



This Bitter Treasure

S.W. Hubbard

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A dying invalid...a house full of treasures....a family haunted by tragedy.

Mystery and heartbreak await estate sale organizer Audrey Nealon when she accepts a lucrative new job in a posh New Jersey town. Eager to settle their mother's estate and close the door on their elegant family home, the Eskew children hire Audrey to run an estate sale as their mother lies dying, tended by a home health aide. Every day Audrey works in the house, she discovers another valuable artwork and another family secret. How did the adored oldest son die? What's wrong with the strange younger sister? Who is making off with rare books, antique silver, and vintage ball gowns? Most of all, how reliable are the dying woman's deathbed ramblings? As Audrey learns about the Eskew family's tortured past, she's forced to confront her own feelings about marriage and children. And when a murderer strikes, Audrey's sense of justice compels her to defend the defenseless, no matter the risk to herself. Fans of Ninie Hammon and C.J. Lyons will enjoy this twist-ending mystery with a strong female sleuth and plenty of antiques, dogs, and humor.

This Bitter Treasure Details

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Author : S.W. Hubbard

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From Reader Review This Bitter Treasure for online ebook

Mary Rowe says

Delightful, Horrifying, Deftly Written

Classic murder mystery woven around wealth and madness. Everything sewn together seamlessly by the author. The heroine is easily relatable but not irritatingly neurotic, her fiancé human and not the perfect cardboard cut-out of a romantic lead. Two thumbs up!

Jill D Coffin says

As great as the other two in the series...Recommend All Three!!!

Although these are a series, they could be read as stand alones, but you would miss the brilliant character evolution. Storyline is dark and thrilling, with fascinating characters. Quirky and original, they are deftly sketched and are ,to me, what makes this book memorable. Falling in between a cozy and hard boiled, they are just right for me.

Deedra says

So,I read the last book first.I will have to go back and get #1 and #2 now!I loved this book.It had me hooked right off.The owner of an Estate sale agency takes on a house with a family who's mother is still alive.The family dynamics are well plated out by narrator Janelle Tedesco.There is friendship, love and murder included within.I was provided this book by the author, narrator or publis

Pat says

4th ?

I sincerely hope you will write a fourth book. This series is really terrific and I enjoyed reading every word.

Lidia says

Beware of the skeletons in your cupboard - secrets always come out in the end...

I received the audiobook version of the book in return for an honest review - and I'm so glad I requested it:) It was a fantastic listening experience - both in terms of the plot itself and because of the interpretation by Ms Janelle Tedesco:)

As for the book by S. W. Hubbard:

First let me say that I hadn't read the previous 2 books in the series so I didn't know the characters at all. That said, I liked the plot a lot; at first it developed rather slowly, with all the descriptions of the Eskew's house and Audrey and Sean's house-hunting, and Ty's classes in writing... But as soon as the "strange incidents" started to happen, the pace got faster. We were given some clues here and there and also followed some misleading trails together with Audrey to finally discover the culprit of the hideous crimes. I liked the fact that all the elements that at first seemed maybe an unnecessary addition turned out to have some significance for the solution of the crimes:)

Now for the interpretation by Ms Janelle Tedesco:

I generally liked this interpretation a lot, with only one exception - the character of Jill, who supposedly is a young college girl, had this high-pitched whining kind of "voice" which I found really irritating (it reminded me of a spoilt little brat who has just had a toy taken from her and is going tantrum about it...:)). On the other hand, I liked the way Ms Tedesco interpreted all the male characters (especially Ty) - lowering her voice a little, but without exaggeration which would make it laughable...:) As it is really difficult for a woman narrator to do that right, I greatly appreciate Ms Tedesco's work there.

Generally, I especially liked the fact that Ms Janelle Tedesco's interpretation did not overshadow the story itself - her voice and the way she differentiated the characters allowed me to concentrate on the plot instead of wondering who was speaking. I also liked the tempo of her reading - not too fast, not too slow, just about right:) (It's important for me, as I am not a native speaker of English:))

So, to sum up: it's a great crime/mystery book by S. M. Hubbard in a great interpretation by J. Tedesco:)

(You can also find a little altered version of this review on my audible.com listener's page:))

Leserling /Belana says

I had already listened to the first two books in that series, and I keenly awaited the launch of tome 3. Two days ago, I got a free copy for review. Of course I had to listen to it immediately, my other audio books took a back seat for the duration. ?

What can I say: I loved it just as much as the first two sequels. The story is firmly rooted in today's society, with all the problems we are confronted with on a daily basis. There are lots of references to current events in this book, and the problems mentioned are certainly a reality for a lot of people. I've mentioned it in my previous reviews, but it needs to be said again: I totally love the language. It is so refreshingly 'normal', which is one huge factor in making the characters and the story so very convincing. Plus: there is no foul language, no swearing of any kind— it's like a holiday, because lots of authors seem to think that their stories are more authentic if they use a lot of swearing. Let me tell you: swearing and foul language don't add any authenticity to a story, at least not in the world I live in. I don't know anybody who swears a lot, and I don't want to, either.

