



The Silent Wife

Kerry Fisher

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Would you risk everything for the man you loved? Even if you knew he'd done something terrible?

Lara's life looks perfect on the surface. Gorgeous doting husband **Massimo**, sweet little son **Sandro** and the perfect home. Lara knows something about Massimo. Something she can't tell anyone else or everything Massimo has worked so hard for will be destroyed: his job, their reputation, their son. This secret is keeping Lara a prisoner in her marriage.

Maggie is married to Massimo's brother **Nico** and lives with him and her troubled stepdaughter. She knows all of Nico's darkest secrets - or so she thinks. The one day she discovers a letter in the attic which reveals a shocking secret about Nico's first wife **Caitlin**. Will Maggie set the record straight or keep silent to protect those she loves?

For a family held together by lies, the truth will come at a devastating price.

A heart-wrenching, emotionally gripping read for fans of Amanda Prowse, Liane Moriarty and Diane Chamberlain.

The Silent Wife Details

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Author : Kerry Fisher

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From Reader Review The Silent Wife for online ebook

Elaine says

What a great, very different, novel this is! Welcome to the Farinelli family from Brighton - it has a great collection of characters who are brought to life in the pages of this story, some of whom you'll love but others you'll definitely not!

There's the domineering, strident Italian Mama, a real matriarchal character and the mother of two sons, Massimo and Nico. Both sons have married for the second time and the story is related from the points of views of their second wives, Lara and Maggie. Lara and Massimo have a son, Sandro, and appear to have the perfect marriage - but appearances are often deceptive, particularly so in this family's case!

This is a story of secrets, abusive relationships, one where the 'golden' son is actually anything but. It involves the two second wives developing their relationship to start to trust one another and reveal confidences which lead to dramatic events. This is a story where lies are perpetuated and maintained to keep the family together but at what cost? What will happen when all is revealed and there's nothing to hide behind any more? It is a very moving story filled with deception, betrayal and, contrastingly, loyalty, love, caring and forgiveness. Overall, this is about a dysfunctional family and it has a brilliant ending!

Many thanks to the publishers for gifting me a copy of this novel, via NetGalley, with no obligation. This is my honest review.

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

The Silent Wife by Kerry Fisher was previously called 'Secrets of Second Wives', a title I much prefer.

Be careful what you wish for - you may get it. This is certainly true of Maggie, a woman from a less than desirable background; growing up on a council estate, a single mother, the daughter of single mother. All she has ever wanted is to be part of a close family, one of those families that do everything together, that support each other. When Nico asks her to marry him, she believes that this is just what she is getting, but this family is so close that she finds herself on the outside looking in. And then she makes a startling discovery, one that has the power to tear this family apart.

The Silent Wife deals with the plethora of relationships a second wife faces as a newcomer; being a step-parent; bringing a child of her own into the relationship; the in-laws; the ghost of the dead wife. It also deals with family violence. So there was a lot to work with here, but unfortunately Kerry Fisher just didn't quite pull it off.

This was an okay read that, at times, had flashes of brilliance, whereafter it would slip back into mediocrity. There were so many similes! So many that I was actually gnashing my teeth at one point. It had a lot of potential that was not, in my opinion, explored. We don't really get any great depth to the characters. There is a lot of repetition. A LOT.

This book was interesting to the point that I wanted to keep reading, encouraged by the occasional flash of brilliant writing, but it was not so good that I became absorbed by it. The Silent Wife earns

3.5 stars from me.

Thank you to Bookouture via NetGalley for providing a digital ARC of the Silent Wife by Kerry Fisher for review. All opinions expressed in this review are entirely my own.

