



## Last Writes

*Sheila Lowe*

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## Last Writes Sheila Lowe

“A fascinating view into the world of handwriting analysis...captivating.”

—Robin Burcell, Author of “The Bone Chamber”

Claudia’s friend Kelly learns that she’s an aunt when her estranged half-sister, Erin, shows up at her home in desperate need of help. Erin and her husband have been living quiet lives as members of the Temple of Brighter Light in an isolated compound. But now her husband and young child have disappeared, leaving behind a cryptic note with a terrifying message.

Seizing an opportunity to use her special skills as a forensic handwriting expert, Claudia becomes one of the few outsiders ever to be invited inside the temple’s compound. She has only a few days to uncover the truth about Kelly’s missing niece before the prophecy of a secret ancient parchment can be fulfilled and a child’s life is written off for good...

## Last Writes Details

Date : Published March 31st 2016 by Suspense Publishing

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Author : Sheila Lowe

Format : Kindle Edition 229 pages

Genre : Mystery, Fiction, Cozy Mystery

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# From Reader Review Last Writes for online ebook

## Cheryl says

Last Writes by Sheila Lowe

Published by New American Library

(Division of Penguin Group)

ISBN 978-0-451-23110-9

At the request of Kaye Publicity, a PB copy was sent, at no cost to me, for my honest opinion.

Synopsis (back of book): Claudia's friend Kelly learns that she's an aunt where her estranged half sister, Erin, shows up at her home in desperate need of help. Erin and her husband have been living quiet lives as members of the Temple of Brighter Light in an isolated compound. But now her husband and young child have disappeared, leaving behind a cryptic note with a terrifying message.

Seizing an opportunity to use her special skills as a forensic hand-writing expert, Claudia becomes one of the few outsiders ever to be invited inside the temple's compound. She has only a few days to uncover the truth about Kelly's missing niece before the prophecy of a secret ancient parchment can be fulfilled and a child's life is written off for good.....

My Thoughts and Opinion: I have to be upfront and honest regarding 2 issues. When I first accepted the request to read Last Writes, I thought it was going to be an easy and fun cozy mystery but I was wrong!! It also took me some time to finish, but to the author's credit, it was because of being bogged down with real life, and not the story. Matter of fact, this should have taken me just a few days to read because it was a page turner. It was a fast paced story line with some twists and turns that had me guessing throughout the book to the very last page. The ending a total surprise!!! The author's writing style was fluid and expressive, to the point, that it felt like I was visualizing a movie in my mind. The references to the science of forensic handwriting quite interesting. This was the first book that I have read by Ms. Lowe but have already put her previous novels on my to be read list.

My Rating: 4

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## Mandy | books\_tea\_and\_owls says

Very good story, except for the distracting discrepancies (i.e. on one page the apartment is on the third floor, less than ten pages later, the same apartment is on the second floor?!?).

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## C. Clark says

Plot was a little predictable. I believe I enjoyed the antagonist better than the protagonist. The boyfriend was a bit lightweight in development. Enjoyed the book, the story was a good light read, but not one I'd keep on my shelf.

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## Ayny says

The character who is supposed to be a lawyer, certainly doesn't act or speak like a law professional!

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### **Roger says**

My fourth read from author Sheila Lowe and the fourth book in the Forensic Handwriting Series. Good, well-written mystery, with every book she writes Lowe continues to sculpt her craft and gets better & better. The characters likable & attention holding. The plot and the sub-plot were both well-developed. I'll definitely be reading more in this series.

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### **Jeannie and Louis Rigod says**

This book was, to me, predictable and I felt the sex scene in the "Ark" to be unfortunate. I do like Ms. Lowe's previous books though.

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### **Karen Wright says**

#### **Another excellent handwriting adventure!**

This series is great! It's unique and creative so when this book takes Claudia inside a religious cult it's no surprise that you just never know what to expect. The story is exciting and fast paced. While it is well written and descriptive, the characters are very detailed and developed and all together just make a fantastic mystery. Claudia has lots of talent and a knack for finding herself in the oddest and sometimes scary situations. I can't wait to read the next book and see what her next job might take her.

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### **Renee says**

Tsk, tsk. I've read this one out of order! Shame on me. It was worth it. This is a thoroughly modern cozy mystery. There are also some fresh twists well-placed along the way. Looking for a missing toddler has Claudia Rose, a hand-writing expert, infiltrating a doomsday cult.

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### **T Brasfield says**

#### **I. Just. Couldn't.**

It sounded like an intriguing story idea. But writing was soooo poor, I couldn't get past the first chapter. Now I'm trying to figure out how to delete it from my Kindle library and forget it ever happened.

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## **Suzanne says**

Liked it, would have loved it, except for a couple of obvious things. The first of them is that the sleuth herself always seems just a little too removed from the source of the mystery, but this is common in cozies. But the second is the flaw in the way that Claudia and her friend Kelly (who is the true link to the source of the mystery) get into the compound to do their investigation. This was a little too hard to swallow as it was first of all, too easy, and second of all, should have tripped their bs-detectors. I realize that Claudia solves crimes via handwriting analysis, but she should still be smart enough to see when something doesn't add up, and Kelly is supposedly a hot-shot lawyer so she really ought to see that things didn't add up.

