

6/16/2022

PRESS RELEASE

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Note to editors: *Karen Lee Boren is available for interviews, and advanced copies are available to reviewers. Visit www.flexiblepub.com for more information or contact Flexible Press editor@flexiblepub.com.*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***Secret Waltz* is the coming-of-age story of three friends whose lives are turned upside down by the secrets they keep.**

Coming June 28, 2022, Karen Lee Boren's novel focused on the personal cost of an unplanned pregnancy before Roe V. Wade.

In the literary tradition of Barbara Kingsolver, Maggie O'Farrell, and Kent Haruf comes a new novel by Karen Lee Boren, the author of *Mother Tongue* and *Girls in Peril*.

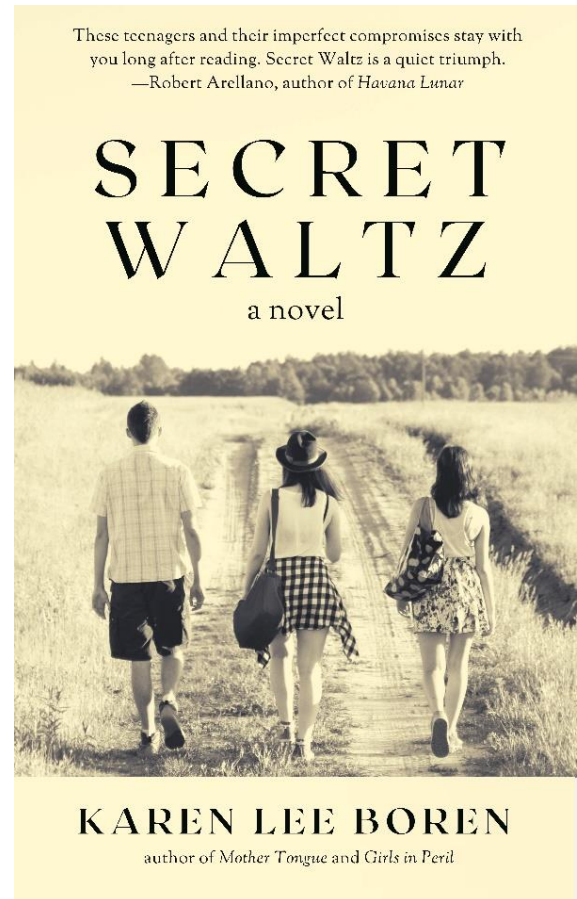
Set in suburban Milwaukee on the cusp of change in the 1960s, *Secret Waltz* asks the question, what does it mean to be a "good girl" or a "good boy" when you keep secrets from the people you love?

The story:

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.

On her 15th birthday Emelia receives stunning news from the aunts who are raising her, news that forces her to have to re-evaluate everything she thought she knew about herself. Meanwhile, Leo, a promising guitarist, is struggling with a complex and abusive relationship with his father, a musician who Leo both looks up to and hates for the control he has over Leo's music and his life.

All that is hard enough, but when they stumble across Sonya's seemingly inexplicable and horrifying act, they soon become active participants in ways Leo and Emelia haven't thought through, nor considered how they may make matters so very much worse.



Early reviews are coming in:

“...An important book—and a terrific read”—Jane Eklund, *Author of The Story So Far*

“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 is the author of *Mother Tongue* and *Girls in Peril*. She lives in Providence, Rhode Island, and teaches writing at Rhode Island College.

About Flexible Press:

Secret Waltz is published by Flexible Press, a Minneapolis publisher dedicated to supporting authors, communities, and mission-driven non-profits through story. *Secret Waltz* will be available to book lovers wherever books are sold, and it is available to retailers from Ingram.

A portion of the proceeds from *Secret Waltz* goes to Planned Parenthood, delivering vital reproductive health care, sex education, and information to millions of people worldwide.

More information can be found at <https://www.flexiblepub.com>.