



The House We Grew Up In: A Novel

By Lisa Jewell

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The House We Grew Up In: A Novel By Lisa Jewell

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER ● *USA TODAY* BESTSELLER ● *WALL STREET JOURNAL* BESTSELLER

OUR HOUSE. OUR FAMILY. OUR SECRETS.

Meet the picture-perfect Bird family: pragmatic Meg, dreamy Beth, and towheaded twins Rory and Rhys, one an adventurous troublemaker, the other his slighter, more sensitive counterpart. Their father is a sweet, gangly man, but it's their beautiful, free-spirited mother Lorelei who spins at the center. In those early years, Lorelei tries to freeze time by filling their simple brick house with precious mementos. Easter egg foils are her favorite. Craft supplies, too. She hangs all of the children's art, to her husband's chagrin.

Then one Easter weekend, a tragedy so devastating occurs that, almost imperceptibly, it begins to tear the family apart. Years pass and the children have become adults, while Lorelei has become the county's worst hoarder. She has alienated her husband and children and has been living as a recluse. But then something happens that beckons the Bird family back to the house they grew up in—to finally understand the events of that long-ago Easter weekend and to unearth the many secrets hidden within the nooks and crannies of home.

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Editorial Review

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Lorelei Bird raised her four children and husband in a happy, picturesque home in the Cotswolds in England. So how is it that she ended her life starving, alone, and surrounded by junk? Jewell cleverly frames the destruction of the Bird family with Lorelei's last communications, e-mails with a man she met online. As Lorelei opens up about her messy life, her three surviving children narrate their struggles with adulthood. All of their reminiscences eventually come back to Lorelei's meticulously planned, stringently unchanging Easter Sundays, particularly the one where her youngest son, Rhys, a strange and lonely 16-year-old, hanged himself. He left no note, and as the story of this fractured family unfolds, the truth eventually comes out. Jewell deftly balances present-day funeral planning with revealing, increasingly explosive revelations from the past. Just when you think this family can't endure anymore, the father is moving onto a Spanish commune with the mother of his granddaughter. This is an absolute page-turner as all of the surviving Birds make their uncertain way back to the house they grew up in. --Susan Maguire

Review

"Clever, intelligent, and believable on a subject few of us really understand. Lorrie is one of the most vivid—and complex—characters I've read in years. Wonderful." (Jojo Moyes, author of *Me Before You*)

"You'll be desperate to find out what messed this family up so badly." (Sophie Kinsella, author of *Shopaholic to the Stars*)

"A dramatic look at siblings, parents, and hoarding." (Redbook)

"...prose so beautiful that it glitters on the page. Lisa Jewell lays down piece after piece of mosaic, revealing the heart of the Bird family, filled in equal measure with love and loss. Unforgettable." (Jo-Ann Mapson, author of *Solomon's Oak*, *Finding Casey*, and *Owen's Daughter*)

"Lisa Jewell's quixotic Bird family functions like an operatic ensemble—each voice distinct, each singing its heart out, seemingly oblivious to the others. Yet somehow by the end of this engrossing, beautifully crafted novel, their separate stories will draw them back together, reminding us that, however hard we struggle against them, family ties are not easily undone." (Judith Ryan Hendricks, author of *Bread Alone*)

"This richly rendered family saga is populated with such compelling characters and told in such luscious, insightful prose, that a singular tragedy is made universally relatable. You won't be able to stop thinking about it long after the book is over." (Jessie Sholl, author of *Dirty Secret*)

"A gorgeous, powerful, affecting tale of a family both ordinary and extraordinary. Lisa Jewell is a wonderful storyteller, and *The House We Grew Up In* grips you from the first page to the last. I'm afraid to say it made me neglect both my children and my husband. The Bird family might be dysfunctional, but I was strangely sorry to leave it." (Anna Maxted, author of *Getting Over It* and *Running In Heels*)

"Jewell cleverly frames the destruction of the Bird familyan absolute page-turner." (Booklist)

About the Author

Lisa Jewell was born and raised in north London, where she lives with her husband and two daughters. She is

the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, and *USA TODAY* bestselling author of twelve novels, including *The House We Grew Up In* and *The Third Wife*. To find out more, visit [Facebook.com/LisaJewellOfficial](https://www.facebook.com/LisaJewellOfficial), or follow her on Twitter @LisaJewellUK.

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Mary McCollum:

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Lewis Wade:

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Frank Arnett:

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Ryan Harrison:

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