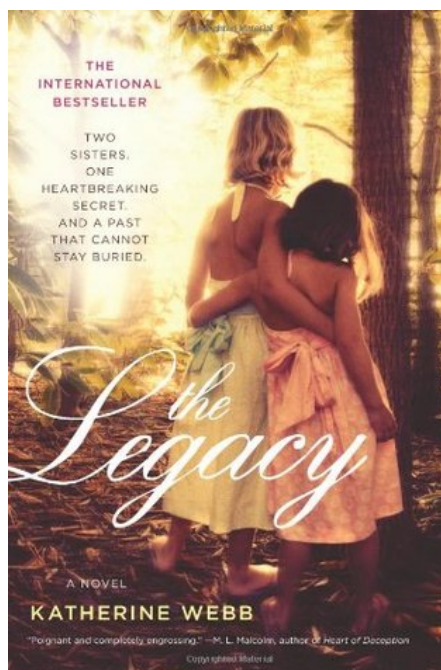




The Legacy

Katherine Webb

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When they were children, Erica Calcott and her sister, Beth, spent their summer holidays at Storton Manor. Now, following the death of their grandmother, they have returned to the grand, imposing house in Wiltshire, England. Unable to stem the tide of childhood memories that arise as she sorts through her grandmother's belongings, Erica thinks back to the summer her cousin Henry vanished mysteriously from the estate, an event that tore their family to pieces. It is time, she believes, to lay the past to rest, bring her sister some peace, and finally solve the mystery of her cousin's disappearance.

But sifting through remnants of a bygone time is bringing a secret family history to light—one that stretches back over a century, to a beautiful society heiress in Oklahoma, a haunting, savage land across the ocean. And as past and present converge, Erica and Beth must come to terms with two shocking acts of betrayal . . . and the heartbreaking legacy they left behind.

The Legacy Details

Date : Published August 30th 2011 by William Morrow Paperbacks (first published 2010)

ISBN : 9780062077301

Author : Katherine Webb

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From Reader Review The Legacy for online ebook

Kinga says

Two stories for the price of one!

Historical romance and contemporary romance – all in one book!

Not one but TWO secrets!

Gypsies, Indians, cowboys, aristocrats!

Dead husbands! Missing children!

Wild West! Old English Manor!

And whatever else you can conjure up – all in this i one book about generations of women who like nothing better than to sweep things under the rug and sit on it staring into the space, as if nothing happened. Also, a warning tale – sweep things under the rug, you go mad, just as it happened to Beth. Her sister, Erica, finally decides she's had enough of secrets and vows to go to the bottom of it all.

You can't help but cheer her on, because there is nothing more frustrating than people refusing to talk about certain things (that and food stuck between your teeth). The pages turn quickly as you follow Erica as she uncovers the legacy of secrets. Things get hot and exciting and you do wish fervently that Erica will get the guy in the end for all her trouble.

Jo (An Unexpected Bookish Geek) says

I am the kind of person that you'll find hanging around at National Trust places. There is nothing I enjoy more (other than reading of course) than having a few hours on my hands to just wander freely around a beautiful old Manor house, or a castle, or, even some stately home gardens.

This book I bought solely for the fact of the entire story being based around a huge, old Manor house. This story was a very slow mystery, that certainly didn't reveal anything until the very end of the story, by which time, I was nearly off the chair with excitement!

The author should be given credit here, as I think it is difficult to write an interesting time line story, that all blends in together perfectly.

When reading this, the plot reminded me slightly of a Kate Morton style book, which is an entirely positive aspect, as I quite enjoy Kate Morton's works.

I loved the fact that I felt as if I was present in the old, gothic Manor House, tip toeing on the floorboards, looking through old treasures in the attic. It felt that real, it was almost creepy, and that is one of the key aspects of why I liked this book so much. The world building is vital for me to be able to totally immerse myself into a story, and Katherine Webb, managed to do this with absolute ease.

Hayley says

When Beth and Erica Calcott return to their family home they start to sort through their Grandmother's

belongings and forgotten fragments of family history start to break the surface of the present day. Memories of their cousin Henry who disappeared and their Grandmother, a bitter and twisted old woman.

