



## **The Silent Girls**

*Ann Troup*

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# The Silent Girls

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*What if everything you knew was a lie...*

This house has a past that won't stay hidden, and it is time for the dead to speak.

Returning to Number 17, Coronation Square, Edie is shocked to find the place she remembers from childhood reeks of mould and decay. After her aunt Dolly's death Edie must clear out the home on a street known for five vicious murders many years ago, but under the dirt and grime of years of neglect lurk dangerous truths.

For in this dark house there is misery, sin and dark secrets that can no longer stay hidden. The truth must come out.

Finding herself dragged back into the horrific murders of the past, Edie must find out what really happened all those years ago. But as Edie uncovers the history of the family she had all but forgotten, she begins to wonder if sometimes it is best to leave them buried.

## **The Silent Girls Details**

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Author : Ann Troup

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## From Reader Review The Silent Girls for online ebook

### Hayley says

I started reading The Silent Girls without knowing too much about it and by the time I'd read the prologue I was hooked!

The prologue is set in 1964 and describes a convicted murderer being hanged and a murder taking place on the same day. The novel then moves to thirty years later where Edie's Aunt Dolly has died and Edie has come to clear out her house. Almost immediately she walks into the middle of a group on a murder tour and being told all about the gruesome murders that had happened on the Square all those years ago. Edie shrugs it off but I was immediately on edge, yet unable to wait to find out more about this infamous Square.

Edie soon meets Sophie, a homeless young person in need of a safe place to sleep, and the two start to become friends. I loved Sophie's character. Edie is in a vulnerable place, she is going through a divorce and is dealing with the death of her aunt, and it seems that some of the people around her on the Square might not be all they appear to be, so when Sophie turned up it felt like Edie might finally have someone on her side.

The atmosphere in the novel is so claustrophobic and stifling; at times I really felt like I was inside Number 17 with Edie. Troup is such a great scene setter; I read a lot of this book during the middle of the night when I couldn't sleep and I swear I could smell the damp and rot – I could feel the sinister atmosphere and I really did feel very unsettled by some of the things in that house. The story of the house continues to unfold in such an unnerving way that I was honestly actually sat on the edge of my seat at some points!

It seems like just about everyone on Coronation Square is hiding something, some secrets being more horrific than others. I enjoyed the mystery aspects of this novel and the gradual reveal of who knew what and when. I also liked that the novel isn't really about whodunnit so much as it's a look at a mix of characters and the pasts they are trying to keep hidden, it felt refreshing and different.

This was the first book I've read by Ann Troup but I've already bought her previous novel and plan to read it very soon. I'm definitely now a fan and will be looking out for her next novel!

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### Sarah says

Many thanks to Joanne at Portobello Book Blog and the author as I won an e copy of this book in a give away over on Joanne's blog.

The Silent Girls is a wonderfully dark story that is steeped in mystery and suspense.

I have to say I loved the whole story line in this book. Coronation Square is steeped in history as the last man hanged murdered four women in the area and it is a tourist hot spot. A lot of the residents that lived there and were around at the time of the murders, still live there now.

Edie is a lovely character. When Sophie turns up at her aunts house, Edie takes pity on her and offers a roof over head in exchange for Sophie helping her clear out her aunts things. It's not long before some interesting

items turn up that brings some unwanted attention and raises questions about events from the past.

Edie and Sophie's relationship was really nice to read and I enjoyed seeing the bond between them grow. Edie is very much the mother figure wanting to look after and help Sophie whilst Sophie is very much like a highly strung teen, though her heart is very much in the right place.

The Silent Girls is a gripping read where I didn't know who to trust as most characters seemed to have a hidden agenda. As with the characters, secrets that started to be revealed were as shocking to me as they were to them.

A steady read to start with, it certainly picks up pace towards the end and I couldn't click my kindle quick enough to find out how it was all going to end.

A really enjoyable read and I can't wait to read more by the author.

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### **Kelly (purplebookstand) says**

The Silent Girls

Many thanks to Ann Troup and TBC for my copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

The Silent Girls follows Edie as she returns to Coronation Square for the first time in thirty years, to clear out her aunt's house following her death. Little did Edie know the web of secrets, lies and deceit that would be uncovered as they delved deeper into the house, and the past.

