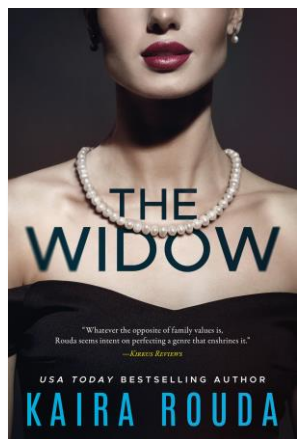


"Whatever the opposite of family values is, Rouda seems intent on perfecting a genre that enshrines it."
—*Kirkus Reviews*

June 2022

Dear Reader,



First, there was Mae Ella Nolan from California who became a U.S. Representative after her husband died in 1922. Then throughout the next century, forty-seven additional American women followed in her footsteps most notably including Mary Bono, Sonny Bono's wife, after he passed away in a tragic skiing accident in 1998. Their husbands' deaths made them widows. The "Widow's Mandate" made them politicians.

Award-winning *USA Today* and Amazon Charts bestselling author **Kaira Rouda** imagines how this unofficial tradition in American politics where women are either appointed or elected to fill their late husbands' Congressional seats can help prove how far a wife will go to hide her husband's traitorous secrets and protect her family's legacy in her new gripping suspenseful novel **THE WIDOW** (Thomas & Mercer; on sale: December 1, 2022). Fulfilling this position was

often short-lived for most of these women in history, but there were many who found that not only were they beyond capable and competent politicians, but they also relished the formidable role they otherwise might not have been able to realize. As Diane Kincaid, a political scientist at the University of Arkansas, once wrote, "Statistically...for women aspiring to serve in Congress, the best husband has been a dead husband." Rouda explores how this idea can lead to the ultimate perilous power struggle and drive to salvage reputations in this very *House of Cards* meets *Big Little Lies* thriller.

Jody Asher had a plan. Her charismatic husband, Martin, would be a political icon. She, the charming wife, would fuel his success. For fifteen congressional terms, they were the golden couple on the Hill. Life was good. Until he wasn't. Martin's secret affair with a young staffer doesn't bother Jody personally. But professionally? It's a legacy killer. Soon a reporter gets word of this scandal in the making, and Martin's indiscretions threaten to ruin everything Jody has accomplished. When Martin suddenly dies, it's a chance to change the narrative—but the reporter won't let go of his lead. As the balance of power shifts in the Asher house and on the Hill, it's time for Jody to take control. And there's nothing the ruthless widow won't do to secure the future she's entitled to. Even if she has a secret of her own.

Visceral and alluring, **THE WIDOW** is a riveting novel of marriage, privilege, and lies in the cutthroat world of international politics. Please let me know if you're interested in reviewing or if you wish to speak to Kaira Rouda.

Sincerely,

Katie Kurtzman

KTK Publicity

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ABOUT KAIRA ROUDA



Kaira Rouda is an award-winning *USA Today* and Amazon Charts bestselling author of contemporary fiction that explores what goes on beneath the surface of seemingly perfect lives. Her novels of domestic suspense include *Somebody's Home*, *The Next Wife*, *The Favorite Daughter*, *Best Day Ever*, and *All the Difference*. Her latest, *The Widow*, will be released in December 2022. To date, Kaira's work has been translated into more than ten languages.

A former magazine editor and society columnist, Kaira won the Stevie Award for Women in Business for creating the first female-focused residential real estate brand, Real Living, and growing the brand to more than 22 states before its sale to Berkshire Hathaway. Her first book, *Real You Incorporated: 8 Essentials for Women Entrepreneurs*, led to a national speaking tour where she inspired thousands.

