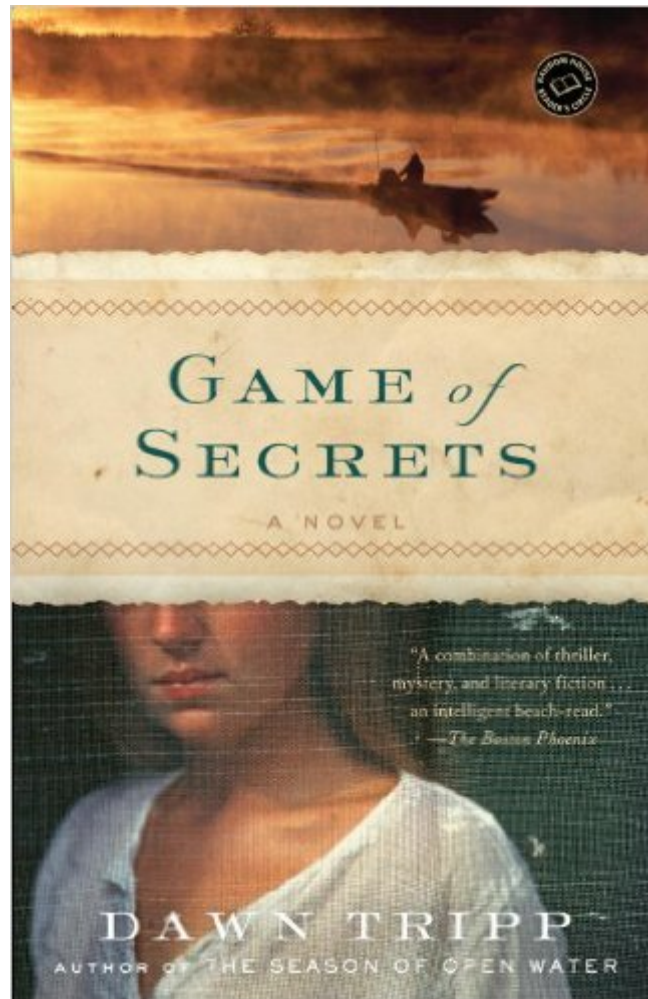


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# Game Of Secrets: A Novel (Random House Reader's Circle)



## Synopsis

Jane Weld was eleven years old when her father, Luce, disappeared in 1957. His skiff was found drifting near a marsh, empty except for his hunting coat and a box of shotgun shells. No one in their small New England town knew for sure what happened until, three years later, Luce's skull rolled out of a gravel pit, a bullet hole in the temple. Rumors sprang up that he had been murdered by the jealous husband of his mistress, Ada Varick. Now, half a century later, Jane is still searching for the truth of her father's death, a mystery made more urgent by the unexpected romance that her willful daughter, Marne, has struck up with one of Ada's sons. As the love affair intensifies, Jane and Ada meet for their weekly Friday game of Scrabble, a pastime that soon transforms into a cat-and-mouse game of words long left unspoken, and dark secrets best left untold. A Boston Globe bestseller Look for special features inside. Join the Circle for author chats and more.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars See all reviews (48 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #618,897 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #34 in Books > Humor &

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Thriller & Suspense > Thrillers & Suspense > Suspense

## Customer Reviews

In a time frame that moves between a father's disappearance in 1957 New England, the early 1960s and 2004, Tripp's tale is a magical blend of past and present, a drama begun of the infidelity of Luce Weld and the fiery Ada Varick, the seeds of their affair bearing fruit long after Luce's disappearance, his young daughter, Jane, watching hopefully for a father who never returns. In the 1960s, an excavation yields a skull pierced by a bullet, common rumor that this may be the fate of Luce Weld. It is seductively personal, this novel, fragments of poetry and genius, TS Eliot, Ingmar Bergman and

the scattered letter tiles of a Scrabble game forming the language of family dysfunction, the vague resentments of a rebellious daughter and the weighted relationships of Jane Weld and the infamous Ada Varick. When Marne returns to the New England of her childhood, it is to a still difficult relationship with an enigmatic Jane, a mother with secrets, the tangled threads of the past as insubstantial as the Scrabble game played weekly by Ada Varick and the grown daughter of the man she loved indiscriminately. All is revealed in this exquisitely-penned novel, random Scrabble tiles hinting of revelation, a winding down of transient hostilities and the healing attraction between a reluctant Marne and Ada's son, Ray. Tripp waves her wand over the past, discontent ameliorated by real intimacy, irresistible prose illuminating moments both fragile and tragic: "We have to go on loving what we love, knowing we will lose it." Resolution is experienced in pairs, Ada and Jane over a game board across a picnic table, Marne and Ray, Carleton and Jane's affection, Marne's paper origami flock symbolizing the elasticity of hope.

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