



ALL THE THINGS WE DO IN THE DARK

BY SAUNDRA MITCHELL • RELEASE DATE: OCT. 29, 2019

A searing, fast-paced whodunit that addresses sexual assault head-on.

A teen loner grapples with buried demons as she stumbles on someone else's secret in the woods.

In her latest novel, Mitchell (*The Prom*, 2019, etc.) again explores the sexual awakening of adolescent identities—this time against the backdrop of childhood sexual assault. Though hesitant to open up to anyone apart from her best friend, Syd, 17-year-old Ava Parkhurst reveals early on that she was raped at age 9 and visibly scarred for life when her attacker traced “*a razor blade finger*” down her cheek. As if Ava, a good student who strives to live in the present and not fixate on past trauma, doesn't have enough challenges—Syd is keeping secrets from her; her father has moved out, leaving her and her mother on their own; and, for the first time, she's finding herself physically attracted to the daughter of the policeman who, years before, handled her assault case—a walk in the woods one snowy Maine night leads to a harrowing discovery that dangerously tests the confines of Ava's carefully guarded world. Mitchell's roller-coaster confessional narrative runs the gamut from teen melodrama between friends and the throes of first love to reckoning with guarded secrets and the psychological fallout from astoundingly brutal acts. Most characters default to white; Ava's love interest is biracial (white Jewish and Korean).

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Categories:

TEENS & YOUNG ADULT MYSTERY & THRILLER | TEENS & YOUNG ADULT SOCIAL THEMES

All the Things We Do in the Dark

Sandra Mitchell

3.55

797 ratings 151 reviews

***Sadie* meets *Girl in Pieces* in this dark, emotional thriller by acclaimed author Sandra Mitchell.**

Something happened to Ava. The curving scar on her face is proof. Ava would rather keep that something hidden—buried deep in her heart and her soul.

But in the woods on the outskirts of town, the traces of someone else's secrets lie frozen, awaiting Ava's discovery—and what Ava finds threatens to topple the carefully constructed wall of normalcy that she's spent years building around her.

Secrets leave scars. But when the secret in question is not your own—do you ignore the truth and walk away? Or do you uncover it from its shallow grave and let it reopen old wounds—wounds that have finally begun to heal?

Genres **Young Adult** **LGBT** **Mystery** **Contemporary** **Thriller** **Mystery**
Thriller **Queer**
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