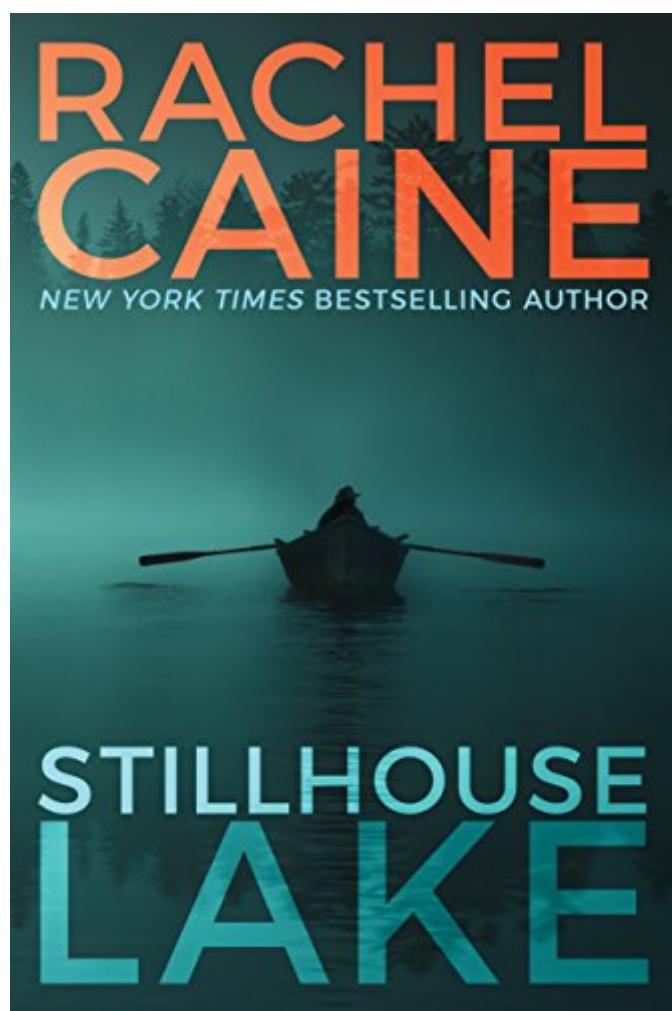


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# Stillhouse Lake (Stillhouse Lake Series Book 1)



## Synopsis

An *Charts* and *USA Today* bestseller. Gina Royal is the definition of average—*a* shy Midwestern housewife with a happy marriage and two adorable children. But when a car accident reveals her husband's secret life as a serial killer, she must remake herself as Gwen Proctor—the ultimate warrior mom. With her ex now in prison, Gwen has finally found refuge in a new home on remote Stillhouse Lake. Though still the target of stalkers and Internet trolls who think she had something to do with her husband's crimes, Gwen dares to think her kids can finally grow up in peace. But just when she's starting to feel at ease in her new identity, a body turns up in the lake—and threatening letters start arriving from an all-too-familiar address. Gwen Proctor must keep friends close and enemies at bay to avoid being exposed—or watch her kids fall victim to a killer who takes pleasure in tormenting her. One thing is certain: she's learned how to fight evil. And she'll never stop.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Rachel Caine is a gifted writer. Her storytelling evokes emotion, not just allowing me to feel the

