

The Perfect Liar by Thomas Christopher Greene

4 stars

A slow burner.....

Susannah is married to Max, and they live in a sleepy Vermont town with her 15-year-old son, Freddy, from her earlier marriage to Joseph. Life seems idyllic, but both Susannah and Max have secrets they have hidden from one another. Everything runs smoothly in their outwardly successful lives until an anonymous note is pinned to their front door. Someone else knows their secret but who is it and which particular secret do they know?

The storyline jogs along in an even and smooth fashion, much like most of our own lives. Nothing particularly remarkable happens, and the most angst in the couple's life is caused by the rapidly developing teenage son. Under the surface, though there is a tension in both the lives of the main protagonists and the author allows this to build very gradually until it's obvious that something will reach a breaking point.

I especially liked the way T C Greene does not pander to the lowest common denominator of the reader and, instead, uses vocabulary and language which is beautifully well crafted. The dialogue, too, is credible and convincing. The list of characters is sparse but the book benefits from this, and I mainly took to the female detective. The plot would make an excellent TV series if handled sympathetically.

My only criticism (and it's a small one) is that the ending was a little tame and predictable – after all this is a story about two fundamentally selfish and egotistical individuals. I haven't previously read any of this author's other works but will now take time to seek them out.

mr zorg

Breakaway Reviewers received a copy of the book to review.