This is why I really appreciate the Palmyrton Estate Sale Mysteries: they're great suspense, convincing and authentic without swearing.

The budding romance between Sean and Audrey has gone up a step, they are committed now, and again, the story convinces without describing any sex scenes (which really is another beef I have with lots of other stories, where I'm regaled with detailed sexual encounters between the main characters. Again: this is not

necessary to make the reader part of a romance. We all have our imagination and I for one don't need those page fillers. They're usually ridiculous and boring and make me wish I could skim the audio book the way I would skim a print).

The Palmyrton Estate Sale Mysteries series is a great example of wonderful story telling: the characters, the language, the mystery, the wit and humour: all make this an absolutely enjoyable story.

Janelle Tedesco again excels in narrating the story. Not only does she manage to give each character a distinctive voice, her accent and convincing speech impediment (when narrating Audrey's father) are masterfully done. I was so engrossed that I had to chide myself and to deliberately switch the audio off in order to get some much needed sleep. It is a 'page turner', and I sincerely hope there'll be more sequels, cause the characters feel like good friends.

Deane says

Treasure

Great read. A good mystery until the end. The cast of characters each have their own story within the story.

Cat says

Every installment gets better.

SW Hubbard's writing draws me in to the story quickly. Always a benefit because I enjoy a story with well defined characters and quirks. So happy I found this author! This Estate Sale Mystery and the Adirondack Mountain series are both keepers. Highly recommended.

Patty Frye says

Highly recommended that

This is the first book I've read by this author but it won't be the last. It seems that I read #3 of the series first but that didn't make any difference. This story was great and kept my interest all the way. The characters were well developed and I didn't notice but one misspelled word and no grammar errors, which seems to be rare in many books these days.

Try it, you'll like it! Now onto the first book.....

Patricia A. Borden says

Just discovered an author that tells a tale that keeps you involved.

Loved the storyline as well as all the characters. Kept my attention thoroughly and guessing right up until the

end. Will look forward to the next read.

Jeanne Clement says

Love this series!

I've read the entire series and am left wanting more...wonderful job making you love and detest various characters. Twists and turns make it impossible to predict the outcomes. Kudos to S.W. Hubbard!!

Nikki says

I usually like to start a series from the beginning, but for some reason I started this one with book 3, the most recent. The only problem with that was figuring out some of the complicated relationships in the protagonist's extended family and friends group, including her fiance's family. Otherwise it was quite enjoyable and held my interest so that I stayed up too late reading. "Another Man's Treasure" is a business that does estate sales, and that kind of business seems to lend itself to believable crime stories more than some of the others that are being used as series hooks these days. Especially when the person whose estate it is isn't dead yet, which is the case in this book. The quiet New Jersey town that is the setting is undergoing an opioid epidemic, but the main focus of the book is a family secret from the past. It all comes together in the end, and I would recommend this book.

FangirlNation says

S.W. Hubbard has produced another winner in **This Bitter Treasure**, a book that deals with the theme of drug usage, in particular the abuse of prescription drugs that can then lead to further addictions. The book opens as Audrey goes to the restroom at a coffee place to find a young woman lying on the floor in a stall dead of a heroin overdose. Soon she learns that the 24-year-old was her former assistant Jill's childhood best friend, and the friend's mother blames Jill for Amber's drug addiction, which began with injuries from a car accident. Eventually Amber was filling medicine scripts, selling the pills, and spending the money on heroin.

Read the rest of this review, more reviews, and other wonderful, geeky articles on FangirlNation

N.N. Light says

Estate sale organizer Audrey Nealon doesn't realize what's to come when she takes on her latest job. While their mother lays dying, the Eskew heirs eagerly want to close the estate so they hire Audrey. As she takes inventory of the contents inside the manor house, Audrey discovers hidden artworks and unearths deep family secrets. When a murderer strikes, Audrey must unravel the mystery before she's the next victim.

Oh man, I loved this mystery! This is my first book by Hubbard and it won't be the last. Reminiscent of Dame Christie, Hubbard weaves a suspenseful mystery with a strong female sleuth, art and antiques, humor, family secrets and plenty of twists and turns. The characters are multi-layered and fleshed out fully. Hubbard

reveals only what you need to know at the time and the ending was unexpected. Highly recommend!

My Rating: 5+ stars

MaryAnn says

In *This Bitter Treasure*, book 3 of the Palmyrton Estate Sale series, S. W. Hubbard has done it again. There's intrigue, family secrets, interesting tidbits about items found while clearing houses and the familiar characters that I so enjoy. I also loved the progression of Audrey's and Sean's romance and can't wait to find out what happens next.

This novel primarily focused on the Eskew family and what a family they were! Everyone seemed just a tad bit quirky or strange and again, I never figured out whodunit until it was revealed in the book.

I've read all of the books by this author and believe me, if you enjoy mysteries with great characters, some humor and love, you will enjoy them also. The only criticism I have is that the author does NOT write quick enough for me! I would like more books in this series.....probably by tomorrow!
