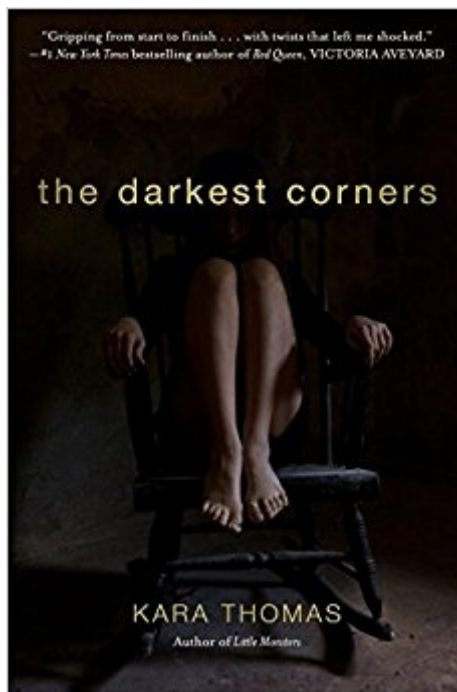


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The Darkest Corners



Synopsis

"Gripping from start to finish . . . with twists that left me shocked." —Victoria Aveyard, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *Red Queen* For fans of Gillian Flynn and *Pretty Little Liars*, *The Darkest Corners* is a psychological thriller about the lies little girls tell, and the deadly truths those lies become. There are secrets around every corner in Fayette, Pennsylvania. Tessa left when she was nine and has been trying ever since not to think about what happened there that last summer. She and her childhood best friend Callie never talked about what they saw. Not before the trial. And certainly not after. But ever since she left, Tessa has had questions. Things have never quite added up. And now she has to go back to Fayette—to Wyatt Stokes, sitting on death row; to Lori Cawley, Callie's dead cousin; and to the one other person who may be hiding the truth. Only the closer Tessa gets to what really happened, the closer she gets to a killer—and this time, it won't be so easy to run away. And don't miss Kara's next "eerie and masterly psychological thriller" *Little Monsters* on sale now (SLJ)!

Book Information

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Social & Family Issues > Friendship

Customer Reviews

Gr 9 Up-Ten years after leaving the state and losing touch with everyone she knew and loved, Tessa Lowell returns to small-town Fayette to say goodbye to her father, who's dying in prison. She is too late to see her father but ends up with too many questions about her past to return home to Florida right away. Joining forces with her childhood best friend, Callie, Tessa begins looking for

answers in this exciting psychological thriller. Callie and Tessa haven't talked since Tessa left after the strain testifying in the trial of Wyatt Stokes when she was eight years old, a trial that ended with him on death row. Working through the pain of lost friendship and unshared secrets, the girls collaborate to search for the truth when another girl is killed. Did they help convict an innocent man? Has the real killer returned to Fayette? How does Tessa's long-lost sister fit into all this, and what happened to her mother? The world of a working-class town in Pennsylvania comes alive as Callie deals with her pain through hard partying and Tessa attempts to escape her guilty disquiet by immersing herself in her sleuthing. Through strong character development and thrilling reveals, readers become as engrossed as Tessa as she searches for the truth and deals with the emotions of her past. VERDICT As a dark psychological thriller with a compelling story and an unexpected but satisfying ending, this novel is a sure bet. -Genevieve Feldman, San Francisco Public Library

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Praise for *The Darkest Corners*: "Gripping from start to finish, *The Darkest Corners* took me into an underbelly I didn't know existed, with twists that left me shocked and racing forward to get to the end." -Victoria Aveyard, #1 New York Times bestselling author of *Red Queen*

"A tight, twisted thriller, full of deft reversals and disturbing revelations...deeply, compulsively satisfying!" -Brenna Yovanoff, New York Times bestselling author of *The Replacement*

"As dark as Gillian Flynn and as compulsive as *Serial*! Kara Thomas's mystery debut is intricate, chilling, and deeply compelling. Unforgettable!" -Laura Salters, author of *Run Away*

"You'll be up all night tearing through the pages, gasping through the twists and turns." -Bustle.com

"Thomas carefully crafts the suspense, leaving present-tense narrator Tessa and readers to doubt even those she loves the most." -An unsettling story of loss, lies, and violence lurking in the shadows of a small town.

