



Promise Not to Tell: A Novel

By Jennifer McMahon

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Forty-one-year-old school nurse Kate Cypher has returned home to rural Vermont to care for her mother who's afflicted with Alzheimer's. On the night she arrives, a young girl is murdered—a horrific crime that eerily mirrors another from Kate's childhood. Three decades earlier, her dirt-poor friend Del—shunned and derided by classmates as "Potato Girl"—was brutally slain. Del's killer was never found, while the victim has since achieved immortality in local legends and ghost stories. Now, as this new murder investigation draws Kate irresistibly in, her past and present collide in terrifying, unexpected ways. Because nothing is quite what it seems . . . and the grim specters of her youth are far from forgotten.

More than just a murder mystery, Jennifer McMahon's extraordinary debut novel, *Promise Not to Tell*, is a story of friendship and family, devotion and betrayal—tautly written, deeply insightful, beautifully evocative, and utterly unforgettable.

Promise Not to Tell: A Novel By Jennifer McMahon Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Part mystery-thriller and part ghost story, McMahon's well-paced debut alternates smoothly between past and present. In the fall of 2002, 41-year-old Kate Cypher, a divorced Seattle school nurse, returns to New Hope, the decaying Vermont hippie commune where she grew up, to visit her elderly mother, Jean, who's suffering from Alzheimer's. Kate has avoided New Hope since the grizzly, unsolved murder of her fifth-grade friend, Del Griswold, 31 years earlier. Kate fears she betrayed Del, a free-spirited farm girl. Did her betrayal cause Del's death? Who killed Del? Another local girl is murdered in a similar manner at the time of Kate's return. Could the killer be loose again? Meanwhile, Jean appears to be possessed with Del's spirit and may have the answers to these questions. As Kate investigates, she learns stunning truths about many events and people from her youth. McMahon does a particularly good job of portraying the cruelty of school children. (Apr.)

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From Booklist

This assured, ambitious debut novel offers an unusual mix of mystery novel and ghost story, with particularly well-drawn coming-of-age themes. School nurse Kate Cypher returns to her hometown in Vermont to care for her mother, who is suffering from Alzheimer's. It's not a happy homecoming, since Kate never liked the cultlike atmosphere of the commune she grew up in. Not long after her arrival, a local girl is murdered in the same way Kate's childhood friend, Del, nicknamed the "Potato Girl" by her mean-spirited classmates, was killed 30 years ago. Seriously spooked, Kate reconnects with her childhood sweetheart, who is utterly convinced that Del's ghost is afoot in the woods and intent on seeking revenge. McMahon deftly juggles a complex narrative, which smoothly interweaves the past and the present, while also credibly introducing supernatural elements by presenting them through Kate's skeptical viewpoint. But McMahon's real coup is her touching characterization of the brave and desperate Del. It is through that portrait that McMahon drives home the cruelty of childhood bullying. *Joanne Wilkinson*

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Review

“Well-plotted suspenseful fun.” (Kirkus Reviews)

“Deeply disturbing and darkly compelling...” (Sara Gruen, bestselling author of WATER FOR ELEPHANTS)

“PROMISE NOT TO TELL takes you through the twisted world of adolescent friendship, betrayal and murder.” (Pam Lewis, author of SPEAK SOFTLY, SHE CAN HEAR)

“This assured, ambitious debut novel offers an unusual mix of mystery novel and ghost story...” (Booklist)

“A great, dark, spooky book for the summer.” (Today Show)

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jeremiah Burroughs:

Do you have favorite book? Should you have, what is your favorite's book? Reserve is very important thing for us to be aware of everything in the world. Each reserve has different aim or goal; it means that e-book has different type. Some people really feel enjoy to spend their the perfect time to read a book. They may be reading whatever they have because their hobby is actually reading a book. Why not the person who don't like examining a book? Sometime, man or woman feel need book after they found difficult problem or maybe exercise. Well, probably you'll have this Promise Not to Tell: A Novel.

Orville Norman:

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Lorraine Stark:

A lot of people always spent their very own free time to vacation or maybe go to the outside with them friends and family or their friend. Were you aware? Many a lot of people spent that they free time just watching TV, as well as playing video games all day long. If you would like try to find a new activity this is look different you can read the book. It is really fun for yourself. If you enjoy the book that you read you can spent 24 hours a day to reading a reserve. The book Promise Not to Tell: A Novel it is extremely good to read. There are a lot of people who recommended this book. They were enjoying reading this book. If you did not have enough space to develop this book you can buy the particular e-book. You can m0ore quickly to read this book from your smart phone. The price is not to fund but this book offers high quality.

Jeremy Bedford:

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