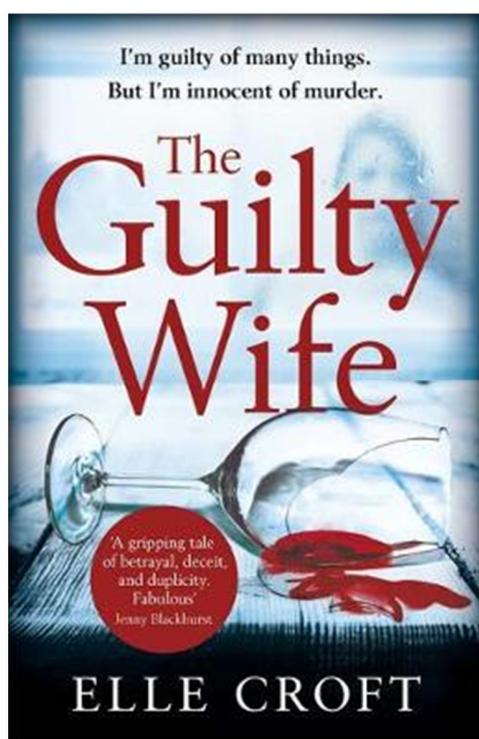


Lovereading Reader reviews of **The Guilty Wife** By Elle Croft

Below are the complete reviews, written by Lovereading members.



Phyllippa Smithson

Absolutely absorbing thriller. Totally could not put this down without a real fight. Great writing, great plot and a great read.

Bethany is happily married and is seeing her dream of running her own business as a photography flourish. Bethany is also having an affair with Callum, a high profile business man who whilst also married, it is one only in real evidence when his media commitments require his fellow career focused wife is by his side.

So far, so good if you can live with married people looking for love outside of the marriage. Its when Callum is murdered that things go bad and things go very bad when

the increasing evidence against Bethany is slowly revealed. But is she the killer or is she actually being framed as she claims?

The problem is, Bethany cannot go to the police. She had promised to Callum that their affair would stay secret no matter what to avoid a repeat of a previous affair being revealed to the public by a police officer with devastating consequences.

As the suspicions of the police move them ever closer to arresting Bethany, she must stay one step ahead in tracking down the real murderer but that will only be possible if she can prove her innocence before the real murderer convinces the police otherwise.

One of those books you desperately want to get to the end to find out the answer

but do not ever want it to finish.

Annie Day

A gripping crime thriller that's a real page turner. Make sure you read it right to the end!

'The Guilty Wife' is a contemporary crime thriller set in London. The main character Bethany has an affair with a celebrity who is murdered. While she knows that she didn't do it, there is a growing amount of evidence that makes her look responsible. Elle Croft paints a brilliant picture of life under the media spotlight, the perils of getting too close to a famous celebrity and the ways in which innocent parties can be accused of crime.

The book is a real page turner and there are a couple of interesting twists to the story. The final resolution is explained to the reader, and although it was a clever ending (and without giving anything away) I didn't find it entirely believable. However 'The Guilty Wife' is a great read, definitely one for a cold winter weekend lying on the sofa, and if the opportunity arose I think it would make a fantastic film.

You can follow Annie on Twitter: @dayann1

Glenda Worth

Fast paced, gritty debut novel with a real twist, brilliant storytelling and surprises along the way.

On reading 'The Guilty Wife' by Elle Croft I was amazed it was her debut novel. Bethany has an affair with a famous man and when he is murdered has to hide her guilt from everyone, but soon finds out she is the prime suspect. I was drawn in from the very first page and couldn't wait to read the rest. The many twists and turns, the surprising outcome at the end, the quandary Bethany finds herself in are all portrayed so well, I couldn't guess who the real murderer was. Definitely fast paced with chapters that were exactly the right length to keep tension building, I was hooked and had to read late into the night to finish the book and find out the identity of the villain!

Well worth reading and I will look out for more by Elle Croft

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Sarah Mustafa

'The Guilty Wife' is the debut psychological thriller from Elle Croft.

Croft weaves an intriguing web of deceit and duplicity around her story. Tantalisingly told.

Available from lovereadings.co.uk, 'The Guilty Wife' is the debut psychological thriller from Elle Croft. From the outset, Croft weaves an intriguing web of deceit and duplicity centred around the murder of Calum Bradley and the framing for it of his girlfriend Bethany. Is she innocent? Will she be able to prove her innocence? Is she hiding something? These are all questions that carry throughout the book until the events of the night of the murder are finally revealed. Tantalisingly told. If you enjoyed 'Between You and Me' by Lisa Hall or 'The Couple Next Door' by Shari Lapena then I think you will like this book.

Lynda Defreitas

Everyone has choices to make every day. Bethany has a habit of making the wrong ones thus bringing about her downfall.

The tension builds up throughout this story and the ending will be a surprise to most people. Although I had already worked out who was the murderer I was gratified to see that the denouement was not the one I'd expected.

The main character, Bethany, makes so many wrong choices she brings about her own downfall.

I would recommend this book. As a first novel it is a gritty story and it gripped me from start to finish.

