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Dirty Little Secrets: A J.J. Graves Mystery, Book 1



Synopsis

J.J. Graves has seen a lot of dead bodies in her line of work... She's not only in the mortuary business, but she's also the coroner for King George County, Virginia. When a grisly murder is discovered in the small town of Bloody Mary, it's up to J.J. and her best friend, Detective Jack Lawson, to bring the victim justice. The murders are piling up... The residents of Bloody Mary are dropping like flies, and when a popular mystery writer shows up on J.J.'s doorstep with plans of writing his new book about the Bloody Mary Serial Killer, J.J. suspects the writer might be going above and beyond the call of duty to create the spine-tinglers he's so well known for. It only clouds the issue and puts her reputation on the line when the attraction between them spirals out of control. And passions are rising... J.J. and Jack are in a race against time. They discover each victim had a shocking secret, and the very foundation of J.J.'s life is in danger of crumbling when it turns out she's harboring secrets of her own-secrets that make her the perfect victim in a deadly game.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is the first book I've read by Liliana Hart and I'm really glad I downloaded it. Needless to say, I was impressed. The story is short, probably around 200 pages, and appears to be the first in a series, but it had lots of tension, humor, wit, mystery, and the best friendship and potential romance I've read in a while. Dr. JJ Graves became the county medical examiner and mortician for the town of Bloody Mary, Virginia at the age of 30 after the mysterious death of her parents. She has wonderful friendships, but longs for a more fulfilling relationship with marriage and children. After a

series of murders which coincide with the appearance of a hunky and famous murder mystery author, JJ falls head over heels, but his appearance may be just a little too coincidental. By the synopsis, I can honestly say you don't really know what's going to happen, but the journey is terrific. The writing is tight, the heroine is quirky, the hero jealous, and the possibilities endless. I wouldn't have complained if the sex scenes were more graphic than the fact that we were told there was some, but there may be a reason for that. (Note to author, it better be steamy when it counts.) I really wasn't sure where the story was going and the mystery was well... mysterious as well as fast paced. I was a little disappointed towards the end since I really felt JJ had been through quite a bit, but I guess it was a quick easy way to wrap up some loose ends. Most importantly, I was completely bummed that there wasn't another installment for me to read. I went to the author's web site and apparently it won't be available till the fall. If there were any reason for me to knock off stars, which I didn't mind you, it would be that it's more than a year between installments.

This is a really interesting book and a nice start to the series. There are several issues in the plot, but it still manages to be engaging and dynamic. I was definitely drawn into the story and enjoyed the read on the whole. JJ Graves is a really great character, even though she has some issues. She is a modern girl and has no problem going after what she wants. What she wants is some smexy lovin from a mystery writer who is visiting. I have no problem with them hopping into the sack pretty much right after meeting. What I did take issue with was the claims of love, that wasn't something I believed on either part. Sure, there was lust and liking, but not love. The character's had a great playful banter both JJ and her author and her BFF sheriff Jack. The story is all from JJ's POV, so it is difficult to really get a bead on what others are thinking. She is a great narrative, snarky and intelligent. The smexy action is all closed bedroom door. They get it on and talk about it after but you have to fill in the details for yourself. The mystery was sort of unsolvable, I hate that!! It was a total Scooby Do moment when the bad guy was revealed. Totally left fiend in my opinion. I usually like to have some sort of idea who done it, but this one was left field. It was an intriguing and dynamic suspense for most of the read. I am just disappointed I did not have the right puzzle pieces to put everything together. I listened to the audiobook narrated by Laura Faye Smith, who has a terrific voice. She has a really swift read, something I enjoy. It really helps move the story along, she adds energy into her voice at all the right times. There is a lot of rapid fire dialogue and quick punches in the narrative.

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