

What We Buried: A Haunting Exploration of Family Secrets and the Weight of the Past

In the realm of literary fiction, Caitlyn Siehl's debut novel, "What We Buried," stands as a haunting and unforgettable tale that probes the depths of familial relationships and the devastating consequences of buried secrets. With its atmospheric setting, intricate characters, and an exploration of the fine line between truth and deception, Siehl weaves a gripping narrative that lingers long after the final page is turned.



What We Buried by Caitlyn Siehl

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 2023 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Print length : 79 pages
Lending : Enabled



A Family's Dark Legacy

At the heart of "What We Buried" lies the troubled Van Horne family. Evelyn, the matriarch, presides over her sprawling ancestral estate, known as Elm Hill, with a firm hand and an unyielding determination to maintain the family's reputation. Her two daughters, Eleanor and Victoria, navigate their lives under the weight of their mother's expectations and the secrets that have haunted their family for generations.



A Chilling Discovery

When Eleanor's rebellious 16-year-old daughter, Lily, stumbles upon a hidden journal that belonged to her great-grandmother, the carefully constructed facade of the Van Horne family begins to crumble. The journal reveals a shocking and twisted tale of betrayal, abuse, and a long-buried tragedy. As Lily delves deeper into the past, she uncovers a web of lies and half-truths that threaten to shatter her understanding of her family's history.



Lily's discovery of her great-grandmother's journal sets off a chain of events that will change her family's lives forever.

The Weight of the Past

Siehl masterfully intertwines past and present in "What We Buried," exploring the ways in which the sins of the fathers cast long shadows over the lives of their descendants. The Van Horne family is plagued by the secrets and traumas that have been passed down through generations, shaping their decisions and haunting their nightmares. As Lily and Eleanor unravel the tangled threads of their family's past, they must confront the

devastating consequences of holding onto the past and the complexities of breaking free from its grip.

A Haunting Literary Landscape

Beyond its compelling plot and intriguing characters, "What We Buried" is a literary tour de force. Siehl's evocative prose and atmospheric descriptions create a haunting and memorable setting that perfectly complements the novel's exploration of familial darkness and the search for redemption. From the eerie halls of Elm Hill to the tranquil beauty of the surrounding countryside, the novel's landscape becomes an integral part of the narrative, mirroring the characters' inner struggles and the secrets they harbor.



A Coming-of-Age Tale and a Psychological Thriller

"What We Buried" transcends genres, seamlessly blending elements of a coming-of-age story with a psychological thriller. Lily's journey of self-discovery and rebellion becomes intertwined with the unraveling of her family's dark past, creating a narrative that is both deeply personal and utterly suspenseful. Siehl's skillful handling of these diverse themes keeps readers on the edge of their seats while also exploring the complexities of family dynamics and the lasting impact of childhood trauma.

Dark Academia and the Weight of Knowledge

The novel's setting at a prestigious boarding school adds another layer to the story, invoking the traditions and rituals of dark academia. The pursuit of knowledge and intellectual discovery becomes a dangerous game as Lily and Eleanor grapple with the consequences of revealing their family's secrets. Siehl delves into the ethical dilemmas and moral conflicts that arise when truth comes into conflict with loyalty and the desire to protect loved ones.



The novel's dark academia setting adds depth to the exploration of knowledge and its consequences.

Caitlyn Siehl's "What We Buried" is a haunting and unforgettable novel that explores the complexities of familial relationships, the weight of the past, and the search for redemption. With its atmospheric setting, intricate characters, and a masterful blend of genres, Siehl weaves a gripping narrative that will leave readers pondering its themes and characters long after they finish the final page. "What We Buried" is a powerful and thought-provoking work that cements Caitlyn Siehl as a rising star in the literary world.

Whether you're a fan of psychological thrillers, coming-of-age stories, dark academia, or simply mesmerizing literary fiction, "What We Buried" is a must-read that will captivate your imagination and leave you haunted by its secrets. Caitlyn Siehl's debut novel is a testament to the power of storytelling and the enduring legacy of family bonds.



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