



# The Clockmaker's Daughter

*Kate Morton*

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## The Clockmaker's Daughter Kate Morton

From the bestselling author of *The House at Riverton* and *The Secret Keeper*, Kate Morton brings us her dazzling sixth novel, *The Clockmaker's Daughter*.

*My real name, no one remembers.*

*The truth about that summer, no one else knows.*

In the summer of 1862, a group of young artists led by the passionate and talented Edward Radcliffe descends upon Birchwood Manor on the banks of the Upper Thames. Their plan: to spend a secluded summer month in a haze of inspiration and creativity. But by the time their stay is over, one woman has been shot dead while another has disappeared; a priceless heirloom is missing, and Edward Radcliffe's life is in ruins.

Over one hundred and fifty years later, Elodie Winslow, a young archivist in London, uncovers a leather satchel containing two seemingly unrelated items: a sepia photograph of an arresting-looking woman in Victorian clothing, and an artist's sketchbook containing a drawing of a twin-gabled house on the bend of a river.

Why does Birchwood Manor feel so familiar to Elodie? And who is the beautiful woman in the photograph? Will she ever give up her secrets?

Told by multiple voices across time, *The Clockmaker's Daughter* is a story of murder, mystery, and thievery, of art, love, and loss. And flowing through its pages like a river is the voice of a woman who stands outside time, whose name has been forgotten by history, but who has watched it all unfold: Birdie Bell, the clockmaker's daughter.

## The Clockmaker's Daughter Details

Date : Expected publication: September 20th 2018 by Mantle

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Author : Kate Morton

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# From Reader Review The Clockmaker's Daughter for online ebook

## Suzanne says

This is the first Kate Morton book I've read so maybe people who are fans of her previous books will enjoy it more. I'm often drawn to books which move between time periods and like seeing how the different characters end up connected. It's intriguing to see the line stretching across time between people as the result of the actions they take.

However, with this book, there were so many characters and so many time periods to keep track of! I read one review where the reader had created a chart to try and keep everyone straight and I found myself trying to do the same thing mentally - not a good sign. The story meandered along with a few twists here and there to keep you hooked, but ultimately was not very engaging.

Disappointed this one wasn't more enjoyable for me as I loved both the cover and the story premise.

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## Paula Sealey says

What a wonderful story! This book held me captive with its involving plot, richly described settings and wonderful characters. I can only guess at the amount of work Kate Morton put into this story, which deftly brings a myriad of characters together to solve the mystery of what happened at Birchwood Manor some 150 years ago. It is not a quick read by any means. With different settings and time leaps you do need to stay on the ball, but I loved it, and towards the end I read ferociously to reach the conclusion, which brought all the threads of the tale together neatly. 4.5 glowing stars from me!

\*I received a copy of the book from the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

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## Lauren Jenkins says

Sooooooooo good! ????????

I wish Kate Morton existed in a world set adjacent to us where she operated at 2x speed and we would have new books from her twice as often.

The Clockmaker's Daughter is special. The intricacies of the story weave tangled tales that intersect and come together in a very satisfying way. I'm inspired now to go back and re-read all Kate's previous novels.

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## Pauline says

The Clockmaker's Daughter by Kate Morton is about a murder in the summer of 1862 and in present day a young lady trying to make sense of the mystery. I enjoy reading this author's books but this story was a little slow for me and didn't have the charm of her previous books.

I would like to thank NetGalley and Pan Macmillan for my e-copy in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Nadia says**

This is a very challenging book to review. It was brilliant in places, captivating, beautifully written and full of interesting characters, but... it was waaaay too long. The main premise of the book is actually an interesting one, once we finally get to it! There are so many side stories and supporting characters that for more than one third of the book I was convinced I was reading a different story to the one described in the synopsis. The story can be a bit confusing and feel disjointed as it is told from several points of view and in different time periods. Also, there are a significant number of characters in the book and I really struggled at times to remember who was who and how did they fit into the story.

I think this could be a five star book if it lost half of its volume, and re-focused on the main storylines and some of the characters.

*Many thanks to NetGalley and the publisher for my ARC in exchange for an honest review.*

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### **Selena says**

I received a free copy of The Clockmaker's Daughter by Kate Morton from Goodreads for my honest review.

