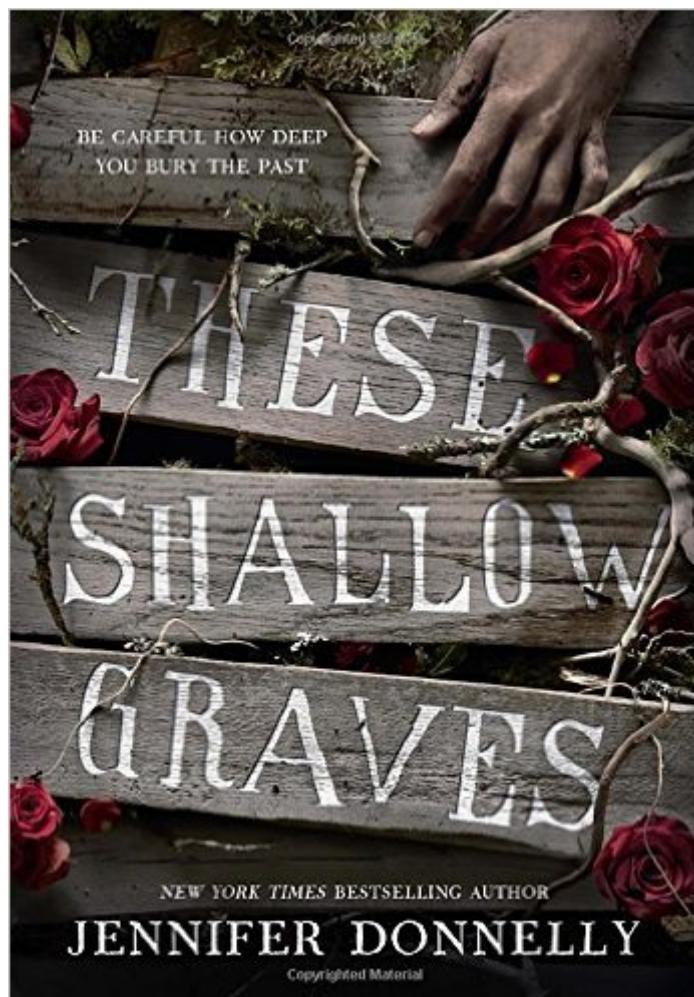


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# These Shallow Graves



## Synopsis

From the acclaimed New York Times bestselling author of *A Northern Light* and *Revolution*, comes a thrilling mystery that's perfect for fans of *The Cellar* and *Suicide Notes from Beautiful Girls*. This is a story of dark secrets, dirty truths, and the lengths to which people will go for love and revenge. 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. Wild aspirations aside, Jo's life seems perfect until tragedy strikes: her father is found dead. The story is that Charles Montfort shot himself while cleaning his revolver, but the more Jo hears about her father's death, the more something feels wrong. 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*: "... œAction-packed chapters propel this compelling mystery [and] the injustices Donelly highlights remain all too relevant." *Publishers Weekly*, Starred Review œLovely 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* œA 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* œA fast-paced Gilded Age crime thriller." "Julie Berry, award-winning author of *All the Truth That's in Me* From the Trade Paperback edition.

## Book Information

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Hardcover: 496 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (90 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #119,507 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #65 in Books > Teens > Historical Fiction > United States > 19th Century #69 in Books > Teens > Mysteries & Thrillers > Historical #173 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States > 1800s

Age Range: 12 - 17 years

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

\*\*\*I received this book as a gift in exchange for an honest reviewThere's something special about These Shallow Graves that sucks you in like a great Sherlock Holmes story. The gritty social themes, sense of danger on the horizon, and engaging protagonist combine for a wonderfully entertaining and unforgettable read.**READ THIS BOOK IF:**If you love some good old-fashioned sleuthing. You're a sucker for Austen-esque situations meets Dickens' darker side. You're NOT looking for a pure love story.**PROS:**Jo is a feisty, progressive protagonist who aims to expose the shady underside of poverty, working girls, and general injustice. Determined, courageous, and spontaneous, Jo finds herself in sticky, dangerous situations that are highly improper for a girl of her station. Jo doesn't let fear or propriety rule her, she realizes that there are bigger things at stake than her reputation and it's this spunky, spark of personality that makes her so endearing. I love, love, love her. Some situations are hilarious and other terrifying but Jo is cunning and quick on her feet, she never lets her fear show and it's that marvelous acting that saves her life over and over again. You feel every second of boredom and dissatisfaction with her role as a upperclass woman, Jo wants freedom and more than anything to write exposes. The fire within that drives her to investigate is addictive and crazy exhilarating to read, you get swept up right along with her. The divide between the upper class and lower is vibrant and extremely detailed, you'll feel transported into another world.

These Shallow Graves • by Jennifer Donnelly was so good. Historical fiction is newer to young adult. I haven't found a good historical fiction YA book until now. Jo is a very intelligent young woman with an Old Money family. All Jo wants is the freedom to be her own person. She wants to be a journalist but it is frowned for a woman of her station. Society expects Jo to marry and have babies and go to social gatherings but that is the farthest thing from what Jo wants. When Jo gets news that her father committed suicide, everything she thought she knew changes.Jo is a very feisty woman. I loved her to death. She wants to show the injustice that happens to women by

becoming a journalist. Everyone in her life discourages her to do so until she meets Eddy. Now Eddy doesn't want to encourage Jo at all but he ends up depending on her and enjoying her company. These two come from completely different worlds and they find some way to compliment each other. I really liked the interactions that Eddy and Jo have together. These two characters are completely fascinating. Some days they love to be together and other days they hate seeing each others faces. I feel like this really shows a real life couple. Something that I really liked about the story was Donnelly's setting. This book takes place in the past so the division of the upper class and the lower class is very much present. You can tell what characters are well off and snobbish and then you have characters that are trying to do whatever they can to survive even though it is a crime. I feel as if this gave the story so much more depth. These characters live such amazing and terrible lifestyles. There are children that are trained to be pickpockets and young girls that are forced to sell their bodies in prostitution.

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