Jennifer Stoddart

*I was fortunate to be given a copy of 'The Guilty Wife' prior to its publication. **This is a great read and I tore through it. I thought I knew who the killer was twice and I was wrong both times!** Ms Croft has an assured writing style and was able to bring the characters of Bethany, her husband and her best friend vividly to life. The blurb for the book describes it as 'an incredibly taut, tense game of cat and mouse – with a twist you'll never see coming'. I can confirm that the book is very entertaining and the twist floored me. Thank you so much to Lovereading, Orion Publishing Group and Elle CROFT for giving me the opportunity to read and enjoy this book ahead of its publication.*

You can follow Jennifer on Twitter: @Jennio0332211

Diane Hinchley

Who was watching? Who was the murderer? Twists along the way. Read to find out in this well thought out page turner.

*When I started to read this book, all types of endings went through my mind. That changed the further I read. No, it couldn't be the actual wife. That was a cover story surely. Married woman has affair with a famous figure but it must be kept a secret. When the man is murdered who killed him? Was it his colleague with a score to settle or was it his wife or mugging that went wrong? **A page turner which kept you guessing to the very last page. Can't wait for Elle's next novel.***

Sarah Harper

An enjoyably tense little thriller, which punches above its weight.

Exactly what would you do if your whole life fell apart? If it suddenly took on that dream-like quality where no matter how loudly you shouted or how much you protested no one heard? If you had no idea who you could trust or where you could turn to for help? If you feared for your life every, single, day? For Bethany that nightmare has become a reality, a living hell she has to endure day in, day out. Second-guessing everyone, Bethany knows she's not guilty of murder but somebody is out to destroy her and they are determined that once they are finished, her life won't be worth living.

This short read certainly punches above its weight but I felt it could have been so much more powerful if it had been plumped out with a bit of substance. I felt myself wanting to know more about the characters and their relationships, a few more details could have really brought them to life for me. I wasn't a huge fan of the jumps in timeline without the advantage of an immediately obvious dateline (maybe in the chapter headings?) in order to set the scene however it did propel you through the book at speed and therefore maintained the suspense. Overall though this was an enjoyably tense little thriller.

Lynne Rapson

How do you prove your innocence? Bethany is accused of murder, initially by a stalker who threatens her, and eventually by the police. Is she guilty?

A really tense and enthralling novel. Bethany, a successful and happily married photographer is nevertheless having an affair with a client - the mega celebrity Calum Bradley. After a clandestine meeting he is murdered and a chain of events unfold, seeming to point to Bethany as the murderer. Someone is stalking her, sending her notes and photos, hacking her social media and threatening her. Terrified, instead of going to the police she attempts to solve the crime on her own, eventually enlisting the help of her best friend Alex. Her search for the truth is doomed and she is brought to trial for the murder. All the way through she suspects everyone, including her husband Jason, except the one person responsible. There is a sting in the tail which hardened readers of detective fiction may work out for themselves but it doesn't detract from all the twists and turns of this entertaining novel. Gripping and well worth reading. If this is a debut novel, I look forward to the next one!

Debbie Patrick

What an excellent first novel.

Well recommended. And I will look for this author's next book.

What an excellent first novel. Sometimes the first one can be a bit hit and miss until they get into the swing of things but with this book it's not the case.

I had trouble putting it down.

The characters are well fleshed out and i wanted to find out who had killed Calum and why.

Ruth Paterson

'The Guilty Wife' is about a young woman who finds herself framed for the murder of her lover. It is a well written and tense account of the fear and guilt she feels.

It opens with a Prologue in which the main character, Bethany, is enjoying time with her boyfriend. Then into chapter one where she is spending time with her husband, who she clearly loves. This juxtaposition means instead of feeling anger or disliking her for her actions, I was able to empathise with her complex situation. It surprised me that I warmed to her character, as normally I prefer to be able to relate to a main character and like them for their actions. As someone who rarely reads this genre I am unsure of the unsettling final chapters because I am used to a Fairy Tale style happy ever after! The book

was well written (I read it in one sitting, so certainly enjoyed the reading process) but for me it didn't offer the depth of character or storyline I would look for in a psychological thriller.

Julie Watkin

You can't help but want to find out what actually happened in what feels like a real life drama. It's hard not to be suspicious of everyone and the story is cleverly written to keep you guessing.

I really liked the impactful start to this book. Within a matter of pages the story had me gripped and I knew I wanted to know how it was going to end up.

The main character is realistic and flawed and this allows the reader to sympathise with her in her predicament and follow her in her hunt for justice.

I can honestly say that I read it almost to the end without knowing how it could turn out and whilst I ended up guessing part of the outcome there was also a nice twist!

I would recommend this book to my friends as a step above a light hearted read as it kept me engaged and enthralled.

Cathy Small

This book will keep you gripped to the end with a twist that you never see coming. Light hearted in places but an enjoyable read.

Bethany has a secret that no one knows, she has taken extreme care to ensure it isn't discovered. Then the secret is under threat, the man from her affair is a famous billionaire and is cruelly murdered. Bethany is fighting against an unknown party and turns to the only person she can trust.