Meggy says

All families are crazy. This is what my great-grandmother used to say. Boy did she was right! Families are tricky, **you are handled carefully weaved small threads, connections to all those people that share your name and blood – or not, and those little bonds get tangled, they loosen, they get older, they keep messing with your head. Families are a blessing. But families can also be a curse!**

The Farinellis, a seemingly nice and happy big Italian family, know all about what a family is about. At least that is what they think. Lara will do anything for her husband and son to be happy, even if it means losing herself in the process. Maggie is the new piece, the “blended” member trying her best to fit the picture and the empty seat left by the deceased first wife of her beloved husband. Through those women’s eyes, you get to know their husbands, **the very different but equally strong men Massimo and Nico.** To say their views on life are different is a euphemism, but brotherhood is a strong bond and those two are navigating life together, through thin and thick. **Add to the mix the next generation, Sam, Sandro and Francesca to spice up the adults’ life and bring joy to the party. Guarding the family is the mama, Anna.** Resilient, old-fashioned Anna whose tongue is always ready to let slip a scathing comment or a nasty remark to her daughters-in-law while her warmth is enveloping and cherishing those two perfect sons life has blessed her with.

But this portray is simplistic. You could have guessed all of this from a family picture hanged on the wall.

I knew outsiders only saw a fraction of what a marriage was really like.

With The Silent Wife, we are off to the real thing. The author’s writing breathes life. What happens when the photographer says “it’s a wrap!”? Kerry Fisher shows it all. The masks appearances force you to wear, the pressure that comes with a family, the shadows, the secrets. Chapter after chapter, layers are removed, the wounds start hurting, the cracks on the wall appear, the feelings just flow and you are left with the meaning of the sense of belonging, with what it truly means to be a family.

For once in my life, I wanted to surrender to romance, to believe love was sparkly and special and not something that made you look in the mirror and shake your head at your own stupidity.

Maggie and Lara couldn't be more different. I don't want to dive too much into characterization because the book is an experience about who you are, who you appear to be, who you want to be and how you can relate to those around you. All of this is locked away, for different reasons. Lara cannot let her husband and his perfect life down by revealing what is eating her soul every day and Maggie won't destroy the newly found happiness and solace of her new husband and his reluctant daughter. **But secrets have a knack for bringing everything to the surface.**

I warmed to both women for very different reasons. Maggie was the stepmother I wish I had had growing up! **She tries her best to protect what she is slowly and tentatively building. I know what it feels to be treated as a second choice, as if you are just here to fill a gap, as if you don't quite fit into the picture.** She felt real and warm and really trying, even if painfully aware her ways are the opposite of what is done on the Italian side. **The Farinelli family is close-knit and doesn't let strangers in so easily. Lara learned it the hard way.** The many years since her wedding hasn't made her more comfortable around her mother-in-law and her son's upbringing is a constant issue in the family. Their struggles, their daily lives, their voices sounded spot-on, I imagined them as my aunts, my cousins, and **I felt for and with them.**

I think what made me feel so connected to Lara and Maggie from the start was the mixture of emotions coming from their different narrations. The guarded Lara and the new-addition Maggie, two different views of the same coin. **I love how Kerry Fisher seized the way we tiptoe around people, the way we try to cope with our own feelings and interpret others', the way something simple can bring people together when they least expect it,** the way you can find allies in people you had no intention of letting in, because life happens and when you are faced with its hardships or happy moments. You may find someone standing right next to you, holding out a hand. That is also what family is for.

I am nosy and I must say this story delivers on the promise to let you hide behind the curtains and see what happens behind closed doors. It's not all bad, grey is all around, and I am happy the author gives room for opinions to be formed and evolve as the characters grow.

Finally, I was understanding what it meant to be a grown-up.

Getting to know everyone else through Maggie and Lara's eyes was an excellent way of witnessing the difference faces we put on depending on who is around! If something had made me angry during Lara's narration, Maggie's light on the same character, event or day would have my feelings completely changed. If Maggie's light tone or complaint would irritate me a little, Lara's fresh eyes on it would give it another meaning. **With a clever array of secondary characters to spice already-packed lives, the steady pace of the story never lets up.**

I dreaded the secret wouldn't let any room for character development but I must have forgotten how every single day shape us, no matter what hovers over our heads, and this is depicted so clearly in The Silent Wife that you might start looking around you with more open eyes. Kerry Fisher masters the magic of capturing life through all angles and delivering it to you raw and real.