I really like books about different generations of families and this plot had such potential but it really failed to deliver for me. The female characters were so frustrating and I just wanted to shake them by the shoulders and yell 'pull yourselves together!' I hated the way that Erica followed Dinny around all of the time and the way that Erica, Beth and Dinny had the same old conversation about the past again and again.

It was very frustrating how the story went from 1904 to the present day. I would read what had happened in 1904 and then have to cope with pages and pages of the characters trying to discover what had happened. How boring!

Forgettable!

Charlotte B. says

Cette histoire de sombres secrets et de sentiments refoulés ou contrariés m'a tellement happée que je l'ai lu en une journée. Je ne pouvais pas m'arrêter, l'envie de savoir la vérité m'a dévorée. Je ne m'attendais pas du tout à la révélation finale, je ne l'avais pas vue venir. Par contre c'est clair que j'ai été secouée en chemin, et sincèrement choquée par certains passages. J'ai ressenti beaucoup de colère et autant de compassion pour les personnages ... Cet entremêlement des générations, ce triste "héritage" est bouleversant. C'est une lecture qui ne laisse pas du tout indifférent. Ça mérite bien ses 4 étoiles je trouve !

Anna says

I loved this book, with the complexities of its characters, and its many layers and themes.

It opens in England in 1905 with the lady of the manor, Caroline, mysteriously running through the woods.

In the present day, sisters Erica and Beth inherit the old manor house from their grandmother, Meredith. It's the house they spent their childhood summers in until one hot day in 1986 when their cousin Henry vanished. Erica has no memory of this day, but Beth has been haunted by the disappearance ever since, suffering adulthood depression. They meet up with an old childhood friend, Dinny, and Erica becomes convinced that he and Beth know what happened to Henry.

As Erica is sorting through Meredith's things, she finds some old letters and a photo of Caroline, her great-grandmother. She'd holding a baby, marked New York and with a date from a year before she met her husband. What secrets did Caroline hide in America all those years ago, what became of the baby, and how has the past affected her family throughout the generations?

In most dual-timeline books, I usually much prefer the past story to the present one; in this case, there are three storylines to follow (Caroline, Henry and Erica/Beth), and I found them each equally engrossing. As much as I really wanted to know what happened next in each time-zone, I hated having to leave another one behind for a while.

I guessed both secrets before the reveals, but to the author's credit, neither discoveries took anything away from the drama and tension of the stories; I couldn't put this book down. A beautifully crafted, multi-layered,

excellent read!

Nikoleta says

Αυτ? η ιστορ?α με μελαγχ?λησε πολ?, στο μυαλ? μου την ?χω β?ψει απλ?ς γκρ?ζα, καθ?ς ε?ναι γεμ?τη φαντ?σματα, πικρ?ς αναμν?σεις, μ?ταιο παρ?ν και σκοτειν? μυστικ?. Δεν μπορ? να πω ?τι βο?θησε και η δυνατ? φθινοπωριν? βροχ? κατ? τη δι?ρκεια της αν?γνωσης, που ?ρθε λες κ ?θελε να συμπληρ?σει το μελαγχολικ? σκηνικ?. Παρ' ?λα αυτ? ε?ναι τ?σο καλογραμμ?νο, με τ?σο ωραιο λ?γο και καλυμμ?νο με πολ? μυστ?ριο που σ?γουρα δεν μπορ? να πω ?τι ?ταν ο?τε κακ?, ο?τε αδι?φορο σαν βιβλ?ο.

Vaso says

3,5 αστερια, με κο?ρασε, πολ? μαυρ?λα η δι?θεση των πρωταγωνιστ?v

Myriam says

Ma Review sur le blog : <http://letitglow.fr/lecture-fevrier-2...>

Un vrai plaisir, cette lecture ! J'ai beaucoup aimé le personnage d'Erica avec qui j'étais totalement en empathie. La fin n'est pas renversante mais j'ai fermé ce livre avec un petit sentiment de nostalgie. Un très bon crû du #ClubLectureMS !

Juliet says

Je dirai que c'est un peu comme un épisode de NCIS à 23h. Tu sais que c'est pas terrible, qu'il est tard, mais, putain, t'as vraiment envie de savoir.

