

Chapter 1 : SECRET SMILE by Nicci French | Kirkus Reviews

Secret Smile (French, Nicci) and millions of other books are available for Amazon Kindle. Learn more Enter your mobile number or email address below and we'll send you a link to download the free Kindle App.

But her attempt at breaking it off with him leads to a passionate web of lies, deception and death. The two sleep together that night and begin a relationship. Ten days later, Miranda arrives home to find that Brendan has let himself in and gone through her belongings. She promptly ends the relationship, causing Brendan to storm out of her flat after verbally abusing her. A month later, Miranda is contacted by her sister Kerry, inviting her to meet her new boyfriend: Miranda warns Brendan against hurting her sister, but he replies that he is genuinely in love with Kerry. As time passes, it becomes apparent to Miranda that Brendan is using his newfound engagement to her sister and increasingly close relationship with her family as a way of getting at her. Her family become close to Brendan; in particular her younger, bipolar brother Troy Robert Daniel Lowe. Brendan then dumps Kerry for her best friend, Laura, whom he marries. Three months later, Laura contacts Miranda, suggesting they talk. Miranda waits at a pub for her, but Brendan arrives and accuses her of meddling in his marriage. After an argument, Miranda goes to check on Laura and discovers her dead body. Brendan is suspected of killing his wife, but a prosecution is not made due to lack of evidence. She tracks down Brendan, who is living with a new girlfriend named Naomi. He takes out an injunction on Miranda, accusing her of harassment. Receiving a call from Naomi shortly after, Miranda goes to the apartment not knowing it is a setup by Brendan in order to have her arrested. Naomi contacts Miranda from outside, telling her to leave, and Miranda narrowly escapes Brendan and the police. Naomi tells Miranda that Brendan became violent and she feared for her safety. After deciding that Naomi would be safe staying with Kerry, Miranda returns to her flat. That night, Brendan arrives and angrily searches for Naomi, to no avail. Upon the conclusion that Miranda has been murdered, an investigation ensues with Brendan as the prime suspect. When they arrive, they meet Naomi at the airport and see Miranda. A flashback explains that Miranda and Naomi planned to drug Brendan by slipping a pill into his glass the night he arrived at the flat. Naomi is shown drawing blood from Miranda, which Miranda then spreads around the bathroom after Brendan slips unconscious. She plants his fingerprints onto his set of keys which have been smeared with her blood. After putting Brendan away, Miranda pauses to think about her brother Troy, who is the only person missing at the table where she and her family are happily eating.

Chapter 2 : Detailed Review Summary of Secret Smile by Nicci French

SECRET SMILE is just the tip of the iceberg on what could've been a much more intriguing, in-depth, story had Ms. French put more into it. What is supposed to be a gripping, sinister story is more of a suspenseful tease.

The Financial Times said it was a: Sylvie was an extraordinary person, and her unconventionality in life delivers Hugh an unexpected betrayal at the end. In order to finance his hobby and be able to travel to distant lands to inspect the underground systems in other parts of the world, he lets rooms in an old disused school building he has inherited which is close to the tube tracks in West Hampstead see Jubilee Line. There, a group of misfits and weirdos, including a squatter, gather whose dreams of the good life have time and again been shattered as they are constantly victimized by society. There is 24 year-old Alice, an aspiring musician who leaves her husband and new-born baby only to end up busking in various stations in central London. There is Tom, who, after an accident, drops out of music school and is reduced to busking as well but who dreams of one day starting his own business. There is unemployed Tina, whose promiscuity landed her with two children whom she does not take care of in the way her mother thinks she ought to. There is Jed, who volunteers as a vigilante and who, disappointed by humans, lavishes all his love on the hawk he has acquired and which he keeps in the house. And there is Axel, an enigmatic man who regularly travels on the tube in the company of a man disguised as a bear and who is planning something illegal. Cecilia and Daphne, two old ladies living in the neighbourhood, serve as a foil to this ill-assorted group. It is Cecilia in particular who does not understand how young people such as her daughter Tina can be utterly devoid of morals. She is shocked to learn that her 10 year-old grandson enjoys riding on the roof of cars as they go through deep-level tunnels. While travelling on the tube herself, her handbag containing her credit cards is stolen, and she suffers a stroke in one of the packed cars. As the author Andrea Newman said in the Sunday Express newspaper: Towards the end the tension fairly gets you by the throat. *Twins* is a superbly disturbing and uncomfortably intimate story of powerful David and gentle Michael, identical twins who share everything including the same girls. But the unnaturally strong bond between them breeds destructive passion and unbridled terror. She has survived a stroke, deliberately induced by a skilful manipulation of pressure points on the head and neck. She can see, hear and feel; she is aware of everything going on around her, but she is completely unable to move or communicate. Instead he embarks on a private investigation, ultimately finding himself torn between patriotic duty and personal honor. An intricate plot, heavy on suspense with particularly compelling characters that make it a must. Fresh pastures, here I come. Share this story, Choose your platform!

