



Christopher's Diary: Secrets of Foxworth

V.C. Andrews

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A new novel from V.C. Andrews, the legendary author of *Flowers in the Attic*—now a hit Lifetime TV movie!

Christopher's Diary: Secrets of Foxworth Details

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Author : V.C. Andrews

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From Reader Review Christopher's Diary: Secrets of Foxworth for online ebook

Jesse Freedom says

[,until the very end when you almost ruins Chris by implying that Chris already has romantic feeli

Sarah says

I realize that the V.C. Andrews Enterprise has been churning out terrible books at a rapid pace for the past 30 years, but this was truly a wasted opportunity. Major spoilers ahead for this book and its awful sequel (also, you're welcome).

V.C. Andrews books are also among the only ones that compel me to write plot summaries because they're bonkers, and because they speak for themselves. Unfortunately these two are also incredibly boring, but here's what happens anyway:

I can't remember the protagonist's name, possibly Kristen? Anyway, Kristen is a present-day motherless teenager who has a good relationship with her nice father (think Twilight without the vampires, but fear not - a creepy, rich boyfriend will be with us shortly). Kristen's father has been hired by a mysterious shell entity to demolish the now infamous Foxworth Hall and rebuild it. Kristen visits the site and finds Christopher's diary in a fireproof box. She's super excited to discover whether the rumors are true about the blond Foxworth children being locked in the attic for years.

Over the next several weeks, Kristen becomes obsessed with the really boring diary (stilted recaps of Flowers in the Attic scenes from Christopher's point of view, i.e. uh oh my feelings for my sister are inappropriate, I think our mother is lying to us, I am witnessing changes to my adolescent body in a very scientific manner, etc.). Kristen becomes moody, which distresses her nice dad. Kristen also starts dating the town's handsome, rich golden boy whose name I also can't remember. He offers to read the diary out loud to her in the attic of her house, so they can experience what Christopher and Cathy were feeling.

Next book [Spoilers!]:

Kristen's boyfriend has purchased a blond wig to wear while he reads Christopher's diary out loud to her in the attic (this is probably the highlight of the series). Nothing much else happens except the boyfriend also becomes moody, and reading the diary drives them to mirror Chris's and Cathy's relationship (this may be rich coming from someone who admits to reading these books, but I really can't elaborate further because it's too awful, and by awful I mean badly written). Once they finish the diary, they track down the shrink who treated Corinne Foxworth after she went mad and who is somehow involved with the rebuilding of Foxworth Hall. Kristen gets a hunch, convinces the shrink to engage in a gross breach of doctor-patient confidentiality, and goes to return the diary to the real owner of Foxworth Hall, who is none other than (view spoiler)

So yeah, I read that. And I just wrote this review because I can't be the only person who knows all this.

Tez says

NOTE: My review contains spoilers. If reading this via Goodreads, they're individually marked. Elsewhere, they are not, and also there are spoilers for Flowers in the Attic, Garden of Shadows, and the forthcoming Echoes of Dollanganger and Secret Brother. Read at your own risk.

P.S. Secrets of Foxworth contains mentalism/saneism/ableism/gaslighting, and SO MUCH SEXISM. Seriously, that diary is full of it.

Well, that was pointless.

I don't say that lightly. I spent 2013 catching up on the V. C. Andrews books I hadn't read when they were first published (from Celeste onwards), and some would say that was pointless. But it eased my Fear of Missing Out - even though the books ranged from pretty good down to rather offensive, most were middling. (I didn't read the Delia trilogy, though. The books involving the French, the Forbidden series, were so negatively stereotypical that I'm too afraid to read how VCA writes about Mexicans.)

But first, some backstory. Bittersweet Dreams would've been published this year, but due to the success (apparently?) of the *Flowers in the Attic* telemovie in the U.S., instead comes this first instalment of "The Diaries" - Christopher's Diary: Secrets of Foxworth. (Book 2 will be Christopher's Diary: Echoes of Dollanganger. Book 3 is simply called Secret Brother, and though the narrator is not named in the summary, I have a pretty good guess who it will be(view spoiler).)

