



Garden of Shadows

V.C. Andrews

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Before terror flowered in the attic there was a young girl. An innocent, hopeful girl...

When young Olivia arrives at Foxworth Hall, she thinks her marriage to handsome Malcolm will bring the joy she has longed for. But in the gloomy mansion filled with festering desires and forbidden passions, a stain of jealous obsession begins to spread—an evil that will threaten her children, two charming boys and one very special, beautiful girl. For within the halls of this cursed house a shocking secret lives. A secret that will taint the Foxworth family for generations to come...

Garden of Shadows Details

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Author : V.C. Andrews

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From Reader Review Garden of Shadows for online ebook

Kolleen says

Well, I have to admit I wasn't too excited about reading this book. It is a prequel, and usually those aren't too great, and by this point I was a little bit over the Dollangangers. But, upon finishing this book I came to three conclusions:

- 1.) This was one of the better books in the series.
- 2.) Although this is a prequel, and some suggest to read it first, please read it last. It has a shocker of an ending that makes the whole series worth it.
- 3.) And lastly, you have to read it to finally understand all of what just happened in the previous books. *What the hell!*

This book is told from the grandmother's viewpoint and follows her courtship and marriage with Malcolm. They have children, and Malcolm becomes a real douche bag and cheats on her with his stepmother (oh, yes there is incest all around, and it only gets worse!). During this affair, or let's be honest, rape of his stepmother, she conceives a child named Corrine. She already has an older child named Christopher, and things start falling into place. Grandmother raises Corrine as her own to cover up the affair, and never lets anyone know that Christopher and Corrine are actually brother and sister rather than uncle and niece. Confusing, yes, but once it sinks in these books take on a whole new meaning.

Poor Corrine and Christopher who started the endless cycle of sin that wove its way throughout generations of children to come after, all because of a secret that was kept from them because of a mother's shame. And after all, we learn that although Malcolm is a sleazeball, he had room in his heart for Corrine and her children after all, but it was Grandma that refused to let them in, jealous of Malcolm's love for his daughter, forcing them to spend their days locked in the attic. Ahhhh, it all makes sense now.

There were times I felt sorry for Olivia (aka Grandma) because she really was dealt a shitty hand of cards, but she didn't have the strength to overcome it, but rather became a spiteful bitch. Overall, I enjoyed this series and would recommend it to anyone who likes things a little bit on the strange side.

Lori says

"Garden of Shadows", the prequel to "Flowers in the Attic", goes back to uncharted territory and succeeds in giving a new twist to the Dollangager saga.

"Garden" is the story of Olivia (the Grandmother) - a few pages about her upbringing by her loving father, before we are taken right into her "arranged" marriage to Malcolm Foxworth, a good looking young man whom she feels love for, but that quickly turns on her wedding night when she is raped. Olivia comes to find out what a horrible, cruel and manipulative man her husband is - he married her specifically because she wasn't pretty and attractive, a woman as opposite from his own mother as imaginable.

Olivia quickly supplies Malcolm with the heirs he requires and her life becomes a sad day after day of a

loveless marriage. She is only spared by the arrival of her cousin, John Amos Jackson, who begins preaching religion to her, giving her a new place to turn.

And such would her life have been, had Malcolm's father Garland not arrived with his new teenaged bride, Alicia.

Without giving away too much of the story, or the spectacular twist that is revealed, I found "Garden" to be an absolute engrossing read. I even found sympathy with Olivia, despite her future actions in "Flowers" -- her coldness and seeming indifference is somewhat explained in "Garden". The character of Malcolm is shown in an even clearer light as manipulative, depraved and suffering from severely dysfunctional mother love/adulation/hatred.

Prequels often tend to fail, but "Garden" succeeds in being a fascinating story and giving a new twist on the old familiar Dollanganger saga.

James says

Book Review

3 out of 5 stars to Garden of Shadows, the 5th book in the young adult thriller series written in 1987 by V.C. Andrews. Two key things to note about this book. The author passed away while writing this book, and I'm not clear on how much VC Andrews wrote versus a ghost writer at the publishing firm. Also, it's the fifth book in the series, but it is actually a prequel to Flowers in the Attic, so it should be read first. That said, if you read it first, you'd totally lose the power of the first book... it's better to see someone as bad before you find out they were once good, as well as what pushed them to turn towards the bad life! If you haven't read Flowers in the Attic, stop reading this review and go back to the beginning.