Active in the areas of homelessness, food security, and empowering women and girls, in her twenties, as a volunteer, she created the first walk-in emergency shelter for homeless families in Central Ohio. Kaira has received numerous awards for her community service, including the national Kiwanis Service to Mankind Award, among

many others. Recently, Kaira was appointed by Governor Gavin Newsome to the California Volunteers commission. She serves on the board of trustees of the Laguna Art Museum and volunteers at the Laguna Beach Food Pantry. Kaira lives in Southern California with her family.

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Facebook: [@kairaroudabooks](https://www.facebook.com/kairaroudabooks)

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Twitter: [@KairaRouda](https://twitter.com/KairaRouda)

Suggested interview questions for Kaira Rouda

- As the wife of former U.S. Representative Harley Rouda, you have an insider's look at American politics. How much of your own experience in this world inspired the **THE WIDOW**?
- What motivated you to write a story involving the "The Widow's Mandate," a long-standing unofficial tradition in American politics where women are either elected or appointed to fill their late husband's House or Senate seat?
- Why do you think we find stories about the underbelly of politics so endlessly entertaining?
- Following your career as a successful entrepreneur and woman in business, your first book was nonfiction, *Real You Incorporated: 8 Essentials for Women Entrepreneurs*. Why did you want to write novels? How does your nonfiction and journalism experience influence your fiction?
- You're a fifth generation Californian and very active in your local community of Laguna Beach. Governor Gavin Newsome also just appointed you to the California Volunteers commission. What can you tell us about your civic service and the causes that are closest to your heart?

Praise for *Somebody's Home*

Listed as "Best Thrillers Coming in Spring 2022" by She Reads

Named one of "Southern California's 10 Noteworthy Authors of 2021" —**Bookish Magazine**

"Whatever the opposite of family values is, Rouda seems intent on perfecting a genre that enshrines it."
—**Kirkus Reviews**

"Suspense and thriller readers will be on the edge of their seats for this novel that exposes the dark underbelly of human nature." —**Library Journal**

"There are great characters moving the story along, that sweep away the reader in this story of families, revenge and secrets." —**News and Sentinel**

"Rouda checks all these boxes in this tightly wound, intricately plotted domestic thriller. Get ready for your nerves to be frazzled and to be a little jumpy as you get into this unsettling story!" —**The Nerd Daily**

"This story is a perfect storm of circumstances gone wrong for so many people at the same time. There's always hope, though. Read and see who ends up the hero." —**Bookreporter**

"A truly unputdownable novel that had me gripped—and anxious—from the first sentence! Captivating, fast paced, and unsettling, *Somebody's Home* is astonishingly good. I gulped it down."
—**Sally Hepworth, New York Times bestselling author of *The Good Sister***

"*Somebody's Home* kept me riveted from the first page to the last. A gripping psychological thriller you don't want to miss!" —**Lucinda Berry, bestselling author of *The Perfect Child***

"With an intriguing cast of characters and a killer premise, *Somebody's Home* is a thriller worth staying up all night for. Fast-paced and relentless, Kaira Rouda cranks up the tension with every turn of the page. With unexpected twists and jaw-dropping revelations, Rouda knows how to draw readers close and keep them entranced." —**Heather Gudenkauf, New York Times bestselling author of *The Overnight Guest***

"Privilege, social disenchantment, and extreme family tensions are the threads running through this tense novel. Kaira Rouda lets us into the lives of two families and what happens when their paths cross. Gripping and fast-paced with an explosive conclusion!" —**Gilly Macmillan, New York Times bestselling author**

"Taut with foreboding from the first page, Kaira Rouda's *Somebody's Home* is an unsettling portrait of an antisocial man, a master of the universe, and the women caught between them. The rotating points of view and incisive, clear writing are sure to keep you flipping the pages until you reach the shocking conclusion!" —**Katherine St. John, author of *The Siren***

"Trust your instincts and grab a copy of Kaira Rouda's *Somebody's Home*. In Rouda's latest thriller, a mother trusts her instincts when she knows the person on her property is threatening her family. But what if the threat is coming at her from all sides and more than one person is hiding a dark secret? A compulsive, fast read, *Somebody's Home* reveals what people will do to protect not only their homes but the families within those four walls. A captivating read." —**Georgina Cross, bestselling author of *The Stepdughter***