Chapter 3 : Observer review: Secret Smile by Nicci French | Books | The Guardian

Nicci French is the author of the bestsellers Secret Smile, Land of the Living, The Red Room, Beneath the Skin, and Killing Me Softly, as well as two earlier books, The Memory Game and The Safe House, both published in England to great acclaim.

As a consequence, my head is always full of questions. Where is my bag? Where is my mobile phone? Why is that man walking so close to me? This does not mean that I have an aversion to scary books. So long as the front door is locked and bolted, there is nothing I like more than a hardback with embossed gold letters and a noose on its cover. A little hot fear followed by the cooling balm of inevitable resolution. This, I think, is the best literary comfort blanket of all. The uninitiated tend to regard Nicci French, the writing team that comprises journalist Nicci Gerrard and her husband, Sean French, as an efficient machine - one whose psychological thrillers sweep into bookshops and on to bestseller lists with such deft calm that there cannot, surely, be much to choose between them. This view is not entirely unfair with time, their old plots become one big tangle, their heroines a faceless blur, but it ignores the greedy pleasure to be had in devouring each new arrival. Their great trick - and this is the reason, surely, why these books are such a hit with women - is to take the everyday and shake it up, ever so gently at first, so that it appears before the reader in unsettlingly topsy-turvy fashion. Five pages in and a certain kind of queasiness is already upon you. Secret Smile, novel number seven, is no exception. Miranda Cotton is an average kind of urban girl. She likes a drink and baked potatoes and the privacy of her flat. One afternoon, she comes home to find her fling of only a few moments, Brendan Block, reading her diary. Miranda, furious and not desperately keen anyway, throws him out. Two weeks later, her sister, Kerry, calls. She has a new boyfriend and is madly in love. As they sit in a local restaurant, Miranda scrolls through the Rolodex of her mind. No one fits the bill. First, he kisses Kerry. Then he kisses Miranda - too near her mouth. Hereafter, the twists and turns of the plot might be as predictable as the road home, but this matters not a jot. For one thing, it is so elegantly done: For another, there is pleasure in the inexorability of it all. What begins as a cloying embarrassment for Miranda ends as a kind of parasitical invasion, a feeling so visceral she wonders if she might not be going mad, especially when the rest of her family, blind and pathetically grateful, take to Brendan like dowdy brown sparrows to a monstrous cuckoo. In Secret Smile, French is not interested in the motivation of the criminal, but in survival - and this is what locates their novels so firmly in twentyfirst-century city life, where even the most dressed-down of encounters are fringed with danger and despair, particularly if you are a woman. The cuckoo in the nest - the seemingly omnipotent outsider - is a staple of fiction, both literary and genre. The lover who will not go away; the sister who cannot conquer envy; the family that is unable to manage grief. Such shadows, we may feel, are waiting to darken all our lives. Miranda is pitched unforgivingly into this blackness, but she comes out fighting.

Chapter 4 : Secret Smile (Series) - TV Tropes

Another beautiful heroine beset by another lingo in French's underimagined latest. But they do meet cute "at a skating rink where both do a lot of amiable falling down.

Chapter 5 : Secret Smile () - Rotten Tomatoes

Editions for Secret Smile: (Paperback published in), X (Paperback published in), X (Mass Market Paperback published in).

Chapter 6 : Editions of Secret Smile by Nicci French

Secret Smile by Nicci French Michael Joseph £, pp Like all city-dwelling women, I put an awful lot of energy into making sure I feel safe.

Chapter 7 : 7 Best Suspense Novels of All Time - from theinnatdunvilla.com

Buy a cheap copy of Secret Smile book by Nicci French. - Nicci French's previous novel, "Land of the Living, was published in Warner hardcover in 5/03 and has over 80, copies in print.

Chapter 8 : Secret Smile (Audiobook) by Nicci French | theinnatdunvilla.com

SECRET SMILE Nicci French. Warner, \$24 (p) ISBN Nobody does the dark underside of sex in the city better than the British couple who write as Nicci French, and their latest.

Chapter 9 : Secret Smile (ebook) by Nicci French |

Read a review of Secret Smile, Land of the Living by Nicci French at theinnatdunvilla.com This site includes reviews, excerpts, bibliography and author biography for books we recommend.