I was so excited to win this book as I love Kate Morton. The Lake House is exquisite.

With The Clockmaker's Daughter is a beautifully written ghost story that intertwines different time periods and a lot of different characters. The main character being, the clockmaker's daughter. The house, Birchwood Manor, which is located on the bank of the Thames, becomes a central character as well.

You will fall in love with the characters in this book and the wonderful story line which will bring you tons of surprises. The time periods change over a two hundred year span. I will say that you need to pay close attention to all the characters as there are a lot of them and it can get confusing and frustrating. A very detailed and beautiful read as with all Kate Morton's books. So dig in . . .

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### **Erin Clemence says**

*Thanks to NetGalley and the publisher for a free, electronic ARC of this novel received in exchange for an honest review.*

Kate Morton returns with her new novel, "The Clockmaker's Daughter". Of course, being Kate Morton, she delights a reader with powerful, descriptive imagery and settings, a creative plot and beautiful language, as she spins a delightful historical tale.

*In 1862, a group of young people take up residence in “Birchwood Manor”, in hopes of spending the summer creating art and enjoying the beautiful grounds. When a woman is shot, the groups’ dreams are quickly destroyed, and the owner of the house, Edward Radcliffe, flees the country a broken man. Years later, archivist Elodie Winslow comes across a leather satchel containing two very different items- a sepia photograph of a beautiful woman, and a sketchbook. Both the picture and sketchbook seem to have different owners (and be from different time periods in history), yet they also have eerie similarities. Soon, Elodie is traveling to Birchwood Manor to investigate, where she too, is soon taken under the spell of the beautiful and mysterious house.*

This novel, as with all of Kate Morton’s novels, was a beautiful read. Long as it is, it was not difficult to read and I breezed through it, fully captivated as always by Morton’s breathtaking settings.

“The Clockmaker’s Daughter” is not a fitting title, though. Although indeed, the Clockmaker’s Daughter is one of the characters in this novel, it seems to be more a tale about the house itself than an individual person. Told from many time periods, from many different characters, in reverse order, it was a bit confusing in places. Although each chapter was labeled with a date to identify time periods, there was multiple characters that each had diverse and entertaining storylines tied to Birchwood Manor itself.

As mentioned, the character list in this novel is multitudinous, but each character brings their own set of charm to the table. The plot, too, has everything one could want- history, romance (*many times over*), a murder mystery, and even a treasure hunt. “The Clockmaker’s Daughter” had so many plots, it could have been many stories instead of just one, however this also made the novel easy to read.

Fans of Morton will enjoy “The Clockmaker’s Daughter”, for its traditional Morton style and beauty. The ending is extremely satisfying, if not predictable, and brings the tale to a delightful end. A thoroughly engaging read, to be sure.

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## **James says**

Kate Morton is one of my favorite authors, and when *The Clockmaker's Daughter* came out this year, I was one of the first to jump on NetGalley to get a copy. I was so excited to be awarded the book and added it to my August reading queue. It made for a good alternate style given I'm also running a children's book readathon this month! Although not my favorite of all her novels, it's an enchanting story and covers a lot of beautiful generations within a couple of families.

What I loved the most about this book was how you never quite knew who was speaking in the beginning of a chapter. It took a few paragraphs or a page or two before it became obvious. Some might be bothered by this approach, but it added to mystery and ambiance for me. The Radcliffe family was quite peculiar, and I wondered whether it would turn out to be accidental death or murder for one or two characters. As the story unfolds and we learned about Elodie in 2017/8 discovering the past, everything comes flooding forward. There are memorable characters in this book and I recommend it for that reason alone. On the flip side, there are over 30 main characters, so it gets a tad difficult to keep focused if you have to put the book down for more than a day at a time. Don't read it with anything else like I did.

Morton is the queen of lyrical words and astounding settings. The plot is strong, and the twist at the end is great. Along the path, it's much lighter tho... less about the mystery and more about hearing what happened

to people over a century. I found myself eager for more action than present in the book. But it still captured my heart and attention. A solid 4 stars.

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### **Susan says**

I'm a big Kate Morton fan, so I've been waiting with bated breath for her newest to come out. I was fortunate to get an early copy (thanks, Netgalley!) of *THE CLOCKMAKER'S DAUGHTER*, which I enjoyed. Maybe not as much as Morton's others, but I still really liked it.