"Kirkus Reviews, Starred Review" | "On the heels of *Making a Murderer* and *The Jinx* comes a psychological thriller strongly rooted in the true-crime tradition...Expertly plotted with plenty of twists and turns...never mind a truly shocking conclusion...this gritty thriller is sure to find a wide audience among teens and adults alike. Equally concerned with a quest for the truth and the powerful motivation of guilt, this compelling novel won't linger on the shelf." -Booklist

starred review | "Thomas keeps it real with a jaded heroine from the have-nots societal segment who holds onto her humanity, and a frank illustration of failure in the justice system. Hand this one

to older teens who love dark mysteries or fans of Netflix's Making a Murderer." *Shelf Awareness* ★ starred review "Clearly drawn...[and] alive until the twisty end." *Bulletin* ★ "Strong character development and thrilling reveals...this novel is a sure bet." *SLJ* Praise for Little Monsters: "Thomas creates a disturbing portrait of how bad news and gossip can curdle when mixed together." -Oprah.com "An eerie and masterly psychological thriller...[that] culminates in a shocking and disturbing ending. Thomas expertly captures the pointed nuances and the fickle, manipulative bonds of adolescent girls' friendships." -SLJ "Taut and suspenseful...this gritty page-turner will easily hook a broad range of readers" -Booklist "An intense psychological thriller that all but ensures the lights will be left on between dusk and dawn." -Publishers Weekly "A twisted story of obsession and manipulation, Little Monsters captivated me right up to its surprising conclusion...and left me wondering how well I really know my friends." -Chelsea Sedoti, author of *The Hundred Lies of Lizzie Lovett* "A brilliant, well-written masterpiece, full of unreliable narrators, suspense, and plot twists that will leave you at the edge of your seat." -Inah P., *The Bibliophile Confessions*

This is a little slower than most mysteries at the start, and rightly so--it's a really character driven story, and the author takes time at the beginning to develop the characters so that the payoff at the end is really satisfying. I was guessing wrong the entire time. I did think it wrapped up a little too quickly, with lots of information being sort of summarized instead of really getting to see the what it meant for the characters, but I think that mostly stood out to me because the rest of the book was so well developed. On the whole, this was really great

Wow! This is a really twisty little mystery that has left me feeling very satisfied. It does start off a bit slow (which is why I gave it 4 stars instead of 5) but if you are a fan of psychological thrillers and mysteries I urge you to stick with it. I'd say around 150 pages in things begin to pick up and then the ending is heart pounding and surprising. Kara Thomas you have a new fan! Highly recommended!!!

I'll be honest when I first got this book and read the summary about I was like no way! My reading style is basically only realistic fiction, and this book is more of a mystery book. But I take that all back because I judge the book by its cover or well more of its summary i guess. Once I started to read it took me a couple chapter to get into it but I really did enjoy it. Some of my favorite things about the book were the characters, mystery or drama involved, friendship. First off the characters I love when you are reading a book and you can

just perfectly imagine the characters. I know it helps me to understand the story much better. The characters in this book amazing the details of each and everyone of them was just awesome. Next the drama I personally love book, movies, tv and shows with a lot of drama. The darkest corners definitely had that. From Tess coming back into town , Tess trying to find her family, Callie and Maggie's relationship or even Ari. Those were just some of the elements that made this such a great read. Finally I thought the friendship in this book were so strong and complex. Take Callie and Tess they were so close when they were young then for ten years (give or take) they didn't speak. But it only took them days to become very close like they were before. All in all I am not much of a reader but this book I would 100 percent recommend for someone looking for a good read.

Pretty cool story. A few twists and turns, and occasional far out coincidences, but nothing outlandish I suppose. Worth a try.

Never think you know what will happen with this one because you don't. Excellent writing with so many unexpected twists. Great read.

I received a free ARC copy of THE DARKEST CORNERS from NetGalley in exchange for my honest review. Recent high school graduate, Tessa is reluctantly back from Florida, back to the podunk Pennsylvania town she'd rather forget, back to say goodbye to her dying father. She's staying with her ex-best friend's family. She hasn't spoken to Callie since moving to south after both girls testified to witnessing an abduction turned murder when they were eight, ten years ago. But, Tessa has secrets and she fears the wrong man is on death row. THE DARKEST CORNERS felt like the tale of two books for me. During the first half, I was glued to my kindle, certain I was reading a 5 star novel. The second half was a bit too contrived to feel unrealistic. Much of the wonderful showing turned to telling, and the plot started to drag. Parts of the ending were somewhat satisfactory, but then Kara Thomas took a step too far from the realm of possibility like a bad lifetime TV movie. I thought Annette was an unnecessary character and subplot that detracted from what was a sound thriller/mystery. I so wish that the second half lived up to the first. Thomas gave Tessa a great voice and except for a few draggy parts, the pace was quick and even. Tessa came by her distrust and bitterness with good cause, but I didn't like how both she and Callie lied often when unnecessary. I don't remember either girl showing a kindness toward anyone, and at times they acted thoughtlessly. The characters lacked depth and personality. THEMES: murder, prison, family,

parents, siblings, friendship, mysteryTHE DARKEST CORNERS is an interesting mystery with an ending that goes a bit too far to feel believable.

What a story! I thought I had some things figured out, but as it turns out, I was wrong. Great characters. Actually, the plot line very believable. I had it all wrong. The end was something and I would not have guessed. Read it and see.

A little slow going at first, but once it picked up the pace, I really enjoyed this book. It is well written and story keeps you guessing until she reveals the villian.

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