We find out what Olivia, the grandmother, was like as a child. We learn to like her for awhile, seeing how she was broken down by a wicked man and the loss of her parents at a young age. You begin to feel sympathy, but then you remember, it doesn't quite matter what was done to you, you should know better than to repeat the cycle, right?

I loved and hated this book. Took too much to read, pushed in the wrong directions. But it also continued a devastating and complex family saga. I had some different ideas on how it should have come together, but I was barely a few years at this point to be able to say anything. Imagine a young kid saying "Oh, I can write that better." LOL

If you read the series, you owe it to yourself to finish it with this one. If you didn't, don't start with this one even tho it's technically the "first."

About Me

For those new to me or my reviews... here's the scoop: I read A LOT. I write A LOT. And now I blog A LOT. First the book review goes on Goodreads, and then I send it on over to my WordPress blog at <https://thisismytruthnow.com>, where you'll also find TV & Film reviews, the revealing and introspective 365 Daily Challenge and lots of blogging about places I've visited all over the world. And you can find all my social media profiles to get the details on the who/what/when/where and my pictures. Leave a comment and let me know what you think. Vote in the poll and ratings. Thanks for stopping by.

Inés Izal says

Maldito drama y maldito seas Malcom.
Al fin obtuve mis ansiadas respuestas.

C Solis-Sublette says

It has been a long while since I finished a book of this length in less than 2 nights. I remember, now, the appeal of V.C. Andrews. Yes, her plots are a little unrealistic and yes, her characters can seem a little falt but both are just fun reading for the beach or whatever. This novel is like reading a good Lifetime movie. Back to the novel itself. *_Garden of Shadows_* is fun in its own right but even more fun if you are familiar with *_Flowers in the Attic_* as GOS is its prequel and everyone loves prequels. Here, we get to see how that horrible, stern grandmother - played by Louise Fletcher in the movie - comes to be the austere woman she is. It gives pause for the reader to remember that not all cruel women have always been cruel. Rather, there has been incidents in their lives that have made them the way they are. Knowing what Olivia will become, we are introduced to her as a young girl - a girl with hopes and dreams and visions of love. She is robbed of all and becomes trapped in a loveless marriage to a faithless husband. As the novel progresses, we begin to see how a woman with great intelligence and potential begins to use her gifts towards bad instead of good - warping herself into the hateful grandmother and homicidal grandmother we meet in *_Flowers in the Attic_*. Corrine, however, remains a mystery. In *_Flowers in the Attic_* we meet a woman who is incapable of standing up to her mother and, instead, uses her mother's actions as an excuse to rid herself of her children and move on with the life she left behind as a beautiful socialite. In my reading, Corrine was the real villain of *_Flowers in the Attic_*. In this novel, we don't really get a taste for how Corrine could have succumbed to such a fate. Yes, she was spoiled as a girl; yes, she was haughty and a brat; yes, she felt in love with her half uncle that turned out to be her closer than half-brother. But, to abandon her children to the attic? That sociopathic leaning in Corrine just isn't seen in this novel at all. It would have been better, in my opinion, if we had seen a hint of it here. Perhaps if we had seen evidence that she loved her father for only what he would give her; perhaps if we had seen her show cruelty towards Christopher for failing to give into one of her whims. But, no. In Corrine, we see a rather beautiful and perfect woman - nothing of the monster she becomes in the follow up novel. So, while this novel was a delightful read, it did have its character flaws. But...what a ride. If you've got a day to spare and wouldn't mind some fluff that requires very little thought, why the heck not?

Mizuki says

I'm entertained by this installment of the Dollanganger series, we go back to uncover the 'origin story' of the hateful grandmother, Olivia Foxworth, from the first book. After reading this book, I still don't like Olivia, but at least I can see her reason and where she came from.

Although the plots and turns of events are highly predicable...down to the handsome husband getting abusive part, still I can understand those characters quite well...and despite of all the victim-blaming, melodramas, woman-on-woman-hating, rape and incest, *Garden of Shadows* is still Gothic horror/soap opera at its finest. Plus Ms. Andrews' writing and her skill of holding her readers' attention always amuses me. So, 4 stars.

PS: I'd just finished re-reading this book in Chinese at 30/03/2018!

List of my favorite V. C. Andrews' books: https://www.goodreads.com/list/user_v...

Christina says

The first and most important of the Andrews series. Felt oh so wrong while reading it and yet no girl of my generation could put them down! I enjoyed every page of every book.

