

Chapter 1 : Jennifer McMahon (Author of The Winter People)

The Winter People was my first Jennifer McMahon book. I wanted to read it because the premise sounded pretty good, I like a spooky ghost story (if it's well written), and from what I've heard McMahon has a popular following.

The real fairy tales. Not the Disney Princesses, but tales of the dark, tales of hidden places in the forest, tales of caves and things that creep about, scratching at the windows, and making you jump. Well, have I got a book for you. On her website, this author tells how she got the initial idea for *The Winter People* from a game that her daughter imagined for them to play. She also dedicates the book to her daughter, Zella, with these words: Because one day, you wanted to play a really creepy game about two sisters whose parents had disappeared in the woods In , a woman, Sara Harrison Shea, was found dead behind her house. Her daughter, Gertie, aged 8, had been killed a short time before in a tragic accident. Sara became virtually mad with grief. It was said that Sara was seen after she died and her story became a local ghostly tale. One morning, Ruthie and Fawn wake up to find that Alice has vanished without a trace. And so our scary journey begins. This was definitely an absorbing story. It was very hard to predict what might happen. This is a mystery that certainly has some elements of horror included. And caves are involved and I felt quite claustrophobic at times. And what they might do to have a little bit more time with them. Grief can certainly almost drive a person crazy. I will be looking forward to the next book Jennifer McMahon writes and also catching up on her backlist. I think I have at least 2 or 3 more to read. And as in all fairy tales, there was bloodshed, there was loss.

Chapter 2 : The Winter People by Jennifer McMahon - Review | BookPage | BookPage

Jennifer McMahon knows how to conjure your darkest fears and nightmares pulling you deep into the forbidden, secret world of The Winter People." —Chevy Stevens, author of Always Watching " The Winter People blends the anguish of loss and the yearning for connection into one great story, well told." —Kate Alcott, author of The.

Its desolate, snow-covered Vermont setting will transport you to a world of ghostly secrets, the suspenseful supernatural narrative will keep you turning the pages, and the spell-binding tale of love and loss will be sure to provoke a stimulating conversation. Read on for a special book club discussion prompt from the author! The Winter People alternates between the past and the present, but in both storylines the relationship between a mother and a daughter is essential. What inspired you to explore this theme? In the present-day storyline, a daughter is in search of her mother, and in the past, a mother is in search of her daughter. Although in my life the level of loss has never reached the extremes it does in *The Winter People*, I certainly can identify with being both a daughter longing for her mother and being a mother who is almost scared by the intensity of her love for her daughter. This question foreshadows some of the more shocking developments in the novel. Can you talk about its significance—without any big spoilers, of course! I feel like children her age are full of these bits of accidental insight, and I loved Sara spending time under the covers with her, listening to her and learning from her. Without giving away too much, it asks us what we might hold onto, and take with us as we transition from one form to another. If there was a way to bring someone back, would you do it, no matter what the consequences might be? *The Winter People* takes place in the remote and eerie town of West Hall, Vermont—surrounded by spooky forests and teeming with strange folktales. How does setting function in ghost stories, and yours in particular? So much of the success of a good ghost story rides on creating a creepy atmosphere; details of the landscape itself can help create a sense of dread. The decision to set the book in the winter was also an important one—I tried to use the starkness and isolation of winter in rural New England to its fullest. You shared a few of your favorite ghost stories with us a while back, so we know you love the genre. But what draws you to write in it? Does your next work feature elements of the supernatural? I absolutely love writing about the things that scare me, the things that keep me up at night. Perhaps because so many things do scare me, and this is my subconscious way of trying to exercise some control over things that go bump in the night! My next book, *The Night Sister*, does indeed have some scary—and perhaps supernatural—elements. It takes place at a roadside motel in rural Vermont. There are lots of dark family secrets, strange disappearances, and a girl who comes to believe that her supposedly perfect, beautiful sister may actually be a terrible, shape-shifting monster.

Chapter 3 : The Winter People by Jennifer McMahon (, Paperback) | eBay

"Jennifer McMahon is a writer of exceptional talent, and The Winter People is a hypnotic, gripping and deeply moving thriller. With her beautifully drawn characters and complex, layered, and painfully suspenseful story, McMahon has woven a dream from which I didn't want to wake and couldn't have even if I wanted to."

