

## **CILIPS COVID-19 Book Reviews – The Legacy**

**Reviewer name:** Eilidh Maclaine

**Book title:** The Legacy

**Author name:** Katherine Webb

**Genre:** General/Historical Fiction

**Overall Rating:** Good

**Brief summary:** Sisters Erica and Beth Calcott return to their late grandmother's house, where they'd spent many summers as children. Beth's mental health is fragile, and Erica is convinced the key to making her well lies in confronting the circumstances surrounding the disappearance of their cousin Henry, from this very house many years ago.

As Erica sifts through her grandmother's belongings, a picture of the relationship between her grandmother and great grandmother begins to emerge. As she digs further into the family history, she begins to unearth long buried secret about her great grandmother's life. Emotionally drawn to a childhood friend, Dinny, she discovers the shocking truth of what really happened to Henry.

**What you liked:** The book has two timelines running throughout. One, the turn of twentieth century America, the other, contemporary England. As Erica begins to uncover secrets, the reader is taken back in time through Caroline, her great grandmother's character. Finding out the truth about their cousin Henry's leaves Erica with a moral dilemma which is expertly passed on to the reader.

**Who should read this book?:** Fans of both historical and contemporary fiction.

**Any additional comments?:** The reader is party to the truth of what really happened in Caroline's life, however, a lot of guesswork has to be done by Erica and she doesn't get it quite right. I found this a bit disconcerting, hence the overall rating for a book that was beautifully written.