



## **The Pool House**

*Tasmia Perry*

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# The Pool House

Tasmina Perry

**The Pool House** Tasmina Perry

*Someone lied. Someone died...*

**This dark, twisting novel from the *Sunday Times* bestselling author Tasmina Perry will keep you on the edge of your seat. Perfect for everyone who's been gripped by Showtime TV's *The Affair*, Adele Parks' *The Stranger In My Home* and J. P. Delaney's *The Girl Before*. 'Gripping... Great pace and brilliantly written. I loved it' *Daily Mail* on *The House on Sunset Lake***

When you're invited to spend summer in the Hamptons with a group of new friends, you agree - who wouldn't? But then you realise you're taking the place of another woman, a woman who died in mysterious circumstances, just the summer before. Your housemates tell you her death was an accident. But which of them has something to hide?

## The Pool House Details

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Author : Tasmina Perry

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# From Reader Review *The Pool House* for online ebook

## Cressida McLaughlin says

Great book! Sizzling and engrossing and full of secrets. I liked the wrong guy, as always!

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## Syeda Sumayya Tariq says

3.5 stars.

I have mixed thoughts about this one, so I'm just gonna untangle my thoughts, and divide them into positives & negatives in this review, to make it easy for myself & everyone else out there reading this :)

### Positives

Page turner for sure, a moderate thriller with an okay pace and gripping till the last page. What makes this different from other thrillers out there is a very deep & rare insight into human nature of all sorts. A hunger for wealth & power, a greed to climb to the top of the ladder, love, protectiveness, jealousy, honesty & high morals, will to survive & never give up. It's impressive how the author managed to capture all these in minute details and more, I could see the weak sides of the psychopaths, liars, cheaters, & killers, and almost feel a sympathy towards them, which in my opinion is not an easy thing to convey to the reader.

### Negatives

What irked me most was too many descriptive sexual encounters, I mean I understand the setting of the story, but spare me the details, it just left a bad after taste. Also, I don't think people who are already too much filthy rich gasp & go wide eyed at the show of more richness, and they're certainly not the ones to confess to their crimes & misdeeds at the snap of a finger. The ending was just, but a bit too cliched, I could see it coming from a mile.

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## Yolanda Sfetsos says

I received a copy of this book from Hachette Australia last year. I didn't know anything about it and had never read anything by this author, but the mysterious blurb caught my attention so I added it to my TBR pile.

After reading several disappointing YA books this week, I wanted a change of pace. To give something totally different a go, so I picked this up. And I'm excited to say that I was instantly hooked.

Jem and Nat Chapman are a young married couple from London, now living in New York City. Nat's career took them across the world and he's earning quite a bit of money, but Jem hasn't found a job yet. She feels lonely most of the time because she hasn't made any friends and her husband is always busy attending work parties.

So when they get the opportunity to rent a beach house in the Hamptons with several other wealthy couples, Nat convinces Jem it'll be good for them. Jem is worried about the cost, but the prospect of meeting new

people and spending time on the beach is enough to make her agree.

Now they're surrounded by ambitious professionals who are full of ideas for Jem, the new friendships she craves, and beautiful scenery during the weekends. Even more exciting is when she meets a well-known author and he piques her curiosity about the woman who died last summer, in the house she's enjoying so much.

What was labelled an accidental drowning might have been something else, but investigating could alienate her from this new lavish lifestyle...

Yikes. This book turned out to be *totally* addictive. From the moment I started, I had trouble putting it down.

Not only is Jem's POV super interesting, but it was a nice surprise to find Alice's POV interwoven into the main story. The *This Summer* and *Last Summer* sections complemented each other so well, they both slowly revealed the mystery at the heart of the story at the perfect pace.

There were a LOT of things that make this book so interesting. The way NYC always seems claustrophobic, hot, rainy and crowded. The way the Hamptons comes across as expansive, relaxing, warm and lavish. The portrayal of the secrets rich couples try so hard to conceal from others, and even each other. How each character shows how easily it is to lose themselves to the many illusions money can so easily buy.

Wow. Just wow. So many screwed-up situations are featured in this story, but the way everything was presented captivates the reader all the way through.

I also have to mention that although this is a long and meaty book, it never once got boring. This author knows how to use every single word to tell an intriguing and somewhat messed-up story.