West Hall, Vermont, has always been a town of strange disappearances and old legends. The most mysterious is that of Sara Harrison Shea, who, in , was found dead in the field behind her house just months after the tragic death of her daughter, Gertie. Alice has always insisted that they live off the grid, a decision that suddenly proves perilous when Ruthie wakes up one morning to find that Alice has vanished without a trace. But she may be the only one who can stop history from repeating itself. Open the first few pages and you are swept into a swift, dark current of unfolding events that will hold you enthralled. Much more than a spooky mystery of murder and mayhem, *The Winter People* blends the anguish of loss and the yearning for connection into one great story, well told. I told myself that, too. But I was whistling past a graveyard—or, in this case, past a Vermont landscape that is authentic and recognizable and still altogether chilling. *The Winter People* is terrifying—everything you could want in a classic ghost story. I will never look at the woods behind my home in the same way again! Jennifer McMahon knows how to conjure your darkest fears and nightmares, while entertaining you with a clever, twisty plot that winds around and around, pulling you deep into the forbidden, secret world of *The Winter People*. She gave me the set-up: I tell you our parents are missing. What happened to them? Fast forward to a couple of years ago. Mary Todd was grief-stricken, but claimed the boy visited her after death. Something clicked and I decided I would write a book about a woman who becomes a spiritualist in Vermont at the turn of the century. Then, one day, I was writing from the point of view of my turn-of-the-century character, Sara. And I wrote down this line: The first time I saw a sleeper, I was nine years old. I thought, getting chills. And I had to keep writing to find out, to let Sara tell me her story.

Chapter 4 : Book Review: The Winter People - Printcess

"Jennifer McMahon is a writer of exceptional talent, and The Winter People is a hypnotic, gripping and deeply moving thriller. With her beautifully drawn characters and complex, layered, and suspenseful story, McMahon has woven a dream from which I didn't want to wake" and couldn't have even if I wanted to." —Lisa Unger, author of *In the*

Something about reading a spooky mystery in October really appealed to me this year, so I just went for it. Set in the fictional town of West Hall, Vermont, the story takes place both in and in the present day. The storyline centers around Sara Harrison Shea, who has just lost her beloved daughter Gertie and is in the deepest throes of grief. When Sara is little, Auntie writes down and seals the instructions for how to wake the dead, specifying that Sara should not break the seal until she needs to. I think you can imagine when Sara needs that ability. When their homey, hippie, dependable mom disappears one day, Ruthie and Fawn take it upon themselves to figure out what might have happened to her. In the process, they uncover secrets about their house, their family, and Sara Harrison Shea. There is a barren, eerie atmosphere to this book. Lots of snow, silence, woods. Scrabbling sounds in the closet. A disturbing, off-putting sensation permeates the entire thing, and I had an increasing sense of alarm and confusion as I got closer to the end. This, to me, marks great writing. Experiencing every bump, scratch, and shadow right along with the characters, panicking at the disappearance of little Gertie, feeling a sense of dread at the closed and boarded closet door. There is one scene with a plate being dragged into the closet, and for some reason it was as vivid, mesmerizing, and horrifying as if I were watching it on a screen. Grade A, chilling stuff. At least to a wimp like me. I was honestly a little disappointed by the ending. Once the truth of the situation was revealed and everything fell into place, nothing was quite as scary as it originally seemed. The good thing, though, is that the creepiness and chilling beauty of the first three quarters of this book more than make up for the neat ending. I might be a relative horror literature newbie, but I know good writing when I read it. Anyone who likes eerie, atmospheric books.

Chapter 5 : Book Review "The Winter People" by Jennifer McMahon "Go Ahead, Read My M

Jennifer McMahon is the author of nine novels, including the New York Times bestsellers The Winter People and Promise Not to Tell. She graduated from Goddard College and studied poetry in the MFA writing program at Vermont College.

Chapter 6 : The Winter People - Jennifer McMahon - Google Books

A peaceful Vermont village turns creepy in this tale of the dead returning to life. Sara Harrison Shea's precious daughter, Gertie, dies in during a harsh and unforgiving winter in which her mother and father, Martin, struggle to keep food on the table.

Chapter 7 : THE WINTER PEOPLE by Jennifer McMahon | Kirkus Reviews

A Boston Globe Best Book of the Year. West Hall, Vermont, has always been a town of strange disappearances and old legends. The most mysterious is that of Sara Harrison Shea, who, in , was found dead in the field behind her house just months after the tragic death of her daughter.

Chapter 8 : The Winter People - Book Reviews - Jennifer McMahon

I'm the author of seven suspense novels, including Promise Not to Tell, The Winter People, and most recently, The Night Sister. I live in central Vermont with my partner and daughter, in an old Victorian that some neighbors call The Addams Family house.

Chapter 9 : The Winter People - Summary Guide - Book Club Discussion Questions

"The first time I saw a sleeper, I was nine years old." Best-selling author Jennifer McMahon (Promise Not to Tell) opens her new novel, The Winter People, with a sentence that offers a tantalizing glimpse of the horrors to come in this marvelously creepy page-turner. Set in on a rural farm in.