



Security

Gina Wohlsdorf

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“Original and imaginative . . . Ripping suspense, sheer terror, and a wrenching love story.” —Sandra Brown, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Friction*

The terrible truth about Manderley is that someone is always watching. Manderley Resort is a gleaming, new twenty-story hotel on the California coast. It's about to open its doors, and the world--at least those with the means to afford it--will be welcomed into a palace of opulence and unparalleled security. But someone is determined that Manderley will never open. The staff has no idea that their every move is being watched, and over the next twelve hours they will be killed off, one by one.

Writing in the tradition of Edgar Allan Poe and Stephen King, and with a deep bow to Daphne du Maurier, author Gina Wohlsdorf pairs narrative ingenuity and razor-wire prose with quick twists, sharp turns, and gasp-inducing terror. *Security* is *grand guignol* storytelling at its very best.

A shocking thriller, a brilliant narrative puzzle, and a multifaceted love story unlike any other, *Security* marks the debut of a fearless and gifted writer.

Security Details

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Author : Gina Wohlsdorf

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From Reader Review Security for online ebook

Abby (Crime by the Book) says

Original, twisted, gory, and an unexpected tragic love story all wrapped in one. Excellent, excellent read for fans of Stephen King. Had me sweating/gasping out loud on public transportation during its breakneck finale!! Full review to come on CBTB!

Faith says

This is a slasher novel, so I guess it's redundant to say that it is gory ("the Killer is throwing organs out of X as if she were a toy box") and unpleasant. Hapless victims are picked off one by one. It also has a romantic coupling with a back story straight out of a soap opera, leading to some icky, semi-incestuous soft core porn. If I could have skimmed my way past the "love" story, I would have, but the two threads of the story were generally jumbled together in the same paragraph so it was hard to avoid.

The basic premise is that a fancy resort is undergoing last minute preparations for its opening. Two motiveless, knife-loving, masked killers are stalking the resort's employees and also the foster brother of the woman in charge who, unfortunately for him, picks this day to come visit her and spill his deepest secrets. The unnamed narrator is watching all of this unfold from security cameras that cover the entire resort. I didn't get the point of any of this. If you want to kill a bunch of defenseless people, get them together in one place and shoot them. If you want to terrorize them, then they need to know that they are facing some threat. Neither of these things happened until the end.

The book has an unusual feature (gimmick). At certain points in the book, the pages are split and the simultaneous actions at 2 or more locations are described side by side. It reminded me of a power point presentation. I was reading a physical book, but I can imagine this might be tricky to read on an e-reader.

My final problem with the book is that the author (for no reason that I could detect) makes the only gay character a villian and a source of annoyance to the other employees and the only employee unqualified for his job. I was not comfortable with this.

I kept reading to find out how it would end and because who can look away from a car wreck, but I didn't enjoy the experience.

I received a free copy of this book from the publisher.

Heena Rathore P. says

Note: I received a copy of this book from the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

"The best security is invisible security."

THIS BOOK IS TOTALLY AWESOME!!!

First of all, I'd like to thank Kim (one of the best book reviewers I've ever met and a good friend) who personally recommended this book to me. Thanks a bunch, Kim, you've introduced me to some pretty awesome books, but this one takes the cake.

Read Kim's review of Security here: <https://cadburypom.wordpress.com/2016...>

"The most thorough safety is safety one's object of protection doesn't know about."

Coming back to the review, I loved Security for more than a dozen reasons. If I'll try and explain all of them, I'll probably go nuts because I'm already feeling too excited to even write a review for this book. So I'll just list a few reasons why I loved this book so much without getting into details:

- ◆ Unique concept. Security is written from the point of view of a stranger who see the entire hotel through a number of cameras.
- ◆ The sheer brilliance of the plot line.
- ◆ Remarkable characterization in a sense that more than half of the characters were only two-dimensional, but on purpose.
- ◆ That was how they were meant to be, and they played their magic in a way that was intended.
- ◆ Exceptional pacing.
- ◆ Ingenious execution of the plot.
- ◆ The shamelessly artistic dissection of human emotions.
- ◆ Excellent writing highlighted by clever dialogues and eloquent sarcasm.
- ◆ Awfully, yet brilliantly gory slashing and trashing.
- ◆ Heartbreaking ending. I'm still so upset about how the book ended that it's literally making me go crazy. It didn't make me weep (that would have been creepy) but it really unsettled me because I literally fell for the unknown POV guy (Mr. Head Of Security.)
- ◆ The abrupt scene cuts, in my opinion, served as a master stroke and delivered a sense of urgency quite beautifully.

