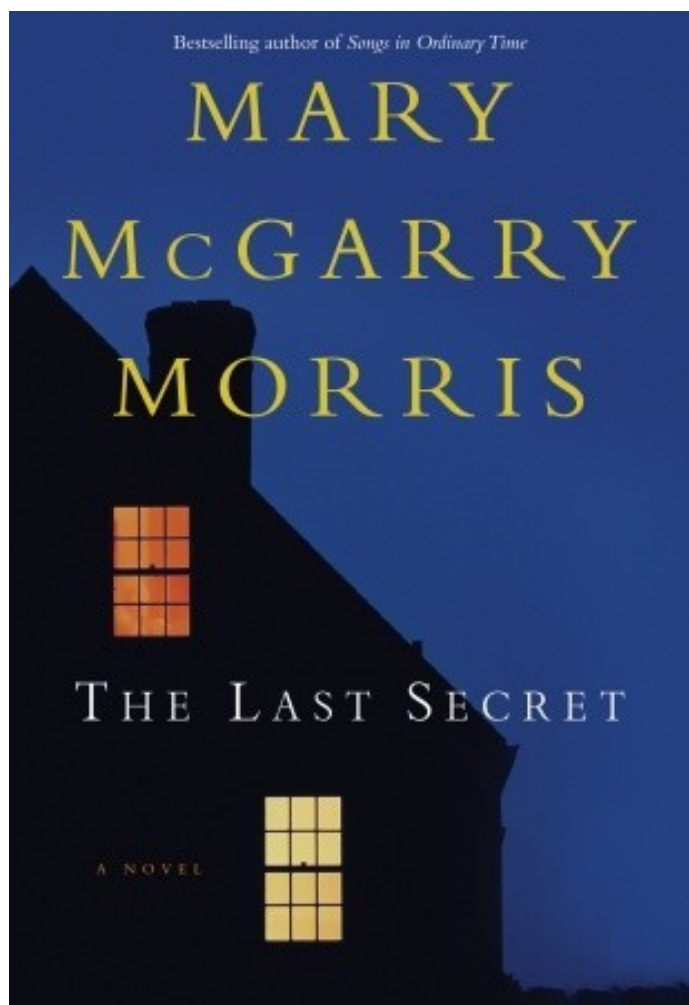

Mary McGarry Morris

The Last Secret



Title: The Last Secret

Author: Mary McGarry Morris

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Description

“There are few contemporary authors whose work can absorb readers so fully and with such immediacy that the line between character and reader begins to seem dangerously thin. Among these few is the brilliant Mary McGarry Morris.” –*Los Angeles Times*

Mary McGarry Morris has been hailed as “one of the most skillful writers at work in America today” (Michiko Kakutani, *New York Times*). In *The Last Secret*, she tells the riveting story of Nora Hammond, a woman blessed with the perfect life: a charming husband, two bright teenage children, a successful career in the family’s newspaper business, and an esteemed role in the charity work of her New England town. But Nora’s comfortable existence threatens to unravel when she learns of her husband’s longtime affair—and when the specter of a sordid incident from her youth returns with terrifying force.

Confronted by shame and betrayal, Nora suddenly feels dangerously alone. With no one to turn to, she becomes easy prey to a ghost from her past—the cunning, relentless Eddie Hawkins.

A tautly told tale of psychological tension and chilling moral complexity, *The Last Secret* accelerates to a shattering conclusion as it explores the irreparable consequences of one family’s crimes of the heart. *The Last Secret* burnishes Mary McGarry Morris’s reputation as one of our most prodigiously gifted writers.

Insightful reviews

Nina: I think we all have days when we wake up hating the world and wanting everyone in it to be as miserable as we are. For me these days usually coincide with the first two of my period. This book is perfect for those times. Also for right after (or before) a break-up or when you specifically dislike someone and want them to suffer in fiction. Gorge yourself on schadenfreude! Warning: I don't recommend reading the entire book at once or undiluted by other books, as you may end up feeling disgusted with yourself.