I really loved this book. I found the characters believable and the descriptions really brought them to life for me. I could picture everything, from what Lena looked like, to the houses and the square. This is an important thing for me :-) I also really liked the blossoming relationship between Edie and Sophie, and loved the mother-daughter dynamics that you could see developing between them.

I have to admit, I did guess 'who dunnit' well before the end but it didn't take away from my enjoyment of the story as there were so many other revelations that I didn't see coming! I would definitely recommend this book, even if it's not a genre you would normally go for, it's definitely worth a look, as I think it will draw you in! A solid 4\* from me ;-)

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### **Chelsea Humphrey says**

I'd like to thank Netgalley for my digital copy in exchange for a fair and honest review

4.5 stars rounded to 5!

This book was a class act; never before have I read a book with such dark subject matter that felt like such a light and breezy read. If life had not intervened I probably could have devoured this in a day or two; however, I'm glad I was forced to read this one slowly as it seemed the equivalent of a fine wine that was

better consumed in small, appreciative sips.

The plot revolves around Edie and her quest to clear out her recently deceased aunt's apartment that resembles something off of an episode of Hoarders. I won't say more than that as its spoiler central and would take away from the experience. I will say that instead of there being one giant twist at the end, there were tons of medium sized twists spaced throughout the entire story. I really liked this style of storytelling; it kept me on my toes and surprised me constantly because I assumed there could only be so many twists in one book, but I was wrong. I really found myself attached to the characters and was so sad to leave them behind after it all ended; this also surprised me as most of the characters were a detestable lot. I would highly recommend this to this looking for a suspenseful novel from multiple POVs that makes you think. I will be going back to read the author's first novel, The Lost Child, as I was impressed by her writing and humor!

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### **Rebecca says**

#### **Originally reviewed on Becca's Books.**

What a riveting second novel from the fantastic Ann Troup. The Silent Girls simmered with mystery and dark secrets, held me captive as no.17 revealed its grim history, and was peppered with twists, turns and complete circles from beginning to end. I adored Ann's debut novel with Carina UK The Lost Child and really couldn't wait to get my hands on this one. It was definitely worth the wait.

In The Silent Girls by Ann Troup, Edie is heading back to a place she hasn't visited in years. Grim, grimy and full of dust and dirt, it is nothing how she remembered it to be and, on her own, isn't looking forward to the task of gutting the house from top to bottom. It's a daunting thought to say the least but putting her best foot forward, Edie gets to it and begins to rediscover no.17 Coronation Square. Throughout her time there, she begins to become reacquainted with no.17's neighbours and characters who, while she doesn't realise it, know more about her family's past than Edie herself. It isn't long before the catches holding the secrets together so tightly begin to unlatch themselves one by one, and Edie is made aware that everything is certainly not as it seems.

If someone had handed me this book and withheld the fact that it was written by Ann Troup, I honestly believe that I would have known it was Troup's work merely by her style and delectably pleasing descriptions. From the very first page, Ann delves into the descriptions giving me a clear image of no.17 and I honestly could have been stepping into the house myself. There is something so vivid about how Ann writes. Every tiny detail touched upon, providing the reader with a crystal clear image in their mind. As a reader, I adore the details of a setting. I know not all will agree, preferring to get straight to the juicy bits of the plot, but for me, I love being able to have a perfect vision in my mind, and Troup certainly provides that. It was clear the house was in desperate need of being sorted out. From the descriptions provided by the author, it reminded me of a home held by a hoarder, with useless items piled high in corners, with Edie having no idea whatsoever of where to begin with the task ahead of her. The house felt incredibly old and decrepit to me, adding an odd sense of quietness to the plot that unnerved me. I couldn't put my finger on what it was, perhaps the fact that there was quite clearly something in the house waiting for Edie to find it. It was such a gripping way to begin Troup's second novel and as I progressed, the secrets revealed to me, as well as Edie, only heightened that unnerving feeling more.

Throughout the progression of the plot, I found myself wanting to ask questions myself to the characters, desperate for answers. I constantly felt that I was attempting to guess at what was coming but in the end, I

was wrong. There was a strange sense of foreboding as I read, made even more prominent when new characters entered the plot and engaged Edie in conversation. I had a feeling that someone from Coronation Square knew something that Edie didn't and I was second-guessing everything these characters said, trying to figure out the mystery behind no.17 for myself. Troop created a tense story for her readers and chose to reveal the secrets of that story at just the right moments. Edie's journey from not knowing to perhaps knowing more than she wanted to do was fantastic and, alongside new friends she hadn't intended on making, she begins to realise that something is seriously amiss in her surroundings.

