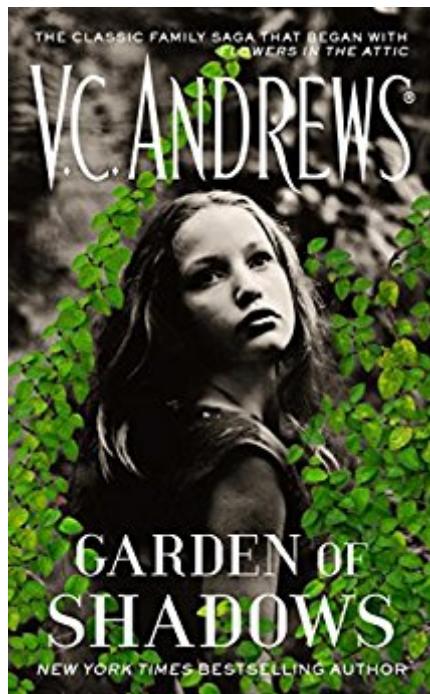


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Garden Of Shadows (Dollanganger Book 5)



Synopsis

Olivia dreamed of a sun-filled love, a happy life. Then she entered Foxworth Hall...V.C. Andrews' thrilling new novel spins a tale of dreadful secrets and dark, forbidden passions -- of the time before Flowers in the Attic began. Long before terror flowered in the attic, thin, spinsterish Olivia came to Virginia as Malcolm Foxworth's bride. At last, with her tall handsome husband, she would find the joy she had waited for, longed for. But in the gloomy mansion filled with hidden rooms and festering desires, a stain of jealous obsession begins to spread...an evil that will threaten her children, two lovely boys and one very special, beautiful girl. For within one innocent child, a shocking secret lives...a secret that will taint the proud Foxworth name, and haunt all their lives forever!

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Customer Reviews

Somewhere along the line, the Flowers In The Attic series lost its luster. The original is a classic tale of horror and betrayal, still shocking to this day. Its sequel, Petals On The Wind, seemed appropriate in that it answered that question all good books leave one asking: "I wonder what happened next?" And who didn't want to find out not only how these children survived in the outside world, but in what way they lashed out at those who had harmed them? Books three and four - If

There Be Thorns and Seeds Of Yesterday, respectively - were... well, less interesting would be a kind way of putting it. In fact, many a reader got to the midway point of Seeds and couldn't help but be struck by a sense of "been there, read that." And perhaps that was, in part, the point of the book: To show that no matter what Cathy and Chris did, the horrors of the attic would haunt their minds and influence their actions. It's not surprising, therefore, that many readers probably opted to pass on the fifth installment, Garden of Shadows. How sad for them! In what would later become a hallmark of the typical VC Andrews series - and continue with the books written by the far-less talented ghost writer in the wake of her death - the final book in the series is, in fact, a prequel, giving us a glimpse into the life of Olivia - aka the mean, awful, hateful grandmother from Flowers In The Attic - and allowing us to better understand her actions. As would also become a tradition in the VC Andrews novels, this book also reveals a final, shocking twist which allows readers to see the entire series in a new light. How well written is Garden of Shadows? Well, a friend who was not familiar with the works of VC Andrews read this book before reading Flowers in the Attic.

Absolutely Riveting! Although Garden of Shadows was the last book written in the series of the Dollanganger family, it is the prequel to Flowers in the Attic therefore it was the first book I read in the series. Having seen the movie Flowers in the Attic, many times, there were a lot of questions I had. Well, Garden of Shadows answered my questions ten times over and left me with my eyes wide open (and probably my jaw dragging the floor). Once I started reading I found it hard to put the book down. Sometimes I would read it until my eyes watered. It shows how Olivia goes from being a sad child/teenager growing up without her mother, to being a hopeful and seemingly sweet teenager with dreams of her own to being one of the most wicked people you've ever known. It's symbolic how she relates life to her dollhouse in the glass case with the perfect family of untouchable, porcelain people inside because once she moved into Foxworth Hall, that's how her life was; not perfect but untouchable. This book portrayed how the one person Olivia came to depend on, who she thought would be the light of her life, the one who would turn her otherwise gray life bright, had the exact opposite affect. It portrayed how one man can have so much more than others but still want so much more and will walk over anyone and anything to get it. It also shows Olivia's devotion to Malcolm even when she could have easily walked away. The detail in the book made me see everything exactly the way it was supposed to be. I felt as if I was living everything the characters in the book lived. The way the narrator described the house, each room, each piece of furniture (down to the rugs), each character, their clothing, their expressions and what they were feeling was all so real.

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