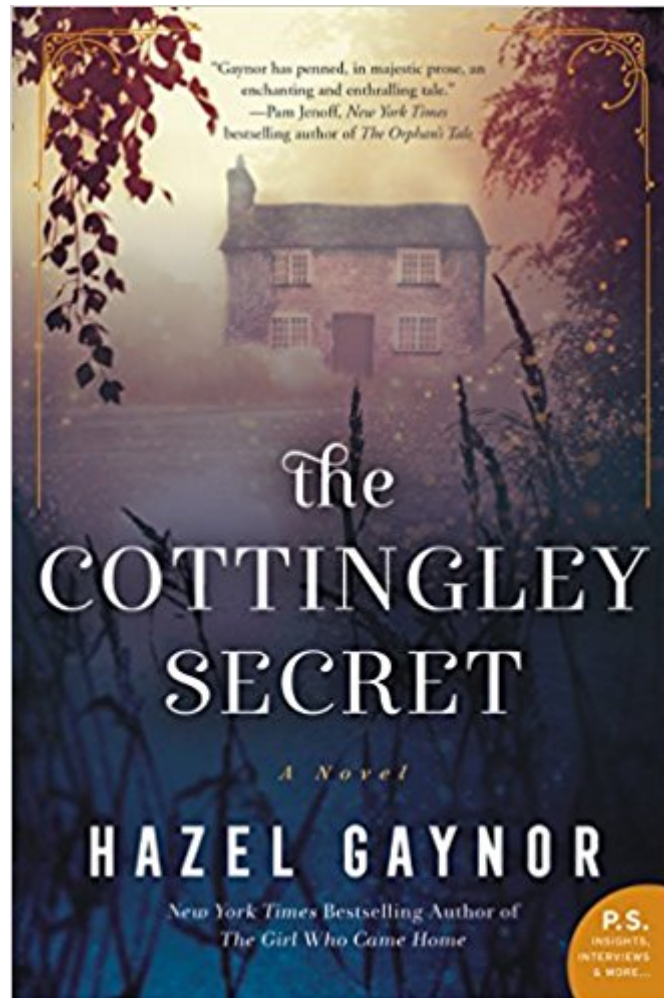




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# The Cottingley Secret: A Novel



## Synopsis

“The Cottingley Secret tells the tale of two girls who somehow convince the world that magic exists. An artful weaving of old legends with new realities, this tale invites the reader to wonder: could it be true?” — Kate Alcott, New York Times bestselling author of *The Dressmaker* One of BookBub’s “Most-Anticipated Books of Summer 2017!” The New York Times bestselling author of *The Girl Who Came Home* turns the clock back one hundred years to a time when two young girls from Cottingley, Yorkshire, convinced the world that they had done the impossible and photographed fairies in their garden. Now, in her newest novel, international bestseller Hazel Gaynor reimagines their story. It was inexplicable, impossible, but it had to be true, didn’t it? When two young cousins, Frances Griffiths and Elsie Wright from Cottingley, England, claim to have photographed fairies at the bottom of the garden, their parents are astonished. But when one of the great novelists of the time, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, becomes convinced of the photographs’ authenticity, the girls become a national sensation, their discovery offering hope to those longing for something to believe in amid a world ravaged by war. Frances and Elsie will hide their secret for many decades. But Frances longs for the truth to be told. One hundred years later, when Olivia Kavanagh finds an old manuscript in her late grandfather’s bookshop she becomes fascinated by the story it tells of two young girls who mystified the world. But it is the discovery of an old photograph that leads her to realize how the fairy girls’ lives intertwine with hers, connecting past to present, and blurring her understanding of what is real and what is imagined. As she begins to understand why a nation once believed in fairies, can Olivia find a way to believe in herself?

## Book Information

Paperback: 416 pages

Publisher: William Morrow Paperbacks (August 1, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 006249984X

ISBN-13: 978-0062499844

Product Dimensions: 5.3 x 0.9 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 30 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #5,540 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #22 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Metaphysical & Visionary #45 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction >

## Customer Reviews

“Beautifully written and expertly researched, Gaynor’s latest is a look at one of history’s most intriguing mysteries and an important reminder of the power of belief.” • (Booklist (starred review)) “There is real magic in these pages. And beauty. And heart.” • (Nicole Mary Kelby, author of *The Pink Suit*) “The Cottingley Secret tells the tale of two girls who somehow convince the world that magic exists. An artful weaving of old legends with new realities, this tale invites the reader to wonder: could it be true?” • (Kate Alcott, New York Times bestselling author of *The Dressmaker*) “I adored *The Cottingley Secret* [...] Gaynor has penned in majestic prose an enchanting and enthralling tale of childhood magic, forgotten dreams, and finding the parts of ourselves we thought were lost forever.” • (Pam Jenoff, New York Times bestselling author of *The Orphan’s Tale*) “In *The Cottingley Secret*, Gaynor asks us the question we all have buried somewhere in our hearts-- is believing in ourselves, perhaps, the most important magic of all?” • (Heather Webb, author of *Rodin’s Lover*) “Richly imagined and terrifically enchanting, Hazel Gaynor’s *The Cottingley Secret* is an enthralling tale where memories serve as lifelines for the living, and the unseen is made real. Reading this novel is akin to finding hidden treasure - each character, a friend; each chapter, a revelation.” • (Ami McKay, author of *The Witches of New York*) “Gaynor (*The Girl from the Savoy*, 2016, etc.) creates a lovely meditation on the power of belief and hope.” • (Kirkus Reviews) “Hazel Gaynor brings the mystery of the Cottingley Fairies thrillingly to life! A mystery, a love story, and an enchanting and surprising journey of self-discovery, *The Cottingley Secret* unwraps the true story behind one of the great hoaxes of the 19th century while still allowing the possibility of the magical.” • (Kate Forsyth, author of *Bitter Greens*)

