



The House on Sunset Lake

Tasmina Perry

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'Seductive and mysterious...the perfect novel to while away a summer's afternoon' *Express. Sunday Times* bestseller Tasmina Perry is back with a delicious summer read. Unlock the secrets of the mysterious house on Sunset Lake...

Casa D'Or, the mysterious plantation house on Sunset Lake, has been in the Wyatt family for over fifty years. Jennifer Wyatt returns there from university full of hope, as summer by the lake stretches ahead of her. Yet by the time it is over her heart will be broken, her family in tatters, her dreams long gone.

Twenty years later, Casa D'Or stands neglected, a victim of tragic events. Jennifer has closed the door on her past. Then Jim, the man she met and fell in love with that magical summer, comes back into her life, with a plan to return Casa D'Or to its former glory. Their reunion will stir up old ghosts for both of them, and reveal the dark secrets the house still holds close...

The House on Sunset Lake Details

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Author : Tasmina Perry

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From Reader Review The House on Sunset Lake for online ebook

Thebooktrail says

Destinations Travel to Savannah with Tamina Perry

Tasmina Perry is fast becoming an author to really sit back and enjoy for me. I'd loved The Last Kiss and her latest one was a gorgeous journey, this time to Savannah and the mysteries of a hot and heady Savannah summer.

The long lost love affair was just a great mix of how a relationship can change in the blink of an eye with events which spiral out of control and where memories of the past may not be all they seem. I wasn't sure I liked Jennifer at first but when I discovered the secret, everything I'd read before made sense. Just as Jim's journey in the novel, so too is the readers and this made the whole book really make you think of how the past can play tricks and hide the truth.

The story flits between the two time periods with ease and I warmed to Jim and his lost love affair. Brave to go back to the place though – after all that time.

Tasmina really writes about characters and how they interact with their surroundings and their pasts. I admit I felt sad and uncomfortable with the truth and wished it had been something else but it did explain a lot of what had gone before.

I guess I was so swept up in the Savannah summer and the allure of Casa D'Or that as it says in the book, I will never forget my time there and I left the lake house with a sigh of regret.

Tasmina came for a cup of tea on the booktrail link: kettle's on if you fancy popping over! ;)

Rachel Gilbey says

4.5 Stars

What an evocative story of romance, suspense, intrigue, secrets, family and a whole lot more, in a story spanning a twenty year gap.

The majority of the book is set around Casa D'Or on Sunset Lake, and it was great to see how this one house, could feature in so many key bits of two people's history. For it is central to Jim and Jennifer's story both in 1994 and now in the present too.

Some of the book is set in the 90s and the rest in the present, and I loved both parts of it, as together it tells you all about Jim, Jennifer, and their families, past and present. It didn't take too long into the book for me to be gripped by the fabulous writing, and the story, while suspecting there would be some surprises along the way.

Casa D'Or is in Savannah, Georgia, which is a part of the US that I haven't really encountered much in fiction before. With this book I got a great feel for the climate and feel for the area, even if my knowledge o

the town doesn't really extend much past this property.

But the book isn't just set in Savannah, there is also plenty in New York, and then there are some scenes on a Caribbean island, that I believe to be entirely fictional, but no less gorgeous than real life.

I enjoyed seeing the contrast in how the years have treated Jim and Jennifer, from their younger ideals, to the man and women in their forties now. There are many parts of story that are hinted at, but its only in the last third or so where everything comes together and you see just how good and clever the majority of the book has been!

I thoroughly enjoyed reading *The House on Sunset Lake*, and its definitely a return to form for Tasmina Perry, although I do still prefer her big blockbuster books, this has some of the feel of one, with the destinations and intrigue, but was missing the lashings of sex!

Thank you so much to Netgalley and Headline for this copy which I have reviewed voluntarily and honestly.

Beatrix says

Szeretem az író? regényeit, és ez sem okozott csalódást. Két idősík, dráma, egy tragédia ami szétszakít, hogy később megkapd a második esélyt. Jó volt.

Joanna Lambert says

I've read almost everything Tasmina Perry has written, but this is very different from her past books. It is much deeper and has more substance than the previous sexy bonk buster type offerings I've grown to associate with her. Set in America's deep south, Casa D'Or is a beautiful lakeside mansion owned by the wealthy Wyatt family - David, his class conscious wife Sylvia and their twenty year old daughter Jennifer. Jennifer seems to have her future mapped out for her with a planned engagement to childhood sweetheart Connor Gilbert, a young man with a golden future. The arrival of English writer Bryn Johnson and his family, who have rented out the Lake House as a summer writing retreat will change all that. Jennifer soon finds herself drawn to Bryn's nineteen year old son Jim and they soon become lovers. Despite being tricked into accepting Connor's proposal at her twenty first party, Jennifer plans to leave to make a life with Jim away from the claustrophobic influence of her family and upbringing. But sadly this never happens; instead on the night they plan to leave, Jennifer sends him a note telling him to return to the UK with his parents, that she no longer wants to be with him.