I was cynical about the change in publication schedule, but knew I'd read these anyway, shameless cash-grabs or otherwise. Secrets of Foxworth's cover declares, "*Flowers in the Attic* wasn't the whole story," which is technically true: Petals on the Wind, If There Be Thorns, and Seeds of Yesterday followed it, as well as the Olivia-narrated prequel, Garden of Shadows.

But I learned NOTHING new from Secrets of Foxworth, which renders it pointless, and the cover's declaration misleading. In an interview when Christopher's Diary was announced, ghostwriter Andrew Neiderman explained that he wanted to recapture the feeling people had whilst reading Flowers back when it was first published. And thus Secrets is narrated by Kristin Masterwood, a distant Foxworth relative, whose father's construction company will demolish what's left of Foxworth Hall (it was rebuilt after the first fire, but there was a "second fire in 2003", which isn't further explained) and build a new place. Whilst clearing out the basement, the team finds a box containing only...Christopher Dollanganger Junior's diary.

Kristin's life is the stuff of beautiful, middle-class white people with a wealthy boyfriend who doesn't pressure her into rooting. But mostly Kristin is consumed with reading the diary. Secrets ends with her agreeing to share the diary with her boyfriend, who will read it aloud to her while they're in her attic, and they can "pretend". (view spoiler)

So with nothing going on in Kristin's life, and nothing new discovered about the Foxworths, Secrets of Foxworth is anything but. Kristin hasn't even learned the big secret from Garden of Shadows(view spoiler)

I still plan to read Echoes of Dollanganger (to be released in late January 2015), though. Hopefully that book won't be pointless, too.

P.S. My in-progress status updates with direct quotes are on Goodreads - scroll down to "Reading Updates".

Rosy says

I am a confessed Dollanganger fan/obsessed/crazy(?) girl, so OF COURSE I HAD to read this. There's almost(?) nothing new, but reading about these beloved characters again, it just melts my heart all over.

Kristin becomes so obsessed with their story that, even though I don't particularly love her character, I understand what drives her to it.

I can't wait for the next book!

Rachael says

I mean...

I don't know what to say that you don't already assume about this book.

Actually, that may not pertain to younger readers, who may not know the original Foxworth series. For the adults, who, like me, read every damned V.C. Andrews book and was at least a little warped from it, you are well aware of how removed this ghost writing is from the actual V.C., and even from the series' penned right after her death, although you could still sense the differences in those...

The story involves a young girl, somehow vaguely related to the Foxworths (please explain that later, Ghost Writer) whose father is hired to tear down the ruins of the twice-burned Foxworth Hall for some new builder who has purchased the land. (I was hoping it was a relative, but they give an unrelated name as the buyer - maybe it's a ruse!) They find a diary in a metal lock box (Christopher's, obvi, hence the title)...marked with a year (1969? Maybe? I forgot.) and she starts reading.

Anyway, who the hell would've put that diary in a lock box in some random part of the basement that happened to be untouched by two fires? The grandmother? Corinne? Christopher, as he escaped? Come on.

Ok, so, as she reads his diary (and slow as shit, I might add...she reads, like, 3 paragraphs and looks at the clock and realizes hours have passed. Seriously? This is an honor student, I might add, neck and neck with another student for Valedictorian...it takes her HOURS to read 3 paragraphs? Get off it.) she becomes obsessed (but not obsessed enough to read faster) and her dad becomes concerned.

Would it have KILLED the Ghost Writer to open the old books to the pages mentioning the scenes he is rewriting, for a little bit of goddamned accuracy? No. It would not have. But he didn't. And it is obnoxious.

And Christopher paints Cathy as a super spoiled brat, that's for sure.

The book ends abruptly, so I have to wait until Feb of 2015 to hate-read the next one.

Oh, the reader's boyfriend is super perfect...so, in typical Andrews' style, I am waiting for him to die in a car accident. Perfect men never last more than a few of her novels before their cars kill 'em off. The evil ones

never die, so I am kind of waiting for, like, Bart to show up, having shrugged off his new religion and gone back to being a loon.