I'd once had a boyfriend who called me "Shnoodle Bum". It had put me off nicknames for life.

The tension was different from a thriller or an action-packed story. It crept on me as I dived deeper and deeper into the family's troubled waters, and the secret had my heart break, shake with fear, the undercurrent of dread coming in waves as every day troubles offered a respite from the darkest times.

My heart ached for that family, for the lost ones, for the found ones. I loved every minute, every page, every word of this heart-wrenching book!

The author's fantastic and emotional writing turns a seemingly normal family story into a gripping roller coaster journey about how a secret can shake the foundation of a perfect picture, revealing just how bonds can be strong, cut, tested, created and renewed, for the sake of happiness.

I would like to thank Kerry Fisher and Bookouture's team for allowing me to take part in this blog tour. This unbiased review is my thanks to them.

Debbie says

Absolutely awesome read! And yes, it's one of those you cannot put down and won't want to put down. The farther I got into the book, the more I was into the book.

The Farinelli's have lived on the same street for years. Their mother, Anna, lives in the childhood home

alone. While the oldest brother, Massimo, lives with his second wife of 10 years, Lara, and their child Sandro next door to his youngest brother, Nico. Massimo is divorced from his first wife who did not want children. Nico is currently newly married to his second wife, Maggie, after losing his first wife, Caitlyn, nearly 3 years ago to cancer. Maggie has a son, Sam and Nico has a daughter, Francesco.

The dynamics of this family are so crazy. I'm not going to go into them - I'm not spoiling it for anyone. I will tell you that at one point I did hit the bed and scream "yes, yes, yes" when a certain someone got their comeuppance and I LOVED IT!

I just can say how much I enjoyed this book. I love it when people who are being buttheads get theirs and there are several buttheads in this book. This will definitely be one of my top reads for 2017!

Huge thanks to Bookouture for approving my request and to Net Galley for providing me with a free e-galley in exchange for an honest review.

Judy Collins says

A special thank you to Bookouture and NetGalley for an ARC in exchange for an honest review. Review to follow.

Eva says

My reviews can also be found at www.noveldeelights.com

Can a review consist of just some incoherent gibberish to show how much you've loved a book? How about a Kermit flail? No? Because quite frankly, I'm not at all sure how I'm supposed to put into words the emotional rollercoaster I've been on following this story of a dysfunctional and slightly cuckoo family.

It's all incredibly relatable. Who hasn't had to play happy families when sticking a fork in your eye sounds way more fun? Who hasn't maybe worn a mask when visitors arrive ten seconds after you've had an argument with your other half because it's none of their business? But then imagine having to wear that mask day in, day out. Live your life pretending so you don't rock the boat. I don't know about you but I would go crazy!

Thank goodness I had the house to myself as I was engrossed from the very first page and wouldn't have been too thrilled with interruptions. It's a testament to Kerry Fisher's writing. The way she draws you in with characters that are so realistic, you expect them to jump off the page any second. I couldn't help getting emotionally invested. Getting utterly lost in the family dynamics, willing some characters on, wanting them to succeed or for some, hoping they'd get their comeuppance. Again, a good thing I was alone as I often muttered some choice words or used rude Italian gestures and that sort of thing just invites strange looks from whomever is sitting next to you.

This story has a lot to offer. Family secrets, skeletons in the closet, complicated relationships with stepchildren and a mother-in-law we wouldn't wish on anyone. But also unlikely friendships and finding your inner strength. The strength to make changes, to stay true to yourself, to find your way through a

strange, new world that feels more like an obstacle course.

There's also humour. Maggie and Beryl had me laughing out loud a number of times. Especially Beryl who has a fabulous no-nonsense attitude and no filter whatsoever.

Sometimes heartbreaking, sometimes funny, always gripping and with a satisfying ending! I loved it!

