

SHADES OF DARKNESS REVIEWS

This is an excellent murder mystery, revolving around an unusual and unhappy family during a period of great turbulence. Ben Appleton is an engaging and three-dimensional character whose journey from neglected youth to an independent young man to amateur detective is seamlessly told by Margaret M Ford, whose mastery of prose writing makes the story a delight to read. Eschewing many convenient conventions of the mystery genre by having the complex relationship between detective, victim, and suspects be both unique and already established, *Shades of Darkness* is a very refreshing read for fans of the genre. A creative twist on the genre with a highly authentic depiction of the Great Depression and a diverse cast of deeply flawed family members, this book is an absolute must-read.

K.C. Finn for Readers' Favorite awarded 5-stars



Margaret M Ford's latest Book, *Shades of Darkness*, is one of those charming, heart-warming stories that gives a poignant insight into a dysfunctional family which is wealthy rather than poor, for once. It's a mystery set in the 1930s depression, a turbulent period which she manages to portray with great expertise from both sides of the track, and revolves around a young boy growing up in a very strange household. I found it a little over-sentimental at times but not at all predictable and a very satisfying read.

Erica Morley Open Book Review

I have enjoyed all of Margaret M Ford's books to date and *Shades of Darkness* is no exception. The quality of her writing in this novel is second to none. This story is exceptional and set apart from her others in that I wouldn't hesitate to let my twelve-year-old son read it. It's not your usual run-of-the-mill sort of mystery. The author manages to transport you to the period of the 1930s with scholarly ease. Her attention to even the tiniest detail is to be commended. I look forward to reading her next novel with eager anticipation.

Bob Bailey Open Book Review