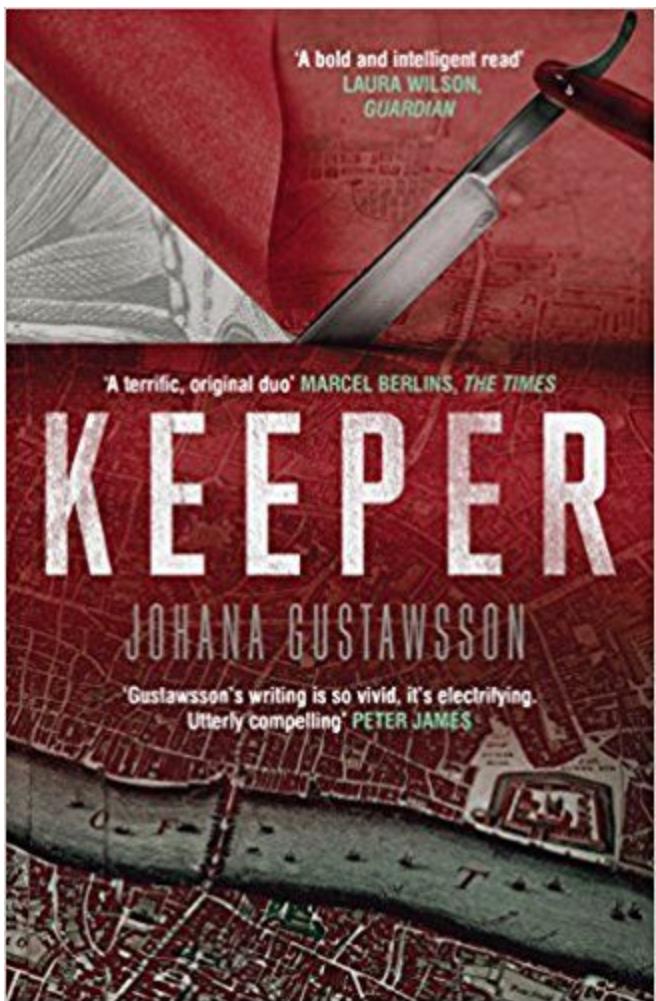


LoveReading Reader reviews of **Keeper**

By Johana Gustawsson

Below are the complete reviews, written by LoveReading members.



Emily Roy, Freda, a prostitute of Swedish origin trying to make a living in 1880s Whitechapel.

Shazia

The Keeper is a hauntingly descriptive tale with multiple side stories culminating in a unique ending, will have readers going one way, completely caught off guard by the twists that take place.

The Keeper is a hauntingly descriptive tale with multiple side stories culminating in a unique ending, will have readers going one way, completely caught off guard by the twists that take place. Johana picks the reader apart and dives into our deepest darkest nightmares, providing a true horror story and murder mystery. Detectives are dumbfounded by the similarity of murders in Sweden and London.

There are plenty of interesting characters, Detective Karla Hansen, her husband, the criminal profiler

This story is filled with grim tales of adultery, deception, treachery while all being presented in a way that builds very slowly but brilliantly up to a climax that will keep the reader invested from the onset. Detective Karla Hansen in Halmstad, finds the damaged corpse of a young woman. Alienor Lindbergh is a strong minded new addition to the Swedish police force, while Julianne Bell is a popular TV presenter and actress who is kidnapped outside her house in Mayfair.

The speedy introduction of so many different timelines and characters does seem a little confusing but soon links begin to appear between their various stories. Tension is high throughout and Gustawsson does a brilliant job of providing a premise relating to one of history's most notorious serial killers, an extremely dysfunctional family through generations, and an ongoing cat-and-mouse investigation of a kidnapping into a story that sucks you in and will have you desperate for answers.

Marjorie Lacy

I can honestly say "I've never read a book like this before!"

It said on the back of the book, it was a page-turner and I can agree.

I liked the fact that the chapters were so short and had a time and place at the beginning of each.

As to the story - bloodcurdling - does not do it justice. It frightened the wits out of me, I felt like a small child again needing to hide behind the settee when Dr. Who was on the TV. I was frightened of holding the book! Would the murderer jump out of the pages and get me?

It was a quick moving story having English and Swedish detectives vying with each other to solve the crime. It was a strange case with many twists and turns. But it was solved. I have no hesitation in saying "read it for yourself" and see how you respond to this excellently written book.

Suzanne Marsh

I was blown away by the whole story of Keeper and with twist that I didn't see coming.

My only regret is I didn't read Block 46, by Johana Gustawsson.

Johana Gustawsson is a new author for me, but certainly one that I will be keeping an eye open for in future. Murders in London and Sweden lead the police back to Jack the Ripper's reign of terror. I'm not afraid to admit that I was scared of what would happen next. In London in 2015 forty-three year old actress Julianne Bell was expected at the BBC television studios for an appearance on a morning show but she never arrived. There's an atmosphere of horror when a female has been found with her flesh

cut out. Scotland Yard know that Richard Hemfield had been behind bars for the Tower Hamlets crimes, he was a dangerous killer that killed several women. But chilling sequences seems to point out that Julianne could have been abducted by Richard Hemfield's accomplice or is there a copycat out there carving out parts of women's bodies. keeper has in the end characters that make you want to scream at them with one question Why? A scary thriller investigation that has quite a few twists at the end that made me gasp. Thank you LoveReading and Orenda for sending me Keeper to review.

Lynne Manton

A gruesome but gripping story of abduction, murder and mutilation that will suck you in and hold your attention right to the end. Brilliant!