The Silent Girls by Ann Troup was a dark novel full of mystery and questions that left me wondering about how well we really know those around us. With grim, morbid secrets, a suspicious collection of characters and a long twisting journey towards the discovery of the truth, I thoroughly enjoyed this book. It was edgy, sharp, and painful for Edie, and ultimately full of surprises that I really didn't see coming. Becca's Books is awarding The Silent Girls by Ann Troup with FOUR STARS! Believe me when I say that I am looking forward to more from this author and hope she continues to create these fantastically secretive stories that keep me guessing throughout.

Special thanks to the author for providing me with a review copy of The Silent Girls, in exchange for a fair and honest review.

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### **Kim says**

What a fantastic chilling read. A real page turner.

Edie returns to her aunts home to clear it after she dies. There were several murders in the area many years ago and the house unearths some of it's secrets. Just who around them could have been involved and did the wrong man die after being found guilty?

I loved the characters- many interesting and chilling.

I don't think I could have faced the house - it sounded an awful prospect to sort through the grime.

There are plenty of twists and unexpected turns.

With many thanks to NetGalley and the publisher for the chance to read this one in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Clare Uden Comrie says**

The first review I've ever done, after being selected by THE Book Club!

It was good.

I really enjoyed it.

I won't go into the plot, as many other reviewers have already done so.

The characters were vivid & believable, their interaction through all the intrigue was well told.

The ambience of sleazy low level criminal London was good.

The story itself twists and turns enough to keep you interested and the lack of proper criminal investigation in the 50's & 60's presents a brilliant argument against capital punishment!  
I would recommend this to all readers, it was different from most of the crime thrillers I read & big plus, its based in the UK!!!

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### **Jennifer says**

Thank you to NetGalley for my ARC.

I really enjoyed The Silent Girls. It was like a nice, slow burn in terms of story telling and the twists and turns. Psychological thrillers are my favorite genre and this did not disappoint. The subject matter is very dark, but this book reads fast!

Secrets are revealed through out the book, which is a nice change than one large reveal at the end. You can see and "feel" everything coming together and you continue to find yourself saying "NO WAY!" through out the entire story.

I do have to say that, for me, the story started out a little slow and there are a lot of characters and I kept having to remind myself who everyone was. About 80-90 pages in, the book just picks up steam and doesn't let up until the very end.

If you like family dramas with dark secrets, I would highly recommend this book.

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### **Sarah Farmer-wright says**

Goodness me!! This well written and brilliantly descriptive book is absolutely LITTERED with secrets and lies, drama and intrigue!

The story centres around Edie who has come to her aunt's filthy and dilapidated house to clear it following her death. Her aunt was found dead and alone at the bottom of the stairs and here begins the deepening and dark, murky trail on which Edie finds herself. Here she starts to discover that her family and all that she believed it to be may be very far removed from the truth.

Number 17 Coronation Square already attracts ghoulish tourists keen to learn more about its grizzly past, where 5 women were murdered and for which one man was tried and hanged. Little does Edie know how close to home it's disturbing past will come.

The story twists and turns at an increasingly rapid rate as the story comes to its chillingly shocking conclusion.

I thoroughly enjoyed this book, this is the first book written by Ann Troup that I've read and am very much looking forward to reading more from her; in fact I'm off to download her first book right now!

It's a great story and a highly recommended read! Many thanks to TBC and to the author for this ARC in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Sharon says**

thank you to TBC for the opportunity to review The Silent Girls.

Initially I thought that I was not going to enjoy this book very much, it was certainly slower paced than my usual reads, however, as I discovered it is sometimes good to step outside your comfort zone.

A house full of secrets waiting to be uncovered, Edie is tasked with the unenviable task of clearing her aunts house following her death. From her arrival on Coronation Square, it is clear that all is not what it seems and Edie is in for a few shocks as events unfold. I enjoyed the way the book was written with layers being unravelled as you read - twists and turns throughout - and I had a soft spot for Sophie as her character developed

Well written and enjoyable book and now I am going to look out for more by Ann Troup.

