

Homecoming

by Kate Morton



About the Book

From the bestselling author of *THE CLOCKMAKER'S DAUGHTER*, a sweeping novel that begins with a shocking crime, the effects of which echo across continents and generations.

Adelaide Hills, Christmas Eve, 1959: At the end of a scorching hot day, beside a creek on the grounds of a grand country house, a local man makes a terrible discovery. Police are called, and the small town of Tambilla becomes embroiled in one of the most baffling murder investigations in the history of South Australia.

Many years later and thousands of miles away, Jess is a journalist in search of a story. Having lived and worked in London for two decades, she now finds herself unemployed and struggling to make ends meet. A phone call out of nowhere summons her back to Sydney, where her beloved grandmother Nora, who raised Jess when her mother could not, has suffered a fall and is seriously ill in the hospital.

At Nora's house, Jess discovers a true crime book chronicling a long-buried police case: the Turner Family Tragedy of 1959. It is only when Jess skims through its pages that she finds a shocking connection between her own family and this notorious event --- a mystery that has never been satisfactorily resolved.

An epic story that spans generations, *HOMECOMING* asks what we would do for those we love, how we protect the lies we tell, and what it means to come home. Above all, it is an intricate and spellbinding novel from one of the finest writers working today.

Discussion Guide

1. The title *HOMECOMING* holds significance for Jess's story. Does it have meaning for any other character's journey?

2. *?Home, she'd realised, wasn't a place or a time or a person, though it could be any and all of those things: home was a feeling, a sense of being complete. The opposite of ?home? wasn't ?away?, it was ?lonely?. When someone said, ?I want to go home?, what they really meant was that they didn't want to feel lonely anymore.?* Do you agree with this statement?

3. What did you originally think happened to the Turner family? Did your theory change as the story progressed?

4. If you could ask a question of any of these characters, what would it be and to who?

5. Motherhood is an ongoing theme throughout the book. Did you judge Isabel, Meg, Polly or Nora based on your own opinions on what it means to be a mother?

6. Who was your favorite character and why?

7. Do you believe that Nora was justified in keeping secrets from Polly and Jess? Did you understand her motivations?

8. Do you believe keeping secrets from your family is ever a good thing?

9. Many characters in the story feel guilt over their actions following the Turner family tragedy. Are any of those characters guilty of a crime?

10. *?Reading shapes a person. The landscape of books is more real, in some ways, than the one outside the window. It isn't experienced at a remove; it is internal, vital. A young boy laid up in bed for a year because his legs refuse to work and a young girl on the other side of the globe, sent to boarding school because her parents had both died, had led completely different lives --- and yet, through a mutual love of reading, they had inhabited the same world.?* Do you agree that reading can shape a person --- perhaps more than the world in which they live?

11. *?Percy had observed that Polly was shy. He knew nothing about the rest of her life, but he wondered whether her tendency to blush, the diffident way she had of speaking, the nervous habit of playing with the pendants on her necklace, were consequences of having grown up, even unwittingly, in tragedy's shadow.?* Do you think Percy was right in his assumption that tragedy had shaped Polly's life?

12. The secret of the Turner family tragedy is finally revealed. But after so many years, is it too late, or can it change things for those left behind?

Author Bio

Kate Morton is the award-winning, *New York Times* bestselling author of THE HOUSE AT RIVERTON, THE FORGOTTEN GARDEN, THE DISTANT HOURS, THE SECRET KEEPER, THE LAKE HOUSE, THE CLOCKMAKER'S DAUGHTER and HOMECOMING. Her books are published in 38 languages and have been #1 bestsellers worldwide. She is a native Australian, holds degrees in dramatic art and English literature. She lives with her family in London and Australia.

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Publication Date: April 2, 2024

Genres: Fiction, Historical Fiction, Historical Mystery, Mystery, Women's Fiction

Paperback: 560 pages

Publisher: Mariner Books

ISBN-10: 0063020904

ISBN-13: 9780063020900