Oh, and I loved the chemistry between Jem and Michael. :)

*The Pool House* is a book that totally surprised me. It's a drama about sex, lies and secrets, with a twist of suspense so thick I wanted to keep turning the pages because I was drowning in everything that was developing. It's also an amazing mystery that presents a lot of breadcrumbs leading to so many suspects you're left wondering who it could possibly be.

And the best thing? Reaching The End is SO worth it. Everything makes perfect sense, and reveals the strength of a woman pushed to her limits as she attempts to get justice for someone she never met at the expense of her own life.

Loved it!

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## **Roman Clodia says**

3.5 stars

Perry is a bit of a mixed author for me: a couple of her books have been perfect frothy escapism, others have felt flat, formulaic and unfinishable. Luckily, this is in the first category, essentially chick-lit with a mild mystery added in about what happened to Alice last summer.

We do have to accept that our heroine Jem is dumb enough not to see things about her husband and marriage that are quite clear to us from the start, and the romance at the centre of the book lacks credible chemistry.

Nevertheless, with glamorous locations (New York, the Hamptons), possibly dodgy new friends, murder, lies and secrets, this keeps the pages turning pleurably when you want something that is unashamedly mindless fun.

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### **Kirsty says**

loved seeing how the story unfolded

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### **Bookread2day says**

Review by Suzanne [www.ireadnovels.wordpress.com](http://www.ireadnovels.wordpress.com) Twitter@favouritenovels A must buy must read If you love reading Jackie Collins books then your love Tasmina Perry. What to look forward to reading The Pool House is that it truly is a page turning story with the facts that someone lied and someone died. Just like Jackie Collins used to write about lavish houses with rich people and of course sometimes there was a murder in her books Tasmina Perry creates the same glamour and tension. Every summer a group of rich friends stayed in a beautiful beach house with a pool in the Hamptons. It was widely known with rich that in the Hamptons this was where the best parties were held . The story centres around Alice who was married to David and after leaving a party in the Hamptons she was found dead in the pool at the beach house. A few later when a group of friends are staying at the beach house Jem becomes besotted with finding out why and how Alice died in the pool. Jem is soon to discover that there are many secrets that Alice had when she was alive. Nat Jem's husband had met Alice once at a party. So much of Nat's life was a mystery to her. I loved every page and became glued to story involving why and how Alice died. I was hooked into every tiny detail about her life and secrets. I recommend this adorable story with the most fantastic characters bold as life and where everyone seems to be hiding something.

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### **Mackenzie says**

Song for summary: Secrets by OneRepublic

An intriguing read! The characters are deceitful, power-hungry, and secretive; while the plot is a riveting mystery, with just the right amount of curiosity, drama, and suspense to keep you entertained all the way to the end. This was my first book by this author, and I have to say that I absolutely loved it! I will definitely be keeping a lookout for more Tasmina Perry!

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### **Susan says**

Jem and Dan Chapman have moved from London to New York, as Dan has a job at an associate editor on a

man's fashion magazine. Initially excited at the move, Jem misses her work in catering and is unable to find a job in the city. She is lonely and bored and so is happy when Dan suggests they take the offer of a beach house share in the Hamptons. It is expensive, but they would be sharing with three other couples – Todd and Angela, Joel and Erica and Paul and Rebecca. All beautiful, successful people and Jem is keen for the company. Dan, though, ambitious and keen, is more interested in the chance to network, while Jem initially feels out of her depth.

When Jem asks how the room in the house became free, she hears that there was a tragic accident the previous summer. Alice, who used to stay with her husband, David, had drowned in the pool. Then Jem meets a famous author, Michael Kearney, who is interested in investigating what he feels may have more than an accident. Kearney offers Jem a part time job as his assistant, and asks her to look into the matter with him, as she is so perfectly placed to do so.

This novel alternates between this summer, and Jem's investigation into Alice's death, and last summer, with Alice's story. The author has a difficult task on her hands in some ways, as most of the characters are fairly unsympathetic – they are self obsessed, money oriented, secretive and dismissive. This is a story of secrets, rejection, betrayal, competition and jealousy, with Jem beginning to understand that while everything in the Hamptons looks picture perfect, it is not necessarily a lifestyle she cares for. Meanwhile, she is becoming distant from Dan, who throws himself whole heartedly into improving his 'brand' and trying to climb the career ladder. This is an ideal beach read and is full of glamour, intrigue and an enjoyable, light thriller, in a fascinating setting which is improved by Jem seeing it as something of an outsider.