Nenia ? Queen of Literary Trash, Protector of Out-of-Print Gems, Khaleesi of Bodice Rippers, Mother of Smut, the Unrepentant, Breaker of Convention ? Campbell says

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If you've read the Dollanganger series, you probably remember that the grandmother character in FLOWERS IN THE ATTIC had serious issues. But how did she get that way? Aren't you curious?

GARDEN OF SHADOWS is about a girl named Olivia. Tall and plain, she's been raised her whole life as the son her father wanted but never got. Beneath that homely brow of hers is a sharpened mind, and an almost heartbreaking desire to be loved and adored. She's absolutely thrilled when she finds out she's to marry a protege of her father's: the dashing and debonair Malcolm. He seems to like the fact that she's not like other woman, and proposes to her early on. But things are not what they seem, and happiness is elusive.

*****WARNING: SPOILERS*****

This is one of those books that, like the first two in the series, actually had me setting the volume aside, taking a deep breath, and thinking to myself, "WOW, THAT WAS SO MESSED UP." Over the course of the novel, we see Olivia, maddened with jealousy, betrayal, and impotent rage, slowly lose her desire to please and be loved; instead, she becomes cruel and controlling, using fear to influence where she failed at charm.

And oh, her husband, let's not forget about Malcolm. He never got over his mother leaving him when he was a child, and it's given him a severe complex about women. When his wife still loved him, he flirted with other, prettier women in front of her eyes and let them mock her without saying a word. When his father remarries Alicia, and Malcolm lays eyes on the stepmother who is the spitting image of his own beloved mother in her prime, he sneaks into her room at night and rapes her for months. When she becomes pregnant, Olivia locks her away in the attic and Alicia eventually goes mad.

Then there's Corinne and Christopher, the two who started the Dollanganger legacy...

I'm honestly shocked that this is marked as young adult on Goodreads. Maybe it's because so many people managed to get their hands on these volumes as children and teens, and the parents were none the wiser because of the innocent (but creepy) looking covers and titles. They're tawdry, and full of abuse, incest, sex, and corruption, and people being murdered or tormented.

That said, as a Gothic novel for adults, it's quite compelling. Andrews has a unique and adaptable style, which she manages to tailor for each of her narrating characters while also keeping true to her own style. She's excellent at foreshadowing and providing just enough drama to keep readers turning the pages without every overwhelming them. They're atmospheric and trashy, but not dumb in the slightest. I've thoroughly enjoyed every book in this series I've read, even if they're a bit much.

Now I kind of want to reread the first two books in the series to see if Olivia's narrative reveals any further clues with the power of hindsight...

4 to 4.5 stars

Michelle Arrow says

Note: If you hated Olivia, Corrine's mother and Cathy's grandmother as much as I did in the first and previous novels of the series, then maybe this prequel will give you a little more insight on her aspect and will help you change your mind on this poor woman who went through so much hatred and unfairness in her life.

I was ready to hate this book; I never liked Olivia and you think I want to read her POV when she was a "bratty young lady?" No thanks. But having this be the last of V.C. Andrews's highly acclaimed and raved Dollanganger series, I just **had to end it off with this prequel**. But I never expected to like this, especially after watching the 'Flowers in the Attic' new film. *shivers*

But all in all, everyone has a reason for everything; that also includes their actions and behaviour. Olivia did have a reason for everything, even if Corrine surprisingly wasn't even her daughter by blood.

This is about the main "beginning" of Olivia's life. She gets married to Malcolm, who she fears isn't even in love and her and just is using her for fortune and good "Foxworth pure blood." She has three children-- two boys and a young girl. There's a curse and there's a secret behind everything, even behind the home that everyone's known forever.

This book taught me so much about the Foxworth family, even more than what I knew before from the

previous books. Olivia has **her reasons**. And I kind of support her for everything she did and felt. Olivia didn't really do anything in the books, except some kind of cruel things to Corrine's kids. It was all of **CORRINE'S FAULT FOR EVERYTHING**. That stupid brat was spoiled and everything happened because of her "too perfect brain and pettiness." It's just so CRAZY.

So by the end of the book, I felt a lot of sympathy for Olivia. She was a great MC and it changed the way I felt for her before. V.C. Andrews made a great decision to show the thoughts and past life of Olivia and the past truth of the Foxworths.

This book was very moving. It was fast-paced and not really boring, despite the confusion of who was who in the beginning to late middle. I forgot a lot of the characters and as usual, V.C. Andrews didn't seem the type to create some light for us and make us understand what was going on. But other than that, this book was great and the perfect ending and beginning to everything, in a way.