I said my story had many beginnings, and the day the camera arrived was one of them. After all, without the camera, there wouldn’t have been any photographs. Without the camera, I wouldn’t have a story to tell. . . .1917 . . . In a world torn apart by war, two young Yorkshire cousins, Frances Griffiths and Elsie Wright, announce that something marvelous has happened. They’ve photographed actual fairies, those ethereal creatures of mischief, living in their Cottingley, England, garden. The girls become a national sensation. The photos are declared real by none other than Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. And a nation torn apart by tragedy embraces this amazing event. Together, the cousins keep their secret about the photos for decades, until they

decide it's time to tell the truth. One hundred years later . . . Olivia Kavanagh inherits her grandfather's bookshop, and is amazed to find a manuscript that has been hidden away for decades. She becomes fascinated by the tale it tells. But it's the discovery of an old photograph that leads her to realize how the story of Frances and Elsie intertwines with hers, connecting past to present . . . and blurring what is real and what is imagined.

When I found this title about the Cottingley faeries I was tickled pink. I have this in print and will probably end up getting it on audible as well. The child in me that saw faeries for real is feeling quite at home in this wonderful book!

Another great book from Hazel Gaynor. I enjoyed it from cover to cover. I can't wait for her next book!

I have read all of Hazel Gaynor's books, and I loved this one! It absolutely magical, and I hated when it was over!

I have to admit that I did not know anything about the Cottingley Fairies until I started reading *The Cottingley Secret* and realized it is actually a true story. This book is beautifully written and so magical! Knowing that the characters of Frances and Elsie were real made it so much more charming. I loved how it was written in dual times--during 1917-1920 to the present. I imagined myself being in the Cottingley Beck listening to the sound of the waterfall, reading a book and waiting for something magical to happen, like fairies appearing. Not only did I love Frances and Elsie but I also enjoyed Olivia's story of inheriting her grandfather's bookstore in current day Ireland (what a dream to inherit a bookstore), struggling a bit on whether she should marry her fiancé, Jack, or stay in Ireland to run her grandfather's bookstore, and actually finding Frances' written story about her time with Elsie and the fairies in Yorkshire. I adored this book and will be recommending it to as many people as I can. I received an advance review copy of this book from the Great Thought's Ninja Review Team. All opinions are my own.

Can Olivia have some connection to Elsie and Frances who lived 100 years ago? Can Olivia find it? Is the connection somewhere in the pages of the rare books in the bookshop, **SOMETHING OLD**, that Olivia's grandfather left her? Is it in the story she finds that leads her to believe in herself like Elsie and Frances believed in fairies? Olivia lives in present day and finds a manuscript in her

grandfather's things that refers to fairies. As she reads the manuscript and deals with her unhappy life at this time, she believes her grandmother knew Frances. Olivia is excited that she inherited the bookshop, but doesn't know what to do with it. What decision will she make about the bookshop and her life? Will she decide to move to Ireland and run the bookshop and most importantly follow what will make her happy or marry the man that she realizes isn't the man she should marry? We move to 1917 and visit with Elsie and Frances who are cousins and live under the same roof since Frances moved there from South Africa while her father was called to serve in the war. Frances is a precocious child and believes she sees fairies at the beck, but no one believes her. She and Elsie get together to prove the fairies are really there, and their story becomes a sensation. THE COTTINGLEY SECRET took a few pages for me to connect, but once I got hooked and also realized that this fairy story was famous, I couldn't stop reading. I loved how the book went back and forth from 1917 to present day, and I truly enjoyed the secrets and connections between the characters from both time periods as they were revealed. Who doesn't love a book that has a bookshop in it? And who doesn't love an old bookshop with secrets and memories that might help you make personal decisions and find connections? Hazel Gaynor's books are always magical whether there is magic in them or not. And her books are always filled with love. ENJOY!!

5/5 This book was given to me free of charge and without compensation by the publisher in return for an honest review.

MY REVIEW OF "THE COTTINGLEY SECRET"™ by Hazel Gaynor

I enjoyed this enchanting and delightful novel "The Cottingley Secret" by Hazel Gaynor. The genres for this novel are Historical Fiction, and Fiction. The timeline of this story vacillates from the past 1917 to the present. In 1917 during the war, which was a disturbing and distressing time, two young cousins in Cottingley, Yorkshire convince the world that they see fairies in their garden. The girls use a camera and their imagination and photograph the fairies. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle writes about fairies and believes the girls' photographs are real. Frances and her cousin Elise promise to keep a secret about the photographs. Could this really be true? One hundred years later Olivia Kavanagh, mourning her grandfather's death, is in his Old Bookstore and discovers an old manuscript about the two young girls and photographs. Olivia is conflicted with secrets of her own, but something draws her to this manuscript. What is there about this manuscript that makes Olivia question things she believes in? I love the author's descriptions of the breathtaking landscape, waterfalls and countryside. I appreciate the author's historical research and the way the author describes her characters and their story.

The author talks about family, friends, love , faith and hope. I would highly recommend this magical and inspirational novel. I received an Advanced Reading Copy from Great Thoughts Ninja Group for my honest opinion.Share

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