Sarah Joint says

Beautifully written and heart-wrenching. The ending left tears in my eyes. I was completely engrossed in this book and couldn't stop turning pages. It's a very absorbing story about love and family. **A reminder that the "perfect couple" (you know the one) you envy isn't always as perfect as they seem.** That overly affectionate husband you wish your own would take clues from may be hiding a dark side. *And even though you yourself may be envious of someone else's relationship, just because your own isn't perfect doesn't mean it isn't right.*

This story is told from two perspectives. Maggie has recently married Nico, who lost his first wife to illness. Nico has a teenage daughter, Maggie a younger son. The teenager resents Maggie and doesn't make home life easy. She compares free-spirited Maggie to her fitness obsessed, neat freak mother Caitlyn and finds her lacking. She's not ready to accept her... and it seems the rest of the family isn't quite ready either, including her overbearing grandmother. When Maggie accidentally discovers a secret Caitlyn took to her grave, she is conflicted. Perhaps Nico and his daughter have the right to know, but she doesn't want to ruin the illusion of the perfect wife and mother.

Lara is married to Massimo, Nico's brother. They have a young boy together who takes after his mother more than his athletic father, much to Massimo's disappointment. Massimo is larger than life, charming everyone he meets. Maggie can't help but to think he's mismatched with the quiet, demure Lara... but Lara didn't start out this way. Massimo is quite different with his wife and son behind closed doors.

Lara and Maggie begin to slowly grow closer, despite their differences. A real friendship begins to blossom between them and they become unlikely allies.

This book was originally titled *Secrets of Second Wives*, which led to some confusion on my part. I liked the first title, but *The Silent Wife* fits it to a tee as well.

I received an ARC of this book from Net Galley and Bookouture, thank you! My review is honest and unbiased.

Louise Wilson says

3.5 stars. *The Silent Wife* was formerly called *The Secrets of Second Wife's* .

On the surface Lara's life looks perfect. Perfect husband Massimo. Perfect son Sandro. Lara knows something about Massimo. A secret she can never share.

Maggie is married to Nico. Nico is Massimo's brother. Nico has a daughter from his first marriage. Maggie discovers a letter in the attic which reveals a shocking secret.

This is an emotional roller coaster to read. Gripping in parts with some good characters. Remember and have the tissues on standby.

I would like to thank NetGalley, Bookouture and the author Kerry Fisher for my ARC in exchange for an honest review.

Donna says

Oh my, where do I begin ?!?!?

I absolutely loved this book!! You know it's an extraordinary story, when you don't want it to end. The characters are so well presented that you actually feel you are part of the family - some you love, some that irritate you, others that make you laugh while still others you want to scream at. I enjoyed each character for their own unique qualities but my favorite was Beryl. She was so down to earth, funny and sarcastically outspoken but not in brutal way. - - very tactful!!

This is the story of Maggie, who is married to Nico and Lara, who is married to Nico's brother Massimo. Maggie and Lara are both second wives for the brothers. It is a tale of hidden fears, secrets, lies, deception, betrayal, loyalty, love, true friendship and so so much more!!

A heart breaking yet heart warming story of how secrets, lies and deception can tear a family apart AND how hidden inner strength, caring, love and forgiveness can bring a family back together.... BRILLIANTLY DONE!!

This is the first book I've read from Kerry Fisher and rest assured it will not be my last. It was amazingly well written with so many unexpected twists and turns that I couldn't turn the pages fast enough.

I'm actually envious of anyone who is about to start the incredible journey of reading this amazing novel!!

* Many thanks to NetGalley, the publisher, Bookouture and Kerry Fisher the author of "The Silent Wife" for the ARC in return for a fair and honest review. *

Maxine (Booklover Catlady) says

The Silent Wife was a really exciting and enjoyable read. As at today (Sunday 9th April 2017) this book is sitting in #1 spot for family sagas on Amazon UK and #2 in others. It's a bestseller! This book really has some characters that make the book strong - those that are in the light, and those that live in the dark and those that like to fool you and fluctuate between the two.