characters' emotions, but ensuring I have no choice. Her ability to weave suspense put me on edge, my muscles tense in anticipation. I thoroughly enjoyed the originality of this story. We rarely see things from the perspective of the killer's family in the aftermath of his destruction. This is a fascinating look at human nature, both in the family's desperation to come to terms with the new reality of their lives and in the way society judges, condemns, and persecutes them. So I should have loved this book. In fact I did, in many respects. But at the end I'm left grumbling with annoyance. Before I get to what is, for me, the major flaw, there are two minor irritants to mention. First, the prologue is written in third person, from Gina's perspective, yet the rest of the book is written in first person. I can only assume the reasoning was to put distance between Gina before she knew about her husband, and Gina, who became Gwen, after the event. That's just my assumption, and the author could have had a completely different reason. I found it odd but not troubling. Some readers, however, might sample this book, find it's written in third person, buy it, and be irritated to find it's written in first person. I know some readers don't like first person storytelling. Second, the entire plot relies on us believing that Gina never, not even once, stepped into her garage, which was her husband's workshop and, apparently, killing ground. I can't imagine a scenario in which I wouldn't, at some point, have the need to go ask my husband something or the desire to see what he was doing. There were also two young children who must have been well trained in leaving dad alone. This part was a bit of a leap for me, but not so much that I couldn't settle in and enjoy the story. What killed this one for me was the ending. Or, I should say, the non-ending. This is not a stand-alone book. We're left with a major cliffhanger. The story is in no way self-contained, and to know what happens with Gina/Gwen and her kids you'll have to wait until the next book comes out. There is no mention of this being the first in a series, and so I have no idea when that next book will be released or even if the next book will resolve the cliffhanger. I've noticed, much to my dismay, this trend of cliffhangers forcing us to read the next book, and then the next one after that. I don't know whether this is coming from the publishers or a segment of authors trying to push the purchase of followup books. Either way, I am not a fan. I love a series, but I also want the main plot to be resolved at the end. Cliffhangers feel too much like extortion - buy the next book or you'll never know what happens with these characters you're already invested in.

Wow! This book had me hooked from line one. And to end it with such a dang cliffhanger- OMG!! How long am I going to have to wait to read the rest!!!???? I love this author's other works but this is the first suspense novel I've read that she's written and I have to say - the woman is extremely gifted. The story tells about the backlash of a woman who had no idea her husband, the father of her

two children, was a sociopathic monster. She bears the media and hate from the people that believe she knew and even assisted with her serial killing husband's devious killings. She spends a year fighting accomplice charges and then flees, having to move and uproot her children and constantly stay on the run to avoid the threats she continues to receive on a daily basis- against her and her children. People write nasty things of what they would do to her and her children and she has no choice but to reinvent herself and remain on the move. When she settles at Stillwater lake and buys a cabin, she thinks she may have finally found a home...but the danger follows and there are so many twists and turns and plot spins that it's impossible to put the book down. I don't want to give away any details that make the book what it is, but definitely give five stars and then some to this one. Got to go add the next in the series to my To Read list !!!

This was my Kindle First pick for June, and it is exactly what it claims to be - a psychological thriller. Gwen (or Gina) has moved her family several times trying to escape the people (and her husband-in prison) who want to hurt them. She's gone from naive wife of a serial killer to a gun toting, over-protective mother running for her life. The story is very realistic, you can feel their fear and worry for their safety. There are a lot of twists and turns- love the suspense- love the book.

This is my pick from the Kindle First June selection. My first reaction is WOW! Great opening scene, having Gina and her two young children in the car, unable to return home because their street is blocked by emergency vehicles. The children are scared when a policeman pulls their mom out the car. She's confused because there's a car smashed into their garage and the police are treating her like the criminal. When Gina sees the naked woman hung by a wire noose inside the garage, she begins screaming and thinks she will never stop. This is a well told story about a woman married to a serial killer who targeted and terrorized young women. He did this for years without his wife's knowledge. As his wife later said "He learned to play human well." We watch as Gina, whose name is now Gwen, does everything possible to protect her children from knowing the depth of their father's depravity and how many sick people spew their hatred at Gwen on the internet years after she had been found innocent of any wrong doing. This is a fast paced book that is hard to put down. I read into the wee hours to see how the book ended. I will say there are a lot of twists and turns and surprises that will not disappoint you. The characters are so well developed I never noticed anything that felt out of place. I highly recommend this book to anyone who enjoys a good suspense/thriller story.

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