

# Under the Harrow: A Novel

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"A thriller for fans of *The Girl on the Train* and *Gone Girl*...[with] a striking, original voice all Berry's own." -The New York Times Book Review

Winner of the Edgar Award for Best First Novel

Named one of the "10 Best Mystery Books and Thrillers of the Year" by The Washington Post

Named one of the best books of the year by The Atlantic

The award-winning psychological thriller about a young woman who finds her sister brutally murdered, and the shocking incident in their past that may hold the key to finding the killer, from the author of *A Double Life*

When Nora takes the train from London to visit her sister in the countryside, she expects to find her waiting at the station, or at home cooking dinner. But when she walks into Rachel's familiar house, what she finds is entirely different: her sister has been the victim of a brutal murder.

Stunned and adrift, Nora finds she can't return to her former life. An unsolved assault in the past has shaken her faith in the police, and she can't trust them to find her sister's killer. Haunted by the murder and the secrets that surround it, Nora is under the harrow: distressed and in danger. As Nora's fear turns to obsession, she becomes as unrecognizable as the sister her investigation uncovers.

A riveting psychological thriller and a haunting exploration of the fierce love between two sisters, the distortions of grief, and the terrifying power of the past, *Under the Harrow* marks the debut of an extraordinary new writer.

Flynn Berry is a graduate of the Michener Center for Writers and has been awarded a Yaddo residency. *Under the Harrow* is her first novel. "A thrilling novel of psychological suspense...*Under the Harrow* contains similarities [to *The Girl on the Train* and *Gone Girl*] that will undoubtedly attract readers - but underneath its hard-driving, page-turning, compulsively readable narrative is a striking, original voice all Berry's own...[Her] precise sentences call to mind Hitchcock's meticulous storyboards and enrich the work with a cinematic scope." -Elizabeth Brundage, The New York Times Book Review (Editors' Choice)

"Exquisitely taut and intense. . . There's a subtle strain of Daphne Du Maurier's classic, *Rebecca*, in *Under the Harrow*. . . [But] *Under the Harrow* is such a superbly crafted psychological thriller, it deserves to be celebrated for its own singular excellence." -Maureen Corrigan, The Washington Post

"A brisk and chilling psychological study about grief, paranoia, and memory; a smart portrait of a complex sibling relationship; and, more than anything, an effective murder mystery...Berry takes some of the big social struggles that have animated the feminist movement and makes them specific and personal, exploring the rippling effects of power imbalances across individual lives. There's nothing pedantic about the taut, tricky narrative, though. Like solving the whodunit, finding the bigger meaning is simply a matter of paying attention." -The Atlantic, "The Best Books We Read in 2016"

"Flynn Berry is engaged here with the linked subjects of women, violence, and memory, in a fashion reminiscent of A.S.A. Harrison or Paula Hawkins...A slender tale full of polished, watchful prose, with an interesting kind of icy desperation in its bones." -USA Today

"Surprise-filled . . . [Flynn Berry] has written a psychological-suspense work fit to hold its own with many recent best-sellers. And she's done it with a narrator whose possible unreliability is not arbitrary but consistent with this well-wrought book's conception, thereby heightening the considerable suspense." -The Wall Street Journal

"Flynn Berry's debut novel imbues the classic murder mystery with rich emotional depth, describing Nora's anguish and grief so acutely that the reader feels the emotional impact of her loss as deeply as the desire to know who did it. The result is an investigation not just of the crime but also of the fierce, complicated love that exists between sisters." - Oprah.com, "Page-Turners You'll Devour in One Sitting"

"Mesmerizing." -The Minneapolis Star Tribune

"In prose that is economical but perfectly judged, Berry transfixes the reader . . . Rarely has the device of the unreliable narrator been used so effectively." -The Guardian

"The thriller of the summer." -Bustle

"Wickedly chilling . . . As Nora's behavior turns increasingly erratic and bizarre, she is both repellent and compelling, fascinating precisely because she is becoming so creepily unhinged. Gripping, right on through to the surprising conclusion." -The Cleveland Plain Dealer

"Psychologically intense and darkly atmospheric . . . [It] reminded me of Patricia Highsmith in its vivid style and toxic substance." -Carole E. Barrowman, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

"A startling whodunnit...haunting, atmospheric, and so very clever." -Dayton Daily News, "Favorite Fiction Titles From 2016"

"[A] skillfull, page-turning debut . . . Flynn Berry keeps you guessing up until the very end." -Real Simple

"[Under the Harrow] envelops you in its suspenseful plot from the first page. . . . It's not solely a plot-fueled thriller, though: Berry's sentences are spare and biting." -The Huffington Post

"A gripping and thoroughly detailed exploration into grief, manipulation, and jealousy. . . . The most gripping aspect isn't the typical whodunit chase; it's the ways in which Nora's simultaneous senses of loss, envy, disloyalty, and fixation make her as much a victim as a villain. If Berry can craft something this masterful right out of the gate, imagine what she'll do next time." -PopMatters

