



Keep This to Yourself

Tom Ryan

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It's been a year since the Catalog Killer terrorized the sleepy seaside town of Camera Cove, killing four people before disappearing without a trace.

Like everyone else in town, eighteen-year-old Mac Bell is trying to put that horrible summer behind him—easier said than done since Mac's best friend Connor was the murderer's final victim. But when he finds a cryptic message from Connor, he's drawn back into the search for the killer—who might not have been a random drifter after all. Now nobody—friends, neighbors, or even the sexy stranger with his own connection to the case—is beyond suspicion. Sensing that someone is following his every move, Mac struggles to come to terms with his true feelings towards Connor while scrambling to uncover the truth.

Keep This to Yourself Details

Date : Published 2019 by Albert Whitman

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Author : Tom Ryan

Format : Hardcover

Genre : Young Adult, Lgbt, Mystery, Thriller

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From Reader Review Keep This to Yourself for online ebook

Chris Marro says

I received this book for free as an advanced reader's copy, in exchange for an honest review. From a teacher's perspective this book is a great offering for an independent read. The fact that the book is a mystery that features a young gay man as its protagonist, but doesn't spend time addressing his coming out will help young queer students feel represented in what is otherwise a normal mystery. It also doesn't completely ignore the adversity experienced by gay people and shows how one character deals with minor acts of homophobia with confidence. Finally, the novel provides an opportunity for character study, and could spark class discussion on how people can perceive the same person in different ways. To the teachers out there, I definitely recommend this mystery for your shelves.

The Bookish Austin says

I'll post a more in-depth review closer to publication. :) For now, it was a good mystery - and I totally figured it out before the end. :)

Keirstin Smith (CloudOfThoughts) says

Keep This to Yourself by author Tom Ryan is a fun mystery/thriller perfect for Young Adult/Teen. A quick read and full of dark secrets.

Thank you Netgalley and the publisher for an arc copy of Keep This rob Yourself in exchange for an honest review.

Sally Maxwell says

Thank you to Albert Whitman & Company for the arc of this book.

I didn't dislike this book, but I am not sure if I liked it either, at one point I did consider putting it down, I am glad I didn't though, the end was a twist you don't see coming.

I just think this book lacked umph for me, except for that ending, that was very good.

Elise (TheBookishActress) says

this one is pitched as Last Seen Leaving meets I Am Not a Serial Killer. Also, gay. It looks sort of cool?

C.G. Drews says

this book was so so stressful...I am sTRESSED. At one point I literally had to tell myself to relax my jaw lmao...which is the sign of a *good* thriller right!? Now I'm aware it doesn't come out till April (shh i got excited and read early) so I'll just cobble a few thoughts here and fill out the review closer to the date!

- »» it is about a serial killer so like, dude, cREEPy
- »» quiet soft narrator
- »» m/m romance
- »» trauma? we gotcha trauma
- »» it's a year-old case now but Mac's best friend was murdered and he can't let it go unsolved
- »» the ending did require a bit of suspension of disbelief with something the police did
- »» I totally enjoyed it and didn't guess the twist (EPIC twist)

Alexa Hamilton says

Take a true crime book, turn it into fiction, set it by the ocean, add a bunch of teenagers having authentic end of HS feelings and you get this book which I loved. What makes it shine is the relationships between the teens as they leave high school--and the feelings the main character has as he reflects back on his relationship with one of the teens who was murdered.

The mystery unfolds in a super satisfying way. You'll make a lot of guesses and you'll probably be wrong at least some of the time because there are enough twists and turns to really make it fun. Or terrifying, you pick.

Anna says

I received an eARC from Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

One year after a serial killer terrorized the small coastal town of Camera Cove, Mac is trying his best to move on. He has just graduated high school, reuniting with some of his childhood best friends to dig up a time capsule. One member of the friend group cannot be there because Connor was the final victim of the serial killer that has not been caught.

After going home, Mac decides to finally open up a bag of comics that Connor had left on his door on a day that ended up being the last day of Connor's life. In there, Mac finds a small note that tells him that Connor may have actively been investigating the serial killer.

Instead of moving on, Mac begins to investigate this. Under the guise of seeking items for a rummage sale, he begins to make contact with each of the victim's families to search for clues that the police may have missed.

This was so good. YA thrillers have always tended to be a hit or miss for me, but the YA thrillers that are getting published within the last couple of years have all been outstanding. *Keep This To Yourself* manages to explore the obsessive nature of unsolved crime, the early beginnings of a romance, and the uncertainty of the summer after high school graduation. The main character is also gay, and it's nice to read a thriller where

that's the case. (This is still a great rarity!)

If you have read *Last Seen Leaving* by Caleb Roehrig and loved it, you will definitely love this one. Similarly, if you have read *The Cheerleaders* by Kara Thomas and loved it, you will definitely love this one too.

