

The Secrets We Share

Edwin Hill

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In Edwin Hill's novel *The Secrets We Share*, love and deception intertwine through murders connected to one family.

As a child, Natalie came across her father's body in the woods. Now a grown woman, Natalie is a police officer, and her relationships with her mother and her sister, Glenn, have grown distant; her romantic relationships have ended in heartbreak and failure. When Natalie's niece, Mavis, stumbles upon the body of their neighbor, Natalie and Glenn confront their differences to uncover a deeper murder plot.

Battling the suspicions of the press, their community, and the police, Natalie and Glenn realize that people from their pasts may be guilty of crimes. Natalie's coworkers' inquiries lead Glenn to become uncertain in her marriage and in community relationships, unveiling that more is behind her neighbor's death than it seemed.

Capturing the whimsical throes of childhood in their romantic and curious perspectives, Natalie, Glenn, and Mavis are caught in adult games of cheating and emotional espionage. Mavis's innocence shows as she decides to enter an abandoned building when she's dared to by her crush; its mortar has decayed and its "bricks have disintegrated." On the other hand, there's a cutthroat tone to the novel's coverage of investigations, and of suspects and their relationships, which confront convoluted adult affairs past and present. As characters react to accusations and events, they edge on being bombastic, but the book's action and revelations are thrilling.

In the multigenerational mystery novel *The Secrets We Share*, women find the courage to face their complex emotions and their troubled community.

ALI ORTIZ (March / April 2022)

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