A new wife is trying to be accepted into a large close-knit family with a dominating, cold dominating elderly Mother at the helm, her sons are her whole world. Some wives are not good enough, no matter how hard they try. Tensions and dysfunctional interactions are a-plenty in this novel. The plot is really intriguing and all is not what it seems in this family. Secrets are revealed and things uncovered that will give you a reading buzz!

This is a true character driven book, you will develop early on your own feelings and thoughts around many of them no doubt. Some feelings may change as you read on, almost guaranteed really. If you like complex relationships and dysfunctional families this is a book for you. It's not easy to read in places - cruelty, abuse, violence behind closed doors must be hidden at all costs. But there is a hefty price to pay.

This is a great read, 5 stars from me. Just one of those pick up, get stuck right in and flick the pages until you are happily done novels. Taut, terrific and highly enjoyable.

I received an ARC of this book from the publisher, Bookouture via NetGalley. All review opinions are my own, honest and totally unbiased.

Thanks so much for reading my review! To follow more reviews, be alerted to awesome online author events and HUGE book giveaways and more come on over to: <https://www.facebook.com/BookloverCat...>

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Darcie Boleyn says

Kerry Fisher's writing always draws me in from the first page and grips me until the last. I need to clear my schedule before starting one of her books because I know I won't want to put it down.

The Silent Wife is absolutely fabulous! It's about families and the complicated webs that exist within them, about how people lie to protect themselves and others. I loved the way that Ms Fisher slowly revealed the family's secrets and how she created such real and raw emotion along the way. The female characters are strong and individual, yet bound together by the men in their lives and by their children. There is a clear sense of how dynamics shift when another woman enters a family and how the matriarch is not always who you expect.

This novel is gripping, exciting, page turning and addictive and I loved every page.

G.J. says

Well I am afraid this was nothing like I had hoped it would be ! Gripping ? Emotional ? Unexpected twists ? Nope, sorry, it was a decent family saga type book , nothing more in my view. The characters, especially the men, were stereotypes and the plot had more holes than a Swiss cheese !

Some of the writing was good which is why I have given it 3 stars.

Petra says

In *The Silent Wife* (or 'The Secrets of Second Wives' as it was formerly called, and which btw I prefer) Kerry Fisher explores the dynamics of second marriages. She looks at the complicated relationships with step-children, the in-laws, and the regular reminders of the wives/mothers who were first. Told in the alternating voices of Maggie and Lara, this was a poignant story of what women are prepared to go through for their families.

Maggie married Nico after his wife Caitlin died. Nico has a teenage daughter, Francesca, and is part of a seemingly close-knit, well-off Italian family, while Maggie, who grew up on the wrong side of the tracks, has been a single Mum to Sam since his birth, only supported by her no-nonsense mother Beryl, who also brought up Maggie on her own.

Lara married Massimo, Nico's brother, after Massimo's first wife, Dawn, left him. Lara has been a stay-at-home Mum to their shy seven-year-old son, Sandro.

The cracks in this extended family, which is ruled by strong-minded matriarch Anna, soon appear, and while Maggie and Lara establish an unlikely friendship, it becomes harder and harder to sweep family secrets and betrayals under the carpet.

This was the third book by Kerry Fisher that I've read now. While it still made me smile in parts, it had less of the prominent humour I loved in her other books. This one was a lot more sombre, raising awareness of the darker sides of some marriages. It was very good at exploring issues of control and losing control. The characters, as in all Ms Fisher's novels, were so well drawn, you actually have no doubt that they truly exist. There was a nice mix of characters to love and characters to despise. My absolute favourite was Beryl, Maggie's kind and outspoken Mum.

Definitely recommended to anybody who enjoys emotional women's fiction. Kerry Fisher has firmly established a place on my must-read-author list.

Thanks to Bookouture for my ARC via NetGalley.