Danielle says

This is a young adult novel where a group of high school kids who grew up together are still coming to terms with the death of one of their friends at the hands of a serial killer that plagued their town a year before but who was never caught. One of them stumbles on what he thinks is new information in the case and decides to take things into his own hands to see if he can figure out what happened to his friend. I could not get into this book. I did not care what happened to any of the characters nor what was the answer to the mystery.

Dahlia says

Whoosh, the was the first ebook I've read in a single day in months. Lots of twists and turns, things I saw coming and things I definitely didn't. I don't really like to say any more about thrillers, so, I won't!

Adam Sass says

The TWISTS. I couldn't even handle all of them. From the very beginning, Mac Bell held my attention as a boy struggling through his grief in the wake of a serial killer's rampage through his small coastal town. This is a dark story, but soaking in pure character warmth. BROADCHURCH from the teens' POV. Pre-order as soon as you can!

Bunni says

I received an ARC from Netgalley in exchange for an honest review

I don't think that this book was for me, but I DO think that others will like it. I didn't connect to any of the characters; it could have been because the main was male and usually in my YA reading the leads are female.

That is probably why I found myself wanting to know more about things from Doris' and Carrie's POV. Especially Doris, of course. Or Ben, even: would've liked to know more about his problems.

I was very surprised at the twist ending and felt satisfied with how things turned out. If it had gone the Mr. Anderson route I was prepared to be even MORE surprised but upon reflection that probably would've come out of left field.

This really has no bearing on the book itself, exactly, but I think I am sick of teen amateur investigators

discovering things the cops all missed...yes, let's just forget their years of training and experience and bring in some kid who pokes around in the grass for 5 minutes and discovers a clue. COME ON. Although I did feel like the part with the watch was more realistic and I felt better about that. I read a LOT of books where the teens one up the cops and solve it all so I think I'm just over that trope. I really felt sympathy for the Detective Parnatsky. I liked her.

I feel like I would've liked the WHY to be explained a little more, but I can't be more clear than that without spoilers. But WHY? Just because of nature? The signs that were supposed to point to the character's future actions were just thrown in at the end; we hadn't really LIVED the evidence. For example:

"Oh, she liked to collect birds."

"Well that explains why the world's rarest bird went missing at the zoo."

Instead of:

"As I searched her room, I noticed pictures of birds everywhere. Magazine pages, hand-drawings, even a few from coloring books. I had never realized before that she had been interested in birds. Or maybe obsessed was more like it. Could SHE be connected to the missing bird from the zoo?"

So in my lame example, I feel like the information is just handed to us and in the second try, the character is collecting information about another character through evidence. Or maybe it only makes sense in my head. Anyway.

Maybe I missed the reason why the victims had to die, as well. Sorry it's so vague I'm trying to go without spoilers.

Maybe it was just me, but I didn't like the romance - it was too instantaneous for it to be believable. Again, I do read a lot of YA where this happens but I don't always buy it.

I did think that Mac was a well-fleshed-out character. He had issues, he had backstory (his parents showed up like, what, one time in the book? Meh), and he had complicated relationships.

The beginning of this book read like The Sacrifice Box but it definitely is not. All in all, I don't feel like I wasted my time reading this (the ending really made it worthwhile) but it just wasn't for me. I'm pretty sure I would pick up another book of Tom Ryan's.

PS: This is also not really a reflection of the book, but it cracks me up sometimes when I see libraries depicted in books. Volunteers never put books back on the shelves (paid employees do) and few libraries have a bookmobile (I only know of one, personally, 3 hours away from me) and a librarian drives it, not volunteers. In my library, we don't have volunteers except during summer and they can't just walk in, either, they need fingerprints and a TB test, etc. They mostly clean. Of course, I only have experience with big, city/county libraries and not small-town ones so the rules could be different. And not everyone who works in a library is an actual librarian, because you need a Masters degree for that.

PinkAmy loves books, cats and naps says

Thanks to NetGalley for providing me a complimentary copy of KEEP THIS TO YOURSELF by Tom Ryan in exchange for my honest review.

4.5 STARS

What an unexpected gem!

Ingredients for a perfect mystery:

- 1 serial killer
- 1 estranged group of friends
- 1 murdered friend
- 1 kickass narrator
- A bunch of interesting minor characters
- 1 possible love interest
- A generous handful of clues
- A sprinkle of red herrings
- An ending I didn't see coming

KEEP THIS TO YOURSELF is one of those novels I wanted to reread immediately after I finished to figure out the clues I missed. How did I not know of Tom Ryan before KEEP THIS TO YOURSELF?

Ryan gave protagonist Mac a likable and sympathetic voice. He's not only grieving for the loss of his best friend Connor, he's also harboring an unacknowledged crush for his pal. Additionally, Connor was the glue that held his friend group together, without him they've splintered. As much as I liked Mac, I didn't his other friends, at least for the first 90% of the book. They were interesting people with individual personalities and nuances, whom I wouldn't have chosen to befriend. Quill, Mac's new friend and possible love interest, stole my heart.

The plot moved quickly, with my list of suspects constantly changing. They all made sense, until they didn't.

A strong recommendation for KEEP THIS TO YOURSELF.
