

SECRET WALTZ

Available June 28, 2022

What does it mean to be a “good girl” or a “good boy” when you keep secrets from the people you love?

In Milwaukee in the mid-1960s, four best friends, Will, Kirstin, Leo, and Emelia, are growing up together, discovering themselves, their bodies, and what it means to be an adult. But growing up is hard, especially when society itself is on the brink of social and sexual upheaval. When they stumble across Sonya’s seemingly inexplicable and horrifying act, they soon become active participants in ways they haven’t thought through, nor considered how they may make matters so very much worse.

“Karen Lee Boren’s characters, each with their own compelling combination of naivete and bravery, crackle with realism.”—

Robert Arellano, author of Edgar Award-finalist *Havana Lunar*

Engaging characters, evocative landscape, beautiful writing: these are the highlights—and the delights—of Karen Lee Boren’s novel Secret Waltz.—Tina Egnoski, author of Burn Down This World

“This is an important book—and a terrific read, with characters you’ll be rooting for even as your heart is breaking for them.”—

Jane Eklund, Author of *The Story So Far*

About the author

Karen Lee Boren (karenleeboren.com) is the author of *Mother Tongue* (New Rivers Press) and *Girls in Peril* (Tin House Books, a Barnes and Noble Discover selection). She has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize and is the winner of the 2018 Wundor Editions Fiction Prize. Her writing appears in *WomenArts Journal*, *The Florida Review*, *BookForum*, and *Fourth Genre*, among other places, as well as *the Lonely Planet’s* anthology *Rites of Passage: Backpacking ’Round Europe*, and *The Best of Lonely Planet’s Travel Writing*. A native of Milwaukee, she now lives with her husband, Paul, in Providence, Rhode Island, and teaches writing at Rhode Island College.



These teenagers and their imperfect compromises stay with you long after reading. *Secret Waltz* is a quiet triumph.
—Robert Arellano, author of *Havana Lunar*

SECRET WALTZ

a novel



KAREN LEE BOREN

author of *Mother Tongue* and *Girls in Peril*

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