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## **Dr Neil says**

A good one..

Pluses:

- 1)A good recounting of the Johannesburg incident..
- 2) Interesting points to learn in graphology
- 3)A good thriller.
- 4)Not comparable to agatha christie but definitely the BEST OF MODERN DAY THRILLERS.

MINUSES:

- 1) Boring to start with but if u stick on it'll slowly evolve
- 2)Predictable at times
- 3)Less graphological input than i expected
- 4)Too girly character nd behaviour{its not bad but some guys dont like it ..nyway cludia rose is good but i dont like kelly:-{}

As a whole a good book~ THE FIRST OF ITS KIND..

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## **Mike Brannick says**

Ms. Lowe is a good storyteller. Since she is an expert handwriting analyst herself, her lead character is very realistic. Her description of the cult compound fits well with what I know about those compounds. I lived in Arkansas for 16 years and occasionally drove past Tony Alamo's compound. I never got close enough to it to see anything, but I'm told he had two armed guards sitting in a car instead of the Ark's guard shack. It's an interesting, well done book.

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## **Suspense Magazine says**

Once you're a member of the Temple of Brighter Light, you've accepted a life full of old-fashioned ideals and sacrifice. Sheila Lowe seizes readers in this page-turning mystery about love, family and the secrets of faith that will leave you questioning life's motives.

Handwriting expert, Claudia Rose goes on an exhilarating case deep within the walls of The Ark to uncover

the truth of what it means to be a member of a cult. When Claudia is approached by Erin Powers to find her missing daughter, Claudia goes directly into the case and enters the world where salvation seems to only be achieved by the catastrophe of the apocalypse.

As the mystery of the religious group unravels before Claudia's eyes, she realizes that there is more than just one life that's at stake and it is up to her and her best friend, Kelly, to end the devastation that faces the members of TBL before it's too late.

Readers will be fully engrossed as this handwriting mystery proves to be a book that you won't want to put down.

Reviewed by Dianne Nalapo for Suspense Magazine  
www.suspensemagazine.com

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## Marie says

In *Last Writes*, Claudia Rose is asked to help find Kelly's niece, Kylie, who's been taken away by her father. Kylie, who is about to turn three, has been dubbed "the chosen one" by the Temple of Brighter Light, a cult her mother and father belong to. It appears that the child's life is in danger and Kelly wants Claudia to use her handwriting analysis skills to help find the child.

I loved this book. It got my attention and held it until the very end. It's very well written and has a captivating and current storyline. Handwriting analysis isn't something I know a whole lot about, but it's a really fascinating field. I really enjoyed reading about the job and the work it entails. I was extremely excited to learn that the author was a handwriting expert. I knew at that point that the information was going to be plentiful and accurate. Beside the handwriting analysis, the other part of the story line revolves around the cult. That was equally fascinating, but I wondered how much personal experience the author had with that aspect of the story. Not that I any doubt about the accuracy of the information. I'm just curious.

All through the book, I wondered what Lowe could have said about me based on my terrible handwriting. \*cringe\* At this point in my life, I don't think she couldn't tell me anything I don't already know about myself, but I'm sure I'd be surprised about how much my handwriting reveals.

This book is forth book in the *Forensic Handwriting Mysteries* series. Despite that, the book didn't dwell on past events from the other books. I loved that about this book. If there was mention of a past case or past event, it slipped by me and that's just fine. I dislike it when the story depends too much on past events that happened in previous books, especially when I haven't read those books, as is the case here. Speaking of previous books in the series, the covers on those appear to be a little edgier, while this one appears to be more cozy. I think that this book **could** fit into the cozy genre. However, the story has a psychological aspect to it that makes it more serious and definitely less flighty (and better) than others in the genre. There's a very interesting post over at Lesa's Book Critiques in which the author discusses the cover. This really is a great book; I really hope that it reaches the right readers.

### New words:

graphology (page 162): the study of handwriting  
obstreperous (page 116): disruptive

Highly recommended. I think fans of psychological suspense and/or cozies will enjoy this one. I'll definitely

be looking for more works by this author.

For more information about this book or to browse inside, please visit Penguin's website.

For more information about the author and other Claudia Rose books, please visit the Claudia Rose website.

For more information about the author and her work as a handwriting expert, please visit Sheila Lowe's website.

I'd like to thank those Dana Kaye from Kaye Publicity for this review copy.

Last Writes: A Forensic Handwriting Mystery by Sheila Lowe, New American Library (Penguin), ©2010. 9780451231109(mass market), 290p.

This review can also be found on my blog, Daisy's Book Journal

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## **Patty says**

I enjoy these books. The background information on handwriting analysis is fascinating and woven into the story in such a way that you don't realize how much you are learning.

I wasn't wild about this story line (cult members) mostly because it is so often done badly. Still, I do enjoy the series so I read on. There were parts of this I didn't care all that much for but it didn't slip into the "all people in cults are crazy or evil" and "all people on the outside know best". There was a couple of "uh oh" moments but for the most part it showed the good and evil on both sides. A bit of a shocking ending but that was good too.

I'm looking forward to the next in the series.

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