Twenty years later Jim is working for an international hotel group. Sent to Casa D'Or to oversee its refurbishment into a luxury hotel, Jim is reunited with both Connor and Jennifer. He finds himself drawn back into that summer and its unanswered questions. What made Jennifer decide to abandon him and marry Connor Gilbert? And what caused Sylvia Wyatt's tragic death soon after his departure. The truth, as he soon discovers, is not at all what it seems.

A difficult to put down read with some unexpected twists.

Whispering Stories says

Set in Savannah, in America's deep south, Casa D'Or is a stunning lakeside mansion owned by the affluent Wyatt family; David, his wife Sylvia and their daughter, Jennifer. Jennifer's future appears to have been set out for her with a planned engagement to Connor Gilbert, her childhood sweetheart. Bryn Johnson and his family arrive from England to rent out the Lake House. Jennifer finds herself drawn to Bryn's son, Jim.

As their friendship deepens, they fall in love, and make plans to leave together. Tragedy then occurs, and what follows is a set of events that change the course of both of their lives. Questions get left unanswered, and things aren't at all what they seem.

The story starts in the present day where we get introduced to Jim Johnson, who is now in his forties. Working for an international hotel group, Jim once again comes across Casa D'Or. His boss decides to buy it and turn it into a hotel. Jim soon comes face to face with Jennifer who agrees to sell it. As they become reacquainted we learn more about the events leading up to their separation twenty years prior.

Wow. Wow. And wow. I'd read Tasmina Perry's previous book, *The Last Kiss Goodbye*, and it was worthy of five stars. This book had a lot to live up to. It didn't disappoint.

I've never been a fan of books that go between past and present. I often get confused as I don't always know where I am. Here, it is accomplished with finesse. The year is printed at the beginning of each chapter and when a date change occurs, you know exactly where you are. The time changes work well within the story. You see how things started all those years ago, and you also know what's happening in the present day. You don't know what has happened in-between or what will happen going forward. As you read on, all the pieces come together and everything becomes clearer.

The story broke my heart in places. Quite a few of the characters weren't all they at first seemed. As the story unravels, more gets discovered about them and how their past actions changed the lives of those around them. The behaviour of some characters shocked me to the core. I was taken completely by surprise.

?At first I couldn't warm to Jennifer, which for a main character is unusual. I was unable to put my finger on it. As the story progressed, I felt more empathy with her. I learned about what Jennifer had been through and why she became the person that she did. Yet, there was another character who I found rather likeable, but when the truth gets revealed, turned out to be abhorrent.

There were many twists throughout the story. I didn't see a single one of them coming. I found myself gasping out loud at one in particular which came near the end. It was a brilliant twist, and yet so disturbing and shocking when it twisted yet again. Tasmina Perry is a pure genius.

This is one of those stories that could get made into a feature length film for television or the big screen. I wouldn't be surprised if this happens in the future. It would be perfect so long as the screenplay stays true to the book.

I highly recommend reading this amazing story. It will keep you hooked throughout and you won't be able to put it down. Prepare to be immersed, shocked, and blown away. I certainly was.

Reviewed by Jodie on www.whisperingstories.com

Kirstine says

(Thanks to Netgalley and the publisher for the ARC, the book is released August 25th).

I was very close to giving up on this book during the first half. I found it clichéd and not very well-written. It had moments of something, though. Something that kept me reading. I don't know if it was just a desire to see if there really wasn't more to it than a generic love story, or if the writing actually holds flashes of something that could be interesting. Maybe it's a mix of both, but mostly I think it was the former.

It's the story of Jim and Jennifer, who meet while Jim spends a summer in Savannah where his father, a famous author, has been exiled to finish his new novel. Jennifer lives in the big house on the other side of the lake – Casa D'Or, the house of the title, the house on sunset lake. They fall in love, and then a tragedy tears them apart. I thought there'd be more mystery surrounding the tragedy, but it's revealed almost right away what it was. So there went my idea that this might somehow be a romance novel that evolved around solving a 20-year-old mystery. Except that's sort of what it is anyway, just differently than I imagined.