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### **Karen says**

4.5\*

The Silent Girls is the second novel by Ann Troup. I bought her first, The Lost Child, last year; I very much enjoyed it and was looking forward to reading this next one. I'm glad to say I haven't been disappointed and in my humble opinion The Silent Girls is even better. The story hooked me in from the beginning and it was one of those books that I sat up really late one night to finish.

Whilst her elder sister Rose is away on holiday, Edie is given the unenviable task of attending the funeral of her late aunt Dolly and clearing out her rancid and dilapidated house in Coronation Square in readiness for sale. Edie hadn't been there for over 30 years and was shocked to see how the Square itself had declined and the squalor that her aunt had been living in.

Edie's introduction to the property is marked by the attention of a 'Murder Tourist' group gathering outside. Many years before, several young women were murdered around the Square and a local man thought to be responsible was hung for the crimes. Ever since, the Square has received ghoulish attention and organised tours feed people's hunger for the lurid details.

Edie had only just started clearing the house when a young homeless girl lets herself in. Apparently Dolly used to let Sophie Hedley stay when she was in trouble. The girl has clearly taken a bit of a beating; Edie takes pity on her and lets her stay on the condition that she help with some clearing out. Whilst sorting through the rubbish, Sophie makes her own discoveries which adds to the mystery. I liked Sophie, she was streetwise and could be a bit mouthy but every now and again came out with some profoundly wise words.

There are many characters in this story, some are duplicitous and others just downright evil. Lena, the elderly neighbour seems kindly enough but does she know more than she is letting on? Edie has just come out of a bad marriage and when at her most vulnerable, isn't always able to see people's true motives. Along with Sophie, Edie was one of my favourite characters and I loved the way the relationship between them grew from wary strangers into a genuine friendship.

As the story progresses and the house gives up more of its grim secrets, Edie begins to find out more about her family than she ever wanted to know, not all of it pleasant. It does make you realise how easy it is for families to keep secrets and that lives can be built on lies.

Ann Troup is an excellent storyteller. The story flows easily and I very much enjoy her style of writing. With some dark humour, vivid descriptions and excellent characterisation, this is a story that will keep you turning the pages. There is so much mystery and intrigue surrounding this house and the family that it's hard to keep

up and if the fast placed plot doesn't keep your interest then the many twists and turns certainly will. Add into the plot, a neighbour so obsessed with the killings they have set up their own incident room, a local gangster who gets a bit too close for comfort and all the long held family secrets and lies start to gradually spill out. Very much recommended.

I received an ebook for an honest review

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### **Magdalena aka A Bookaholic Swede says**

I got the opportunity to participate in the blog tour for Anne Troup's book *The Lost Girl* last year. I liked the book so when I got the opportunity to participate in a blog tour, for her second book *The Silent Girls* did I say yes right away. And, let me tell you this book is great!

Edie is returning to Number 17, Coronation Square to clean out the house after aunt has died, but her aunt Dolly has one or two secrets hidden in the house. And, not every friendly face is trustworthy will Edie learn during the progress of the book. I like the fact that the street where Edie's aunt lived seems so normal, at first. Then, you slowly see that the street has a darker side. Of course, the murders decades back in the past has given the street a place on the map (there are even murder tours for tourists).

The pacing in the book is good, it doesn't give away all the secrets too fast and I really feel for Edie who is slowly realizing that not everything is fine. She is just there to clean out a house and suddenly the secrets from the past are being revealed and perhaps some secret should not be revealed.

This is the kind of book I love to read, with buried secrets that have been waiting to be revealed. It's a page-turner with a truly great ending. I did have some suspicions that proved to be right. But, that never bothered me. In some cases, like in this book is nice to discover that you were, after all, right. The book never gets boring. I wanted to find out what really happened all the years ago when several women were killed. Did they catch the right killer?

In the end, I just want to say that this is a great book, perfect for anyone that likes to read mystery books with people with deep dark secrets.

*Thanks to Neverland Blog Tours for providing me with a free copy for an honest review.*

Read this review and others on A Bookaholic Swede

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### **Ana says**

Originally posted on This Chick Reads

*\*Copy provided by the publisher in exchange for an honest review\**

'The Silent Girls' is the second book by Ann Troup and one I've been very much looking forward to reading. Her debut, 'The Lost Child' was published in 2015 and many of my friends loved it. I do have a copy waiting on my kindle for some time now, however after reading her second book I've decided to bump it up my huge TBR pile and read it as soon as possible.

