



Summary

Fourteen years ago, the Palmer sisters—Emma, Juliette, and Daphne—left their home in Arden Hills and never returned. But when Emma discovers she’s pregnant and her husband loses his job, she has no option but to return to the house that she and her estranged sisters still own . . . and where their parents were murdered.

Emma has never told anyone what she saw the night her parents died, even when she became the prime suspect. But her presence in the house threatens to uncover secrets that have stayed hidden for years, and the sisters are drawn together once again. As they face their memories of the past, rivalries restart, connections are forged, and, for the first time, Emma starts to ask questions about what really happened that night.

The more Emma learns, the more riddles emerge. And Emma begins to wonder just what her siblings will do to keep the past buried, and whether she did the right thing staying quiet about what was whispered that night: “No one can know.”



About the Author

Kate Alice Marshall is the bestselling author of thrillers and horror for kids and adults. Her middle grade books include the Secrets of Eden Eld trilogy and Extra Normal. In YA, she's written the survival thriller *I Am Still Alive*, as well as supernatural suspense including *Rules for Vanishing* and *The Narrow*. She made her adult thriller debut with *What Lies in the Woods*, followed by the USA Today bestseller *No One Can Know*.

She lives outside Seattle with her family, two very friendly (but not very smart) golden retrievers, and a growing collection of fancy pens.

Courtesy of Author's Website
<https://katemarshallbooks.com/about/>



Discussion Questions

- How did the setting and atmosphere of the book affect the mood and tone of the story? Did it create a sense of danger, mystery, dread or unease?
- How did the author generate suspense and tension throughout the book? How did they initially draw you in? What techniques did they use to keep you hooked and on edge?
- Did the author surprise or shock you with twists and turns in the plot? Did you see them coming or were you caught off guard?
- Were you satisfied with the books outcome or did you have any questions or doubt left unanswered?
- Emma leaves the gate open saying, "it had never been protection for anyone here." How do the different sisters perceive the concept of safety within their home, and do you think their rules were genuinely meant to protect them or control them?
- Emma, JJ, and Daphne are each shaped by their traumatic experiences but respond in unique ways. How do these different responses affect their relationships with one another, and these reactions be seen as protective measures or coping mechanisms?
- Emma's journey in the novel involves both self-discovery and coming to terms with her tumultuous past. How do you feel about Emma's transformation throughout the story? Was she justified in keeping secrets, like protecting her sisters, or should she have taken a different path?

Discussion Questions

- Emma's journey in the novel involves both self-discovery and coming to terms with her tumultuous past. How do you feel about Emma's transformation throughout the story? Was she justified in keeping secrets, like protecting her sisters, or should she have taken a different path?
- Both JJ and Daphne undergo significant physical transformations as adults. How do these changes relate to their journeys toward self-acceptance and how do they contrast with Emma's character development? Do you think transforming one's outward appearance can truly reflect inner change and healing?
- Daphne takes extreme measures to protect her sisters revealing both the strength and danger of sisterly bonds. Do you think her actions are justifiable due to her past trauma, or do they cross a moral line? How does this blur the boundary between protection and harm?
- The novel presents the idea that the most damaging secrets are those kept from ourselves. Do you agree with this perspective, or do you think some self-deception is necessary for psychological protection and well-being?

Book reviews

Marshall's propulsive mystery-cum-psychological drama (after *What Lies in the Woods*) plunges readers into the precarious world of expectant mother Emma Palmer, whose husband, Nathan, has just lost his job. Faced with eviction, the couple returns (at Nathan's insistence) to Emma's childhood home of Arden Hills, which she has not visited since the murder of her parents 14 years earlier. No one was ever arrested for the crime, but many locals—including a police detective—believe Emma was responsible. Following the deaths, Emma and her younger sisters, Juliette and Daphne, were separated, with the two younger girls going into foster care. Emma's return stirs up old animosities, frightening memories, and a killer's instincts. When another murder occurs shortly after Emma arrives, the sisters reunite to finally address what really happened to their parents, sharing long-buried secrets in the process. Marshall shrewdly interlaces past and present timelines, alternating perspectives between the three sisters to shed new light on old information. Even genre veterans will have trouble sussing out the culprit. Skillful misdirection and urgent plotting make this a winner.