It's set both during their first meeting as 20-year-olds, and 20 years after where fate (or Jim's rich business boss) brings a middle-aged Jim back to Casa D'Or and back to Jennifer. Both of them have new lives, both of them have made something different out of their wrecked dream of a future together, and are both living comfortably, although for Jim it's still as if something is missing, as if he never quite could let Jennifer go.

As the two reconnect, old hurts are revisited, unpleasant truths are unearthed and it turns out no one knows the exact truth of what happened that summer. The mystery, in the end, is the nature of what drove them apart, and it might be something entirely different than what we're lead to believe.

This is the reason I didn't quit. Although I do think the writing is very mediocre, with small moments of nice prose, and the characters and plots terribly clichéd, I still couldn't quite put the book down. I had to know the truth of it all. I had to see if the book redeemed itself. It didn't, but it tried.

Mostly I just couldn't get over the clichéd characters, and how soap-opera-like a lot of the drama was. I mean, Jim's father decides to write a novel about an older man, a professor, who falls in love with a younger woman. Really? And Jim grows up wanting to be a musician, while Jennifer is the ultimate girl next door. It does rectify this a little later, but it's still as if Perry can't quite put the clichés behind her.

It had a few surprises in store in the end, which was fantastic. Although it may have had one too many surprises, or it should have just presented them better. It was as if it kept hurling revelations at the reader and they drowned each other out. Which is a shame, because some of them were interesting and well chosen, but they didn't get the screen time they deserved. It got a little melodramatic at times, with all the different problems and secrets and drama that honest to god just kept coming. But I can't quite say Perry doesn't make it work either. It may be bland at times, but it's also interesting enough (if you keep going) that it's sort of worth the time.

Not the best book you'll read in your life, but probably not the worst either. I mean, I don't regret reading it, but given the chance I'm not sure I'd do it again.

Louise Wilson says

3.5 stars. Jim Johnston was a student in 1995 and was not happy when his plans of a carefree month has to be abandoned. His father is an author who is not having much luck with his writing and has been sent to Savannah to try to rediscover his muse. Jim soon meets Jennifer Wyatt whose father owns Casa Seta. Then a tragedy happens that makes them go their separate ways.

It's now 2015 and Jim has to return to Casa Seta as his boss has purchased it as an addition to his hotel chain. Jim has to restore the house to its former glory and discovers a chilling secret that makes him wonder if he has really known the people he loves.

I would like to thank Net Galley, Headline and the author Tasmina Perry for my ARC in exchange for an honest review.

Martin says

Ever since the publication of DADDY'S GIRLS back in 2006 Tasmina Perry has been...

<http://sleaze-factor.blogspot.ca/2016...>

Amanda - Mrs B's Book Reviews says

There were a number of features that caught my eye when I chose to read The House on Sunset Lake by Tasmina Perry. Firstly, I was drawn to the stunning image of a rambling lake house that looked like it was holding whole host secrets. Secondly, I was also attracted to the title of the book itself. The House on Sunset Lake is a title that suggests intrigue. Finally, upon perusing the blurb, I was soon convinced that this was my type of novel, as I adore dual narratives and books that hold secrets for the reader to unlock.

Onto the blurb, The House on Sunset Lake is one complicated boy meets girl love story. One summer, over twenty years ago, Jim Johnson makes the fateful trip to the deep south region in the United States with his mother and father. Taking up residence in a sprawling plantation property named Casa D'Or, the Johnson family plan to spend the summer at the mansion by the lake, so Jim's father Bryn can write in the tranquil surrounds. When Jim meets the daughter of the owners of Casa D'Or, Jennifer Wyatt, his life changes in an instant. He falls madly in love with Jennifer but Jennifer is promised to her childhood sweetheart Connor. This arranged engagement doesn't get in their way and the two embark on a sweet love affair. Jennifer plans to leave Connor and commit herself fully to Jim. However, a tragic event intervenes in their plans and the two are torn apart. Twenty years later, by chance, Jim returns to Casa D'Or with plans to renovate it from a family home, to a luxury hotel. This leads him straight back to Jennifer, who is now married to Connor. As Jim's plans to refurbish Casa D'Or moves ahead, Jennifer and Jim's unresolved relationship comes to the surface. A deep seated family secret connected to the lake house and impacting Jennifer and Jim directly, is also eventually revealed. The revelation of this secret changes the course of Jennifer and Jim's decision to give their love a second chance.

Tasmina Perry is an author I used to read some years ago, particularly when I was after a beach friendly, or chick lit style novel. I can see over the years Perry's writing has evolved and now she has tackled the popular

dual narrative style of novel. Although the time frame in The House on Sunset Lake is relatively small (twenty years) between the events in the past and the present day, I felt they worked well in this novel. I found the structure of this novel acted as a good incentive to continue to stay with the novel. I really wanted to get to the bottom of the secret as to how and why Jim and Jennifer never made it as a couple twenty years ago. Once I reached this part of the novel, I was shocked by the turn events.