Alyson says

Dual stories (one Victorian, one modern day) about the same family. The question of "What happened to Henry?" goes on for a bit too long--or, rather, the conversations consisting of "Tell me what happened!"/"No, it's better that you don't remember!" happened a bit too frequently and had me wishing they would just get to the point in the final conversation before the Big Reveal.

I wasn't actually too crazy about either Beth or Erica, and got progressively a bit more annoyed with them. However, the breaks into Caroline's story were enough that they didn't wear on me too badly. I thought the

Victorian bits were very well done, as in a different book I would've been annoyed with Caroline's helplessness; here, I just felt sorry for her. Her panic and horror at what she'd done and the subsequent feeling of having no idea what to do about it was palpable. On the other hand, even as our narrator, I never felt that Erica was fully fleshed out. Also, her stated sense of not waiting for anything at the end of the novel feels most definitely like she's waiting.

Some lovely writing and decent plotting kept my attention throughout.

Laurie says

Après être restée jusqu'à quasiment 2 h du matin, je peux dire que j'ai pris beaucoup de plaisir à lire ce livre. Merci le club de lecture Mango & Salt pour cette découverte. J'ai aimé suivre l'histoire à travers 2 époques différentes. J'ai facilement réussi à me plonger dans les 2 univers. J'ai aussi beaucoup aimé retrouver l'atmosphère de la vie en Angleterre. Je n'ai pas été embêtée plus que ça du caractère de certains personnages froideur, dépression... Je crois que la vie peut parfois nous plonger dans de tel états et nous surprendre à tous à tout moment. Comme certaines je crois que je reste à la fin avec un manque d'un petit je ne sais quoi. Un épilogue qui donne l'impression d'être écrit à la va vite. Ce n'est pas de la grande littérature mais j'ai vraiment passé un bon moment à lire ce roman.

Victoria says

Un mystère intrigant, des personnages attachants, des destins tragiques et touchants, et une ambiance hivernale tombant à point nommé: c'est tout ce que je demandais à ce roman, et c'est exactement ce que j'ai eu. Je le referme avec la gorge toute serrée, ce qui est plutôt bon signe: il a réussi à m'évader. Une bonne lecture !

Charlotte says

Un peu partagée sur ma lecture... C'est plaisant et ça se lit bien mais je n'ai pas trouvé ça transcendant. Je n'ai pas eu vraiment de préférence entre les deux époques, même si je n'ai pas accroché au personnage de Caroline j'ai trouvé son histoire intéressante.

Je me doutais de la résolution du premier secret mais pour le deuxième j'avoue que je n'ai rien vu venir !

Gail says

I read The Unseen first and never thought a book could be better. How wrong I was, thankfully. I was totally and utterly engrossed in this book which was heartbreaking in parts. Lost love, mystery, intrigue and, well, just about everything you would want in a really good book. I literally could not put my kindle down, it was my eyes that kept closing which reminded me I had to sleep at some point! I loved and despised Caroline and Meredith in turns, it's such a roller coaster of emotions I feel completely and utterly drained now I have finished it. The only slight criticism I can make, and I emphasise slight, is that I would have liked to know more about Hutch, Joe and Magpie but, as I don't want to give too much of this brilliant story away, I can

overlook it.

I honestly and truly cannot wait for another book by this author, as I love how she writes so descriptively: I could virtually feel the heat and visualise the prairie.

Lovely book and highly recommended.

Patchouline says

3,5/5 pour ce livre du #clublecturems! Une bonne lecture, fluide et captivante. J'ai adoré l'histoire de Caroline, moins celle d'Erica mais ce livre m'a tout de même fait passer un bon moment!

MathCharlotte says

Le livre est bien écrit, le récit est rythmé, l'histoire est intrigante et les personnages sont attachants. On se plonge facilement dedans et on s'imagine autant parcourir les prairies désertes de l'ouest américain que pattoyer dans la marre fraîche d'Angleterre. J'ai aimé et je pense lire d'autre livre de l'auteure..!

Léa says

J'ai aimé me plonger dans les secrets enfouis dans le passé de la famille Calcott. Le récit avance en deux temps, ce qui nous permet d'en apprendre un peu plus sur cette famille au fur et à mesure du roman. J'ai eu une petite préférence pour l'histoire de Caroline. Son personnage est très intéressant, complexe et sa naïveté la rend attachante malgré son parcours "quelque peu" chaotique.