"[A] literary take on the psychological thriller." -Elle

"Psychologically intense and thrillingly page-turning . . . Vividly drawn characters and relatably complex relationships make it all the more scary as you wonder if it could happen to you." -PureWow

"This can't-put-it-down psychological thriller delves into the tenuous relationship between two women who loved each other fiercely, while also lifting the veil on how little we often know about the people we consider closest to us." -Refinery29

"This is the sort of book you will likely plow through during a single session at the beach. . . . It's deftly told, quirky, and full of small surprises." -Goop.com

"A twisty psychological thriller." -The Fort Worth Star-Telegram

"If you're a suspense lover who's looking to fill that Gillian Flynn-size void on the nightstand, Flynn Berry's debut novel, *Under the Harrow*, should do the trick." -Phoenix New Times

"*Under the Harrow* is an absorbing psychological thriller that penetrates the intricacies of grief, from the anguish of death to an arguable return to normality for the survivors. More noteworthy than the tautly woven plot, though, is Berry's captivating prose, which forces readers to question, with Nora, how well we can ever know our loved ones and, in turn, ourselves." -The Strand

"Magnificent. Flynn Berry is one heck of a story teller." -WYSO Miami

"Hitchcockian . . . A moody psychological thriller that explores sisterhood's complex mix of love and resentment." -Booklist

"A stunningly complex novel of psychological suspense, exploring the bonds of sisterly love and rivalry through the lens of two brutal acts of violence-introducing an exciting new voice to the genre." -Shelf Awareness

"[A] keenly wrought debut . . . Berry accomplishes the rare feat of making the victim come alive on the page without ever sacrificing the deep, all-encompassing loss felt by those left behind." -Kirkus Reviews

"Obsession and memory, rage and regret, power this atmospheric psychological suspense debut." -Library Journal

"A page-turner . . . that will have readers yearning to see what the mind of Flynn Berry has up next." -Suspense Magazine

"Berry's cool voice and the world it invokes are the stuff of classic crime fiction, but this is deeper than a caper-it is the story of a woman working through her stages of grief." -RT

## Book Reviews

"Once I started reading Under the Harrow, I couldn't stop. It's like Broadchurch written by Elena Ferrante. I've been telling all my friends to read it-the highest compliment. Flynn Berry is a deeply interesting writer." -Claire Messud, author of The Emperor's Children and The Woman Upstairs

"I read Under the Harrow through the night-I couldn't put it down. Berry's deft touch with atmosphere and emotion are sure to make this a stand out." -Alex Marwood, author of The Wicked Girls and The Killer Next Door

"What grabbed me by the bones and hurled me through this read-in-one-sitting novel wasn't the plot, as compelling and tenacious and suspenseful as it is. Rather, it was Flynn Berry's perfect, unrelenting prose. This is flawless storytelling." -Jill Alexander Essbaum, author of Hausfrau

"Under the Harrow is a compulsively readable and atmospheric novel that I consumed almost in one sitting. The portrayal of the two sisters is subtle, original and compelling." - Rosamund Lupton, author of Sister

"A nail-biter that fans of Gone Girl and Girl on the Train will no doubt love, Under the Harrow is swiftly carried along by a momentum of unraveling certainties that ramp up with every page, building to the end's thrilling crescendo. I loved this dark, chilling book and couldn't put it down." -Suzanne Rindell, author of The Other Typist

"Flynn Berry's writing is clear and spare yet textured and instantly immersive. You know from the get go that something is not quite right, and this sense of unease and mystery grows and grows as you discover more about Nora's complex relationship with her sister. I read Under the Harrow very quickly and when I wasn't reading it I was thinking about it." - Harriet Lane, author of Her

"Under the Harrow offers exactly the kind of voracious, absorbing, one-sitting read that readers love. Taut with suspense, it is full of insight and suffused with emotions that will move you. The central relationship between two adult sisters is a heartbreaker, the tenderness, the loyalty, and the sorrow all ringing so true." -Robin Black, author of Life Drawing

"Under the Harrow airdrops the reader into the unsettling aftermath of trauma, where shifting memories collide with obsession in a propulsive story of love, grief, and murder. Gripping and nuanced, this stylish thriller is not to be missed." -Koethi Zan, author of The Never List

## Other Books

Robertson Davies, Playwright. In this book, Susan Stone-Blackburn studies how the tastes and concerns of one of Canada's leading writers have been given dramatic expression, beginning with The King Who Could Not Dream and Benoni and ending with Question Time and Pontiac and the Green Man. She also examines how Davies' playwriting has

been influenced by the dominant tastes of his time and by the conditions under which his plays have been performed. Dealing with the plays chronologically, Stone-Blackburn reveals Davies' fondness for theatricality as opposed to realism, for mythic flavour and archetypal character, his romanticism, and his irrepressible humour.

Why he wanted it so much the play's audience is unlikely to discern without reading the novel . ... privately regards himself as a prince, there is somebody who thinks he is a frog You think of yourself as a toad under the harrow &quot; (159)."