



The Secret Keeper: A Novel

By Kate Morton

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The Secret Keeper: A Novel By Kate Morton

From the New York Times and internationally bestselling author of *The Distant Hours*, *The Forgotten Garden*, and *The House at Riverton*, a spellbinding novel filled with mystery, thievery, murder, and enduring love.

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During a picnic at her family's farm in the English countryside, sixteen-year-old Laurel Nicolson witnesses a shocking crime, a crime that challenges everything she knows about her adored mother, Dorothy. Now, fifty years later, Laurel and her sisters are meeting at the farm to celebrate Dorothy's ninetieth birthday. Realizing that this is her last chance to discover the truth about that long-ago day, Laurel searches for answers that can only be found in Dorothy's past. Clue by clue, she traces a secret history of three strangers from vastly different worlds thrown together in war-torn London—Dorothy, Vivien, and Jimmy—whose lives are forever after entwined. A gripping story of deception and passion, *The Secret Keeper* will keep you enthralled to the last page.

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Editorial Review

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Australian Morton's (The Distant Hours, 2010) latest will appeal to fans of Daphne du Maurier, Susanna Kearsley, and Audrey Niffenegger with its immensely relatable characters, passion, mystery, and twist ending. Laurel Nicholson is a teenager when she witnesses a shocking crime: her gentle, kind mother, Dorothy, kills a man. It becomes a family secret that Laurel never divulges or tries to fathom until five decades later, when Dorothy is on her deathbed, and Laurel finds a photograph of her mother with an old friend, snapped back in 1941, when Dorothy was barely out of her teens. As Laurel begins to dig, her burning questions become, Who was Vivien Jenkins, and why was she once so important to Dorothy? With the narrative shifting between Laurel, Dorothy, Vivien, and Jimmy, a man who also profoundly affected Dorothy's life long ago, both reader and Laurel breathlessly hurtle into an astounding family secret that unfolds slowly and temptingly. Despite some loose threads and rather too leisurely pacing, this is likely to keep readers reading into the wee hours. --Julie Trevelyan

Review

“As always, Morton weaves an intriguing mystery, shifting between past and present and among fully realized characters harboring deep secrets.”—**People Magazine** **** (*The Secret Keeper*) (*People*)

“Morton has obvious star power. . . . Her novels are Australia’s most successful exports since Colleen McCullough’s “Thorn Birds” stormed the world in 1977.”—**The New York Times Book Review** (*The Secret Keeper*) (*The New York Times Book Review*)

“Morton is masterful at controlling a story’s flow and tension. Readers will not suspect the twist at the end.”
-- **Publisher’s Weekly** (*The Secret Keeper*) (*Publisher’s Weekly*)

“A gripping tale of love and betrayal.”—**Good Housekeeping** (*The Secret Keeper*) (*Good Housekeeping*)

About the Author

Kate Morton, a native Australian, holds degrees in dramatic art and English literature. She lives with her family in Brisbane, Australia.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

James Snyder:

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