Let's give a round of applause to V.C. Andrews (RIP) for creating an amazing series. What an enjoyable ride.

Alma says

OMG. Makes complete sence!

Rabbit {Paint me like one of your 19th century gothic heroines!} says

Currently reading (6/14/17):

Buddy read with Sarah. The perfect way to start off the summer. :D

Review (7/5/17):

This book just cements my love for all the evil grandmother origins stories (the last book in each series). I'm not 100% sure why.

This book goes into detail why Olivia turned into a hellbeast. Olivia started out as such a sympathetic character. I got extremely protective of her, because I know going into it, that life was not going to be kind to her.

Malcolm was the literal worst(tm) for me. Just ick.

I had mixed feelings about Garland, on one hand he is such a nice guy, on the other he started wooing Alicia when she was still very underage. ick.

The real victims were Olivia's two sons and Alicia. Poor things. :(

The book ends with the beginning summary of Flowers in the Attic. It makes me want to re-read it. :D

Neva says

Ever wonder why Cathy's grandmother was such a bitch? No? Well, I did. Apparently, so did VC Andrews. It turns out, it was because she was so damn tall, wore her hair pulled back sternly, and was so serious! Oh, and because her husband cheated on her with his stepmother. And then he killed his father, and impregnated his stepmother who gets PUT IN THE ATTIC. Geez, they just stuck everyone up there. So does that make him his...stepsister's father? Well, anyway, the stepmother has a daughter who is the most beautiful woman of all! Anyway, the daughter ends up falling in love with who she THINKS is her half uncle...but little does she know...he's her HALF BROTHER! So they get damned to hell by Cathy's grandmother, and then they run away together and have Cathy, her gross brother, and the twins. Confused? I am too.

Jen Thompson says

I'm not going to say that Olivia Foxworth didn't have it bad, but nothing NOTHING that happened to her, in my opinion, is as bad as what she did to those children! And to think she knew, knew what would happen them; being up in that attic for so long. After all, she did watch Alicia Foxworth go nearly mad from being locked away in that room/attic for almost a year.

This book was probably the most shocking out of all of them, because after reading the first four you are always led to believe that Corrine married her half-uncle. Then come to find out that, that was not the case. That they were in fact of closer relation.

It turns out that Malcolm Foxworth was far sicker than I could have ever imagined! Always pining away for the mother that left him when he was a child. Wanting his own fathers wife because Alicia reminded him of her. Naming his own daughter after her; Corrine. CRAZY MAD SICK!

Then of course the dreaded John Amos! Oh yes, it's true he was right to warn Olivia that Corrine and Christopher were "too close." For indeed they were, but I also think that it weren't for him Olivia would have gotten past Corrine and Christopher's "unique relationship" and excepted her grandchild with open arms. Before she spoke to John about it, she had said she wanted grandchild. She even grieved Christopher's death, said that she would never have wish that sort of thing to happen to them, no matter what they'd done. It was John Amos who told her to lock those children away and harden her heart against them, because they were devils issue. Which leaves me to wonder just how much of what happen to those children where the ideas of John Amos? Did he suggest that Olivia put tar in Cathy hair when she refused to cut it? Did he suggest that she beat them bloody with a switch when they disobeyed? Which of course doesn't make Olivia blameless, because even if they were his suggestions she didn't have to listen.

Did John Amos suggest to Malcolm that he and Olivia should take the switch to Corrine's back as punishment for her sins? To my understanding even though Malcolm had whipped his sons he had never laid a hand on Corrine before, because he had dotted on her, spoiled her. And as far as I know Olivia had never

laid a hand on any of her children. So it is just suspicious to me is all, because perhaps John Amos was the main reason for them acting the way they did.

Britt says

If There Be Thorns gives us a peek into the life of Malcolm, the haunting figure who's omnipresent throughout the Dollanganger books but only seen once, and then from afar. Bart Jr. reads Malcolm's old diary and through that, we learn about Malcolm's womanizing ways, and a bit more of the family history.

Why the existence of this book, then, after all has been said and done already? The purpose is to experience through Olivia's eyes all that's happened from her marriage to the night she first locks the door behind which conceals those four doomed children. This book opens with a forenote from Olivia's will, bidding us to "judge her if we dare" once we learn the full story, which implies that her re-telling is supposed to engender pity for whom we've come to know as "the evil grandmother".

