



Sworn Secret

Amanda Jennings

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When Anna, Lizzie Thorne's charismatic sister, is killed in a tragic fall from the roof of her school, her family is devastated. One year on and grief still has a hold on them.

Kate, Anna's mother, has retreated from her family and is desperate to find someone to blame for her daughter's death. Her father, Jon, is doing his best to care for his family but the pressure of holding his marriage together is pushing him to breaking point. Amid her parents' turmoil, Lizzie, Anna's younger sister, just wants to leave her sister's ghost in the past and find happiness again.

But then a devastating revelation begins to raise questions concerning what really happened the night Anna died. Whilst Kate and Jon grapple with Anna's emerging secrets, Lizzie dives headlong into a passionate, but forbidden, first love affair.

As the family battle to regain their footing they realise it's the love they have for each other that has the power to finally heal them.

Sworn Secret Details

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Author : Amanda Jennings

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From Reader Review Sworn Secret for online ebook

Dale Levy says

Sworn secrets:a story that thickens

Sworn secrets:a story that thickens

This book starts off simple, but it just grows and grows. The characters grows and mature as the plot thickens,and though it is not a who done it book, it acts like one. Was particularly impressed how each character stretched and in some way assisted the plot. I don't want to spoil it for you, but my hat is off to Amanda Jennings. I will be looking for more of your books.

Hayley Swithers says

Fantastic book. Could not put this down so read it in a couple of days. It was full of twists and turns and right to the end you wondered what was going to happen! Fabulous!

Sarah says

4.5 stars.

First of all I have to say thank you to Sophie @reviewedthebook.co.uk and the author as I won a signed copy of this book on Sophies blog.

I haven't actually read any of this authors books before and I believe that Sworn Secret was her debut novel. After reading Sworn Secret this is an author whose books I will certainly be reading more of.

Sworn Secret is very much a story of loss and facing up to the past to be able to move on and heal.

Kate is eaten up with the loss of her eldest daughter Anna, a year after the tragic event and she still hasn't been able to move forward. She is very much consumed with the pain and loss that she feels so much so that she can barely function. This obviously has a knock on affect with her loved ones who are trying to cope also.

During a memorial at the school, it becomes obvious to Kate that there maybe more to her daughters death and Annas friend Rebecca seems to hold all the answers. From this point onwards the revelations of lies and deceit just keep coming. It made for some shocking and tense reading.

I loved Lizzies character in this novel, she's only fifteen and since her sisters death, she has had a lot to deal with. She still has to go to the same school that Anna did which is a constant reminder of how she died, she also isn't getting the love and support that she so desperately craves from her mum so when she decides to go see Hayden, he seems to be the answer to all her problems.

My only niggle with this book is that there seems to be a question mark over Anna's death which is never fully answered. I am one of those readers that likes everything to be laid out in front of me and not left to my imagination, if it hadn't have been for that I would have definitely given this book the full 5 stars.

Leish says

Sworn Secret hooked me from the very first chapter with Anna's death. While we were present for her death, it's still difficult to understand what happened.

One year later, the reader dives into Anna's family life. Their grief is still present and it's tearing the family apart. The secret that reveals itself about 100 pages in was shocking. I literally gasped because I wasn't expecting such a revelation.

What happens next had me on the edge of my seat. Would justice be served and would Anna's family be able to heal. The answer to these questions are complicated....yes and no. I don't want to give too much away, so that's all I will say for now.

In the end, the reader still isn't 100% sure of what happened on Anna's last night. Was she pushed or did she fall? How does Mrs. Howe figure into the scenario. While the reader may be a little perplexed at the ending, Anna's family seemed to finally have peace in the epilogue.

This book was so wonderfully written and suspenseful. I wanted to keep reading to find out what had happened to Anna, and better yet, how her family would cope. It's hard to believe this is Amanda Jennings' debut novel, it was so fantastic! I highly recommend this one!

*This book was provided for review on Confessions of a Bookaholic... All thoughts and opinions are my own.

Caroline Morris says

I loved this book. I read it in less than 2 days and was gripped from the start. The characters are so real and their experiences and reactions were so believable - not at any point did I think "would they really have done that", they were so easy to relate to and it was hard to believe I was not reading about a real life story.

An emotional story - left me in tears at many points - with many twists and turns, finishing with a thought provoking ending.

Can't wait to read her next one!