Keeper is a brilliant book telling a gruesome but absolutely gripping story of abduction, murder and mutilation. Initially, I admit I did find it slightly disconcerting to be constantly flitting about in time and place as the story spans from 1888 in London at the time of Jack the Ripper's butchery to abduction and murder in the UK and Sweden in 2015, as well as reflecting on horrific slaughter in Tower Hamlets 10 years previously. There are also numerous characters to keep track of. However, many of these characters are interesting in their own right and the story is worth the effort it takes to follow it as it really does suck you in and hold your attention right to the end. I genuinely couldn't put this book down until I had finished it!

Maisie Hoang

The setting is in the UK and Sweden with multi characters intrinsically linked by horrific crimes.

It was gripping with twist and you wanted to piece the clues together to work out the killer.

The beginning was at a slow pace as there were so many characters and locations however once the characters were established the story began to get very exciting. Now I was trying to keep up with the constant change of setting and introduction of new character.

I found the novel gripping, I devoured it wanting to know more. I was trying to guess the identity of the killer by piercing the clues together and with each snippets of clues that I collected I thought I knew who the killer was until a new twist in the story, I couldn't keep up.

*This novel is different from others as you don't really hear much about the killer. It's more the story of the victims and the killers childhood.
I really enjoyed reading this book.*

Rachael Anderson

A chilling and intelligent thriller.

I enjoyed this dark thriller and found it thoroughly absorbing. It is a real page turner. The plot alternates between two timelines. One being Whitechapel, 1888 at time when London is in terror of Jack the Ripper. The other being in 2015 in a different London and Falkenberg, Sweden.

In the recent time s, profiler Emily Roy and crime writer Alexis Castells look into what appears to be copycat killings: A body is found mutilated in a Swedish forest, similar to the murders of Tower Hamlets ten years before and indeed akin to the Ripper killings. Moreover, in London, Julianne Bell is abducted in a similar case to the Tower Hamlets murders. Added to the present investigations, we see personal lives and trauma of the above characters. It makes for a well rounded novel.

What unfolds in this book is an intense and exciting thriller. The plot is very clever and well thought out, keeping the reader on his/her toes. I will definitely be looking for the first in this series: Block 46.

Glenda Worth

Keeper is a fascinating murder story with multi layers and many characters. It certainly keeps you on your toes and you have to keep reading!

Having not read Block 46, the first book in the series, I was not familiar with the characters in this book and although this book stands successfully alone, I do feel I may have to read this now as I was hooked on this second offering! Keeper is an interesting take on the historical Jack The Ripper murders alongside murders happening in Sweden in present day.

There are so many different characters in each chapter it is difficult to keep track sometimes who is who and I found myself flicking backwards and forwards through the book to keep track. The descriptions of the setting for the historic murders was very realistic and I found myself shocked at times at the squalor that was lived in. The chapters were short with dates which was helpful as you could keep track of the switching from one era to another.

The storyline was very dark and shocking, not for the faint hearted, and although a translation, you would not know it as it has been very well done.

All the characters both historic and modern day were realistic and described beautifully with their different quirks and descriptions.

I really liked the character Alienor who is autistic and can gather facts very quickly and efficiently, being totally focussed on the job in hand.

All in all a fascinating read that I would not have read probably without LoveReading's assistance in providing me with this to review!

Michelle Mckernan

A brilliant book full of twists and turns which keeps you guessing right up till the end. I found it hard to put down, desperate to find out what happens next. I would definitely recommend this book.

This is a brilliant, pacey read that i couldn't put down. It has a complex plot which takes some concentration to keep up with, but it's worth the effort.

It is full of twists which i never saw coming, right up to the last few pages.

The characters are believable and brilliantly constructed. I would definitely read others by the same author.

Lee Ruddin

Those not shocked by electrifying, graphic prose will be rewarded with the weaving of multiple threads into one that illustrates how a dysfunctional past can morph into a depraved present.

With a Charles Booth-like poverty map and knife on the cover, readers would be forgiven for thinking Keeper is a(nother) book about Jack the Ripper set in the nineteenth century – it is not. It is more, as crime fiction-lovers would agree, but will equally be considered a keeper by Ripperologists.

I say this since the Ripper casts a shadow over events in 2015 London and Falkenberg, Sweden, where, respectively, a woman has been abducted and another found dead. Both have hallmarks of the Tower Hamlets murders committed a decade earlier which in turn bore similarity to those in 1888. With the perpetrator incarcerated in Broadmoor, does this mean he has an accomplice, or is there a copycat killer?

Profiler Emily Roy and true-crime writer Alexis Castells investigate such questions and find surprising answers. The dull protagonists are assisted by Aliénor Lindberg, an autistic criminologist, who enlightens colleagues hitherto in the dark concerning Ripper's canonical victims, specifically Swedish-born Elizabeth Stride. Of the multinational cast, Aliénor is the only multidimensional character.

The alternating timeline, shifting locations and short (on average three-page) chapters arguably render Keeper a disjointed read (notwithstanding little being lost in translation). Yet those not shocked by electrifying, graphic prose will be rewarded with the weaving of multiple threads into one that illustrates how a dysfunctional past can morph into a depraved present.

*Like Saul David's third Zulu Hart novel, *The Prince and the Whitechapel Murders*, Johana Gustawsson's second Roy and Castells book can be read as a standalone whodunit.*

Emily

*Jack the Ripper meets Nordic Noir. As a fan of Scandi crime thrillers, I was excited to read this novel. **It was really easy to read with a clever plot which left you guessing until the end.** 4/5*

Neil Williams

An interesting portrayal of a 2 pronged murder investigation.

This was an interesting approach to a murder mystery with unveilings all the way through about the history of the family. I found it hard to keep up with so many characters with several all blending together. This may have been down to translation. All in all a good story but just didn't grasp me as much as I'd have liked and the tenuous Jack the Ripper links seemed a real stretch.