little more, enabling the reader to see part of the puzzle but never the full picture until the final page.

Without doubt SE Lynes is fast becoming one of my favourite psychological thriller authors and one of a select few that I would read without even checking the blurb first.

I thoroughly enjoyed this book and recommend it to anyone who loves twisted, clever, gripping thrillers. 5 huge stars.

Helen (TBC) says

The Pact is far, far more than the psychological thriller it's marketed to be, yes it had me literally holding my breath for much longer than is healthy and I was genuinely terrified by what may happen next, but it's also a stunningly beautiful book about love, loyalty and family ties, of the fears a parent has for her child, of the confusion of growing up in this social media age, of how past traumas can influence every thought and act and how no one really knows what another person is coping with.

The often fraught relationships between these wonderfully crafted complex characters are stunningly portrayed, nailing how both love and frustration with those people we love go hand in hand. The author really lets you under the skin of each character and has a real knack of making you care about each and every one.

The story is cleverly revealed and shows how, even when face to face, unscrupulous people can take in the most careful of us. Based around every parent's nightmare, the dialogue, pacing, tension and twists are all skillfully handled and I'm not sure I can find a book to follow this one!

Needless to say that as with her first two books, I absolutely loved this one and will be shouting from the rooftops for everyone to read it - 5 stars feel miserly for this outstanding book but unfortunately that's the limit, just be aware that they are 5 GIANT stars.

Many thanks to Bookouture and NetGalley for the ARC

Linda Strong says

When Rosie wakes up in the hospital, she tries to tell her mother what occurred ... but the words won't come.

Toni is her mom... absolutely worried about her daughter. Mom wants to know why Rosie won't/can't tell her what happened. But is Toni any better? She has her own secrets.

Toni and her sister, Bridget, made a pact thirty-some years ago to never, ever speak about their childhood, not under any circumstances.

(Book Blurb) - But in order to save Rosie, Toni may have to break her lifelong promise to her sister... and open doors to her past she hoped would remain closed forever.

There are four woman at the heart of this tale ... each speaking in alternate chapters... each has their own unique voice and their own perspective.

This is not the first book of this author's I have read. I was a tad disappointed in that it felt like it took forever to get to the meat of the story.

Usually this author's books start with a bang and never lets up. This one .. more like a little pop. That being said, about halfway through the book, things started looking up. The suspense was there, twists and turns

kept me riveted to the pages. The characters finally sounded credible. The ending was an unexpected surprise.

Many thanks to the author / Bookouture / Netgalley for the digital copy of this Psychological Thriller. Opinions expressed here are unbiased and entirely my own.

Wendi Lee says

The Pact is one of those books that made me lose sleep at night, because I couldn't put it down! Sisters Toni and Bridget have a dark secret, and Bridge is committed to keeping Toni and her daughter, Rosie, safe at all costs. After Toni's husband was tragically killed, Bridge even puts her own life aside to move in with Toni and pick up the pieces.

Both Bridge and Toni are overprotective of Rosie, who feels stifled and, like any typical teenager, wants to act out a little. We know almost immediately that something terrible has happened to Rosie, who is lying in a hospital bed, and through the narratives of all three women, we travel both back and forth in time to find out what happened, and why.

I really liked this book. There is a great deal of twists, and the characters are very strongly realized. I especially loved Bridge, who will literally do anything to keep her family safe.

Thank you to Bookouture and Netgalley for an ARC.
