

The Narrator by K L Slater

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My latest book recommendation is ‘*The Narrator*’ by K L Slater. It is a gripping thriller about a bestselling author who, on the night of an awards ceremony, disappears without trace.

MY REVIEW

Eve Hewitt’s life began to unravel the day her father walked out of the family home. When his body was eventually found in a nearby river, she thought things could not get any worse. Unfortunately, she was wrong.

Six months after her father’s death, Eve discovers her husband Hugo is having an affair with one of her colleagues. Two months later, still reeling from his betrayal and left to bring up a four-year-old daughter, she learns the woman whose books had launched her career as an audio book narrator – bestselling crime writer, Phillipa Roberts – has disappeared while on her way to an awards ceremony. Her sudden unexplained disappearance is the final straw for Eve, as Phillipa was not only a major source of work for her but also her friend. Therefore, with her marriage in ruins and her career now in freefall, a bout of depression eventually overcomes her.

A year later, with Phillipa still missing and the police seemingly at a dead end with their investigation, the press seem to have forgotten about Phillipa and moved on to more current news. However, when Phillipa’s wife Fleur finds an unpublished manuscript in the attic for the next Phillipa Roberts’ novel in her successful ‘*Towers*’ series, the author is once again a hot topic; a discovery her agent and publishers waste no time in cashing in on.

Approached by Phillipa’s publisher, Harris-Lasson, to narrate the new book, Eve is initially delighted to be once again involved in the audio production of her friend’s novel. However, she soon discovers the manuscript is inconsistent with Phillipa’s usual writing style, but when she starts to ask questions, she is strongly warned by the publisher’s CEO, Alicia Kent, to refrain from pursuing the matter.

Unable to stop herself, Eve, decides to ignore the warning and conduct her own investigation into Phillipa’s whereabouts. However, it soon becomes apparent that there is more to Phillipa’s disappearance than meets the eye and that someone close to Eve has been lying to her all along.

I really enjoyed *'The Narrator'* and can thoroughly recommend it. It is both cleverly written and totally gripping, with several red herrings along the way to keep you guessing right to the end. Written from each of the main character's point of view, a backstory leading up to Phillipa's disappearance gradually begins to emerge. However, even when the truth of what happened is eventually revealed, I can honestly say the final twist at the end was a total surprise.

THE AUTHOR

Kim Slater is the bestselling author of twelve psychological crime thrillers, including: *'Safe With Me'*, *'Blink'*, *'Liar'*, *'The Mistake'*, *'The Visitor'*, *'The Secret'*, *'Closer'*, *'Finding Grace'*, *'The Apartment'* and *'The Narrator'*.

For many years, Kim sent her work out to literary agents and collected an impressive stack of rejection slips. At the age of 40 she went back to Nottingham Trent University and now has an MA in Creative Writing. Before graduating in 2012, she received five offers of representation from London literary agents and a book deal which was, as Kim says, 'a fairytale ... at the end of a very long road.'

Kim is a full-time writer, has one grown-up daughter, Francesca, and lives in Nottingham with her husband, Mac. She also writes award-winning YA fiction for Macmillan Children's Books, writing as Kim Slater.

'The Narrator' is published by Bookouture and is available in ebook, paperback and audiobook format from Amazon. It is also available in paperback from Waterstones and Foyles.