I'd love to revisit Jory and his kids!

Anyway, read it, don't read it. It's no life-changer. But I have to read every V.C. Andrews book - I started at 8 and buy any I come across, even if I roll my eyes as I do it.

I just strongly protest the differences. Read a book, Ghost Writer! Or hire me to write this nonsense! At least the fans won't be able to circle factual errors with a red pen! (Not that I did that. I didn't! I swear!)

Lila Veen says

Alright, I stopped reading VC Andrews books when they all became the same character with the same scenario. I wish I could say I stopped reading VC Andrews books when they stopped being written by VC Andrews, but I clung a little longer to what I hoped would be the continuation of something good. When I realized it would not be, I had to give up.

So when I heard that Neiderman was going to create something new out of the ultimate classic, *Flowers in the Attic*, of course my curiosity was piqued.

The book started off confusing, like "Who the hell is this chick and what's she doing in the story that's supposed to be a parallel to FITA?" I figured it out quickly enough and sort of groaned. Oh great, a story within a story. And the diary parts? Yeah, there's nothing exactly "new" here. But still, it kept my interest because hi, I'm a VCA junkie and this is an homage to her original work. The character that discovers the diary is a lot like every other Neiderman character - beautiful and ridiculously pure and naive, often using terms like "blouse" and vocabulary that belongs in a Christian novel.

I can kind of see where this is going, and way to end on a cliffhanger - can we not do that, please? Yes, I've written some major cliffhangers before, and now I'm going to apologize for those, because they suck. I can see a few places this will go, and some of them are horrifying.

So yeah, let's pump out the sequel, please, because I'd like to get through this now.

Scorpiamuse says

I bought and read this in one day. Andrew's stories (or more precisely, those of the ghostwriter) I tend to breeze through in a just a few hours. Though I will be the first to admit that I probably need to reread this at a slower pace.

Those who think that this is a direct retelling of *Flowers in the Attic* will be a bit left behind. Without giving too much away, it is a story within a story: what happened after the events in "*Seeds of Yesterday*" to Foxworth Hall part Deux and the discovery of Christopher's Diary (hence the title).

Honestly, I did enjoy his side of the story in the first book and had always wondered what, initially, what the

story would have been from the perspectives of Chris, Carrie or even Cory. I have to say that 'Andrews' doesn't disappoint in this regard. I'm really eager for the second volume to come out in February 15.

M.M. Strawberry Reviews says

Fuck this shit. Seriously.

To date, over 70 books have been published under the VCA name. Out of these, only eight were actually written/completed by VCA herself, and four more were started by her but she died before she could complete her manuscripts. So this means that not half, not even a third, or a quarter, or even a seventh of these books actually had any of VCA's writing in them.

The newer books have been poorly received, and no wonder - crap with vampires, ghosts, crazy over the top abusive grandparents, stereotypes, misogyny, poor research, and so on make the ghostwriter's writing one godawful mess. He and the publishers have disrespected the VCA Legacy so many times, and for what? Money.

The greed with which the VCA Legacy has been handled is simply astounding. I've never seen so many books ghostwritten under one name, at least not without that author's approval, and hwy, a dead woman can't argue, right? Poor VCA is without a doubt spinning in her grave right now at this book.

The original Dollanganger series is considered a classic (even if trashy pulp fiction by some people) and has endured in the world of literature. After the failures of the recent books, the publishers and ghostwriters have finally decided to exploit the books that made VCA so famous by "adding" to the Dollanganger series with this travesty.

There are so many things that don't make sense. Kristin's mother is third cousin to Malcolm Foxworth. I know that there can be quite an age gap between cousins, but come on, this is ridiculous. Did Neiderman not research on how genealogy works? It would have made more sense for like, Kristin's great-grandmother to be Malcolm's third cousin, things line up more that way. Or he could have said that Kristin's mother was Malcolm's third cousin thrice removed, or whatever. But then, research has never been Neiderman's strong suit as he has made more glaring mistakes in other books.

