



The Red House

Emily Winslow

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Maxwell's fiancée, Imogen, is obsessed with her idyllic childhood in Cambridge, England, which was cut short by her parents' deaths at a young age, causing her and her siblings to be adopted by different families. With plans to move back there, the young couple travel to the city together, where Imogen's excitement is offset by Max's deeply unsettling *déjà vu*: despite having no history there, something about Cambridge is all too familiar. As the wedding planning begins and Imogen's preoccupation with her lost younger brother intensifies, Maxwell is forced to consider that he may actually be Imogen's missing brother. Worse, he fears that she may already know that he is, and be marrying him anyway.

Meanwhile, Detective Chief Inspector Morris Keene languishes at home, struggling with a debilitating injury and post-traumatic stress, and his former partner, Detective Inspector Chloe Frohmann, investigates a suicide case in which Morris' daughter is suspected of having a hand. When buried skeletons are discovered next to an old barn, the suicide is linked back to Imogen's childhood, revealing horrors of the past and triggering new dangers in the present.

The third book by talented author Emily Winslow and featuring Cambridgeshire detectives Morris Keene and Chloe Frohmann, *The Red House* is a suspenseful and skillfully written mystery, twisting and unraveling in deft and unusual ways as the simultaneous investigations raise the question: for how long can you call your findings pure coincidence?

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The Red House Details

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Author : Emily Winslow

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From Reader Review The Red House for online ebook

lucky little cat says

beware spoiler ahead

One too many babies in the plot, so while reading the resolution, you go "Hunh? *Which* not quite abandoned baby?" Otherwise an entertaining mystery, and I'm looking forward to Winslow's next.

Rae says

Plot confuses

This book was different and confusing at times. I had a hard time following all the storylines
But enjoyed the characters and the eventual ending

Gaysel says

I liked the book although it took me a while to get into it, but then I was hooked and had to find out 'what happened'. A good murder mystery told in an unusual way. Entertaining read after all.

Tammy O says

This sounded like a great plot but it didn't quite work for me. The characters are weak and the story jumps around so much from one character and place to another--with different narrators who all sound the same. I lost interest until the pace picked up near the end. I haven't read the other books in the series--that may be the reason I didn't connect with this story.

Naomi says

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26 years before the book starts a homeless teenage girl gives birth to twins. Fortunately a doctor and th

Selina Trafford says

This story of Imogen and Maxwell is fantastically well written. The relationship is stretched when family skeletons are unearthed (literally). The issues it causes for them are immense and turn their lives upside

down.

I was surprised by the ending but more so that I understood why they chose to end things as they did. After all love is everything

Tonyia Little says

It started slow, introducing each character. I thought I knew each character, but as the story progressed there were twists and turns. No one was quite what I had anticipated. I really enjoyed this one. I've put the earlier books in the series on my list to investigate.

D.H. Smith says

An almost Dickensian plot. How it runs back and forth! Concentrate! Central is a love story between Maxwell and Imogen – but is it incestuous? Has there been a murder? And what on earth has been going on at the Red House. This is a novel of difficult teenagers, awful parents though fortunately not all or one would despair of the human race. There's a pregnant inspector, another with PTSD, so problems among the investigators too. But of course a novel thrives on problems, dies when we don't care about them. Each chapter is written in the first person which is disconcerting at first, all the jumping around especially when the last one has been left on a cliff hanger and we don't get back to the cliff for another chapter or two. I became a bit too aware of the structure. But the characters are good and the language too. I was won over. An author to watch.

Girl Well Read says

A special thank you to Edelweiss and HarperCollins for an ARC in exchange for an honest review.

2.5 stars. Like the other novels in the series, this one is also told from various points of view in first person narrative. Again Winslow falls down with this format, there are too many points of view and she would be so much more effective if she would just stick with her detective team. There is the potential there to have great chemistry and it would be an interesting juxtaposition. While this book has less supporting characters, the multiple points of view stall the plot at times.

I was intrigued to read Winslow's books because they are marketed for fans of Kate Atkinson and Donna Tartt. I don't think anyone should have their work compared against Tartt, I feel that she is in a league all her own. That being said, I would definitely check out other books in the series because I think Winslow has a lot of potential. This one was marginally better than *The Start of Everything*.

Geoff Atwater says

This is a non-traditional crime story. Instead of focusing on police procedures toward solving a crime, this one looks at how a crime affects many of those involved. There are current and former police officers, two teenage girls caught up in the drama, a young man and his fiance who have past connections to the area, and an assortment of relatives. The story is told in rounds with narrative in the voice of the main characters.

There is the very pregnant Chief Inspector who plays more of a supporting role while working various aspects of the case. There is a former chief inspector on retired disability and his teenage daughter caught up in an unhealthy relationship with the other teenage girl. The main characters are Maxwell and Imogen, newly engaged, who come to Cambridge for his job possibility and for her to work through childhood trauma where she and her three brothers were sent into care on the tragic death of her parents.

A focus on victims and bystanders may be more of a European trait in crime fiction. And it seems to be treated only lightly in American crime stories. While this story is not a typical police procedural, it provides a drama of its own as the various characters work through their own stories.

Julie says

This is a writer I have had high hopes for, and each book has impressed me a little more. Although the story contained some flashbacks and jumped around in terms of the characters' perspectives, this was more straightforward and easier to follow than the previous books in the series. It was also more gripping, and I like the way she builds up to the reveal for each aspect of the mystery, but then leaves one piece not completely answered; the reader has to make the decision about what really happened. Others might disagree, but I found this a really intriguing and satisfying way of ending the novel. I have high hopes for the fourth in the series, *Look for Her*, just published in the U.S. in paperback.

Bookread2day says

As I read *The Start Of Everything* and *The Whole World* by Emily Winslow, I couldn't wait to read *Red House*. So much happens in *The Red House*. Maxwell questions whether his fiance Imogen is his own sister, separated by adoption. Imagine the nightmare of that! Too add to the horror Buried skeletons are discovered next to an old barn link suicide and Imogen's childhood, revealing horrors in the past and triggering danger in the present. I am so glad Emily Winslow is back with this new novel. I can not wait for Emily's next book.

Dasha says

My first foray into this series (and this is not the first book in it) so a lot of context may be missing, but the book is fine as a standalone. Well done and good writing, but I thought there were too many points of view. Always read the chapter title to find out whose narration you're reading.

Gordon Johnston says

Interesting plot with a lot of past mystery to be discovered. A good set up, but maybe too many coincidences to be convincing at times. The pace is good though and the various plot lines flow well.

The tale is told from multiple points of view but the characters' individual voices don't come through at all. Each voice seems the same, male or female, adult or teenager. And the ending is rather odd. A narrative suddenly appears within the text outlining what happened years back, giving the key to the plot, rather than having the characters work it out; it seemed as if the author just couldn't bring the story to a conclusion any other way.

Karen Mace says

This book was in the monthly subscription box from Book and A Brew that i signed up for so wasn't normally a book I would have been drawn to.

This was a really interesting mystery book with plenty of twists and turns and kept me interested the whole way through. It did take a little while to get into but soon the story all started to link together and it made more sense.

Two dead bodies at The Red House are investigated by the police and as they search they uncover more to the story than meets the eye, and more bodies too. This is told from a number of different Point of Views which really adds to the depth of the story, and we also follow Imogen and her search for her much loved adopted brother Sebastian as there's no trace of him since the car crash that proved devastating to the family.

There were some fascinating characters in this book that meant at times you didn't know who to believe or trust as many had their 'issues'.

I did find the ending a little rushed and neatly rounded up but it was still an enjoyable read full of family deception, lies and affairs
