

if there be thorns



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著者:V.C. Andrews

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Cathy and Chris now live together as "husband" and "wife". The book is narrated by Cathy's two children, Jory and Bart. Chris and Cathy now have a child together (adopted), Cindy. Jory is handsome and is taking up ballet, but Bart is misunderstood. The two boys enjoy playing at an abandoned mansion beside their house, and are saddened when they are not allowed to play there anymore because an old lady is moving in. The boys become very curious about the old lady and begin to spy on her. Bart goes more often than Jory and soon the old lady invites him in for milk and cookies. She tells him to call her "Grandmother". Bart becomes stranger than he ever was before and begins saying very cruel things to his mother. John Amos Jackson, the butler that is mentioned in the other books, is now the cause for more heartache for the Sheffield family. He tells Bart that all women are sinful. He gives Bart Malcom Foxworth's journal and tells Bart to read it every night and take in his words. Bart starts to think that he is actually Malcolm, and begins to hate women just like he did.

Bart's transformation soon quickens and he starts to harm everyone around him, even his "Grandmother" who gives him almost anything he wants. Chris and Cathy take Bart to a psychiatrist to find out why he hates his mother. Soon Bart and Jory find out who their parents really are, brother and sister. Chris and Cathy begin confronting the old

lady next door only to discover that the old lady is their mother. Corrine desperately wants her children's love back but Cathy won't listen to her and ends up slapping and hitting her. John Amos has a plan with Bart to kill Cathy and Corrine so he has them locked in a cellar with nothing to eat. But finally Bart realizes he loves and needs his mother so he tells his father (Chris) where Cathy and Corrine are. The old mansion catches fire and they must get to Cathy and Corrine as fast as they can. But the butler hits Chris over the head so he is knocked out and can't do anything. Jory plays a large role in this too. He also has confronted the grandmother on several occasions. But Bart goes and saves his mother who is on the verge of dying. Corrine carries her daughter out of the house to save her life, only to realize that she herself is on fire. Corrine dies from the exertion of rolling on the ground, trying to put out the fire. Chris and Cathy try to do everything to make Bart feel loved. Bart was still confused about himself but began recovering. Cathy narrates the epilogue; she states that Bart will not allow them to act as man and wife any more.

作者介绍:

Cleo Virginia Andrews (June 6, 1923 – December 19, 1986), better known as V. C. Andrews or Virginia C. Andrews was an American author. She was born in Portsmouth, Virginia, and died of breast cancer at the age of 63.

Andrews' novels combine Gothic horror and family saga, revolving around family secrets and forbidden love (frequently involving themes of consensual incest, most often between siblings), and they often include a rags-to-riches story. Her most well-known novel is the infamous bestseller *Flowers in the Attic* (1979), a tale of four children locked in the attic of a wealthy Virginia family by their estranged religious grandmother for four years.

Her novels were so successful that after her death her estate hired a ghost writer, Andrew Neiderman, to write more stories to be published under her name.

Her novels have been translated into French, Italian, German, Spanish, Japanese, Turkish, Greek, Finnish, Swedish and Hebrew.

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