



Whispers of Goodbye

Karen White

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Revisit the beginning of *New York Times* bestselling author Karen White's signature style in one of her earliest novels—a gothic tale of a woman's desperate quest for the truth...

WHISPERS OF GOODBYE

Alone and with nothing left to fear, Catherine deClaire Reed answers her sister's desperate plea and travels to the cold comfort of her home in Reconstruction Louisiana. But Elizabeth is nowhere to be found. No one—including her husband—has seen her for days. Now, Catherine must search for her sister in a place where secrets wait behind every closed door....

Includes an exclusive preview of Karen White's next hardcover

Praise for Karen White

“There is a rhythm to the writing of Karen White. It has a pace, a beat, a cadence that is all its own.”—The Huffington Post

“The ultimate voice of women’s fiction.”—Fresh Fiction

“White’s dizzying carousel of a plot keeps those pages turning, so much so that the book can—and should be—finished in one afternoon.”—Oprah.com

“This is storytelling of the highest order: the kind of book that leaves you both deeply satisfied and aching for more.”—Beatriz Williams, *New York Times* bestselling author

Whispers of Goodbye Details

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Author : Karen White

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Elizabeth says

Karen White's second book, again reworked and republished much later than 2001 and again with a better cover like her first book written in 2000, is a story of post Civil War era. A sister writes to her younger sister to come because she is afraid. When she arrives, the sister is missing. Secrets abound and she doesn't know who to trust and thus trusts some wrong people. When her sister is found dead on her own plantation, more secrets are whispered along with voo-doo and supposed lies.

This book was not my favorite but I read it to simply learn how it ended because I like White's later works. I am not a fan of voo-doo or people being pursued or stalked.

Amy says

Don't bother with this one, especially the audio version. The reader pauses in the middle of sentences in places where there shouldn't be a pause, making the writing seem even more pretentious than it is. It is all a bit overblown and totally unrealistic.

Kathy Cooley says

The characters in this book frustrated me to no end! They were so changeable, like thunderstorms on a summer day. "I trust you...wait, no I don't, oops, yep, I do..." Yada, yada, yada. AAARRRGH! It was similar to watching a tennis match with all the back and forth. The story was fairly well plotted and hit all the right Gothic notes. I could definitely see the influence of Jane Eyre and Du Marier's Rebecca. I must say, I'm glad the author's characterizations improved in subsequent books (I've loved almost everything I've read by her) and that her cover illustrator changed (because had this book not been part of a Spinning the Moon, I would have never picked it up).

Claudia Cheyne says

This was Karen White's second novel. It contains all the elements which have made her one of my favorite authors - a strong female character who overcomes hardships, a spooky old house with servants who dish up magic potions, people who are not really who they seem to be, along with a setting in the deep South. Catherine deClaire Reed answers her sister's plea for help. But by the time she has made the trip to Elizabeth's home in Reconstruction Louisiana shortly following the Civil War, Elizabeth is missing. Cat gets mixed messages regarding her sister's disappearance. Who can she trust or believe? She remembers incidents from their years of growing up together when Elizabeth played cruel tricks on her. Perhaps she was really the unhappy, unkind person people are describing her as. Will Cat be able to get to the truth before she is murdered?

Lorna says

The cover of this book nearly put me off starting it just proving the adage about not judging books by their covers. Refreshing to read a 'different' story, built cleverly around interesting and descriptive characters. Superstition abounds in this novel which made me think about how we all have culturally instilled habits, actions and approaches to life that most of us accept without question. I enjoyed this book and would have given it another 'star' rating had I not felt ambivalent about the way in which the author created the female protagonist - really for how long can a supposedly clever woman get it wrong?

Karla Martinsen says

Just as Karen White mentioned in her Author's Note at the beginning of "Spinning the Moon" these first two stories of hers' are very much like reading the early Victoria Holt books, especially the second, "Whispers of Goodbye". I enjoyed both and am glad I could read those early 2000 and 2001 books that put her on the path of writing full time. She is indeed my favorite author.

Monica Aplin says

Reading this book was like being on a roller coaster from the very beginning. Karen White is the master of "grit lit". I am a sucker for a southern tale with relative themes and characters, and she has never disappointed. This book was so dynamic with its entanglement of mystery, romance, drama, suspense, family bonds, and shock...the perfect Southern story!

Amy says

I loved this! It's no secret that I'm a huge fan of Karen White, but knowing this was one of her first novels, I lowered my expectations going in. I needn't have worried. While some aspects of the mystery were obvious to me early in the story, the pace and atmospheric quality of the story kept me glued to my kindle for most of the day today. It rather reminded me of Jane Eyre or Rebecca crossed with Gone With the Wind. Gothic, suspenseful, romantic, an element of the supernatural... I could see that White's Tradd Street series wouldn't be much of a stretch from this starting point. A great book to curl up with for a day or so. Inclement weather outside your window would only enhance the mood further.

Kmt1944 says

One of the author's first novels. Reprinted in Spinning The Moon along with In The Shadow of the Moon. Both excellent stories and characters, but the covers of the original books should be ignored!!!!

Bonnie says

Not my favorite Karen White novel but I still like her writing style and the setting (in the south, this one specifically mentions St. Simons, GA where I've spent some time). It's an earlier work that leans more towards romance than the paranormal which I find less enjoyable. It could probably use some editing for length but I still finished it without abandoning it so that says something.

Kari says

These books are definitely binge-read worthy, but this one I didn't love. I saw the big mystery plot twists early on (which may have been part of it) but I didn't care for the romance in this one either. It didn't ring at all true leaving me feeling flat at the end of the book. I do intend to read more of White's books as this is the first that really disappointed me. Skip this one in my opinion.

Darlene says

When I first saw the cover of this paperback I thought it must be a typical paperback romance the kind that I don't care for. But since Karen White wrote it I should have known better. It's more mystery with some romance thrown in to make it interesting and it was wonderful!!!!

This is the story of 2 sisters that have always lived in each other's shadows. One beautiful but demanding and one just as beautiful but content with what she's left with. It takes place in post Civil War South, in St Simons, GA and Louisiana. When one sister sends a message to the other that she is afraid and needs her, the other sister goes to her aid. I won't go any farther but if you are lucky enough to find this book, you won't be sorry!!!!

Christen Young says

This book was *Rebecca* by Daphne Du Maurier mixed with the ghost of a fragrance of Scarlett O'Hara and quite literally almost word for word fragments of Rhett Butler's characterization of his love for his child Bonnie written in as the character John's love for his daughter who interestingly shares the same name as the famed aforementioned Du Maurier book. That being said, well written and modeled after literary masters, White's second book and second part of *Spinning the Moon* is spellbinding. I correctly predicted the outcome from the beginning and yet was still entranced and kept guessing at what twists and turns it would ultimately take to reach its destination.

Carla says

Sometimes on those rare occasions you come across a book that is so perfect, so magical, so heartbreakingly beautiful, that there are no words to describe how it made you feel. That describes this book perfectly. If you don't read anything else this year, please read these. You won't be disappointed. This, my friends, is my promise to you.

Kristin Hopper says

The book cover does not do this book justice! It was much more of a mystery and coming of age story than anything. It had the perfect amount of Voodoo and southern setting to make the book flow and highlight the time after the Civil War in Louisiana. If you like historical fiction with a plot that could be straight out of our century, this is a good choice!
