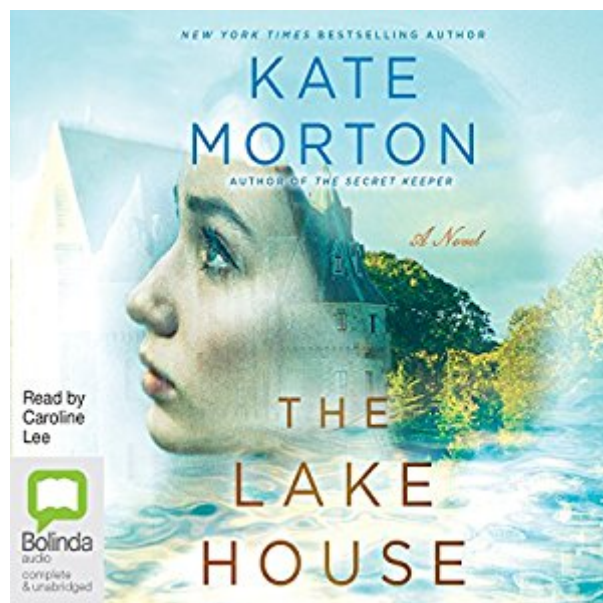


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# The Lake House



## Synopsis

Living on her family's gorgeous lakeside estate in Cornwall, England, Alice Edevane is a bright, clever, inquisitive, innocent, and precociously talented 14 year old who loves to write stories. But the mysteries she pens are no match for the one her family is about to endure.... One midsummer's eve, after a beautiful party drawing hundreds of guests to the estate has ended, the Edevanes discover that their youngest son, Theo, has vanished without a trace. What follows is a tragedy that tears the family apart in ways they never imagined, leaving their estate as empty as their broken hearts. Nearly 60 years later, having enjoyed a long, successful career as an author, Alice is now 80 years old and living in London. Theo's case has never been solved, though Alice still harbours a suspicion as to the culprit. Miles away, Sadie Sparrow, a young detective in the London police force, is staying at her grandfather's house in Cornwall. While out walking one day, she stumbles upon the old estate - now crumbling and covered with vines, clearly abandoned long ago. Her curiosity is sparked, setting off a series of events that will bring her and Alice together and reveal shocking truths about a past long gone... yet more present than ever. A lush, atmospheric tale of intertwined destinies, this latest novel from a masterful storyteller is spellbinding and satisfying.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Dysfunctional family dynamics drive Kate Morton's "The Lake House," a saga that repeatedly moves back and forth in time. Prior to the First World War, Anthony Edevane and Eleanor deShiel fall in love and marry. They eventually settle down in Loeanneth, a country home in Cornwall that is

surrounded by nature at her most sublime. The Edevanes' three daughters, Deborah, Alice, and Clementine, enjoy a carefree and privileged existence. In 2003, Detective Constable Sadie Sparrow, who is impulsive, curious, and restless, is on leave in Cornwall after committing a serious infraction. She takes it upon herself to find out exactly what befell the inhabitants of Loeanneth and why. Her investigation will, she hopes, serve as a distraction while she awaits disciplinary action. Morton gradually reveals that quite a few of her characters are unhappy and frustrated in ways that are not obvious to the casual observer. A sixteen-year-old aspiring novelist is infatuated with a handsome older man; agonizing memories haunt a shell-shocked and guilt-ridden veteran; a bitter individual awaits an opportunity to take revenge on someone she loathes; a marriage is slowly disintegrating; and an inexplicable disappearance unmoors the residents of Loeanneth. Kate Morton is a skilled descriptive writer who creates a magical world that is almost too idyllic. Loeanneth is filled with earthly delights, but it is also a place of temptation, transgression, and retribution. We grow to care in particular about Alice, Eleanor, and Sadie, who are all strong, independent, and resilient. Fans of historical fiction will enjoy certain aspects of this intricate story, but "The Lake House" is not an unqualified success. It is too long and rambling, cluttered with an abundance of red herrings and clichés, and concludes with an implausible ending that may impel readers to groan out loud.

I had to force myself to slog through this novel. I kept going because I felt guilty spending the money on a hard back book. The ending wrapped up all the pieces of the mystery nicely, but it was a chore reading through the chapters that preceded the ending.

Recommended to me by a friend I trust, *The Lake House* was a compelling read. So compelling, in fact, that I read it in a single (very long) day, beginning at 3 am (insomnia) and ending at 10 pm. The story, with its twists and turns did keep me going, and I liked many of the characters, though I wasn't in love with any. I won't rehash the plot here, as it would take too long. But if you like twists, this one is for you. I have only two quibbles: the author withheld important information a little too long for my taste. I'm sure it served her narrative purposes, but I found it cheating quite a bit. And the happy ending! Way too neat if you ask me. Like ending on a ringing major chord. Now I know some people really like that sort of thing, but for me it seemed way too forced, unprepared for, and totally fake. All in all, the book is like a big romantic symphony, not a modern work at all. You'll have fun along the way, but by the end, you may wonder, as I did, what the fuss was all about.

I usually love Kate Morton's books, but this one was such a shock! I couldn't put this book down to

start with, I read late into the night , I read and read..and the book didn't shrink..it went on and on and on and on...I loved the first 50% of the book and couldn't wait to recommend it to all my "Booky" friends...but then I started thinking "I'm only half way through this book , what is going to occupy the next 50% ???" The large number of characters all had their own stories to be explained in minute detail..and the book went on and on and on.....and on..The final pages were eye popping in their incredibility ..talk about suspending disbelief! Where was Kate Morton's Editor? on holidays?It would have been a great book at around 350 pages, not over 600. The ending needed reworking entirely. I gave this book 3 stars because I loved the first half ..but minus 5 stars for the rest. Kate Morton has given the word "verbose' a whole new meaning !

In the end, I loved this book, but when I first started it, I thought it would be a cloying, romantic tale of a naive teen living a fairytale existence in a fantasy estate. How wrong I was. Morton deftly weaves her story among the 1930s Edevane family members, each of whom has a secret loss, longing, or injury, some of which destroy their "happy" times at their estate of Loanneth, their Cornwall family home. A police officer, Sadie Sparrow, in some trouble for ethical blurring of lines who has escaped to Cornwall for a few weeks of R & R, starts digging at the story of the Edevane's youngest son's disappearance. Her efforts eventually connect her to the two still living sisters, who have lived with guilty secrets their whole lives, but also create some unexpected connections for Sadie. Really, the book is too long, but I so admired Morton's writing, that I gladly gave myself up to it.

I have absolutely loved every one of Kate Morton's books up to this point, and waited with anticipation for this latest novel. It didn't live up to the hype, however. It's discouraging when a favorite author seems to lose that creative edge. The plot development was intriguing and creative until the resolution. I was thoroughly disappointed in the overly tidy ending, unwilling to suspend my disbelief (spoiler alert....) in the way all the essential characters were so conveniently reunited.

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