In addition to the appealing dual narrative, the characters, both major and minor, are an intriguing feature in The House on Sunset Lake. Perry takes time to explore each character that appears in her novel, offering a good outline of each protagonist – so that the reader comes to understand their strengths, flaws, motivations and fears.

By far, what I appreciated the most about The House on Sunset Lake was the reflective and reminiscent tone of the novel. I am sure many readers will appreciate the themes that run through The House at Sunset Lake. At its core, this is a book about second chances and life altering secrets. The House on Sunset Lake offers the reader the ideal blend of romance, drama and mystery.

The House on Sunset Lake would make the ideal beach companion. It is a light read, offering the reader an interesting tale that delves into past, with secrets aplenty to uncover. The themes of missed opportunities in love and reconnection will appeal to many readers, especially the romantics at heart.

*<https://mrsbbookreviews.wordpress.com>

Evangeline says

Started with potential, I initially thought this could be almost like a Kate Morton fix for me. Then it got a bit more Nicholas Sparks, coming and going with bursts of great dullness, and eventually it just became dark and twisted. It definitely needed something to spice it up but the author left it till too late in the day for the big twist, and it wasn't handled with nearly enough gravitas or humanity. I actually found the author's insensitive treatment of such an issue to be very bizarre, it felt like it was just used as a cheap gimmick and seemed trashy. I won't be rushing to read more of her stuff.

Colleen Fauchelle says

Boy meets girl and they fall in love.
Something happens and they are torn apart.
In their late 30's they meet up again.
So far so good I was enjoying the story. But then
When guy finds something out that happened when they first met.
Guy gets mad and doesn't believe girl, it's not until someone close to him says I believe her that he changes his mind and goes running after girl. Me I would have punched the guy for not believing me.
Bad ending to a good book.

Elaine says

Jim Johnson is set to return to Savannah, the place where twenty years ago he lost his heart to Jennifer Wyatt. Can he put the past behind when he has to face Jennifer in connection with his latest business venture? It is not a bad story at all, lots of passion, romance and secrets in a story that flips backwards and forwards in time from a long hot Savannah summer where we witness two teenagers fighting a mutual attraction, to the present day. On the whole I did enjoy the read but for me it didn't really get going until the last 15 or 20%. At that point, the author threw in a real shocker but it felt out of place. There had been no hints about it, and it almost felt as if it had just been put in to spice up a story that definitely needed a bit of a shake up. I received a review copy from the publisher via Netgalley.

Magdalena aka A Bookaholic Swede says

The House on Sunset Lake is a wonderfully written story about young love, destructive secrets, and second chances. I was quickly drawn into the story and I found both storylines equally interesting. Jim Johnson has never really gotten over his first love when he travels to America to oversee the transformation of Casa D'Or from a family home to hotel. But, a chance meeting with Jennifer brings the memories of a summer 20 years back to him and is there a second chance for them or have too much time gone by and are the secrets too dark for them to take on?

I found *The House on Sunset Lake* to be an interesting book, and I liked how two grown people got the chance to reconnect 20 years later after falling madly in love when they were young. It's also a tragic story, especially towards the end of the book when so much is revealed, like why Jennifer chooses to stay with Connor and marry him, despite loving Jim. I really felt for Jennifer while reading this book, her father barely knew her, and her mother was trying to control her, going so far as lying to her. There is a scene in this book towards the end of the book at Jennifer's birthday party when I just wished that Jennifer would have put down her foot when those close to her tried to make a big decision for her. I got so mad reading that part. And, it's now we are starting to learn what really happened all those years ago. I must confess that I was surprised to see where the story was going...

This book surprised me, it was much darker and tragic than I had expected. But, that's not bad, it just shows that life isn't always a dance on roses.

I want to thank Headline for providing me with a free copy through NetGalley for an honest review!

Jane says

Loved this great story, characters you can feel the heat of savannah in the pages of this book.

Kathy says

The House on Sunset Lake is a lovely, light read that is set in 2015 but takes us back to 1994 also as we unravel the mysteries of a summer gone by 20 years previous. This a wonderfully written story and I really

liked the main character Jim Johnson who has never found another love in the past 20 years like he had with Jennifer. But are they able to overcome the secrets that were buried that summer? Fantastic characters and beautiful setting. I would love to be able to visit the Plantation House! A good read....
