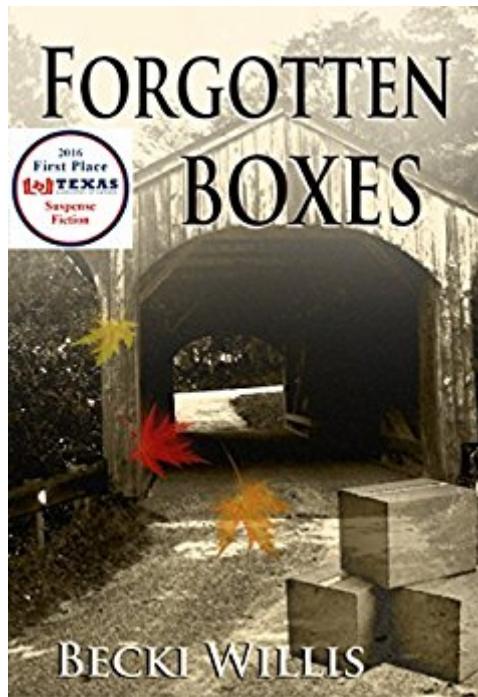


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Forgotten Boxes



Synopsis

WINNER of 2016 Best Suspense Fiction by the Association of Texas Authors. Named sole heir to her aunt's estate, Charity Gannon arrives in the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont, hoping to find a link to her past. She's not looking for lost treasures; she is searching for a connection to the aunt she barely knew. What she finds is a thirty-something-year-old mystery and questions with no answers. A sad, secluded cottage, all but hidden amid the vines. A man's suit of clothes, tainted with dried blood and a bullet hole. Four forgotten boxes, stuffed into a large bag and buried in the far corners of the shed. These are not just any boxes. These are unopened, undelivered boxes, left behind by the now-defunct Kingdom Parcel. All four boxes are marked March 14, 1984... the very day her uncle, president and driver for the delivery service, was said to have committed suicide. Four forgotten boxes, whose owners might still be out there, waiting for a delivery that never arrived. The undelivered boxes haunt Charity, tugging at her conscience. Hadn't someone noticed them missing? Hadn't anyone wondered about the failed delivery? Thinking it might be fun to surprise the recipients after all these years, Charity sets out to deliver the packages to their rightful owners. Along the way, one of the love stories she discovers is her own. Fate throws her into the sturdy arms of Tarn Danbury, a burly sugarmaker with eyes as beautiful as the mountain pond from which he was named, and a voice as smooth and rich as the dark syrup he produces. The story behind one box is delightful. Another is heartbreaking. And one might very well be the death of her.

Book Information

File Size: 1561 KB

Print Length: 224 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 1518846548

Publisher: Clear Creek Publishers (December 13, 2015)

Publication Date: December 13, 2015

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B019D1GOU6

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #17,912 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #68 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Thrillers > Historical #81 in Books > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Thrillers & Suspense > Crime > Heist #119 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Thrillers > Assassinations

Customer Reviews

This book was a delightful surprise to me. It had all the elements of mystery, murder, suspense, love, questions, darkness and light. There were several thoughts I had about what the mystery could be; at first I was wrong but the light switched on as the story flowed. Though the story unfolds between the past, 1983 to be exact, and the present, it definitely builds the story and is essential to the plot. When Charity Gannon inherits the very small house her Aunt Nell lived in for so many years in a small community in Vermont, she has no idea of the huge changes about to come her way. Why does her aunt have a bullet-riddled and bloody man's outfit hanging in the bedroom? What is the back-story of the presumed suicide of Charity's uncle? Oh, yes, and what about those forgotten boxes in the shed that were never delivered, is it too late to deliver them or would they be a happy surprise to recipients? Charity will soon find out. Who is that huge mountain man she meets in Dan's Market? Becki Willis' writing is very descriptive and brings to life the colours and features of a Vermont autumn. She writes with passion and beauty. Personally, I felt the switches of chapters to the past were fascinating, but I wouldn't have guessed what would come from the events of the past so many years later. Suspense, crime and trickery, sorrow and happiness, suspicion and clarity, and a beautiful romance.

Charity is surprised to learn she has inherited her aunt's estate and when she gets to the cottage to clean it out she is even more surprised to see her uncle's bloody clothes complete with a bullet hole hanging on a rack. She wonders why her aunt has kept these clothes and that makes her suspicious. Adding fuel to the fire, she finds a garbage bag in the shed with four unbelievers packages from her uncle's delivery business. So it begins! Fate lends a hand and introduces her to a gorgeous hunk. A nice clean read better suited to young adults. The storyline was predictable and with few surprises. Well edited and not a bad read but not my style.

I normally read two books a day (retired) and lean towards deep gritty novels interspersed with the occasional cozy for mental relief giving the romance genre a definite pass. Becky Willis has been a surprising new find that has made me broaden my literary horizons. In her books there are no gut

wrenching scenes of mutilation, characters you've grown to like suddenly turning into a paranormal evil presence, one character meeting someone attractive will not result in a graphic sex scene three pages later and solving the mystery will not ease international tensions or alter the fate of the world as we know it. She writes about the kinds of people and families you know or see on a daily basis that have quietly held secrets and drama that would stun you and also give you a tiny glimpse of the way lives intertwine and those real life characters who have that positive power of the human spirit. As a social worker for many years I can attest to the fact that truth is stranger than fiction, including the way people meet and fall in love. As you can tell I've enjoyed the stories I've read by this author so far and the comfortable way they sit between suspense thrillers and fluffy humorous cozies. So to Ms. Willis, thank you for a nice afternoon.

The title caught my attention. Then the description on the back cover hooked me. I just had to find out what was in those boxes. It reminded me of guessing the number of jelly beans in a jar to win a great prize. Even if you don't win a prize, the guessing is great fun. The big difference is that everyone will come away richer for the reading of this book. At first I felt the lead characters were basic vanilla. This didn't matter when faced with the compulsion to find out what is the deal with the boxes? But at some magical near invisible point the characters fleshed out and I was surprised to find I cared just as much about them. These characters are one of a kind. They may be just several in a large box of chocolates, but each has its own flavor. Together they make a novel that could stand against Stephen King and many contemporary romances that are on the best selling list. All at the same time. Now that is saying something. I felt anger. I felt silliness. I felt horror. I felt sad and also happy sad. I read part of the book out loud. I talked about it to two family members. As soon as I get done beckoning everyone to get their hands on a copy with this review, I'll be begging all my own friends to put this on their to read list. I was looking for a good read and ended up with a book that will always be in my mind. What price do you put on that? How do you pass that opportunity by? Get busy opening your boxes and enrich yourself. This book was given to me as a review copy but I'm very pleased and honored to toot about it. I was not forced at all to say nice things. In many ways, this book earns praise.

A wonderfully written, heartfelt book. The main character Charity inherits her Aunt's property when her Aunt dies. Surprised since she hasn't had much contact with her Aunt in recent years, Charity decides to go settle the estate. As she begins to clean out the house she finds several interesting things, including her late uncle's suit with what appears like blood on it. In the shed she find a sack

containing undelivered packages. The packages are left over from her uncle's delivery company, Kingdom Parcel but it is a mystery why they are there. Charity feels compelled to see that the packages are delivered even though they are over 30 years old. In the process she ends up learning more about what happened to her uncle. Interwoven within the mystery is a story line where Charity meets Tarn, a sugar maker. Is Charity's quest leading her toward her soulmate? This story has such wonderful characters and writing this book was impossible to put down.* I received an ARC in exchange for an honest review

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