Cecilia says

Non fatevi fregare dalla copertina, che allude a chissà che young adult romance, o dalla trama che parla di una storia d'amore proibita che sembra far ruotare l'intera vicenda attorno a Lizzie: *Inconfessabili segreti* è un libro sul dolore, sulla perdita e sui differenti modi di affrontarli e non ha la minima intenzione di fare

sconti a nessuno. Anzi, costringe a indossare i panni di una ragazzina che vuol solo continuare a vivere dopo la morte della sorella e ricordarla nei loro momenti migliori trascorsi nel loro posto segreto, poi quelli di una madre che trascorre le giornate girovagando per casa come un fantasma senza una ragione per riprendere a vivere e infine quelli di un padre distrutto e tormentato dalla sofferenza che cerca di riempire il vuoto provando ad aiutare la madre col padre affetto da Alzheimer. Il dolore è palpabile, quasi quarto protagonista del libro, unico filo che sembra tenere insieme una famiglia altrimenti sgangherata e destinata a sfilacciarsi. Lo si sente in ogni pagina senza alcun bisogno che sia menzionata la morte di Anna e non ci sono sospiri di sollievo, mai, neanche per sbaglio ci viene concessa una pausa, e quel che provano i membri sopravvissuti della famiglia Thorne sono sentimenti che saltano fuori dalle pagine per abbracciare il lettore e non dargli tregua. Non esiste gentilezza nel dolore, né razionalità e la Jennings lo sa mostrare dannatamente bene. Recensione completa qui.

Zara Garcia-Alvarez of The Bibliotaphe Closet Blog says

Sworn Secret by Amanda Jennings is a dramatic story of a family who must struggle through their grief from the loss of their sister and daughter named Anna, who in a tragic accident, falls from the roof of her school.

The cover of the book features a sombre-looking young girl, which may deceive its readers into thinking this is a simple young adult (YA) novel. but rest assured, don't be misled. The grip of the story is serious and mature enough to peak the interest of its readers to not only empathize with the emotional responses of the characters in the book, but sombrely feel the substantial weight of their personal loss and grief.

Anna's mother, Kate, succumbs to a deep, almost intolerable form of grief that reveals a disturbing post-traumatic stress, which ultimately alienates her husband, Jon, and their daughter, Lizzie, who, too, must come to terms with their own feelings of loss while trying to appease their wife and mother's manic inability to cope.

Jon's own grief for his daughter's death is repressed and cast aside along the continual deterioration of his father's health who is afflicted with the disheartening last stages of Alzheimer's disease. His steadfast compulsion to remain a pillar of strength for his wife furthers his burden of helplessness and deterioration at the potential loss and disintegration of his marriage.

Through Jon's constant worry and concern for his wife, Kate, and Kate's self-indulgent, self-preoccupation; their less charismatic, yet surviving daughter, Lizzie, is left emotionally neglected, almost unseen—a ghost of her elder sister both in looks and in blossoming personality.

To read the rest of my review, please visit my blog, The Bibliotaphe Closet:

<http://zaraalexis.wordpress.com/2012/...>

Thanks,
Zara

Edward Ian says

Packed with genuinely moving emotion, characters that live and breathe and events that sadden as well as upset this is an assured, powerful novel.

My favourite book of 2012, by far.

Whatsername says

Carino e coinvolgente! Non me l'aspettavo. Anche se il finale l'ho trovato troppo dispersivo e inconcludente. Le basi erano molto buone...peccato!

Louise Graham says

Wow what a book and even more impressive with it being a debut novel.

Brilliantly written, very gripping, emotional and heartbreaking. You're plunged (sorry – bad choice of words but you will understand why in chapter 1!) straight into the story on page one, this is not a slow burner of a novel. The writing style reminds me very much of Rosamund Lupton and I really believe that anyone that enjoyed *Sister* or *Afterwards* will love this book too.

The characters are very believable and you warm to many of them so easily. This isn't a gentle story, this is a story of a family being torn apart and the after effects that it has on each and every member. Great plot and sub-stories running through the book. I'm reluctant to say too much about the story as I don't want to spoil any part of it.

I can't praise this book enough, I couldn't put it down and read it cover to cover in a day. I have to say I really think it has been my favourite read of 2012 so far. I will definitely be reading Amanda's next books.

Rachel Gilbey says

What a truly magnificent book, starting with a horrifyingly intriguing opening chapter, it was a story that crept up me as to just how gripped I was finding it, until I could only put it down because I really needed to sleep and had work the following day.

But yet I am honestly not sure what to say about the book, with retrospect just about anything I could say even about the early part of the plot, could be regarded as a spoiler, so let's try this. *Sworn Secret* is a story about one family's grief a year after a terrible accident.

The chapters are all titled with an indication of what will be the focus of the chapter, and are generally incredibly short. Each chapter is written in the third person and Lizzie, Kate and Jon are all focused on at times.

The three of them are all handling life incredibly differently, Lizzie is just entering into an ill advised first

love affair, Kate is traumatized and spends most of her time painting and Jon is trying to hold it all together for his family, while having his own ill father.

As secrets come out about the last weeks of Anna's life, everyone has to re-evaluate everything. I was shocked by the nature of the revelations, and to some the topics involved may make incredibly upsetting and uncomfortable reading. However to me, it seemed the more I learnt, despite how devastating it was, the more I wanted to just continue reading to see what would happen next.

I can't believe it has taken me so long to finally read a book by Amanda Jennings, but I suspect it won't be anywhere near as long before I try the author again. I through the book was written very well, and there are some more light hearted moment, in amongst the generally quite serious book.