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## **Thebooktrail says**

### **Dip your toes into this one!**

Visit the Hamptons

I'm very glad to have dipped my toe into this pool and sit in this pool house. Tasmina Perry has done it again with a picture perfect setting with a dark cloud hanging over it. A book set in the Hamptons deserves to be read sitting in the sun, sunglasses on, cocktail at the ready. You know, just to feel the part. It's the playground of the rich and famous or the rich and devious if this novel is anything to go by. Deliciously sunny fun!

It's not all glitz and glamour though as Jem finds out and the facade of it all starts to dull very quickly. Once she finds out about the secret of the pool house, secrets and lies come flooding out.

It was fascinating to see this secretive world come apart like this and to see it through Jem's eyes since she is the outsider we all are. I felt myself screaming at her at times though to just talk to a certain someone, ask them something as I was sure she was nearly getting to the truth but not quite. Michael Kearney, a fading writer was an interesting character who I wasn't quite sure what to make of him at first. A fiction writer wanting to delve into true life mystery? My ears pricked up at that!

The dual summer before and present day was nicely done and well those lies and secrets just kept a coming.

There's some surprises, some unexpected sexy liaisons and well let's just say if that's what money can buy, I'd rather not thanks. But it's a whole lot of fun finding out how the other half might live and play!

There's something very exciting and enticing about a mystery of a pool house set somewhere sexy that turns out to be anything but. A great read for the summer with plenty to have you choking on your cocktail. But you won't regret it!

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## **Sharon says**

Book reviewed for Netgalley and Hachette Australia

### Story Outline:

Someone lied. Someone died...

This dark, twisting novel from the Sunday Times bestselling author Tasmina Perry will keep you on the edge of your seat. Perfect for everyone who's been gripped by Showtime TV's *The Affair*, Adele Parks' *The Stranger In My Home* and J. P. Delaney's *The Girl Before*. 'Gripping... Great pace and brilliantly written. I loved it' Daily Mail on *The House on Sunset Lake*

When you're invited to spend summer in the Hamptons with a group of new friends, you agree - who wouldn't? But then you realise you're taking the place of another woman, a woman who died in mysterious circumstances, just the summer before. Your housemates tell you her death was an accident. But which of them has something to hide?

### My Review:

The story starts the night of Alice's death from that moment I was hooked. When reading a book I try to relate to one of the characters, I was drawn to Jem because like her I wanted to know what happened to Alice. The reader knows from the start Alice was not alone when she died. Someone was there whether they were responsible for her death or if it was just an accident and who was it are questions left hanging in the air.

I was totally enthralled in the storyline trying to figure out who had been with Alice on the night she died as the evidence came to light. As it unfolded I kept going backward and forwards from one character to the next thinking, they were the one but each time I was incorrect. In the finish, I had no idea who the person was that had gone to speak to Alice. I was surprised by who but not why when the killer was finally revealed.

I really enjoyed switching from Jem's summer at the beach house to Alice's time at the house. It gave an even more interesting angle from the different perspectives of both women. The story itself flows well keeping a steady pace throughout, I was kept intrigued and enthralled till the last page. I loved the authors' ability to convey human nature at its best (Michael and Jem) and at its worst (Nat, Paul, and Joel). She was able to show that when people leave their morals at the door, let their egos take over; they are capable of doing whatever it takes to get what they want. In, a world of money and power anything or anyone can be bought for the right price. Seduction power and greed and make a dangerous combination. Only those that can see past all the glitz and glamour will see that world for what it really is. One of danger and deceit.

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## Sheri says

Jem, a chef, has moved from the UK to New York with her husband, Nat. When the opportunity arises for a summer weekend house-share in The Hamptons - America's playground of the rich and famous - socially ambitious Nat is keen to accept and Jem, struggling to find work and fill her time, agrees, despite fears that she won't fit in.