'The Silent Girls' opens up with a rather chilly event when a man is executed because he murdered five young girls. Fast forward 30+ years and we meet Edie, who's back in Winfield, the same town these murders happened, back to Number 17, Coronation Square and the old house her aunt used to live. Families are a funny thing sometimes... sometimes things just fall apart and of course there are many reasons, but some are so dysfunctional, one can not even pinpoint what was the moment to end certain communication. Edie hasn't heard from her aunt Dolly ever since she left the house, seems she didn't even bother to keep in touch, and now 30+ years she's back in Dolly's house to clean it up and put it on sale after her aunt's death. The sad thing is no one was there for her aunt when she was dying, and Edie does feel regret about this. Seems the neighbors knew her aunt much better than her own family, seems she had loads of difficulties (money being just one of the problems), but she never told Edie or her sister, Rose about this. I guess it's just something most estranged family members do, they just don't go back to fix some things. I don't blame them, sometimes it's too painful. But I digress... Edie has a funeral to attend and make the house as much presentable for sale as she can, which is not an easy task. She gets to know Dolly's neighbors better and even makes a new friend, Sophie Hedley, a strange looking girl who seemed to crash Dolly's place whenever she needed it. Left without much of a family, seems like both Edie and Sophie are a lot more similar than what appears on the surface.

Slowly but surely after getting to know a bit of Edie, Ms Troup starts making the story more and more interesting. There's a strong connection between Edie's past and present with the murders that happened long time ago but were never forgotten by the people from Winfield. Edie and Sophie are about to discover some things, and it won't be pretty. Secrets will be revealed, the ghosts of the past will be let out... how will Edie handle the new situation?

Honestly, despite having heard nothing but praise about Ms Troup's writing, I didn't expect it to be this good. Not having read her debut, I didn't know what to expect. But let me tell you, every praise you hear about her writing, well it's completely earned! She knows how to create a dark atmosphere and pull you slowly in her fictional world, describing everything to the slightest detail, making you feel like you're part of the scene. The descriptions of the old house were so vivid, I could almost smell the decay and see it tumbling down in front of my eyes. Another plus is the amazing relationship among the characters, they are all so different yet somehow Ms Troup makes them work together, each adding to events. There weren't that many characters, but I think some new were added in the second half of the book and that might have slowed things down a bit for me.

The only thing which bothered me was the ending. I wasn't pleased with the way the book ended, it somehow left many questions unanswered and that left me confused. But other than that, it was a fantastic, gripping thriller I absolutely enjoyed. The writing is fantastic and I'm definitely looking forward (now more than ever) to reading Ms Troup's debut, and I'm going to be on a watch out for her next.

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### **Karen Mace says**

I received a copy of this via NetGalley and the publishers in return for a fair and honest review.

On Edie's return to Coronation Square little does she know what clearing out her late Aunts' house will uncover and in this book the reader is taken on quite a dark but thrilling journey as the secrets are slowly revealed.

This is Ann Troup's second book, and I have to admit to loving *The Lost Girl* so was wondering what to expect in this new story - I had nothing to worry about as the writing is again beautifully detailed to set the scenes perfectly, so I was hooked from the dark prologue back set in 1964, where we learn of John Bastin about to be hanged for the murder of 5 women.

Edie returns to Coronation Square in 2010 after her Aunt Dolly's death, and hadn't been back to the square since the 1980's when she left. She feels shame when she sees the state of the house that her Aunt had lived in seemingly alone and reluctant to take on any help from friends or neighbours. The square has become infamous with its' links to the murders back in the 1960's and the area seems to attract the wrong kind of people nowadays, much to the sadness of those who used to remember the area in happier times. Some of the neighbours remember Edie and her sister Rose so well and are pleased to see her back but not everyone is quite as keen when Edie starts clearing out the run down house.

This story is full of so many mysteries that I was gripped from start to finish and it was fascinating reading, despite the dark subjects at times. All the characters were brought to life by the author so clearly and some excellent twists which meant that some characters aren't quite as they seem!

This is the perfect definition of a page turner drama/thriller - a must read!!

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### **Myrna says**

This is my first novel by this author. It's told from various points of views. Some characters are more likable and touching than others. Did love the English slang! It was entertaining! This book is a little predictable - I suspected whodunnit - but the author did throw in some curve balls. I thought the ending was a little unsatisfying as I wanted to know more, but overall a decent read. I'm planning on reading her first book.

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