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Shattered Secrets (The Secret Trilogy Book 3)



Synopsis

Victorian Romance Scarred from a terrible accident, Lucas Stanby swore never to return to England. But his brother's murder forces him home ten years later as the new Earl of Berkmond and guardian of his two young nieces. As the local vicar's daughter and a childhood friend, Moira Dorsey naturally set aside her hopes of a family of her own to care for the earl's daughters. Lucas's return makes it impossible for her to remain since he broke Moira's heart years ago, but the girls have other ideas. Lucas realizes he needs Moira to keep his personal demons at bay as well as deal with two rambunctious girls. He offers Moira a marriage of convenience, hoping to keep his dark secret, aware he's too broken to be the husband she deserves. Moira discovers Lucas's cold demeanor hides deep scars but glimpses of the boy she loved give her hope. She counters his proposal, asking for a babe of her own, wanting Lucas to see he's not the monster he believes. Unable to deny his growing feelings, Lucas agrees, but his past disrupts their second chance at love, dragging Moira and the girls into danger. He soon realizes he must share his terrible secret with Moira and risk losing her forever in order to stop the villain who threatens them all.

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Customer Reviews

I enjoyed the first 90% of this book. The plot is a bit different and you have to suspend your disbelief to accept the WMD premise of the villainous plot but that's okay - at least it was creative. It moved at a good pace and the main characters were both sympathetic, intelligent, likable and not hysterical or whiny. At the 90% point however the heroine does something incredibly stupid which is actually out of character with her previous behavior. She is a smart woman who does something dumb to create the climactic confrontation and the circumstance for the hero to realize how much he loves her. The conflict could have been created without making the heroine stupid. I really don't like authors making women do dumb things to show how "feisty" she is and so the heroes can rescue them. This is the third book in a three book series but you don't have to read the first two to understand it. There is plenty to fill in the back story of the heroes two friends and their shared experience at the heart of the all the stories.

Loved this latest historical romantic suspense! I have been waiting for this third book in the Secret trilogy and it was so worth the wait! I love trilogies where the characters you love from other books show up again and it was so fun to see my favorites from *Passionate Secrets* and *Unraveling Secrets* make appearances. I love marriage of convenience stories and Lucas was a total swoon-worthy hero. I adored Moira and her determination to help. This one had it all: steamy romance, a hot hero with secrets to hide, and suspense. Great read- I loved it!!

Well, I've been in love with this series from the start, and I'm so sad it's the end. So sad. Lucas Stanby, the new Earl of Berkmond, has been in Brazil, trying to live with his ailment - an aura reading ability. But now he must return to England to square away his new responsibilities as earl. Awaiting him is his childhood love, Moira Dorsey. They've known each other almost all their lives, but when Lucas had an accident while at university, which gave him his aura reading skills, he'd thought he was too much trouble to deal with and rejected Moira, thinking it was better for her. All those years Moira had secretly been in love with him, and soon enough they have to meet again, to which Lucas eventually has a business arrangement for her. She accepts. (Can you tell I'm trying very hard to not give away any spoilers? :) I hope I'm not sounding too vague.) They must spend a lot more time together, which means they both fall hopelessly back in love with each other. But what can either of them do with their love? I loved reading more about Lucas, since his aura reading ability was quite severe and my heart squeezed for him throughout this book. I liked Moira too; she seemed sweet and loyal. Although I was impatient to find out how this book ended and how the characters were to overcome an evil scientist, which it did so brilliantly, I was so

sad when I finished. May have to reread it!

Romance at it's best here. Lucas and Moira's story is so poignant. It's 'the one who got away' story, or maybe it's like 'beauty and the beast' only with a twist. Because Lucas and Moira have a past. They didn't just grow apart, they were torn apart by a terrible accident that changed Lucas forever, and in his mind the accident turned him into an unfit and dangerous monster. He's too messed up on the inside with the emergence of a secret power that comes with the ability to see someone's impending death. On the outside, he's also now disfigured. Though at sixteen, Moira declared her love to Lucas, he rejected her and ran to Brazil to hide his secrets, to keep her safe, and to try to forget as well as avoid all people thus avoid his torturous ability. Luckily he rescued Tiago, (and can we talk about how Tiago needs his own story because he's sexy alpha and a perfect friend for Lucas). Anyhow, Lucas returns for reasons of honor and duty--he is now ward to his orphaned, trouble making nieces, and these two capture his heart as he realizes he's never let go of his love for Moria. She also, can't deny her love or extreme attraction to Lucas. The mystery and suspense in the story is tension filled and you turn pages hoping for more kisses as well as to discover the reasons behind the accident that still needs to be solved and hopefully, finally set Lucas free. But even so, Lucas has to believe he can be loved, despite the fact that the changes that occurred to him after the accident (and the deaths and pain it all caused and the guilt and fears he feels) can't be reversed. But with a love like Moria's and the promise of a family in the way his nieces love him unconditionally...it can possibly be more than he ever dreamed. A great, romantic story.

When I saw Lana Williams's latest Shattered Secrets was released, I needed to go and grab it. It's the beautiful conclusion of The Secret Trilogy. Ms. Williams nicely blended her charming characters Moira and Lucas, into a well developed plot filled with mystery and danger. Love the two cute little darlings named Addie and Amelia. Those two really added a certain charm to the story. Some situations were so cute and funny! It tells the romantic story of Lucas, who had sworn to never return to England, after having been scarred by a terrible accident. But destiny had other plans for him! Suddenly, after an absence of ten years, he is forced to come back to be the guardian of his late brother's two little angels. Enters Moira, the vicar's daughter, who had been Lucas's childhood sweetheart! With time, Moira had become very attached to the little girls as they were her own. But, when he enters her life again, she has mix feelings about him! As he changed? Does she still love him? To make matters worse, he offers her a marriage of convenience for the sake of the girls. But, Lucas is a wounded soul and is hiding a dark secret, will they ever be happy? Will his past put Moira

and the little girls in danger? Will he be able to protect them? Will they finally get a second chance to fall in love? Just follow their romantic story!! I truly enjoyed Shattered Secrets and strongly recommend it to lovers of Victorian romances. A real page turner that kept my interest until the end!

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