



The Legacy

By Katherine Webb
ISBN: 9780062077318

Introduction

Following the death of their grandmother, Erica Calcott and her sister Beth return to Storton Manor, a grand and imposing house in Wiltshire, England, where they spent their summer holidays as children. When Erica begins to sort through her grandmother's belongings, she is flooded with memories of her childhood and of her cousin, Henry, whose disappearance from the manor tore the family apart.

Erica sets out to discover what happened to Henry so that the past can be laid to rest, and her sister, Beth, might finally find some peace. Gradually, as Erica begins to sift through remnants of the past, a secret family history emerges: one that stretches all the way back to Oklahoma in the 1900s, to a beautiful society heiress and a haunting, savage land. As past and present converge, Erica and Beth must come to terms with two terrible acts of betrayal and the heartbreaking legacy left behind.

Questions for Discussion

1. How has the disappearance of their cousin Henry affected Erica and Beth Calcott? How about the other members of their family?
2. What is the relationship between Erica and Beth like as adults, as compared to when they were children? Have their roles changed?
3. How did Erica feel about Dinny when they were younger? Why do you think Erica is still attracted to him now?
4. Do you find Caroline Massey to be a sympathetic character? Do you feel that she and Corin Massey were a good match? Why or why not?
5. Why is Caroline jealous of Maggie? Is there any justification for what she ends up doing to Maggie and her family?
6. Meredith, Erica and Beth's grandmother, is described as not a particularly warm or maternal woman. Why do you think she is that way? How much of it can be attributed to how her own mother, Caroline, brought her up?
7. Were you surprised to learn of Harry's true identity? Why or why not? What were the clues that led you to this revelation?
8. Do you agree with Erica and Beth's decision to keep the truth about Harry to themselves? In your opinion, is Harry better off this way?
9. Although present-day England and early 20th-century Oklahoma Territory seem very different, what similarities can you find between these two settings? For example, how about the way in which Dinny's family and Joe Ponca's family are treated?
10. What is the legacy that Caroline Massey has passed down to her descendants?

About the Author

Katherine Webb was born in 1977 and grew up in rural Hampshire, England. She studied History at Durham University, has spent time living in London and Venice, and now lives in Berkshire, England. Having worked as a waitress, au pair, personal assistant, potter, bookbinder, library assistant, and formal housekeeper at a manor house, she now writes full time.