



A Place of Secrets

Rachel Hore

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

A Place of Secrets

Rachel Hore

A Place of Secrets Rachel Hore

The night before it all begins, Jude has the dream again...

Can dreams be passed down through families? As a child Jude suffered a recurrent nightmare: running through a dark forest, crying for her mother. Now her six-year-old niece, Summer, is having the same dream, and Jude is frightened for her.

A successful auctioneer, Jude is struggling to come to terms with the death of her husband. When she's asked to value a collection of scientific instruments and manuscripts belonging to Anthony Wickham, a lonely 18th-century astronomer, she leaps at the chance to escape London for the untamed beauty of Norfolk, where she grew up.

As Jude untangles Wickham's tragic story, she discovers threatening links to the present. What have Summer's nightmares to do with Starbrough folly, the eerie crumbling tower in the woods from which Wickham and his adopted daughter Esther once viewed the night sky? With the help of Euan, a local naturalist, Jude searches for answers in the wild, haunting splendour of the Norfolk forests. Dare she leave behind the sadness in her own life and learn to love again?

A Place of Secrets Details

Date : Published September 2nd 2010 by Pocket Books

ISBN : 9781847391421

Author : Rachel Hore

Format : Paperback 456 pages

Genre : Fiction, Contemporary, Womens Fiction, Chick Lit

 [Download A Place of Secrets ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online A Place of Secrets ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online A Place of Secrets Rachel Hore

From Reader Review A Place of Secrets for online ebook

Yasmin says

I agree with the other reviews that disliked this book. I've read a couple of Rachel Hore's books, especially enjoying 'A gathering storm' and thought I'd give this a go. It was as if it was written by a different author entirely. I didn't care at all about any of the characters, except Anthony and Esther from the past storyline, and agree with the review that said this was the only thing that kept me reading. I skim read it just to finish it, but the 'revelations' at the end were so boring I shouldn't have bothered! Give this is a miss- the main characters are extremely irritating and unlikeable. But do try 'A gathering storm', that one is worth your time.

Avital Gertner-Samet says

This book was absolutely fabulous [the missing star stems from feeling that some things just worked out too smoothly...].

Jude was working at an auction house, specializing in Eighteenth century manuscripts when Robert Weekham asked her to go back to Starbrough, Norfolk and assess his family's book and stargazing instruments collection. As Jude goes back to her childhood environment, on duty, she unravels the mystery of Starbrough Hall and folly together with the mystery of her unexplained nightmares that she shares with her 7yo niece, Summer.

Jude studied the true story of the history of the documents' original owners from the mid eighteenth century - and us reader study it with her - one piece at a time. With every layer of mystery that gets peeled, every secret that gets revealed, she (and us readers) understood more about the history of the place and the history of her own family which is entangled in that of the folly. In addition, as a side story, Jude also dealt with the loss of her husband, Mark and the courage to move on - four years after her loss.

The characters were well developed and endearing (some infuriating). I loved how each piece of the puzzle was revealed incrementally to help keep the sophistication of the plot and the thrill of reading and finding out how everything connects.

I highly recommend this book to anyone who loves historical fiction.

Jennifer Hodges Young says

This starts a little slow but once it gets going it is really well done. You slowly come to see how it all fits together in a tight puzzle.

Lusie says

I choose to read this book based on the beautiful cover, and did not regret picking it up. It's a charming story

about Judith (Jude) who works as an antique appraiser. She goes to an estate to value astronomical books and equipment. There she finds an intriguing journal written by a girl named Esther who seemed to have been wiped from the family tree. Jude is determined to find out the secrets of the past.

I liked the characters, each one had a unique character. My favorite character is Esther. You feel like you really get to know her through her journal. It feels like you are really there with her.

I love books in which secrets of the past are unraveled, and this book is no exception. It is a bit slow paced, but there is a lovely atmosphere. In the end everything comes together. Though there are too many coincidences to still be realistic. Personally, I think the story would have been better if some of Jude's families secrets were left out.

There are parts in the book that can not be explained, like the dreams Jude and her niece had. This adds a paranormal element to the book. I'm not sure what to think of it. It was just so strange, but didn't put me off. What I thought was a nice touch was that even though Jude did not discover all secrets, the reader found out what happened through accounts of the events through the eyes of the involved persons.

Overall I really enjoyed the book and thought it was hard to put down. I'd recommend this book to anyone who loves historical fiction.

Charlotte May says

3.5 stars rounded up.

This was a reread so that I could write a review on here.

Jude is an antiques expert invited to value a large collection of astronomical writings, charts and items, in her hometown of Norfolk, belonging to the late Anthony Wickham in the grand stately house Starborough Hall. While there she becomes swept up in the mysteries surrounding the collection, most specifically the memoirs of a young woman called Esther Wickham - a woman who seemed to disappear from history.

This is a sweet novel if you like family histories, with lots of coincidences that seem to tie in together.

I enjoyed the unraveling of Esther's story and how it linked with Jude's grandmother's childhood, and the gypsies who lived sporadically in the local area. All sorts of characters all linked to this mysterious house, and its residents.

Not the most riveting of reads, but engaging enough despite numerous cliches.

That wraps up my final read of 2017! Hope you all have a wonderful new year and prosperous 2018!

Lee says

I don't generally read novels marketed as "women's fiction" but this was pushed into my hands by a co-worker who convincingly raved about it, and so I dutifully worked my way through it. Maybe it's too strong to say I was disappointed as I didn't have sky-high expectations, but I was certainly unimpressed.