The story behind the second fire makes no sense. Seeds of Yesterday happened in 1997, and this book is set in the year 2014. Surely by now people would have known about the family. Not the deep secrets, but that Chris, Cathy, Jory, Bart, Toni, and the twins were living there, and so on. It's clear that at the end of Seeds, Bart found himself and was a happy person and getting along with Cindy and respecting Chris. None of that is mentioned in this book. The family remains a secret to the town. Huh? How is that possible with the availability of media and technology in the 90's and 2000's? Yet in this book no one but Bart is mentioned, and that he's crazy.

Neiderman does a lot of gaslighting, both within Kristin's story and Christopher's diary, which was found in the basement of Foxworth Hall while the inspection is happening. Apparently all these years ago Chris kept a diary hidden from his siblings so he could tell his own side of the story. Here's the thing... Cathy told her story AFTER the events in the attic. Chris wrote his during their stay in the attic. Some of the entries truly are cringe-worthy, and don't sound like him at all, but I'm not surprised about that, given how bad Neiderman's writing is and how little respect he has for the VCA Legacy.

The story focuses more on Kristin than Chris. I found myself really annoyed by her narrative, Neiderman makes all his voices sound the same so it's hard to tell one character from the other, I've noticed that his recent books all pretty much have the same voice. As an author, unless you're writing about the same person in all the books, this is a huge no-no.

Now onto the real meat of the story - are there any secrets revealed? Nope. Anyone who has read the Dollanganger books will not notice anything new in this book since Chris writes about things that we know happened in FITA, just from his perspective. We're just given a rehash of what we already know happened in Flowers in the Attic, which makes this book a waste of money. The publishers and ghostwriter have made much ado about this new "series" revealing new things about the Dollangangers, but ultimately, this book just proves itself to be yet another attempt to milk the VCA cash cow. The prologue (of Chris' diary) is embarrassing since it makes him (and Neiderman) look like a creep. The real Chris was logical and classy. Neiderman really needs to lay off the bathing scenes.

And the end of this book? Kristin's boyfriend finds the diary and starts reading it and then the two of them talk about it and want to go into the attic to keep on reading. WUT. So the next book is going to have Kristin and her boyfriend try to channel the spirits of Chris and Cathy? Oh no no no no please sweet Raptor Jesus NO.

Final verdict? If I could give this book negative ten stars, I would. This is a complete and utter disgrace to the VCA Legacy and an example of greed at its finest.

Brooklyn Tayla says

Wow. This was insanely addictive, and had fast become one of my favourite reads of VC Andrews. The end of The canon Dollanganger novels had me wondering so much; especially about Chris's mind. This book certainly answered those; and Kristin's character grew on me really fast. I noticed the similarities between her and Cathy and Chris very soon after I started reading; and was engaged throughout the plot and horrified yet excited for what was to come. Christopher's Diary has certainly stayed with me so I can't wait to see what the next one brings.

Shyla says

Firstly let me state that I LOVE the original Flowers in the Attic series. Even the books that weren't actually written by V.C. Andrews. I have even read quite a few of the other series as well that can be a bit redundant, so I know the drill as far as these books go. I was very excited about this book because I'd hoped it would provide a fresh look at a story that I know backwards and forwards because I have reread the book so many times, similar to Midnight Sun by Stephenie Meyer. I was wrong, wrong, wrong. This "book" is pretty much just a few random pages from Flowers in the Attic wrapped in a load of boring internal dialogue from a very unrealistic and very boring teenager. Took me forever to get through it and that is NOT like me at all. From the first page until the last page, I was waiting for the story to start...it never did. This is clearly a money grab designed to try to rope everyone in for a predictable 5 book series. There is very, very little new information, the modern day characters are not interesting and I think the book is an insult to true fans who really loved the original series. I know that true fans are going to read the book regardless of the reviews and I get that. Just don't get your hopes up as you will definitely be disappointed.

Me, My Shelf and I says

Fans don't get too high of hopes. This isn't from Christopher's POV, not really. You relive the first half of *Flowers In The Attic* via his journal entries, and you don't really learn anything new. The main character is the girl who finds his journal in the rubble of Foxworth Hall.

