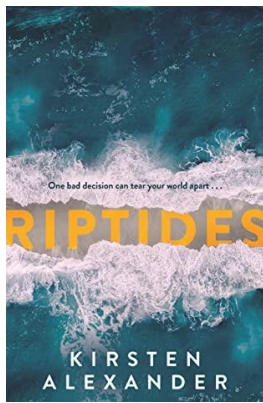


Riptides by Kirsten Alexander

Reviewed by Pat



In 1974, in country Queensland, Charlie Campbell forces a car off an unlit and rarely travelled dirt road into a tree, killing the pregnant driver. The crash wakes Charlie's sister, Abby, who'd been sleeping in the passenger seat next to him. They were heading to their father's farm.

A dead woman has no place in either of their plans. They drive away, leaving her on the ground as heavy rain falls. They cannot help her, there are no witnesses, and there is too much at stake.

When they arrive at the farm, the siblings learn that the dead woman, Skye, was their father's fiancé.

They resolve to tell no one what they've done — to admit to this crime will cost them their father and their future. Charlie leans on his older sister to lead them out of trouble, to act as the protector she's had to be since their mother died.

But their secret grows more complicated by the day.

Abby and Charlie's decision to leave a woman dead on the side of the road has far reaching effects. The two siblings grapple with their conscience, come to terms with and try to justify what they have done.

Told by dual narrators we get both Abigail and Charlie's point of view. Neither character is totally likeable, which is understandable considering what they have just done.

The story gripped me from the very first page and as the dead woman weaved her way into their lives again and again I was eager to learn how this was going to end. Likeable or not the engaging cast of characters were easy to connect with and give for some compelling reading.

Love, trauma, family, responsibility, a hippy commune and police corruption all combine to make this book un-put-downable.

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