L'Héritage est une saga familiale sympathique mais il manque quelque chose pour la rendre vraiment inoubliable ; c'est pour cela que je lui donne la note de 3/5.

Penelope says

Dévoré en 2 jours ! J'ai adoré ce livre, l'ambiance, les secrets de famille...

Je n'ai pas trouvé le gros secret avant qu'il soit révélé et j'avoue que je trouve le truc un peu "gros" mais je me suis tellement plongé dedans que je l'ai accepté facilement.

Tour à tour on adore puis on déteste les personnages, on s'attache, on compatit... Visiblement l'auteure est spécialiste de ce genre littéraire donc je me laisserais peut être tenter par un autre ;)

C'est mon plus gros coup de cœur du #ClubDeLectureMS depuis le début !

Léa says

Ce livre me laisse vraiment perplexe et indécise ! J'ai à la fois envie de mettre une bonne note mais je me dis

quand même qu'il ne mérite pas une si bonne critique que ça. J'ai trouvé l'histoire prenante et j'ai eu du mal à lâcher le livre (particulièrement au début et à la fin), mais d'un autre côté je ne sais pas pourquoi j'ai trouvé les personnages un peu creux et l'histoire peut être un peu trop tordue. J'ai trouvé que certaines explications étaient un peu faciles et qu'il était quand même dommage que tout le mystère ne soit pas résolu pour Erica. J'ai aussi détesté Caroline et Beth m'a tout simplement horripilée mais heureusement j'ai trouvé Erica et Ed attachant et Dinny correspondait bien à l'ambiance mystérieuse du roman. Enfin bref j'ai pris du plaisir à lire ce livre, réellement, mais maintenant que je l'ai fini je reste tout de même un peu dubitative. J'ai apprécié ma lecture mais il manquait quelque chose (et je ne sais pas quoi c'est bien ça qui me rends perplexe).

The Book Whisperer (aka Boof) says

The Legacy opens in 1905 with Caroline Calcott, Lady of Stourton Manor in Wiltshire, hurriedly leaving the house and making her way through the grounds and into the woods, carrying a white pillowcase over her shoulder which (unbeknown to the maids who watch her in surprise from the window) holds a small child.

The story then fast forwards to the current day and passes to Erica Calcott, Caroline's Great-Granddaughter. Erica and her sister Beth have come back to Stourton Manor after 23 years of being kept away as their Grandmother, Meredith, has passed away and left them the property in her will. The two sisters haven't been to the Manor since 1986 when their cousin Henry, who also used to stay at the house with them every summer during their childhood, vanished without trace never to be heard of again. Erica can't remember what happened on that day and Beth won't talk about it.

The story then goes further back in time to 1902 when Caroline was still living in New York and falls in love with a young cattle rancher from Oklahoma and once married, makes her way to her new life in the vast open prairies and overwhelming heat. From here, the book alternated between the stories of Caroline and Erica and while we start to put tiny pieces of the puzzle together to find out the fates of both children the pages just turn themselves.

I have read books before with dual narratives and I have often found that I prefer one story to the other, even to the stage where I will skim over the less favoured. Not so with The Legacy. Both stories are so compelling and end on cliff-hangers (of sorts) which makes the book even more pacy and page-turning. In the contemporary story, themes of depression, discovery, nostalgia and deception are dealt with and with Caroline's turn of the century story there is loneliness, longing, desperation and envy which all built up to an act so impulsive and shocking that its repercussion imprint themselves on the future generations of the Calcott family, including Erica's.

Within this book of long hot summers, secrets and deception there are two mysteries to solve too: the fate of both children. This is what gives the book its tremendous forward momentum. As the pages turn, we get closer and closer to the truth of what happened in both 1905 and 1986 but I have to admit that I was stunned with one of the conclusions. As a huge mystery/thriller fan I like to pride myself on being able to guess "whodunnit" early but.....I didn't see this one coming! Don't get me wrong, this isn't a thriller book, but the fact that the book steers us towards the truth through the pages means that it is one cracking, fast-paced read.

In summary, The Legacy is a wonderfully crafted, beautifully written, skillfully interwoven book that is perfect for a summer read. I highly recommend.
