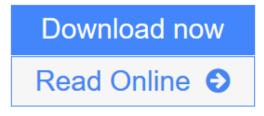


The Dangerous Edge of Things

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Tai Randolph is still adjusting to a newly inherited Confederate-themed gun shop when she gets a big shock: a murdered corpse in her brother's driveway. Worse, her respectable sibling has fled to the Bahamas, leaving her to deal with the homicide and questions from the Atlanta PD. Complicating her plan to clear the family name is Trey Seaver, field agent for an exclusive corporate security firm hired to investigate the crime. Trey, recovering from a car accident that left him cognitively and emotionally damaged, is fearless, focused, and to Tai's dismay - utterly impervious to bribes, threats, and clever deceptions.

Tai's investigations lead from the cold-eyed glamour of Atlanta's adult entertainment scene to the gilded treachery of Tuxedo Road. Potential suspects abound. But it takes another murder - and threats to her own life - to make her realize that to solve this crime, she has to trust the most dangerous man she's ever met....

The Dangerous Edge of Things Details

Date: Published February 1st 2011 by Poisoned Pen Press (first published May 27th 2010)ISBN: 9781590588192Author: Tina WhittleFormat: Paperback 294 pagesGenre: Mystery, Fiction, Romance, Romantic Suspense

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From Reader Review The Dangerous Edge of Things for online ebook

Laura says

In *The Dangerous Edge of Things* Whittle introduces us to Teresa Ann Randolph (she goes by Tai for short). Previously a ghost tour guide in Savannah, she recently returned to Atlanta where her brother (and other mostly deceased members of her family) lives. She's jointly inherited a Confederate gun shop along with her brother, and unlike him, she wants to try to turn it into a viable business. The story starts with Tai staying at her brother's house until she gets on her feet. She got curious about a parked car across the street from her brother's driveway as it had been there for an inordinately long time. Turns out the woman slumped over the wheel isn't moving b/c she's been shot. Enter the police.

Tai's older brother, Eric, is conveniently in the Bahamas on business. This seems a bit too convenient for the police, especially once it turns out that the dead young lady, Eliza, was planning to meet with Eric just before her death. Tai is also a suspect--why I'm not sure, although the police don't always need a good reason, and perhaps the fact that she is a female gun store owner was enough for them. In any case, in fiction land former ghost tour guides become detectives when murder happens near them. Based on that truth, Tai jumps right into the thick of the action, and won't rest until the murderer is apprehended.

All good detectives have a side kick, and Tai's is a former police officer named Trey, who resigned after a traumatic head injury changed his ability to read the nuances in situations. He now lives in a rigid, literally black and white world. Whittle's skills as a writer shone best here--she did a great job giving Trey a believable personality, and showing his evolving relationship with Tai. He has trouble explaining how he feels sometimes. ""I'm trying to explain something to you,' he said, 'and I can't. It's about those, and Gabriella, and about the accident itself, but...I'm looking for a word.' I shook my head. "There isn't one. It's too much for words.' He thought about that. 'Yes,' he said finally. 'Perhaps you're right.'"

Bottom line: Tai is a quirky protagonist, and she works well paired with Trey. I like what Whittle was trying to do, but Tai's motives for entangling herself in a very dangerous situation are unclear at best. Added to that, the story line is difficult to follow, the ending is more of an "Oh, I guess that's the piece that fits" rather than a satisfying conclusion to a truly interesting puzzle, and some parts just seemed far-fetched. For instance, Eric seems like he would have more of a motivation to solve the mystery than Tai, but he returns from the Bahamas only to remain extremely peripheral--even though his sister's life has apparently been threatened several times. Also, I had a hard time wrapping my mind around what exactly Phoenix does. They are certainly an odd company. Given 2 stars or a rating of "average". Not a bad pick if you want a light vacation read. Worth checking out of the library. The quotes that follow show that Whittle definitely has potential as a writer in future books. She's an author to watch.

"He bit his words back. I didn't pry further. There are minefields in everyone's psyche, and the best thing you can do when you realize you've stepped into one is to stop moving. So I did."

"The Beau Elan cafe pulsed with the same 'uniquely familiar' vibe that permeates most coffeehouses. Hardwood floors, bistro chairs, folkish artwork. There was a fake moose head on the purple wall to show they had a sense of humor. Whatever. They had tea. Trey was content."

"I need to go to the bathroom first, okay?"

His eyes sharpened. He was on point now, his curiosity quickening into suspicion.

"Feminine stuff," I said.

I could sense the gears clicking and meshing in his brain, but he didn't argue. It's a rule: no man, no matter how screwed up, dares to question the phrase "feminine stuff." Even if he suspects you're being technically truthful, but deliberately evasive."

"He was Trey. And he was separated from me by a gulf far wider than a few feet of leather upholstery. I watched him drive away and thought of empty spaces. But I also thought of bridges."

Fran Johnson says

I love it.

Tina Whittle says

I don't feel the least bit of qualm about popping five stars on my own book because what I'me reviewing here is not my book (exactly) but Renee Raudman's work as the narrator. A performance worthy listening to, even if you've already read the book, just to savor a true artist at work. Cadence, tone, pacing, the character nuance -- she truly, as another Goodreads reviewer noted, knocks it out of the park.

