



The girl in the photograph

(Fiercombe Manor)

By Kate Riordan

First published 2015

Genre & subject

Pregnant women Fiction

Manors England

Haunted houses

Historical fiction

Synopsis

Summer, 1933. Alice Eveleigh has arrived at Fiercombe Manor in disgrace. Hiding her shame in the beautiful yet isolated house, in the care of housekeeper, Mrs Jelphs, Alice begins to sense that something isn't quite right. And that she is being watched. There are secrets at Fiercombe that those who remain there are determined to keep. Tragedy haunts the empty rooms and traces of the previous occupant, Elizabeth Stanton, are everywhere. And Alice discovers Elizabeth's life eerily mirrors the path she herself is on...The past is set to repeat its sorrows, with devastating consequences.

Author biography

Reardon began her career on the US edition of Vogue magazine as its youngest ever fashion assistant, and was made fashion director of the British Tatler magazine at the age of 21, also its youngest ever. Reardon then moved to Vanity Fair as contributing editor in 1999, in which she spent eleven years in the role. Reardon has also contributed to most of the UK's national newspapers and written three columns in The Times, who named her one of Britain's best writers.

In 2007, Reardon launched her own website called TopTips.com, giving "real tips for real women", which later became a best-selling book and spawned a column in the Daily Mail and a regular slot on GMTV. Also in 2007, Reardon was named one of London's 1,000 Most Influential People by the Evening Standard.

Reardon was appointed the editor of Tatler on 20 December 2010.

Discussion starters

- What books do you feel have been used for the inspiration of this novel?
- How was Riordan able to evoke the atmosphere? How did it make you feel?
- How did you find the turn of phrase and language in the book?
- Did it feel like a first book?

- Did you find it scary?
- Did the book feel like an old book or was it modern in style?
- Was the split dialogue effective? Was it needed?
- Did you find the end too cosy?
- Did the ghost story element feel appropriate?
- Did it maintain its pace throughout the book?

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