"*Somebody's Home* starts like a hurricane out at sea: some wind, some waves, a sense of approaching danger. But the story moves fast, gains velocity, and suddenly you are turning the pages, unable to stop, heart in your throat, knowing that something terrible is going to happen and nothing will stop it. The threats come from all sides, and it's so hard to know who to trust. The characters are wonderful and complex; the setting feels like the house next door, which makes it all the more terrifying; and the ending nearly killed me. Kaira Rouda has written a terrific, gripping thriller."

—**Luanne Rice, bestselling author of *The Shadow Box***

Praise for *The Next Wife*

An Amazon Best Book of the Month: Mystery, Thriller & Suspense

One of Suspense Magazine's Best Books of 2021

"Rouda hits the ground running and never stops...[*The Next Wife*] is so much fun that you'll be sorry to see it end with a final pair of zingers. The guiltiest of guilty pleasures." —**Kirkus Reviews**

"This gripping psychological thriller from Rouda (*The Favorite Daughter*) offers a refreshing setup...Rouda keeps the reader guessing as the plot takes plenty of twists and turns. Suspense fans will get their money's worth." —**Publishers Weekly**

"Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned. Add another scorned woman and you have the ingredients for one firestorm of a novel...Bring the popcorn for this high-noon of a novel, replete with deliciously snarky dialogue and a satisfying twist." —**Library Journal**

"Kaira Rouda balances the sassiness and wit of *Real Housewives* with the suspense and excitement of a Hitchcock film, creating a true page-turner that is sharp and fun while still gripping and tension filled. *The Next Wife* is almost impossible to put down!" —**The Nerd Daily**

"This is a guilty pleasure of a thriller: fast, dramatic, and satisfying." —**Business Insider**

"A delicious revenge thriller, this will elicit an evil chuckle or two as characters match wits and ultimately get what is coming to them." —**Parkersburg News and Sentinel**

"*The Next Wife* is trademark Kaira Rouda with its deliciously devilish women and inherently ignorant men, but this might be one of her most villainous novels yet." —**Bookreporter**

"A carefully crafted domestic and psychological thriller of a novel by [an] author with a genuine flair for originality and the kind of narrative storytelling style that fully engages the reader's attention from first page to last, *The Next Wife* by Kaira Rouda will prove to be an immediate and enduringly welcome addition to community library collections." —**Midwest Book Review**

"A fast, fun read that is a perfect addition to your summer list." —**Seattle Book Review**

"In *The Next Wife*, two women go ruthlessly head-to-head. Kaira Rouda knows how to create the perfect diabolical characters that we love to hate. Equally smart and savage, this is a lightning-fast read."
—**Mary Kubica, New York Times bestselling author of *The Other Mrs.***

"One of the most insidious, compulsive books I've read recently. Kaira Rouda has a way of drawing you in with great characters, fast-paced writing, and a story that won't let you go. Brilliant, dark, and dazzling."

—**Samantha Downing, *USA Today* bestselling author of *My Lovely Wife and He Started It***

"One man. Two wives. Kaira Rouda has masterfully created cunning twists and sharp narration that take you on an unexpected and delicious journey and will leave you with a gasp. Devious and fun, *The Next Wife* should be the next book you read!" —**Wendy Walker, bestselling author of *Don't Look for Me***

"Rouda's talent for making readers question everything and everyone shines through on every page of her propulsive new thriller *The Next Wife*. Her narrators are sharp and unpredictable, each one with a tangle of secrets to unravel. *The Next Wife* will leave you tense and gasping, with a chilling twist you won't see coming." —**Julie Clark, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Last Flight***

"I absolutely inhaled *The Next Wife*. Nail-biting suspense, dark humor, and family intrigue. I savored every page and now have the worst book hangover. Loved it!" —**Michele Campbell, internationally bestselling author of *The Wife Who Knew Too Much***

Praise for *The Favorite Daughter*

A PopSugar Best Book of Spring!