So, the plot is pretty cliché: woman married into a wealthy New England family, thinks she has everything, finds out husband is cheating, world falls apart, blah, blah. There's also the "secret from her past" - passages from the point of view of her crazed blackmailer, which I found unreal and boring. The thing that I love about this story is that the protagonist is so unfailingly stupid and whiny that you want bad things to happen to her, which the book certainly delivers. There's a long wind-up to the point where she finds out about the affair, and since the reader already knows what he's going to tell her, this just makes you impatient for the bomb to drop. I was listening to the audiobook, and found Nora (not the reader, just the character) so irritating, that when it finally hit her, I was celebrating in a very undignified, unfeminist, "take that bitch!" kind of way. It just goes on like that. She does annoying, stupid things which make you groan with frustration, then celebrate once the excrement hits the ventilator. Anyway, not a book for people who are perky, chipper and 100% mentally well-adjusted. Great book for the cynics, and for the times when you meet someone stupid, smug, and successful, and wish for a little come-

uppance.

Also, the eponymous "Last Secret"? Obvious from the beginning. How long the affair was going on is a huge hint.

Andrea Heidebrecht: It is inconceivable to me that the author of this novel also wrote the brilliant work "The Lost Mother." In this book, Morris' character development is poor and the major plot revelations near the end of the novel were blatantly obvious by the second chapter. The fact that Nora doesn't even consider divorce as a possibility after learning of her husband's lengthy affair, especially after Ken says he doesn't "do" guilt very well, is unrealistic and so is the fact that she doesn't ask Ken the questions any betrayed woman would. The motivations of the character of Eddie are also unclear...if he was so obsessed with Nora and all that happened on that night, why does he wait twenty-six years to look her up? If you want a good read, try one of Morris' other books and leave this one on the shelf.

Kathleen: I was hooked in immediately to this book, which kept me on the edge of my seat. The characters were unlikeable--mostly rich and abrasive. The Last Secret has a trashy veneer to it, with the con man hovering on the edges, waiting to strike, and no one being honest with anyone...still I kept reading.

Ruth: What am i able to say? My library turns out to like MMG, and their record of MP3 downloads is gentle on stuff i would like to read. this can be a loser. speak about the Perils of Pauline. negative Nora, within the area of a few year, has nearly each misfortune you can actually think dumped into her unable-to-cope lap. Describing all this can be the most crimson over-the-top prose i have learn in an extended time. in basic terms cause I slogged directly to the top used to be to determine how within the hell MMG used to be going to solve this melodramatic stew. now not well, it turns out.

Donna Girouard: Well, by the point the final key is printed within the final Secret, it really is relatively no mystery simply because any reader with part a mind and a bit savvy has already figured it out. yet that is not the largest challenge (for me) with this novel. the most cause I rated this ebook the best way i've got is due to the ending. Too many folks survived (and a few even to stay fortunately ever after). Honestly, i needed this novel to finish like a Shakespearean tragedy: with approximately each person useless (at least the entire major characters). i wished Eddie to head on a mad rampage and kill all people (especially Ken) after which himself simply because I dislike each major personality during this STORY. I rooted for NO ONE. The tale itself quite is not a nasty one (and the writing is decent), yet i ended being concerned in regards to the characters approximately midway during the book. nobody fairly has sufficient redeeming characteristics to maintain the reader on his / her side. Too bad.

Mom Taxi Julie: the 1st few pages of this ebook made me imagine "what did i am getting myself into". they did not appear to make a lot feel and that i needed to learn them a pair times. as soon as I acquired prior that although the e-book moved on in a sluggish construction pace. I saved looking ahead to the massive factor to happen. ultimately i used to be operating out of pages left within the book! Finally, there it really is after which the end. What? what is this ending? i do not fairly get the complete going to varsity to be a lawyer. what is that experience

to do with anything?

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