Nothing I say is going to be able to do justice to this books, so if it even slightly interests you, I would suggest you take a chance on it, and I'm sure you won't be disappointed.

Terri says

Original review found at <http://kristineandterri.blogspot.ca/2...>

I received this ARC from the publisher via Edelweiss in exchange for an honest review.

I will begin with my major confusion. Both Edelweiss and Goodreads say this story is 100 pages however this is not the case. Although reading it on my Kindle I can not be sure the exact length of the book however it is much longer than that. It appears that this is a re-release and perhaps there was an error made with the new release.

This story started out rather slow for me. The beginning is wrapped up in the grief from the death of Anna as Lizzie and her parents try to cope. Almost too much so in the fact that I found it very depressing and hoping that the story would move along. It wasn't until the real story of Anna started to come out that the book picked up the pace for me.

The strength of this story is the character of Lizzie. She was the glue holding the family together and really was the only character that did not get on my nerves. Her romance in the story while glossed over was really the only happy aspect to the entire story. The flashbacks to happier times also helped lift this book because I will be honest the present day storyline was utterly depressing.

All in all this was a pleasant read. I found that there were some aspects to the story that never really got wrapped up however the journey of finding your way (slowly) to the other side of grief was clearly depicted throughout these pages

Tiina says

Just read Sworn Secret by Amanda Jennings in less than a day !!!! – Yes I am a fast reader but just had to get to the end of the book – through the twists and turns and sub plots – to find out WHO was responsible. A great first novel – written well – a great exploration of siblings & family in the most horrendous of

situations. Amanda Jennings takes you through a journey of grief but also life and how it carries on whether you want it too or not after tragedy.

Julie says

I may never have read this book if it had not been for the fact that I have been following Amanda on Twitter for some time, and for the fact that I was lucky enough to receive a signed copy. The subject matter- the aftermath of the death of a child, and how the family individually struggle to come to terms with it - certainly does not make for lighthearted reading.

However, the description and characterisation quickly pulled me in, and just as I was starting to wonder if it could go any further the author introduced a plot twist that kept me wanting to find out more.

At times heartbreaking and gut wrenching, the raw emotion moved me to tears on several occasions.

Not an easy book, but a fabulously well written one.

Amy says

4.5 stars

Do not begin reading this book unless you have time to finish it, because you will not want to put it down. At all.

The Thorne family has spent the previous year reeling - sadly not really healing - from the death of oldest daughter Anna, who fell from the roof of the school. Some say she committed suicide, others say it was an accident. Jon Thorne believes his daughter suffered an accident, and younger daughter Lizzie agrees. Kate is convinced something happened to her daughter and is determined to blame everyone, even though she might agree - deep down - that it was a terrible accident.

Anna was the light in the Thorne home, beloved by parents and sister. But Anna, as we come to discover, concealed many secrets about herself, none of them savory, none of them what the family thought they knew about her.

As Kate and Jon attempt to maintain their marriage in the face of their grief, Lizzie finds herself drawn to Haydn, the boy Anna was dating when she died. Her parents may be stuck in neutral, but Lizzie wants to live again.

This is an excruciatingly painful book to read because the Thornes' grief is so crushing. On top of that, Jon must deal with an Alzheimer's riddled father, a distant and disapproving mother, and a rogue brother.

But far more pressing is his family, specifically his wife.

Oh, you will hate Kate. In fact, I found myself saying out loud, "I hate you," more than once while reading. She is all but loathsome. Yes, we understand her grief. Absolutely. But she wears it like a badge of honor, as

if determined to out-sad everyone around her. Jon points this out to her at one point, and she dismisses it, much like she dismisses him and Lizzie.

Her youngest daughter's need to connect with someone who understands her drives her to a romance no one approves of, and one that quickly becomes very serious. But Lizzie needs comfort. She needs someone to be strong for her, and if it's Haydn, then she makes no apologies.

The events leading to Anna's death will not surprise you. From about the third page of the book, I knew what one of Anna's secrets was, and I suspected others. But this isn't a mystery. I know the blurb calls it a "domestic thriller," but the "mystery" here is whether or not this family will survive together. Anna's secrets are transparent to us from the start, although what actually happened when she died is shrouded in questions.

Like I said, though, the Thorne family's ability to work their way through their grief is the heart of this novel. Can Kate get out of her own way and see that her husband and daughter need her? Can Jon be strong enough for all of them? Can he stabilize his marriage? Can he help Lizzie?

I loved this book on so many levels, including how complicated Kate was. Jennings treats her characters with respect, and if Anna's secret life was too hidden, then we can forgive the lapse. (You would think that Lizzie would know more than she does, but no.) Kate, Jon, and Lizzie are wonderfully drawn, and their stories feel real and unforced. In fact, my biggest complaint is the cover. What in the world? It's horrid. Witness Impulse, please correct that.

Read this one. Seriously. Read it.

Thanks to edelweiss for the preview
Published on cupcake's book cupboard
@VivaAmaRisata