It's only when they've already committed to the house share that Jem learns that her house-sharing predecessor, Alice, died as a result of drowning in the pool the previous summer. Jem becomes caught up in trying to find out what really happened to Alice, encouraged by Alice's bereaved husband David and by Michael, a local author and journalist.

We also see past events from Alice's viewpoint and unfortunately I did not find her to be a very engaging character. Alice has had a difficult background and is hungry for money and status; she seeks to acquire this using her looks and sexuality. She came across as quite shallow and selfish, showing little concern for anyone but herself.

While there is a mystery - what happened to Alice - at its heart, and we follow Jem's attempts to unravel it, I wouldn't describe this as a thriller. The solution, when it came, felt a bit underwhelming. However, it was an enjoyable read and Jem herself was quite a likeable character.

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## Mike says

To be fair, I'm probably not the intended audience for this book. Every woman in it (apart from the heroine, who's often self-deprecating) dresses to the max, and is beautiful to boot. All the men are handsome, virile, masculine – and all know how to dress well. You begin to long for someone who's ordinary. Oh, and kale seems to be an essential part of everything they eat.

The constant referencing to fashion and social and architectural magazines, and the sense of envy that your house isn't as big or as beautiful as someone else's in your circle gets a bit tedious. But, as I say, I'm probably not the intended market.

This book is touted as a thriller, but it takes some eighty pages before anyone pays much attention to the death we read about in the first chapter. And it takes a couple of hundred more pages before anything remotely thrilling begins to happen. Even then it's low-key by thriller standards: verbal threats, anger at having your secrets revealed, nasty selfish affairs brought to light and so on. Overall, tension is lacking. The story switches between *Last Summer* and *This Summer*. In the first of these, we meet Alice, who comes to an unfortunate end around page five. In later encounters with her, we learn what a conniving, self-centred woman she was. The *This Summer* sections focus on Jem, an English woman who's moved to New York with her (handsome, well-dressed, kale-eating) husband in order to further his career, his networks, his socialising with the top nobs. Jem meets up with Michael, a wealthy author (not so handsome and not-so-well-dressed - most of the time) who's having a bit of a writing crisis. He's written umpteen books in the Lee Child style, killed off his series character and has now hit a wall. He decides he wants to do something different: investigate Alice's death and find out what was apparently hushed up. He takes Jem on as his assistant.

They don't make the best of detectives – and worse, the author allows them on at least two occasions to

know things about Alice and the night of her death that they shouldn't. Unless, of course, they've been reading the *Last Summer* sections!

Tasmina Perry is a British author and her previous romance/thriller books have been very popular, and praised as page-turners. For me, page-turning increasingly became page-skimming.

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### **Fiona Wilson says**

I am a fan of books like this. It has a bit of everything - glamour, sex, murder, intrigue, secrets, lies and a decent storyline.

A vacancy has come up to house share with several other couples in the Hamptons, a very prestigious area, for the summer. Opportunities like this don't come along every day, so obviously when offered the chance, Jem and Dan jump at it. It's not until after they have accepted and arrived at the house that Jem discovers exactly why there was a vacancy.

This revelation, and a chance meeting with a well known author, lead her to accept a job assisting that author. He has an ulterior motive in that he wants to investigate the circumstances surrounding the death of someone who previously shared the house with the other couples. Jem agrees to look into it for him, and very quickly becomes embroiled in something which could prove extremely costly for her.

Using alternate timelines the author allows us to follow Jem's story as well as that of Alice, the woman who died, and the events leading up to her death. As she gets closer to the truth Jem finds herself in danger too.

This is a story which flows well, kept me gripped, and has plenty of twists and turns throughout. Many thanks to the publisher and Netgalley for providing a copy.

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### **Martin says**

Finally I can shout it out from the rooftop. BUY THIS BOOK NOW. I have been withholding my enthusiasm for nearly two months, whispering to anyone who would listen...

<http://sleaze-factor.blogspot.ca/2017...>

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### **Liz Barnsley says**

Likely to be a bit of a summer sizzler this one - some great characters thrown into a rich (in more ways than one) group dynamic, where secrets and lies hover beneath the facade of seemingly perfect lives.

I loved the setting, had a love/hate relationship with nearly all the characters, had a decent amount of uncertainty about where it was going and all in all a really really great Summer read.

Fuller review nearer publication

Recommended.

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