For me the story failed to live up to a number of promises. The 'blurb' hints at a supernatural element that never appears, and the intimations of menace came to nothing of interest. Despite the potential for intrigue it was simply rather dull and entirely predictable. There were far too many contrived and transparent

coincidences in the plot and denouement – in fact I felt maybe the novel should have been more accurately called ‘A Place of Coincidences’. I do feel over-reliance on coincidences and the reader’s willingness to accept implausible plot devices is the mark of lazy writing.

Another reason why I failed to be gripped was the characterisation. The female lead, Jude, was rather wearying and not particularly likeable. I just wanted to give her a good shaking! The romantic hero, Euan, was stereotypically New Man – rescuing bunnies and living in a gypsy caravan. I couldn’t care for them individually or as a couple. Most of the supporting cast were two-dimensional clichés. The most interesting were the 18th century astronomer Anthony Wickham and his adoptive daughter Esther. Actually, the 18th century parts were the most appealing in the book - it was the astronomical details that kept me reading rather than the trite modern day romance.

Ultimately, although I found it entertaining enough for a lightweight read to while away a few hours I think I’m just the wrong reader for this type of novel.

Kathy Hiester says

In many ways I loved A Place of Secrets. I felt the fundamental story worked even though it was a little sluggish and the story was so charming that I felt bound to continue to find out how things turned out. There were some interesting sub-plots including an intricate sibling relationship. However this book was totally ruined by poor editing. I have never read or edited a book with so many mistakes.

2 Stars

MaryannC.Book Fiend says

I give this 3.5 stars.

Anne says

OK, so she doesn't write great literature, but Rachel Hore writes some of the best love stories with a historical/mystical twist ever - she's firmly on my list of top ten authors. This one isn't published in the UK until 5th August, and thanks to Liz for passing it on. This one has all the elements I've loved in her previous books - the strong modern heroine, the gorgeous love interest in Euan, the extended family with secrets, the supernatural bits, the finding of a diary from the 1700s (the foundling child, the gypsies, the mysterious folly, the story of early astronomical discoveries...) the immense coincidences and unlikely links that drive the story... I loved every moment of it, and couldn't put it down! If you enjoy the likes of Susanna Kearsley, Barbara Erskine or Kate Morton you'll love it too.

Joanne says

Just didn't work for me. Very slow pace and plotting, which is a shame as so many of the elements that I

enjoy in a book were there: a house of secrets, old books and journals, a folly, mystery identities, etc... All well and good, but plain old good storytelling was missing.

Christina Rochester says

Okay so I'm going to be a grumpy cow about this one; most likely because I'm still in hospital and now have a cannula in the back of my hand and I've spent half the morning being sick. But hey ho.

I wasn't as keen on this one compared to other Rachel Hore books I've read. *A Place of Secrets* seemed to be a lot slower in its story and the ending felt a little too convenient. It just seemed that things tied together far too well and that gave things an unrealistic feel for me. Plus I felt we never really had a satisfactory explanation for the dreams which is a shame. Although I absolutely loved the glimpses of the Romany life being part Romany myself.

I adored Esther's back story and loved how this was revealed over the course of the book. She really is an amazing character.

This one is well worth a read.

Hannah says

Only the second Hore book I've read (the first being *The Dream House*), and I can see a maturity in her writing.

A Place of Secrets is a multi-layered novel very similar in style to the novels of Kate Morton, with generational family dynamics and disfunctions, multiple jumps between time periods, hidden secrets, and a mystery to be solved from the past in order for the characters from the present time period to move on. Very good stuff if that's your brand of reading pleasure, and Hore *almost* nails it with this offering. Certainly, the amount of research she's done for this one is visible and impressive. Her various plotlines are intriguing and the book flowed, for the most part, smoothly. The storyline from the 18th century was the best part of the book - it was in this story of Esther and her star-gazing father that Hore's undoubted writing talent really shined. Where I wasn't sold was in the present-day characters; the sibling interactions of Jude and Claire's relationship seemed stiff and unnatural. The myriad coincidences that occurred in order to tie up all the past and present storylines felt forced and had me shaking my head in disbelief. Perhaps more attention focused on fewer plotlines would have streamlined this novel and made it a 4 or 5-star winner for me. As it was, it was an enjoyable book, but nothing spectacular. I'll be checking back with Hore after she pens a few more books.

Rosie says

This was probably the worst book I have ever read, I would give it 0 stars if I could. Very badly written with corny dialogue, and the plot is terrible. The only link between the past and the present are some convenient 'dreams' and many many coincidences. It was a seriously awful book, stick to Kate Morton if you enjoy family history mysteries.

Terena says

An enjoyable read centred on a lady who works for an auction agency in London and lands a job selling the effects of an ancestral pile in Norfolk. I know nothing about astronomy so cannot say whether the story was accurate or not, however it was a nice easy family history mystery with a side story of romance and family secrets as well.

Elise McCune says

A Place of Secrets is just the type of book I like to read.

Jude works as a valuer at a London auction house and is successful in her job. Her husband Mark was killed in an accident a few years go and her relationship with Caspar isn't going anywhere. A collection of 18th century books offers Jude an opportunity to combine work and a visit to her family in Norfolk.

Rachel Hore very quickly establishes Jude as a warm, caring woman dealing with great sadness. There are twists and turns and one of my favourite things with the linking of the past and the present.

I enjoyed this story and while not a quick read I enjoyed it immensely.