"Kaira Rouda's husband, Harley, may have recently been elected to Congress, but she isn't looking to make a name for herself just as a politician's wife...The *Gone Girl*-style domestic suspense novel follows Jane, a narcissistic perfectionist dealing with the death of her daughter." —***Washington Post***

"An exceptional psychological thriller...Suspense fans will be amply rewarded."

—***Publishers Weekly*, (starred review)**

"A thriller about grief, loss, and memory that will hit you right in the heart." —***Bustle***

"Delightfully wicked fun." —***Kirkus Reviews***

"My favorite of Kaira Rouda's books so far. I took it down in two afternoons. Compulsively readable and deeply satisfying psychological suspense."

—**Christina Alger, *USA TODAY* bestselling author of *The Banker's Wife***

"A chilling glimpse behind the façade of the perfect family that leaves you wanting more."

—**Liv Constantine, author of the national bestseller *The Last Mrs. Parrish***

"A smart, wickedly plotted psychological thriller brimming with dark surprises...At the top of her game, Rouda and *The Favorite Daughter* will have you flying through the pages deep into the night."

—**Heather Gudenkauf, *New York Times* bestselling author**

"Intense, creepy, and classic Rouda. A chilling story, told so well. Don't miss it!"

—**J. T. Ellison, *New York Times* bestselling author**

“Alfred Hitchcock meets Patricia Highsmith in this masterful novel of psychological suspense. Quietly horrifying, tightly wound and diabolical, *The Favorite Daughter* is a stunning page-turner.”

—A. J. Banner, *USA Today* and #1 Amazon bestselling author

“Smart, surprising, and 100% satisfying.” —Kimberly Belle, nationally bestselling author

“Right up my dark, twisty alley. A beguiling narrative and a deliciously creepy perspective.”

—Wendy Corsi Staub, *New York Times* bestselling author

“A roller coaster of a ride that will have you twisting and turning. Just when you think you know what happens, the plot pivots once more—leaving you guessing until the very end!”

—Liz Fenton and Lisa Steinke, bestselling authors

“*The Favorite Daughter* is an emotional psychological thriller about a woman and her family approaching the one-year anniversary of her daughter’s death. There is an ominous feeling that someone out there knows not only more about her daughter, but what happened on the day of her untimely death. I can already hear the crickets trying to sing me to sleep while I devour this one late into the night.”

—She Reads as part of “The Most Anticipated Thrillers of Summer 2019”

“*Best Day Ever* remains one of my favorite books so needless to say I’m very excited about this one. Rouda has a knack for writing characters that you love to hate. Her characters are villainous and chilling, yet charming, and get inside your head. In my opinion, any psychological thriller where you find yourself laughing at the narcissistic, audacious dialogue is pure genius.”

—She Reads as part of “Summer Books for the Eclectic Reader”

“Rouda delivers a wickedly perfect thriller with *The Favorite Daughter*”

—Andrea Peskind Katz in *Good Life Family Magazine*

Praise for *Best Day Ever*

“Fabulous!” —B.A. Paris, *New York Times* bestselling author

“Chilling, satisfying suspense.” —*Good Housekeeping*

“Destined to fly off the shelves.” —*Library Journal* (starred review)

“A tensely written, shocking book that will hold readers on the edge of their seats to the very last page.”

—*Publishers Weekly*

“Fast-paced, dark, and slightly disturbing, you won’t be able to put this down.”

—Kerry Lonsdale, *Wall Street Journal* bestselling author

“Creepy, spine-tingling and utterly addictive tale of domestic suspense.”

—Liz Fenton and Lisa Steinke, bestselling authors of *The Good Widow*

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