



The Book of Secrets: A Novel

Elizabeth Arnold

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At once a captivating mystery, a love letter to classic literature, and a sharp-eyed examination of marriage, *The Book of Secrets* is a gripping novel of family, friendship, and the undeniable pull of the past.

Chloe has been with her husband Nate since she was 8 years old when the two bonded over the Narnia series, an adventure that began Chloe's love for fiction. Now, Chloe and Nate are married and own a specialized antique bookstore. Chloe is horrified and confused when Nate leaves one day without explanation, saying only that he had something that needed to be taken care of and that he had no idea when he might return.

As she searches for clues to his whereabouts, Chloe comes across a notebook hidden inside an antique copy of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, written in the code she and Nate used as children. Using novels from their childhood to slowly decode his messages, she embarks on a mission to find out why he would disappear without a word.

Nate's family, with his mother and two beautiful sisters, were all largely sequestered from the rest of the world by their puritanical father who monitored their every move. But Chloe knows that the family has hidden dark secrets. What really happened when the girls finally escaped their father's home many years later? Could Nate's disappearance be somehow related to the role his father may have played in the death of a family member?

The Book of Secrets takes a fascinating look at a troubled marriage and the darkness the Sinclair family tries to hide. Filled with an underlying adoration for the written word, love for the very feel/scent of a book in the hand, and references from novels as diverse as *Crime and Punishment* and *Where the Wild Things Are*, *The Book of Secrets* is a novel for anyone who has ever stayed up late to finish just one more chapter...

Praise for *The Book of Secrets*

"An exquisite novel . . . *The Book of Secrets* is one of those reasons some of us live to read."--*The Star-Ledger*

"Tender and transcendent, *The Book of Secrets* is about the truths we hide, the consequences we face, and the particular comfort we can only find in a good book. Elizabeth Joy Arnold has written a beautiful and

haunting ode to the power of words, and how they shape our lives."--**Sarah Addison Allen, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Peach Keeper***

"*The Book of Secrets* plunges the reader into the strange and intense world of the Sinclairs, a family bound and pulled apart by the forces of imagination and religious belief. Through the eyes of Chloe Tyler, trapped in this world since childhood, Arnold paints a fascinating picture of obsession and loss. *The Book of Secrets* offers a complex meditation on the elusive nature of truth and on the power of secrets."--**Henriette Lazaridis Power, author of *The Clover House***

"This is the beautiful and heart-wrenching story about the secrets that can both hold a marriage together, and drive two people apart. Reading *The Book of Secrets* is like walking through a dark labyrinth: just when all hope is lost, you step out into sunshine."--**Carla Buckley, author of *Invisible***

This eBook edition includes two complete classic works of literature that are referenced in *The Book of Secrets*: Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* and Daniel Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe*!

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