



The Poison Tree: A Novel

By Erin Kelly

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"A terrific suspense debut, reminiscent of Du Maurier's *Rebecca*. I wish I had written it."--Stephen King

With its hip London backdrop and expert pacing, Erin Kelly's masterful debut, *The Poison Tree*, delivers all the way through to its shocker of an ending.

London, 1997. Karen meets exotic, flamboyant Biba and, spellbound, she moves into the crumbling mansion Biba shares with her enigmatic brother, Rex. Drugs and wine flow as Rex and Karen begin an affair, but their summer of freedom is about to end in blood. Ten years later, Karen and nine-year-old Alice pick up Rex from his stint in prison for murder. When old ghosts come calling, Karen will do whatever it takes to protect her family. She is a woman with everything to lose.

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The Poison Tree: A Novel By Erin Kelly Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

British author Kelly deftly weaves past and present in her highly satisfying debut novel of psychological suspense, which reveals how a convicted murderer came to be released after serving 10 years in prison. In 1993, the naïve yet brilliant Karen receives a scholarship to London's Queen Charlotte's College, where she's beguiled by Biba Capel, an iconoclastic and edgy drama student, who soon introduces Karen to her strange older brother, Rex. Karen joins sister and brother at the grand but deteriorating Capel family house in Highgate, with its several unconventional tenants. The three throw disorderly parties that enrage the neighbors, but they succeed in creating their own Edenic existence until the unwanted intrusion of Biba's hostile lover. Though melodrama looms, including a double homicide, the tension never wanes, and the ensuing horror comes as a major shock. The surprises don't end until the last page of this twisted tale with its wonderfully evocative London atmosphere. 5-city author tour. (Jan.)

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From [Booklist](#)

A dark, twisted tale of domestic tragedy, Kelly's debut doesn't miss a step: character, plot, dialogue, atmosphere, and pacing are right on the money. Karen Clarke has always done what's expected and been a good girl: exceptional, conscientious student; obedient daughter; undemanding in her personal relationships. Then she meets fascinating Biba and falls in love with the young actress' impetuosity and freewheeling lifestyle, both so different from anything Karen knows. That Biba wants to be her friend amazes Karen, who gratefully moves in with the actress and her protective older brother, soon to become Karen's lover. At first, Karen finds her housemates' casual lifestyle immensely appealing, but it isn't long before she unearths the tangled emotions and tragic history that lies beneath the carefree scene. By that time, however, she's so deeply enmeshed in her friends' complicated, messed-up lives, she is unable to back away. Intriguing characters, a carefully constructed story that smoothly integrates past and present, and a shocker of an ending make this one special. --Stephanie Zvirin

Review

Praise for THE POISON TREE:

"A terrific suspense debut, reminiscent of another British woman's auspicious bow: Daphne DuMaurier's Rebecca. The shadows gather until the ending looms like a threatening figure. This one gets the writer's ultimate bit of praise: *I wish I had written it.*"

—Stephen King

"A compelling creeper . . . More please, Ms. Kelly! Quickly!"

—*The Washington Post*

"There is a brooding sense of impending doom and imminent danger. . . . [T]he explosive ending, its revelations about the threesome and the lengths to which people will go to preserve or take what's theirs, makes THE POISON TREE a rich and satisfying pleasure."

—*USA Today*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Maria Antoine:

Nowadays reading books be than want or need but also get a life style. This reading practice give you lot of advantages. The huge benefits you got of course the knowledge your information inside the book which improve your knowledge and information. The data you get based on what kind of e-book you read, if you want drive more knowledge just go with training books but if you want feel happy read one having theme for entertaining such as comic or novel. The particular The Poison Tree: A Novel is kind of publication which is giving the reader capricious experience.

Rebecca Esquivel:

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Kathleen Sinclair:

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Cory Thomas:

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