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The Forgotten Garden



Synopsis

Thirty-eight year old Cassandra is lost, alone and grieving. Her much loved grandmother, Nell, has just died and Cassandra, her life already shaken by a tragic accident ten years ago, feels like she has lost everything known and dear to her. But an unexpected and mysterious bequest from Nell turns Cassandra's life upside down and ends up challenging everything she thought she knew about herself and her family. Inheriting a book of dark and intriguing fairytales written by Eliza Makepeace Rutherford the Victorian authoress who disappeared mysteriously in the early twentieth century as well as a cliff-top cottage on the other side of the world, Cassandra takes her courage in both hands to follow in the footsteps of Nell, on a quest to find out the truth about their history, their family and their past; little knowing that in the process, she will also discover a new life for herself.

Reviews for *The House at Riverton* (also known as *The Shifting Fog*): "A stunning must-read story that's set for stardom" *Woman's Day* magazine "This debut page-turner recounts the crumbling of a prominent British family as seen through the eyes of one of its servants. Morton triumphs with a riveting plot, a touching but tense love story and a haunting ending." *Publishers Weekly* --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I enjoyed the book but, as other readers have noted, it was confusing at times with the back and forth between time periods. Several times I thought I had the mystery all figured out but didn't get it

right until the very end. That's a good mystery! Good characterizations that were well fleshed out. I'd recommend this book and plan to read more by Kate Morton.

This book grabbed my attention right away with its well-drawn characters and interesting plot. It's one of those books that you can't put down--in my case, I couldn't stop listening to the audiobook so took longer walks than usual! Between the time she wrote *The House at Riverton* and this second book, Kate Morton seems to have made a giant leap in many areas of her writing, including the development of characters, the pacing of the plot, and holding everything together in a much tighter narrative that stays interesting from start to finish. She gives us just the right amount of clues to make us feel like we might be figuring out the mysteries of the book without making it too easy. If you tried *The House at Riverton* and didn't like it, don't give up! I really recommend giving Morton another try and reading this book. I'm moving on to the next one soon. The audiobook narration was really well done, too.

This book has more than one story line, there are multiple narratives and I hung on to each and every one. Of the Kate Morton books I have read so far, this is by far the very best one. It's not predictable and the armchair traveling in this took me to Cornwall and London England, Sydney Australia and New York City. Traveling and mystery -- what more could I ask for?! The story lines all come together in spite of many characters living and dying in different time periods. There is a mystery about one of our main characters named Nell. The book starts in 1913 with Nell as a 4 year old, hiding out aboard ship destined for Australia. A lady she refers to as The Authoress tells her to hide and wait for her. But the lady never returns and young Nell is left alone with her suitcase at a port in Australia. A port master can't leave a small child alone so he takes her home for the evening. No one reports her missing, no one comes to claim Nell so eventually the port master and his wife keep her. No formal adoption, they just move away and start fresh. Years later the Port Master and wife have four daughters and Nell thinks they are all her natural family. On Nell's 21st birthday her father (the port master) tells her about how they found her. It's devastating to lose one's identity just like that. In a snap Nell feels she doesn't belong and tries to find out where she does belong. The story skips back and forth in time so you know what happens with Nell until her death late in life. This introduces us to another major character -- her granddaughter Cassandra. Cassandra is close to her grandmother Nell and after her death she inherits everything. But there is one property she is surprised to find out

about. The deed to a house called Cliff Cottage in Cornwall England. Cassandra's story starts in 1975 but we jump to 2005 and things get mysterious. She is the one who will search the clues left about Nell's true identity. I like her character very much and enjoyed her chapters. The Authoress is revealed as Eliza Makepeace (what a cool name!) and she is an adventurous character. She is also the writer of fairy tales. Her back story is fascinating and weaves into Nell's story eventually. There are quite a few other characters that play crucial parts but rather than get into it all please read this one if you are a Kate Morton fan. Twists I didn't see coming and a good conclusion with mysteries solved. Some food mentions here but it's not a foodie book. Bowls of beef and rosemary stew Pasta with pine nuts and Gorgonzola cheese Morgy Broth Sandwiches (and tea of course) Roasted chicken and smoked Gouda pressed sandwich. There's a bit of leftover spinach in there too. A simple side salad with grape tomatoes, feta and balsamic vinegar dressing. Oh. Yeah. This was a treat Cassandra may enjoy at the hotel in Cornwall.

I love how everything came together at the end! It was wonderful, breathtakingly lovely, and one of the best books I've read in a long time. I loved, loved, loved it. The only reason I'm giving it 4 stars instead of 5 is because there were a lot of flashbacks and sometimes I'd get confused and forget who certain characters were. But that is just a minor flaw. I loved the plots, the twists, the descriptions, the characters Nell, Cassandra, Nathaniel, Rose, Ruby, Christian, and of course the Authoress herself. This, Eliza's book, is an exquisite masterpiece.

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