

SHARP SHADES 2.0



GUNSHOTS AT DAWN

A wooden fence is visible in the lower half of the cover, set against a misty, blue-tinted landscape. The fence is made of dark wood and has a diagonal crossbar. In the background, there are silhouettes of trees and a building.

Mary Chapman

GUNSHOTS AT DAWN

“ The next time, they’d just driven into the barn when they heard gunshots. They peered out. The yard was empty. They made a dash for it.

Then Robbie slipped on the wet grass. He put out his hand to save himself. He touched something. It was firm, yet soft. Wet.

‘Eurgh!’ He peered at his hand. His fingers glistened. Was it blood? ”



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AT DAWN

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Mary Chapman



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Gunshots at Dawn
by Mary Chapman

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CONTENTS

One	9
Two	12
Three	18
Four	23
Five	28
Six	35
Seven	44
Eight	52
Nine	57



ONE

Grange Farm had been empty for months. One summer evening, Robbie and Jim were having a nose round. In the open-fronted barn they saw a car – an old Audi.

The driver's door was unlocked and the key was in the ignition. Jim took it and had another one cut the next day. They took the original key back that night.

Jim and Robbie overheard Dad telling Mum some rich folk had bought the farm, as a second home. They'd only be there at weekends.

So some nights during the week, Jim and Robbie would slip out of the house. They'd cycle down the lane, hide their bikes in the ditch, and hurry to the old barn.

At first Jim drove the Audi. He was seventeen, though he hadn't taken his test.

Then Robbie had a go.

He soon got the hang of it. From then on they shared the driving. Robbie loved the feel of the steering wheel, the sense of being at one with the car, headlights sweeping over the dark hedgerows.