



## These Shallow Graves

By Jennifer Donnelly

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From Jennifer Donnelly, the critically acclaimed *New York Times* bestselling author of *A Northern Light* and *Revolution*, comes a mystery about dark secrets, dirty truths, and the lengths to which people will go for love and revenge. For fans of Elizabeth George and Libba Bray, *These Shallow Graves* is the story of how much a young woman is willing to risk and lose in order to find the truth.

Jo Montfort is beautiful and rich, and soon—like all the girls in her class—she'll graduate from finishing school and be married off to a wealthy bachelor. Which is the last thing she wants. Jo dreams of becoming a writer—a newspaper reporter like the trailblazing Nellie Bly.

Wild aspirations aside, Jo's life seems perfect until tragedy strikes: her father is found dead. Charles Montfort shot himself while cleaning his pistol. One of New York City's wealthiest men, he owned a newspaper and was a partner in a massive shipping firm, and Jo knows he was far too smart to clean a loaded gun.

The more Jo hears about her father's death, the more something feels wrong. Suicide is the only logical explanation, and of course people have started talking, but Jo's father would never have resorted to *that*. And then she meets Eddie—a young, smart, infuriatingly handsome reporter at her father's newspaper—and it becomes all too clear how much she stands to lose if she keeps searching for the truth. But now it might be too late to stop.

The past never stays buried forever. Life is dirtier than Jo Montfort could ever have imagined, and this time the truth is the dirtiest part of all.

### Praise for *These Shallow Graves*:

"*These Shallow Graves* delivered all that I adore: **lovely prose, historical intrigue, unique characters and setting**. I devoured this book!"-Ruta Sepetys, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Between Shades of Gray* and *Out of the Easy*

"**An intelligent, personable heroine**-Jo Montfort's hopes for an enlightened future uncover a dark past, resulting in **a splendidly hair-raising tour** of the brightest and darkest corners of Victorian New York."-Elizabeth Wein, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Code Name Verity* and *Black Dove, White Raven*

"**A fast-paced Gilded Age crime thriller** that plunges its intrepid investigative-journalist heroine into the sordid underworld of nineteenth-century New York

City and into her own family's dark secrets."-Julie Berry, award-winning author of *All the Truth That's In Me*

"Jo Montfort is **a gutsy modern heroine in a beguiling tale of old New York.** Money, murder, betrayal, and family secrets....I loved spending time in this world!"-Elizabeth Ross, author of William C. Morris Award finalist *Belle Epoque*

[STAR] "Fast-paced and thrilling...**a smart, insightful, timely depiction of a young woman** poised on the brink of a new world after the shattering of another."-*Booklist*, Starred

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[STAR] "A riveting historical mystery-thriller...[that] succeeds as **a wonderfully paced thriller, a heart-pounding romance** and an unflinching look at the hard choices one young woman must make when society disparages her dreams."-*Shelf Awareness*, Starred

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"[A] fast-paced thriller...the story races to its **surprising conclusion.**"-*Kirkus Reviews*

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*From the Hardcover edition.*

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### **These Shallow Graves By Jennifer Donnelly Bibliography**

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## Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 9 Up—It's September 1890, and Josephine "Jo" Montfort has been called home from Miss Sparkwell's School for Young Ladies upon her father's death. The police said it was an accident, but Jo knows her father would never have been so careless as to clean a loaded gun. When rumors of suicide reach her ears, she feels compelled to discover the truth of what happened that night in her father's study. Risking her reputation, the teen searches for answers wherever the clues take her, even to the dangerous slums and docks of New York City. With a handsome and nosy newsman as her reluctant guide, Jo begins to learn more about her family's murky history. Each secret she uncovers leads to another, stirring up her past and threatening her future. Donnelly's latest is a glimpse into the changing societal structure of turn-of-the-century New York City, personified by Jo Montfort. She is a girl trapped by her family's expectations and yearning for a different life, sentiments that will resound with today's teens. She and her co-amateur detective and forbidden romantic interest, Eddie Gallagher, are likable, well-drawn, and interesting. While there may not be many surprises for discerning readers, interest is maintained as they unravel the puzzle through Jo's naive eyes. The plot moves forward at steady pace and short chapters break the novel up into easily devourable pieces. VERDICT A beautifully written mystery that will appeal to a variety of readers.—Heather Miller Cover, Homewood Public Library, AL

Review

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"[A] fast-paced thriller...the story races to its **surprising conclusion.**" -*Kirkus Reviews*

"**A heroine you can't help cheering on.**" -*The Horn Book*

"**A twisted tale of secrets, murder, love, and revenge. This historical thriller delivers**...[and] Donnelly will keep you on the edge of your seat with this fast-paced, tightly written page turner." -*USAToday.com*

"Donnelly returns with **a powerhouse of a whodunit.** Her eighth novel strikes hard against poverty, sexism, classism, and greed, driving as relentlessly as Jo in her pursuit of truth and freedom." -*BookPage.com*

"*These Shallow Graves* delivered all that I adore: **lovely prose, historical intrigue, unique characters and setting.** I devoured this book!" -Ruta Sepetys, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Between Shades of Gray* and *Salt to the Sea*

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#### About the Author

Jennifer Donnelly is the author of three adult novels, *The Tea Rose*, *The Winter Rose*, and *The Wild Rose*, as well as the young adult novels *These Shallow Graves*, *Revolution*, and *A Northern Light*, winner of Britain's prestigious Carnegie Medal, the *L.A. Times* Book Prize for Young Adult Literature, and a Michael L. Printz Honor Book Award. She lives and writes full-time in upstate New York. You can visit her at [jenniferdonnelly.com](http://jenniferdonnelly.com) or find @JenWritesBooks on Twitter.

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