

Stranger's Child The

by HOLLINGHURST, ALAN

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It is the late summer of the last year before the first Great War. Cecil Valance, a beautiful young aristocratic poet, is visiting Two Acres, the home of his Cambridge friend and lover, George Sawle. On his departure, Cecil leaves a poem, dedicated to George's younger sister Daphne, which when published becomes a touchstone for a generation, symbolizing an England in its final glory. Meanwhile Daphne has also become involved with Cecil's family, visiting their Victorian Gothic country house, Corley, and developing a relationship with Cecil's brooding, manipulative brother, Dudley, that will link the families for ever. The Stranger's Child begins as a novel about two families and two houses, by the time it reaches its profound and moving conclusion, it has become an epic tale told in five parts covering almost a hundred years.

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