Joanne Robertson says

I do love a twisty family drama, one full of secrets and lies that you read with just the slightest tinge of smugness as you can see what is about to happen miles before our poor characters do. But Kerry Fisher always managed to pull something delectably different out of the bag and here she managed to throw a few curveballs, keeping us in our toes right to the very end!

The days of the traditional mum, dad and their 2.4 children have long gone now and family dynamics have changed dramatically due to the extended family. Step-parents are pretty much the norm nowadays so it was rather interesting to see how differently the two second wives coped within their new families. Finding their feet without tripping up over family traditions or trying to live up to wife number one seem to be the constants here although Maggie seems to have a tougher time adjusting to her new role than Lara. But Lara appears to have worse problems within her marriage to contend with.

Kerry Fisher has created a tangled web of lies and indiscretions here with characters that I really came to care about and think of as friends. I took to Maggie, especially, right from the first time we get to meet her at

her wedding to Nico. And when her mum Beryl was introduced into the plot, I realised where Maggie had inherited her strengths of character from and that it would hopefully help her adjust to married life as a second wife and stepmother to a teenage girl. Beryl was hilarious and I think my goal in life now is to be “a bit more Beryl”. Straight talking, forthright and hilarious and always had the perfect story to tell or the perfect treat on hand at just the right time.

Perfectly paced and plotted I loved following this family drama through to its climatic finale. It was slightly darker than Kerry’s other books but still with a subtle but mischievous humour at times. This book was originally called *The Secrets of Second Wifes* and if I’m honest I think that represents the plot better than *The Silent Wife* but it made no difference once my head was stuck between the pages. An enjoyable experience from start to finish!

Many thanks to Kim at Bookouture for my copy of *The Silent Wife* which I have chosen to read and review.

Sue says

THE SILENT WIFE by Kerry Fisher was previously titled *The Secrets of Second Wives*. I loved this book. It is the story of two women who are second wives of two brothers in an Italian family. This novel explores the psychological issues of second marriages, and the hardships and darker sides of a marriage. The novel is set in 2016, in the Brighton area of the UK.

“Lara’s life looks perfect on the surface. Gorgeous doting husband Massimo, sweet little son Sandro and the perfect home. Lara knows something about Massimo. Something she can’t tell anyone else or everything Massimo has worked so hard for will be destroyed: his job, their reputation, their son. This secret is keeping Lara a prisoner in her marriage.”

“Maggie is married to Massimo’s brother Nico and lives with him and her troubled stepdaughter. She knows all of Nico’s darkest secrets – or so she thinks. The one day she discovers a letter in the attic which reveals a shocking secret about Nico’s first wife Caitlin. Will Maggie set the record straight or keep silent to protect those she loves?”

This is the story of families, lies and secrets...of friendship forming bonds, where the truth will result in excessive damage to the family and generations to come.

The novel centers around the two sister in-laws, Lara and Maggie, who live next door to each other, with their controlling mother-in-law across the street. One big happy Italian family!

The story opens with the wedding ceremony, Maggie marrying Nico after his wife Caitlin died. Getting on with Nico’s 13 year old teenager, Francesca proves to be an on-going battle for Maggie. Maggie will never be as good as her mother! Maggie also brings her own baggage into the equation, being a single mom to her 7 year old son, Sam. Maggie’s outspoken mum, Beryl provides much humor and love to the story. Lara married Massimo after Massimo’s first wife, Dawn, left him. Lara gave up her career as an accountant, and has been a stay-at-home Mum with their 7 year old timid son, Sandro.

With each chapter titled “Maggie” or “Lara” we are provided with alternating perspectives. The characters are so real I felt I was sitting down at the table or living room with them just listening to their moving emotional story. The story moves along at a fast pace.

But soon the secrets they discover become too much...

What an emotional satisfying read! This was the first book by Kerry Fisher that I've read now...and it won't be my last! Definitely recommended to anybody who enjoys emotional women's fiction. I look forward to reading the next book by Kerry Fisher...a very talented author and one definitely to keep on the radar!

Many thanks to Bookouture for my ARC via NetGalley.