Tammy says

This was a very intriguing book that I just happened across. I loved Tia! She was quite a gal with lots of pluck. When she discovers a a dead body she has the usual reaction of getting sick. Then she is thrown into her brothers world of high society people who are not what they seem. Also he hires a firm who sends Trey to watch over her. He is a different guy and as you read the book you find out how different and why. They work together trying to find out how and why Eliza was murdered and they have some crazy things happen to them. I did laugh a few times hearing Tia talk and relate to people, I really enjoyed this one and am getting the next in the series

Laura says

I just finished it. This is an engaging mystery, written clean and crisp, a page turner with nary a misstep. This is not my usual genre, but I was immediately taken in by the Good Old Boys vs. New Money world that the author recreates in this Atlanta mystery. Trey, the Ice Man who heads a heady investigation into the scandals of an elite society, is an interesting character, brain damaged into a type of disorder that keeps him obsessive and logical, almost like a sexy Mr Data addicted to Pellegrino bubbling water. The writing just leaps off the page, sparing, but at the same time poetic. This debut novel marks a start of a promising career.

Elizabeth says

There needs to be a limit to authors turning their characters into sleuths for no good reason. In this first of a series of books, Tai Randoph finds a dead woman in a car across the street from her brother's house. Tai recently moved in with her brother when they inherited a gun shop from their uncle. Tai's former occupation was ghost tour host so of course she's eminently qualified to search for the killer of a woman she never met.

The best things about this book were the title and a supporting character who suffered brain damage so he thinks and acts differently.

Liz Fichera says

What a treat of a book! I loved the pace and the layers of this mystery. The story kept me guessing till the final pages, unraveling slowly and cleverly, as a new wrinkle or plot twist was introduced. And the main character, Tai Randolph, pretty much won me over from the first pages--she was funny, spunky, and courageous. I also adored her partner, Trey Seaver. Trey was not your typical love interest either. He was believably flawed and as layered as Tai. I adored everything about him, including his interactions and building relationship with Tai. I understand that there is a Book #2 in the works. Suffice it to say that I will be one of the first in line when it releases. Bravo, Tina Whittle!

Janet Cross says

Girl inherits guns shop in Atlanta. Helps to solve murder of another girl in driveway of her brother. Falls for guys with no emotions. Typical.

Sara Barrios says

I thought the story was pretty boring. She has a lot of characters but doesn't develop them well. I did not feel a connection with any of the main characters. I was just ready for the book to end.

April says

I wanted to like this mystery/thriller more than I did. I get the heroine falling for the hunky but brain damaged man....the brain damage is the modern thing that makes him a "bad boy." But the attraction didn't seem quite clear to me. I liked the setup....a young punkish female inheriting a Confederate gun shop near Atlanta, but not much was done with that part of the book. For me, there was something missing.

Kathy Martin says

What an interesting mystery! Tai Randolph is new in Atlanta having inherited her Uncle's gun shop. She is staying with her older brother while getting set up and organized. When she returns to his house one day, she finds a murdered young woman in a car in front of the house. Her brother has gone to the Bahamas for a

work conference and is not answering his phone as quickly as Tai would like.

Tai immediately gets involved in a very complicated situation that has her dealing with her brother's employer Phoenix - a security firm. She is also introduced to Trey Seaver who is assigned to protect her. Trey is a fascinating character because he had suffered a traumatic brain injury and has had to rebuild his life with significant changes to his personality. Tai didn't know him before the injury and is pretty good at accepting Trey as he is now.

They mystery was complex and so was the relationship between Tai and Trey. I can't wait to read more books in this series to learn more about both of them.

Kathleen Smith says

Fast-paced plot, snappy dialog, engaging characters--I thoroughly enjoyed this book. Of special note is the very intriguing (and very sexy) character of Trey Seaver, whose memories, personality, and very identity are compromised by the traumatic brain injury he suffered years ago. The book ended at exactly the right moment in Trey and Tai's relationship, and I look forward eagerly to learning how it continues to develop in the next book of the series.

Karla Brandenburg says

Tai Randolph has inherited a gun shop, so she picks up her life and moves in with her brother while she's relocating, only to find a dead woman sitting outside her brother's house. Her brother, away at training, directs her to a hotel for her own safety, but Tai isn't so easily bossed around. When she returns to her brother's house after her police interview, she discovers a private security firm "cleaning up" details that might link her brother to the dead woman. And things only escalate from there.

Trey Seavers is her "personal protection" agent, assigned to follow her around and keep her out of trouble. Trey, an ex-cop with a traumatic brain injury, is a very black and white kinda guy. His points of reference have changed since the accident, so he is strictly business in order to keep focused. Watching Tai is anything but a straightforward assignment, and she disrupts his orderly routines.

The mystery escalates as more bodies fall in the wake of whatever is going on, and Ms. Whittle takes us on a wild ride of espionage, cover-ups and betrayal, presenting us with a host of guilty parties all eligible to be murder suspects. I especially liked the pairing of Tai, a somewhat free-spirited loose cannon, with the orderly, OCD Trey, the way they counterbalanced each other and complimented each other. A well laid out whodunit that kept me reading.

Melanie says

There was really nothing bad about this book, but there wasn't anything new, either. I feel like I've read this book about five times: Plucky girl with unusual job and odd name gets a tiny bit involved in murder case and instead of staying away like a sensible person, feels a compulsion to solve the case. It just felt kind of stale.

Terry Odell says

Every once in a while you read a book and wonder how in the world you hadn't read anything by this author before. The Dangerous Edge of Things was that kind of book for me. Tina Whittle has a smart, sassy voice that fills the page with vivid descriptions, a hot Atlanta setting, and a cast of characters that will keep you turning pages. By pairing her reluctant heroine with a brain-damaged partner, she's created a combo that makes you want to read the next book. Tai Randolph inherited a gun shop, but she discovers a dead body, and things escalate from there. Trey Seaver was injured in an accident, and although he's a to-die-for hunk of a guy, his brain doesn't work the way it used to, which frustrates him—and Tai.

I was given a copy of the book with a request for an honest review.