A Half Forgotten Song

by Katherine Webb



About the Book

In HALF FORGOTTEN SONG, fourteen-year-old Mitzy Hatcher?s lonely life on the wild Dorset coast is changed forever when renowned artist Charles Aubrey arrives to summer there with his exotic mistress and daughters.

Mitzy develops a bond with the Aubrey household, gradually becoming Charles's muse. Over the next three summers, a powerful love is kindled in her that grows from childish infatuation to something far more complex?

Years later, a young man in an art gallery looks at a hastily drawn portrait and wonders at its intensity. The questions he asks lead him to a Dorset village and to the truth about those fevered summers in the 1930s.

With *Sunday Times* bestselling novel HALF FORGOTTEN SONG, Katherine Webb spins a historical tale of long kept secrets and obsessive love that fans of Kate Morton and Susanna Kearsley are sure to love.

Discussion Guide

1. Why is it important to Zach that Charles Aubrey might be his grandfather? In what ways does this belief shape who he is? Why do you think he doesn?t simply ask his grandmother from the beginning?

2. As we see the story unfold through the lens of the 1930s and the present what does the author appear to be saying about the nature of memory? Do you agree?

3. This novel has a very strong coming of age element, particularly as we see Mitzy move from childhood innocence to womanhood. At what point do you think she crosses the divide?

4. Charles Aubrey has very definite views on beauty and what?s worth capturing, What do his aesthetic preferences and visual tendencies say about him as an artist and as a man? Do you think his intentions toward Mitzy were ever what she believed them to be?

5. Mitzy grew up in a home with very little tenderness, and the Aubreys take her in with open arms. Why do you believe she became so enamored with Charles? Why was the idea of this relationship more important to her than the closeness she shares with Delphine or the kindness shown to her by Celeste?

6. In some ways the settings of the idyllic and wild Dorset coast and hot and sultry Morocco become characters themselves. Why do you think the author chose such contrasting worlds?

7. ?She would always strive to give him whatever he asked for. Making him happy was all she could do for him; and all she could do for herself. Protecting him assuaged the feeling of falling that she still woke up with, every single day.? When you reached the end of the novel, what were your feelings about Dimity? How had they changed as you read?

Author Bio

Katherine Webb grew up in rural Hampshire, England. She has lived in London and Venice, and she currently resides in Berkshire, England. Having worked as a waitress, au pair, personal assistant, potter, bookbinder, library assistant, and housekeeper at a manor house, she now writes full-time.

Critical Praise

"A haunting novel of betrayal."

? *Woman and Home*(UK)

"Webb winds her way through three generations of women by following the path of grief created by a broken heart, crafting characters you care about and a story you won?t soon forget: poignant and completely engrossing."

? M. L. Malcolm, author of HEART OF DECEPTION

Praise for THE UNSEEN
"The ending will leave you breathless. Give it a try. I think it will be a runaway."

? Charles Todd, on THE UNSEEN

"Stunning, unforgettable....Webb?s skillful, urgent writing is impossible to put down and more impossible to forget."

? Booklist (starred review)

"Occult happenings, romantic passion, and murder disrupt the peace of a Berkshire village in 1911 in this hauntingly good novel from the author of THE LEGACY."

? Marie Claire (UK)

A Half Forgotten Song

by Katherine Webb

Publication Date: May 28, 2013
Genres: Suspense, Thriller
Paperback: 496 pages
Publisher: William Morrow Paperbacks
ISBN-10: 0062234463
ISBN-13: 9780062234469