The book has a slightly different format than Morton's other novels, although it's similar in theme and style. Although it has a number of different narrators, the star of this story really is Birchwood Manor, an old house in the woods which seems to call certain people to its doors. I enjoyed learning its history through its different inhabitants, who all have their own struggles and stories. The mystery at the novel's core is almost a minor plot line, which was fine since I didn't find it ALL that compelling anyway (although I was surprised by how it played out). While this book felt a little less focused and intriguing than Morton's other books, I still had a hard time putting it down. This might be my least favorite Morton novel, in fact, and yet I liked it. Truth of the matter is, I would read an essay on how grass grows if Morton wrote it. She's one of my all-time favorite writers.

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### **Dale Harcombe says**

Sorry all, review has had to be deleted until publication date of September 12

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### **Donna says**

First of all, I want to say that I am a HUGE Kate Morton fan. I have loved pretty much every book she has written, and I have recommended her books to so many people. That said, *The Clockmaker's Daughter* is a major disappointment. I could barely finish it and only kept going because it was Kate Morton, and I was sure it would get better. It didn't.

There are far too many characters to keep track of in this story, and there are at least four or five different time periods that you are randomly whipped to and from. There were so many times reading this book where I had to stop and think "Wait...who is this person again?" or "Where are we now?"

The bigger problem is that, unlike Morton's previous books, I didn't really care about the mystery at the center of the story all that much. And the shocking reveals that are at the heart of so many of Morton's books were not all that shocking at all.

I guess Morton has become so successful that her publisher thinks she doesn't need editing. But a firm editor is exactly what this book needed. Well, here's hoping her next book is a return to form.

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## **Tammy says**

The discovery of an old photograph kicks off this account about the inhabitants of a manor house which eventually contains a mannerly prescence. An archivist, archeologist, painter and pick pocket are among the people that pepper this tale. Moving between the late 1850's, early 1860's, post WWI, WWII and the summer of 2017, Morton's plot is typically dense and contains a wide variety of characters with fuzzy familial and tangential relationships. Some characters are introduced only to have their storylines dropped or underdeveloped. This highly anticipated novel will, no doubt, thrill Morton's fans. Initially I was engaged but ultimately I was not overly enthused.

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## **Melisa says**

You know you're a baller when your name is bigger than the title??

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## **Lorri Steinbacher says**

Due out in October, this hits all the Morton sweet spots: mouldering Victorian mansion, a story that shifts back and forth in time, secrets and lies, a mystery that unspools with gorgeous prose and unforgettable characters. Add to that formula a brooding, brilliant artist (in the 1860's) and a young archivist about to enter into an ill-advised marriage and you have the perfect summer read for historical fiction fans. Highly recommended.

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## **Paromjit says**

Kate Morton writes a beautiful piece of epic interconnected historical fiction, with a strong fantastical element, through the ages, with the focus on the rambling Birchwood Manor by the Thames. In 1862, the owner of the Manor, the gifted artist, Edward Radcliffe, and a group of bohemian artists spend the summer there, hoping to be artistically inspired. However, it all ends in catastrophe as a woman is murdered, plus the orphaned artistic muse, Birdie Bell, the clockmaker's daughter, disappears suspected of the theft and Edward's life is shattered into pieces. What really happened? In the present, a young London archivist on the cusp of getting married, Elodie Winslow, is trawling through the archives of James Stratton, and in a leather satchel finds a photograph of a Victorian woman and a sketchbook with the drawing of a home by the river, which somehow feels familiar.

With multiple narrators, we learn of the history of Birchwood Manor, those who have resided there through the generations and their lives, intrigue and difficulties, throughout with the ghostly presence of Birdie Bell. All these disparate stories over time come to connect. Elodie delves into the mystery of the items in the satchel, unaware of her personal family connection and how her investigations will impact on her future and personal life. This is a story of Birchwood Manor, murder, mystery, theft, secrets, lies, art, love, loss and both world wars. The author gives us rich historical details in a narrative that goes back and forth in time in this atmospheric and complex tale. I found this novel entertaining and absorbing if a trifle over long. Many



thanks to Panmacmillan for an ARC.

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