Yes, at the core, Olivia's circumstances were pitiable. It seems her hard looks--something she couldn't change no matter how much she tried--led her into her dark fate. She's not considered marriageable because of them, and it's assumed she'll be a spinster for the rest of her life (need I say that in those days, a woman was considered a failure unless she could secure a marriage?) until Malcolm comes along. She can't believe the miracle of a handsome, charming, and wealthy man being interested in someone like her...and she *shouldn't* have believed it. Malcolm basically hired her for the job of being a wife, rather than marry her because he loved her. The first time he meets her is more like a job interview, in his eyes, and Malcolm treats her like he does any servant in his house because like the servants, Olivia has duties he expects her to complete: keep the house in order and give him children. He never gives her tenderness. The only times they share a bed together are when he rapes her for hope of impregnating her, and when the doctor says it'd be dangerous for Olivia to have any more children, Malcolm takes it out on her as if it was her choice to be unable to give birth anymore.

It's not hard to imagine a woman treated so terribly would turn coldhearted. But what she went through does NOT excuse her cruel actions...it just serves to make us understand how she became that way.

The book starts with what came to be the usual V.C. Andrews cliché talk about rose-colored hopes and dollhouse dreams. I guess Olivia had to be depicted as a hopeful girl just like any other, because that makes Malcolm's deception all the more unforgivable, but showing Olivia to be this way at the beginning made me skeptical. The grandmother's severity in the first book was such that I assumed Olivia would have to have had some cruel tendencies earlier on in her life, but that wasn't so. Making this character, so full of dreams and wishes for love at the beginning, turn malicious by the end...I had to wonder if the author would be able to carry out that transformation believably.

There was one moment in the book where Olivia does something cruel, but it seemed inconsistent with her behavior before. Olivia was motivated by jealousy but there was nothing beforehand to insinuate that Olivia was capable of such cruelty, especially after just admitting that the person she was jealous of also happened to inspire happy feelings in Olivia at the same time. And besides that one random moment, there's no other instance of cruelty in Olivia. In fact, even right to the last page of the book, Olivia says she feels love in her heart for Corinne and even Corinne's grandchildren! This doesn't mesh well with the idea perpetuated that Olivia only loved her sons, and disliked Corinne. In the first book, Corinne even implies to the children that

Olivia never was capable of loving Corinne, but in this book, Olivia is very doting on Corinne. None of it adds up, despite the author using religious fervor as the only motivator for Olivia's cruelty (John Amos having brainwashed Olivia into believing it's her religious duty to punish the grandchildren for having been born out of incest).

Garden of Shadows also has the disadvantage of being a story we already know at its foundation...mostly. For example, when Malcolm's new stepmother arrives with his father at the house, we already know what's going to happen because he talks about it in the diary from the third book. Readers might get bored at times like that. But~ there's a whole new twist added to the family history that we never knew about, and it makes the whole Foxworth saga all the more disturbing. Let's just say Christopher and Cathy had more in common with their parents than we even imagined. (Although I see from the first review on this book's page that someone delighted in spoiling that surprise so by the time anyone's gotten to THIS review, she or he may already have that ruined for them. Sigh, regardless...)

I'm not sure at this point whether V.C. Andrews herself wrote most of this, or none of this, and it doesn't really matter. Even the third book in the series already seemed exactly like those of the ghostwriter's in style, and I know V.C. Andrews would've written the whole of that book, so. Characterization isn't good and clichés abound so I was pretty bored with this one.

There's one aspect to the book that I do find interesting. Beneath the trashy surface, there's a lot to be observed in the human character. Malcolm was abandoned by his mother when he was a child, which is what led to him having such a distorted view on women in the future. It's an example of just how deeply our parents affect us, how someone who's not ready for that responsibility can really ruin a child. His own mother left him, so Malcolm had no reason to assume other women wouldn't hurt him in the future. He develops an Oedipus complex, and uses women for sex as a form of revenge and as a way to make sure they're under his control so he can't be hurt again. Ironically, the type of women he proclaims to hate are the ones he actually cares about, but they all end up hurting him, too, as if in divine punishment for his treatment of other women. Even though he is the one who seeks to control women, in actuality the women have power over him, because he's so consumed with his love/hate for the female gender that it's taken over his entire being. It also shows a conflict over what is "right" and how religion can be distorted into something the opposite of what it stands for. Olivia and John Amos wanted to play God themselves, handing out redemption for what they saw as wrong, but it's up to God to do that as He sees fit. So while they thought they were being pious, they were true sinners.

