



The Lake House by Kate Morton

About the author:

Kate Morton was born in South Australia and, as a child, moved with her family many times before they settled, finally, on Tamborine Mountain in south-east Queensland. There she attended a tiny country school and spent much of her childhood inventing and playing games of make-believe with her two sisters.

Kate fell avidly in love with books very early. Her favourites were those by Enid Blyton, and Kate escaped many times up *The Faraway Tree* or with the Famous Five into Smugglers Cove. It was a love deeply felt, for it is still mysteries and secrets that dance around the edges of Kate's mind, keeping her awake deep into the night, turning or typing pages.

When she finished school, Kate studied and earned a Licentiate in Speech and Drama from Trinity College London. After an ill-fated attempt to do something sensible and obtain an Arts/Law degree, she went on to complete a summer Shakespeare course at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London and for some time believed her future lay in theatre. Until one day she realised that it wasn't performing she was in love with. It was words and stories.

Kate began writing in earnest and completed two full-length manuscripts (which lie deep and determinedly within a bottom drawer) before settling finally into the story that would become *The House at Riverton*. Meanwhile, Kate graduated from the University of Queensland with First Class Honours in English Literature and took up a scholarship to complete a Master's degree focusing on tragedy in Victorian literature.

July 2016



Kate's books are published in 42 countries and in 34 languages. She currently lives in London with her family and continues to write the sorts of books she can disappear inside.

Source: Author's website (<https://katemorton.com/>)

About this book:

The Lake House, published in 2015, was a New York Times bestseller and a #1 bestseller in Canada and Australia.

Living on her family's idyllic lakeside estate in Cornwall, England, Alice Edevane is a bright, inquisitive, and precociously talented sixteen-year-old who loves to write stories.

One midsummer's eve, after a beautiful party drawing hundreds of guests to the estate has ended, the Edevanes discover that their youngest child, eleven-month-old Theo, has vanished without a trace. He is never found, and the family is torn apart, the house abandoned.

Decades later, Alice is living in London, having enjoyed a long successful career as a novelist. 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 Edevane estate—now crumbling and covered with vines. 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 from a masterful storyteller, *The Lake House* is an enthralling, thoroughly satisfying read.

Source: Publisher's website (<http://www.simonandschuster.ca/>)



Discussion Questions:

1. The structure of this novel lies in recreating different time periods in Cornwall and London—in the early 1930s and in 2003. Do you feel that the author was successful in moving the reader between the historical and more contemporary times?
2. Thinking about the stories and histories in *The Lake House*, what themes were most interesting to you?
3. *The Lake House* is the English translation of Loanneth, the house's Cornish name. Have you read other novels in which a house features within the text as vital and alive, almost as if it is another character in its own right?
4. The main female characters, Sadie, Alice, and Eleanor are all strong women with flaws. Is this the way you saw them? Did their imperfections allow you to identify or sympathize with one more than another? If so, why do you think that was?
5. Sadie Sparrow's job as a detective and Alice's bestselling crime-writing career has allowed an interesting incursion of the crime genre into *The Lake House's* gothic mystery genre. Were you aware of this in your reading?
6. Both World War I and II have tragic and far-reaching effects on the characters and narrative of *The Lake House*. Discuss.
7. Mysteries, twists, family secrets, carefully placed red herrings, and unexpected revelations are now compelling traditions in Kate Morton's novels. What parts of the novel were key to your enjoyment of the story?



8. The author poses the often complex question of what moral obligation each character has to another within their particular stories. Were decisions made within the novel with which you disagreed? Or could you see yourself making similar decisions?

9. After Sadie stumbles upon Loanneth, she's drawn to it, returning daily and "no matter which way she headed out on her morning run, she always ended up in the overgrown garden." What is it about Loanneth that intrigues Sadie? Why do you think she dives head first into solving the mysteries of the estate?

10. What did you think of Eleanor when you first encountered her? Did your feelings about her change? In what ways and why?

11. Many reviewers have praised Kate Morton's writing, particularly the way she reveals family secrets. What family secrets were revealed in *The Lake House*? Did you find any particularly shocking? Which ones and why?

Source: Publisher's website (<http://www.simonandschuster.ca/>)

Other formats available at Halifax Public Libraries:

- Audiobook (on CD)
- eBook
- Large Print