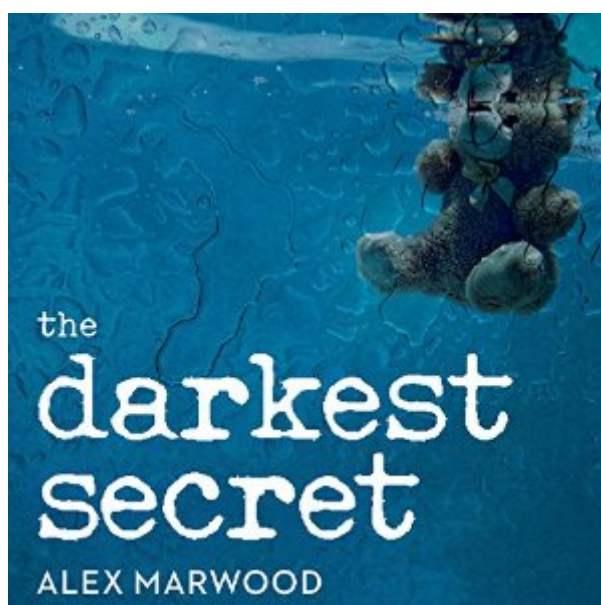


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# The Darkest Secret: A Novel



## Synopsis

Real estate mogul Sean Jackson is throwing himself a splashy 50th birthday party, but trouble starts almost immediately: His ex-wife has sent his teenage daughters to the party without telling him; his current wife has fired the nanny; and he's finding it difficult to sneak away to his mistress. Then something truly terrible happens: one of his three-year-old twins goes missing. No trace of her is ever found. The attendees of the party, nicknamed the Jackson Associates by the press, become infamous overnight. Twelve years later, Sean is dead. The Jackson Associates assemble for the funeral, together for the first time since that fateful weekend. Soon the barbed comments and accusations are flying. By the end of the weekend, one will be dead. And one of Sean's daughters will make a shocking discovery.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

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Version: Unabridged

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Whispersync for Voice: Ready

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Best Sellers Rank: #26 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Mysteries & Thrillers > Suspense

#221 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fiction & Literature #286 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Literary

## Customer Reviews

I so thoroughly enjoyed Alex Marwood's two earlier novels, *The Wicked Girls* and *The Killer Next Door*, I could not wait for *The Darkest Secret* to be available in the States. I ordered as soon as it was available in England. I am glad I did. I was lucky enough to be able to devote an entire day to reading *The Darkest Secret*. It is a hard to put down novel. The story grips you from the beginning and the pace accelerates to a point where you can not turn the page quickly enough. The mystery of a child who goes missing during a house party attended by a cast of overwhelmingly unlikeable characters will keep you searching for clues on each page as to who may be the most likely suspect. The characters are richly developed and the author creatively lets the story evolve with

flashbacks to the time surrounding the child going missing with the present and the event bringing the cast together again. HIGHLY RECOMMEND.

This gripping thriller hooks the reader in with its wonderful cast of characters, some compellingly odious, others likably rebellious. A child goes missing after a birthday party. What has happened to her? The twists become darker until the truth is revealed. Or is it? The denouement is truly devastating.

Well, I just finished "Darkest Secret". I had the who by chapter 19 but not the how or the why. I have never before read a book so chocked full of casually evil people. It's a tale of narcissism run amok with a psychopath thrown in for good measure. And it's so horribly believable! At it's core this is a book about discovery. Discovery of self and family. Mila enters the story as an obnoxious teen well aware that when she is out of sight she ceases to exist for the the adults in her world, especially her father. So of course she grows up to be a predictably spoiled, egocentric twenty something unable to form relationships except on the most superficial level. When her 4 X married father dies in a most embarrassing way it falls to her to represent her older sister and her mother (wife 1) at the funeral. She barely knew the man and there was no love lost between them. Horrid stepmother, Wife # 2, calls and begs Mila to chaperone her teenage half sister Ruby to the funeral. Ruby is the surviving twin of the progeny from marriage #2. A child she hardly knows and feels little affection for. The mystery revolves around how Ruby's toddler twin sister died during their father's drunken, drug fueled, weekend long 50th birthday celebration. The question is how did any of the children survive that weekend. The ending blew me away. Even as I realized where the author was going with it I couldn't quite believe it. If you enjoy murder mysteries with psychologically twisted characters and surprise endings this is not a book you will want to miss. I'm off to download this writer's other books, she is that good.

This is the best mystery that I have read in ages. The author develops a number of finely-drawn and believable (although mostly unlikable characters. There are none of those "huh?" moments where it seems that the author loses track of the plot or a character does something not believable. I highly recommend this book to lovers of mysteries with a large cast of interesting and believable characters. If you prefer books with likable characters, you are definitely out of luck. If you like intrigue and scandal (and I do), this is for you.

It is hard to give a good review to a book with such reprehensible, evil characters. But, honestly, it was impossible to put this book down. Alex Marwood is a very good writer who can create characters with no redeeming virtues or moral core and still one reads on. Be advised this book is a compelling story of rotten people.

Stunning! Finished this book in 3 days because I couldn't put it down...thrilling, full of characters you want to slap silly, brilliant observations of our current society, and exquisite writing. I've read all 3 of her books now and they just get better and better. So far my favorite book of 2016.

Kept me up nights until I finished, and I had to Google a few UK merchants and slang phrases, but educational and well worth it. And thanks for the epilogue. I had it figured out but a reader always wants to be sure. I've never forgiven Donna Tartt for her non- ending.

A brilliant book! Couldn't put it down!

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