That's what keeps me going back to the V.C. Andrews books. They don't shy away from those aspects to human character that we all try to cover up. There's thousands of books about terrible killings and monsters, but barely few that showcase the kind of secrets that V.C. Andrews books do, even though the latter are more prevalent than we can probably guess. Show all the murders you can come up with and we can handle that no problem, but we'll collectively balk at certain topics like those that come up in V.C.A. books. That shows what's more disturbing to the public at large...

sj says

(Full Review and more on Trashy Tuesday here: <http://wp.me/p1Zgyz-8o>)

At last, we've arrived at the final installment in the Dollanganger series! I was talking to Becoming Cliche over chat the other day about how thrilled I was to be able to stop reading VC Andrews, and she said

something to the effect of "Oh, but *Heaven* was such a good book! And what about *My Sweet Audrina*?" I guess this means I will be revisiting this author at some point in the future, but hopefully not any time soon. There's only so many incestuous relationships a girl can handle at one time, you know?

I think it's interesting to note here, that this was the first VC Andrews book to be published after her death in 1986. It seems that it has been questioned as to whether this book was actually written partially by her before she died - and completed by the ghost-writer hired by her estate to continue her "legacy" - or whether the ghost-writer in fact wrote the entire thing himself. Interesting. I think I prefer the notion that he composed every future Andrews book with the assistance of a Ouija Board. It makes things more fun for me.

(view spoiler)

[heavy sigh]

Thus concludes the Dollanganger saga. It was fun to write about, but I'm pretty glad I'm done with the craziness for now. Up next on the Trashy Tuesday roster: Cave Pr0n!

Angela says

Garden of Shadows by V.C. Andrews is the final installment of the Dollanganger Family Series. A prequel to *Flowers in the Attic*, it explains the story behind the grandmother's harsh ways. Like *Flowers in the Attic*, *Garden of Shadows* presents a series of horrifying events that make you want to cringe, yet entices you to read more. We learn how the grandmother, Olivia, met Malcolm and discover their marriage was more of a business arrangement than act of love and commitment. Malcolm makes it known that he "prefer[s:] intelligent women who know how to think for themselves, women who can be real assets to their husbands" (Andrews, 1989). Prior to marrying Malcolm, Olivia worked as her wealthy father's personal accountant. She is described as rather plain and ordinary, spending little time on maintaining her physical appearance. Once Olivia moves in with her husband, the plot weaves a series of shocking family secrets. We discover that Corrine is not biologically Olivia's daughter and is actually Christopher's half-sister instead of half-niece. The story leads readers to feel sympathy for Olivia despite her cruel personality that was portrayed in *Flowers in the Attic*. On the other hand, Malcolm's appalling behaviors causes extreme disgust. The suspenseful twists throughout the plot make it difficult to put the book down. By the end of the story, I felt compelled to re-read *Flowers in the Attic* all over again.

Jennifer says

I think it's hard to spend 4 books hating on a character and then going back in the 5th and trying to work up some boo-hoo for the character you have been hating on for so long. Plus I wasn't 13 when I read this one so it made it a lot harder to read.

I feel like someone should have stepped in at some point and nudged the ghost-writers for V.C. Andrews and told them that humping relatives is actually kinda looked down upon. Of course the formula works - The estate of V.C. Andrews is still pumping out incest laden novel after novel. I haven't read one in years but I am betting they are still filled with abuse and twisted family humping situations.

Brooklyn Tayla says

Oh wow. Well I just flew through this. I can't not give it 5 stars because it kept me hooked and horrified at every turn. The ending had me gasping, for something that was SO obvious and critical to the Dollanganger novels, it didn't even occur to me until I read it at the last page.

I love VC Andrews books, they just flow so easily. This one had everything, and I definitely even feel haunted now after I've closed the book.

Scott says

Takes you back to the beginning and makes the Dollanganger story even MORE twisted...

Savina M. says

I read the first four books of the Dollanganger saga two years ago, and since then I've never felt quite emotionally prepared for the fifth book. I finally plucked up the courage to read *Garden of Shadows*, and it is safe to say V.C. Andrews has not let me down.

Fortunately, I didn't cry reading this book. I remember bawling my eyes out at every one of the first four books. This book, if possible, is even darker than *Flowers in the Attic* and it left me in a trance whenever I paused to do something else.

The book's plot is somewhat similar to *Flowers in the Attic*, and has many resemblances to it. I found myself sympathizing with Olivia, and hating Corinne as much as I did two years ago.

Honestly, I don't have much to say because *Garden of Shadows* left me speechless. Therefore, I end this review with a gif.