I'd recommend this book to each and everyone out there who read books. You should read this book simply because if you don't, then you'll miss out on a really, really, really GOOD book. And I'm sure you wouldn't want to do that. Do you?

You can also read this review at **The Reading Bud**.

karen says

"That's not food. It's meat, but it's not."

this book is not going to win the pulitzer, but if ponies ever become wishes and they start giving out literary awards in the category of "fun, funny slasher novels," this book will have a very good chance at winning one. it's a very simple premise centering around the manderley - an ultra-luxe hotel with an ominous name, complete with a mandatory horror-hotel hedge maze, secret passages, an excruciatingly slow glass elevator, and asking-for-it white carpeting. on the eve before its opening night gala, the staff, hurrying from room to room making sure everything is impeccable for the overbearingly perfectionist owner charles destin, are spectacularly, splatteringly murdered one by one by unknown assailants, while security cameras feed footage to the twentieth floor monitors and to the individual within who is watching everything unfold. because, as we are told - *The best security is invisible security. The most thorough safety is safety one's object of protection doesn't know about*, so there are cameras that the guests and staff know about, and then there are ... other cameras. so many other cameras.

it's a slow reveal book which operates within the understanding fans make with the slasher genre - you know what's going to happen to all the poor souls within the frame of the story, but you don't know how or when. and, as far as modern horror understandings go, you know that at the center of it all will be a strong and capable woman who's gonna dig deep and surprise all comers with her fight-back skills and her lateral thinking in a crisis.

and - spoiler alert for the movie *you're next*:

(view spoiler)

oh, indeed.

so here, the sharni vinson role is played by tessa, the most efficient hotel manager ever. a good hotel manager can smile politely in the face of a cranky overprivileged guest's tantrum and find a solution to placate and mollify their outrage. a great hotel manager can do that while covered in someone else's blood.

"Look, Charles thinks this is a game. And what you and your team mostly do is cry wolf. But if a wolf comes at me? Last thing I'm doing? Is crying about it."

tessa's got a hundred-tick checklist to deal with and the last thing she needs is a man from her past popping up again after eleven years and stirring up *emotions* when she's dealing with a french chef's hissy fits, a broken dishwasher, an owner verbally abusing the entire staff, electricians who are ready to walk, and now this *head on the mantel*.

the obvious criticism one could make (and may already have made - i haven't looked) is that "it reads like a screenplay," but to me it doesn't. in my head, i can see someone excited to film this, but i think it would make a really mediocre movie. there's something about this that works as a book that *wouldn't* as a movie, and i think a lot of it has to do with the power of a reader's imagination vs. the budget limitations of your average horror film and the same vs. the average acting ability of actors willing to appear in slasher films, regardless of how clever they are. (minus christian bale, who looked like he was having a fun time in a shitty adaptation) i think this would be a completely forgettable movie, but as a book, although it follows horror movie conventions to a t: insert sex scene *here*, place close call *here*, foreshadow object *here*, use as murder weapon *there*, &etc., it was genuinely intense and it surprised me with some of its moves. i also loved the

voice of the "watcher," who is responsible for the tone of the story; equal parts detached/robotic and funny, which tone would be lost in a cinematic version.

Brian is attacking the grease on his hands with a kitchen towel. The towel has red stains on it, most likely cherry coulis. One cannot rule out the possibility that the stains are not cherry coulis.

which, now that i think about it, is one of the reasons that adaptation of American Psycho didn't work for me - the narrative tone being the strongest appeal of the novel and sidelined in the film.

it's very cleverly done, and as the "camera" of the narrative pans back to show us more of what it is we thought we were looking at, it just gets better and better until the end actually did make me feel something. ME! with FEELS!

it's not as high-concept as *cabin in the woods*, and it's definitely more horror than humor, but it's smart, funny, and bloody, which is all good things as far as i'm concerned.

come to my blog!

Debbie says

After all the hype I've read about this book and how it was going to be the book of the summer, I gotta say I was thoroughly disappointed. For me, the book was just okay. I finished it with a lot of unanswered questions and I skipped a lot of pages that were just seeming redundant. I also had a hard time reading it. I'm not sure if it's because it was an advance copy or not, but the editing was horrible.

I guess my biggest question is what was the point? Who were the killers and why were they doing this? I'm just glad that I didn't have to pay for this and really wish I could get my six hours back.

I want to thank Algonquin Books and Net Galley for providing me with a free e-galley in exchange for an honest review.