To see my whole review on this novel, please go here: <http://www.memyshelfandi.com/2014/10/...>

Hannah says

4.5 actually

I forgot how crazy these books were!!! Very good and also very sexual lol

Sarah Ballance says

At first glance, and for most of the book, *CHRISTOPHER'S DIARY: SECRETS OF FOXWORTH* felt like a retelling of *FLOWERS IN THE ATTIC*. The book makes no secret of this, but present-day Kristin's story was little more than background noise as I revisited the original telling of *FLOWERS* I knew and loved so many years ago. Kristin is a distant relative of the Foxworths who lives in the shadow - literally and figuratively - of what happened in that house. Thanks to her father's protection, she seems to be one of the few people in town not privy to every dirty little secret the walls held. Needless to say, when she finds Christopher's diary on the property she is quickly pulled into his firsthand account of his life, both before and during the time he and his siblings were imprisoned in the Foxworth attic.

As a reader of *FLOWERS*, I didn't learn anything about the story I hadn't before. To that end, I found the watered down version of the original (that is, the text of Christopher's diary) bland, while for most of the book, Kristin's story likewise lacked substance. The combination left me in a holding pattern as I waited for something to happen. Fortunately, something finally did. Unfortunately, it was at the nth hour. It wasn't until the last couple of pages of the book that I found myself truly intrigued, and learning more will of course require that I pick up the next book in the series. Will I? Probably, but I wish I felt more of a pull toward the sequel.

The verdict: If you haven't read *FLOWERS IN THE ATTIC*, I'd suggest you grab that one instead. The story deserves the depth found within the pages of its own book. If you have read *FLOWERS*, you might enjoy this retelling, but if you're looking for anything scandalous, you won't find it here. It's a pleasant and well-written read that neither adds to nor takes away from the Dollanganger saga, and whether because of or in spite of that fact, it's a volume belongs in the personal library of every *FLOWERS* fan.

Complimentary review copy provided by publisher.

Laurie says

Here is an excerpt from my review: "If you're a fan of *Flowers in the Attic* and the subsequent books, you'll probably enjoy this new take on the story. But much of it will be familiar to you because it really is just a re-telling of what happened in the first book. There's not a whole lot of action happening in Kristin's world because she spends most of her time reading the diary. Kristin does have a boyfriend, Kane, and some nosy, gossipy friends, but that action doesn't take up a whole lot of room in the novel."

You can read the full review here: <http://cookscrapcraft.blogspot.com/20...>

Colleen says

I didn't expect this to be amazing. I wasn't surprised to feel too old to be impressed with it. I was willing to wade through lame YA angst for the promise of new insights to the beloved *Flowers in the Attic* of my youth. There are none. Like really. NONE. Bits of a surprise diary written by Christopher comprise many pages of this book, but they really just feel like reading condensed versions of the original book (and not written at ALL in a diary style; very much like a memoir where everything is in a distinctly past tense and nothing is current in the writer's life). Nothing is revealing from his point of view (or surprising in any way). The rest of the novel (and probably majority, page-wise) is a pretty pedestrian YA story about a teenage girl starting to date a hot guy, but she spends most of her time obsessing and overanalyzing (ad nauseum) the found diary. And by analyzing, I mean she states all the things any person reading it would think. Over and over in slightly different ways.

I trudged through the whole book hoping to at least get a payoff, but it turned out to be part of a series and didn't even reveal something exciting in the last pages as a teaser. The main character talks constantly about how her mother is distantly related to the Foxworths, and I expected to at least find out that she was more directly related than she was led to believe. I've been looking through the (bad) reviews of the other books in the series to get the spoilers to satisfy my curiosity without wasting hours upon hours of my time. It sounds like one needs to get to the last few pages of the second book before finding out anything new and shocking about the original story. Sigh. Seems like a really missed opportunity.

Reading through this did make me miss the original VC Andrews books, so I finished the last page of this and picked up *Heaven*, which I haven't read in decades.
