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The Secret Keeper



Synopsis

England, 1959: Laurel Nicolson is 16 years old, dreaming alone in her childhood tree house during a family celebration at their home, Green Acres Farm. She spies a stranger coming up the long road to the farm and then observes her mother, Dorothy, speaking to him. And then she witnesses a crime. Fifty years later, Laurel is a successful and well-regarded actress, living in London. She returns to Green Acres for Dorothy's 90th birthday and finds herself overwhelmed by memories and questions she has not thought about for decades. She decides to find out the truth about the events of that summer day and lay to rest her own feelings of guilt. One photograph, of her mother and a woman Laurel has never met, called Vivian, is her first clue. *The Secret Keeper* explores longings and dreams, the lengths some people go to fulfill them, and the strange consequences they sometimes have. It is a story of lovers, friends, dreamers and schemers, play-acting, and deception told against a backdrop of events that changed the world.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 19 hours 53 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Bolinda Publishing Pty Ltd

Audible.com Release Date: October 15, 2012

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B009R5Q51W

Best Sellers Rank: #95 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fiction & Literature > Historical

Fiction #351 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Family Saga #1218

in Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Historical

Customer Reviews

Powerful, wonderful, fantastic. Loved the writing, the characters, the story, the underlying mystery that takes place in this historical novel set in pre-WWII England through the blitz to the 50s, 60s and 2011. In 1961 16-year-old Laurel watches a stranger come up the long drive to the house. He talks to her mother, and Laurel sees her mother kill him with the birthday cake knife in her hand.

Self-defense? The mystery of who the man was and how he knew her mother's name haunts Laurel and decades later Laurel sets out to discover her mother's secret.

Absolutely could NOT put this book down!!! Fascinating, beautifully crafted tale. Love Kate Morton's books...hard to choose, but this may be my favorite Morton. Distant Hours could rival this novel...but, you have to read this to believe it. Intricate character development, a tale of intertwined lives, surprise twists, a child witnesses a killing with its roots in wartime England. Baffling, big, and possibly Morton's best novel.

Masterfully written..the layers of her storytelling are absolutely amazing !! Kate Morton is an artist of the written words in her books. I find her descriptive words delightful.I have always been in love with the books written by Daphne DuMaurier. "Rebecca" and "My Cousin Rachel" being my favorites.After reading Kate Morton's "The Forgotten Garden", "House Of Riverton", "Distant Hours", and "The Lake House", it is my consensus that she has far surpassed anything that DuMaurier has ever written.Kate Morton's descriptive words are completely delightful. Her books are more than family sagas. They are layers upon layers of family history of several generations. She pulls us into these characters until they become a part of us, reaching our deepest darkest emotions. I was totally and completely captivated, and emotionally drained by the end of each of these books.If you are a reader who enjoys books with depth, you will like these books written by Kate Morton.Her books are my new love !!!

MY FIRST COMMENT IS THAT "THE SECRET KEEPER" WAS A WONDERFUL STORY!!! In 2012 I read Kate Morton's "Distant Hours" which, to me, was a lengthy, dreary, boring book; nevertheless, I read "DISTANT HOURS" to the very end. At Christmas when my husband bought "The Secret Keeper" for me, I was not thrilled. The thing is...I am not a patient reader, so if a book has not grabbed my attention within the first 100 pages, I'm ready to toss it and start another book. Since this book was a gift from my husband, I was determined to read it to the end. "The Secret Keeper" took 193 pages to really hook me into the story. The story became fascinating and intriguing, and by the last 100 pages of "The Secret Keeper," Kate Morton's twists and turns in her story totally convinced me that this was one of THE BEST AND MOST EXCITING BOOKS I had ever read. I loved "THE SECRET KEEPER!"

In The Secret Keeper, we are instantly put in the middle of a violent and startling event. As a family party takes place on a warm summer afternoon, Young Laurel Nicolson has been hiding out and dreaming of the future. Upon returning homeward, she witnesses a scene that will haunt her for

years to come and shake up everything she had thought about her mother. Years later, with her mother Dorothy in the final stages of life, Laurel once questions what happened so long ago, the terrible event. Determined to investigate her mother's past, Laurel seeks not only internal solace for what she saw that day, but also an understanding of who her mother is. Morton's novel shifts around in time, as narratives jump from the era of the World War 2 blitz in London and time before, moving forward to the present. Sections are devoted to focusing on several of the key characters' stories. In this way, The Secret Keeper uses a sort of fragmented way of eventually putting all pieces of past and present together, snapshots of key events in characters' lives are put into focus. The setting and time is captured so effectively—especially the descriptions of the World War 2 blitz—that it enhances the mood and vibe of various scenes. Morton also explores several themes eloquently: love, family, understanding one's past, the dangers of keeping secrets. A disconnect often exists between characters' romantic visions of life and the actual lives they lead. Part of the lesson, though, is that some hopeful and idyllic visions of life aren't necessarily practical or genuine, or ones that would lead to ultimate happiness. There are many life lessons that Laurel understands along the way. While the book pulled me in during the last half, it felt like the first half dragged. Some scenes were a bit over the top with romance clichés—overdone romantic dialogue and scenes. I also thought some of it could have been trimmed down, too much superfluous detail. However, once Laurel starts putting the pieces of the past together, things really get moving. Over all, I enjoyed The Secret Keeper and look forward to reading another one from Kate Morton.

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