Taryn Pierson says

I can't think of the last time I had this much fun with a book. Security was pure enjoyment from start to finish. A high-rise hotel is about to have its grand opening, but before that can happen some assassins get in, and blood will be spattered like ketchup over a plate of fries before it's all over. Hotel manager Tessa is brisk and businesslike, but she's thrown for an understandable loop when a man from her past shows up unexpectedly...and when her coworkers start turning up violently dead. The story is told from the varying perspectives of the many security cameras throughout the property, which provides a seamless, omnipresent feel that only adds to the tension—we can see the bad thing that's about to happen, but we're powerless to stop it. Just like everyone inside the doomed hotel.

More book recommendations by me at www.readingwithhippos.com

yh says

Your time is valuable. You don't need to read this.

Giulia says

Stunning premise, steady writing, and original presentation but the plot fell flat for me and it was too confusing to keep track of what was going on to whom in which room.. This was not my style.

Jessica Woodbury says

Any time a mystery/horror novel can change the game, I am interested. And Security definitely has a gimmick. It's an ambitious one, too, so I recommend it solely to have the experience of getting into this book, being really thrown off by this book, and trying to figure out what is actually happening.

The formatting in my e-galley was wonky, so I don't actually know how well some of the structural decisions work, but even if Security can't hold up under much scrutiny (guns! why not just use guns??) a good 75% of it is rip-roaring suspense-fest. But I do have to warn: the Visit from the Goon Squad comparisons are absolutely nonsensical. This is a slasher novel. And if you come in expecting literary fiction, you'll be really disappointed. Bad move from the publisher.

Carrie says

Tessa take her job as the hotel manager at the new Manderley Resort in Santa Barbara very seriously. She has her staff working on all the last minute details before the opening coming up in twenty four hours to make sure everything ends up perfect. The only problem is Tessa and the staff don't know there is a killer at large in the building and now this luxury resort is becoming one of nightmares despite the top of the line high tech security.

Security by Gina Wohlsdorf is one of the books when finished I'd love to see this done on the big screen. A mix of horror and thriller it's one intriguing read as you follow along and watch the grisly murders unfold on the security feeds and hope that someone will be able to stop the killer. It really made me think of a mix of Die Hard with that brand new top of the line building type of setting mixed with Psycho with the killer in the hotel.

Reading this one a Kindle I do think you lose a bit of the set up with the cameras and a hard copy would probably be the best bet but with an early copy I can't say that for sure because the format may change in the final e-copy. It's meant to have the story of what's happening on cameras side by side at the same time but what you get in the electronic version comes off as jumpy switching the action.

As with a slasher story we need to have a couple at the forefront to root for. The relationship developing in the story also involves Tessa and a man from her past that she was raised with. They aren't related but sort of raised that way in a foster home so beware if that may bother some. For me I didn't mind as at least their past

is a reasoning for the relationship instead of something like insta-love being tossed into the mix.

Overall, basically a slasher book instead of a movie with sex and violence involved set in a top of the line hotel with secret passages and fun gadgets.

I received a copy from the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

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

Catherine ? says

Actual Rating: 3.75

I won an ARC of this book in exchange for an honest review.

The writing style for this was definitely something! It's a while before the identity of the narrator is revealed, and therefore the book is written in third person omniscient, which really adds to the eerie tone of the story.

There were some really cool formatted pages too - meant to depict the multi-view security perspective; I've read a few reviews who talk about the formatting made it difficult to understand. However, I've noticed that most of those reviewers were going off of e-copies; I received a hardback ARC, and I didn't have a problem! (With that being said, if you're going to buy this book, **definitely** buy a physical copy to get the full experience.)

Continuing on with writing style, there is the factor of "jumping around" that some people have trouble with. But for me, this type of writing really worked! It provided an aspect of suspense and chaos that I think really added to the mood of the book as well.

In terms of plot, there were so many twists and secrets to this: secret elevators, locked rooms, gory violence - everything needed to make a good horror story.

I think another thing that really made this book a success for me was the love story that came along with it. I know, I know. A horror *and* a love story? But Gina Wohlsdorf really made it work. It's hard to describe, but what this book did was combine emotional and physical chaos - and this plus the writing style really set up the contrast in setting and intertwined scenes that would otherwise seem disconnected.

I'd say that the characters were really likeable as well - as a murder mystery, obviously some would be killed off - but it was always a question of who would be next. (NO, NOT THAT ONE. THEY'RE MY FAVOURITE. PLEASE.)

Anyways, this was a wild ride, and I'm so glad I got to experience what this author can do - looking forward

to anything else they come up with!

05/21/2016 - My ARC of this just came in the mail; I'll be reading it after I finish *Me Before You* and *After You* - I'm so excited!

Greg at 2 Book Lovers Reviews says

Ever since I first came across *Security*, there was something intriguing about the book; it has a “big brother” aspect about it that piqued my interest. I downloaded the sample, something I would recommend, and was captivated and strangely intrigued by the point-of-view from which the story was told.

I find it strange to say that the point-of-view was the best part of the book. It is told in first person, but who is this person? I ran with many theories as I continued through the story. The narrator has omnipotent knowledge, and complete access to everything going on within the Manderley Resort and its grounds, yet does nothing to influence what is going on.

Wohlsdorf has created a unique premise with her cast of characters being hunted through the hotel as they are in their final preparations for the grand opening. The story was filled with some great twists and turns. It kept my interest and I wanted to know who was responsible for all of this mayhem.

My biggest issue with *Security* was with the characters. I just didn’t care. I don’t know if I was just preoccupied with the narrator or if they were just lacking in development. Perhaps, as in any slasher movie, I knew that they would all have to go eventually.

The strength of *Security* lies squarely on the narrator. Who is it? Well, the question does get answered, and it all comes together then. If you like to try new perspectives within a good story, *Security* could be a great change of pace.

*4 Stars

Amanda says

First, I much prefer the red cover opposed to the one pictured now.

This book was a bit of a head scratcher for me. I couldn’t quite figure out the point. There wasn’t much of a plot other than murder.

It felt like the author tried to give us a subplot with the main character’s love story - which was really only a weak back story ending in current sex. I STILL don’t understand the point of their story being told.

The killer(s)- there was NO plot. They killed. Period. There weren’t any reasons why, we never found out who they were. Nothing.

The reason I gave this 3 stars was because I actually enjoyed the unique pov and the way the story was told. I'm still a bit confused if there will be another book or this is it....

** I received an ecopy from the publisher via netgalley in exchange for an honest review **

Carol says

With sincere thanks to Netgalley and Algonquin Books, I offer my thoughts on Security by Gina Wohlsdorf, due to be published June 7, 2016.

Now that was different! Just when you think there's nothing new an author can do to shock or astonish along comes a book like Security. Gina Wohlsdorf has been compared to so many horrors' twisty writers but I've got a new one to add. I'd call Security the book Agatha Christie gone mad might have written instead of And Then There Were None. It's got all the elements. It's a locked room mystery where the bodies continue to pile up but in a maniacal, yet calculated way. There are herrings thrown about if you look closely. Dark, funny, and unique, Security may not be for everyone, there's lots of gruesome scenes, but should appeal to speculative readers, horror fans, and thriller enthusiasts alike.

Matthew says

I received an advance reader copy from NetGalley for this title and was really excited about it, since the blurb compared it to "A Visit from the Goon Squad."

I don't know if it was the copy I received, but the formatting was all off. Sure, there was the quirky way the book was narrated, flipping from story to story the way a security camera might, but there were also glaring incongruities like sentences finishing with the ending of lines a few lines down so you get sentences like this:

"The Killer puts Delores is apologizing to Tessa -- this is
Delores's favored greeting to Tessa-- before the main elevator's doors have fully opened."

Or this one:

"The Thinker solitaire, and the Killer is -- again -- sitting on the is -- still-- playing
bed in Room 717."

Even the acknowledgements get squeezed to resemble some sort of William Carlos Williams homage. So I don't think that was the intention, but I think it contributed to me feeling less than charitable towards the book.

We follow (ostensibly through the security cameras) Tessa and other hotel workers as they shuttle up and down the slow-moving elevator (past the distinct lack of a thirteenth floor, we're told again and again and again), up and down the stairs, and begin preparations for the big grand opening. By the end of the book I felt like if I were ever to forget what it would be like to walk up and down 15-20 floors of a hotel and maybe take the elevator, too, to relieve the monotony, I could re-read this book and be 100% satisfied.

The story line in which a Killer (or Killers) is killing everyone in the hotel is a little bit suspenseful, but it's paired with an odd, flatly described burgeoning romance between two foster siblings that I just didn't get. Perhaps that was the point, because of who the narrator was, but it made for very dull, labored reading ("Her hips move like a clock's third hand."). For example:

"Her eyes were depthless when she stared past a straining neck, palmed a contorting shoulder blade, ran

another hand down perfect vertebrae to a strong ass, and cupped. Stared at the ceiling, where she was seeing someone she wished were with her instead."

It feels like a second-by-second blow. I get that maybe this was a deliberate choice based on the way the book was narrated, but it just didn't work for me.
