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S. California  
Reviewer ranking: #456,394

**72% helpful**  
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(141 of 197)

activities  
[Reviews \(16\)](#)  
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RSF reader's Activity:



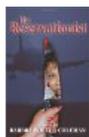
Reviewed Night of Cake & Puppets (Kindle Single) (Daughter of Smoke and Bone Trilogy) ...

**charming**

August 09, 2014

Laing Taylor is a superb writer. This novella was funny, charming, delightful. It's so different from the trilogy, which was grim and angsty. Highly recommended, especially to people who have read the trilogy.

[...Read more](#)



Reviewed The Reservationist ... by Barbra Porter Coleman

**Where was the editor??**

August 10, 2013

My very first thought when I started this book was: WHERE WAS THE EDITOR? This book is filled with grammatical errors, incorrect words, trite similes and metaphors. Sometimes thoughts are italicized, sometimes they're not. The word "loose" was used instead of "lose", "past" instead of "passed", etc.

This is how bad the editing is: the first sentence of the author bio on the back of the book is a run-on sentence: "Barbra Porter Coleman works for a major airline in Reservations, she is a native of Muskogee, Oklahoma and now resides in Dallas, Texas."

What baffles me is that she belongs to a writer's group. She has a husband, children. Did none of those people read the book? Are all those people unfamiliar with proper grammar, word usage, correct punctuation???

All of these problems completely threw me out of the story as my inner editor took over and I mentally took a red pen to every error. Fifty pages in I gave up and just skimmed.

As for the story.... The author uses several plot devices to ratchet up the tension. Unfortunately, she over-uses them. Hero has a secret and keeps it from his girlfriend. She discovers and is pissed. Then the same exact device is used again. Mother keeps secret from daughter. Daughter finds out and is pissed. DUH. Once, fine. Twice, borrrring. At the end, there are several people trying to warn each other about the serial killer and missing phone calls. That takes up about 20 annoying, unnecessary pages.

The we have the Stupid Character Syndrome. Doctor knows his patient is a killer and allows her to come close enough to kill him. Sky suspects her friend is the killer so decides to test her hypothesis ALONE, because, you know, crazy serial killers with sharp knives are safe. Really, all the people in this book deserved to be killed.

I was wondering how this book came to be published and looked up the publisher. From Candlestick's website: "Barbra Porter Coleman started CandleStick Publishing Company after several failed attempts with several Publishing companies."

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Reviewed Fairy Gardening: Creating Your Own Magical Miniature Garden ...

4 of 6 people found this review helpful

**Great resource**

May 28, 2013

I admit: I got this book for the pictures. And there are a lot of nice ones, printed on good paper with great resolution.

I was pleasantly surprised when I started reading it that it contained great ideas to make fairy gardens "speak". What distinguishes a mediocre fairy garden from a good, interesting one, is covered in this book. Keep it simple. Have "action".

I was afraid that since one of the authors works at a nursery known for it's fairy gardens that she would push the purchase of expensive accessories. But she doesn't and gives helpful hints for repurposing common items for use in fairy gardens.

All in all a great resource for fairy gardeners who want to add a dollop of pizzazz to their fairy gardens.

[...Read more](#)



Reviewed Anniversary Day: Anniversary Day Saga, Book 1 (Retrieval Artist Universe) ...

2 of 13 people found this review helpful

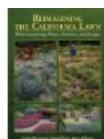
**Unsatisfactory ending**

November 26, 2011

The summary Amazon provides for this book describes the book adequately so I won't waste my time echoing what it says. What it does NOT tell you is that the end does not provide you with an answer to the question as to who or what is behind the attacks.

I HATE BOOKS THAT END LIKE THAT. If I'd realized that ahead of time, I would have been prepared and not minded as much, mostly because I would not have wasted my time listening to it. But this took me by suprise and left me angry.

[...Read more](#)



Reviewed Reimagining the California Lawn: Water-conserving Plants, Practices, and Designs ... by Carol Bornstein

34 of 34 people found this review helpful

**Helpful, inspiring**

May 14, 2011

This is a fabulous book for those of us who plan to get rid of our lawns to conserve water. What is particularly helpful are the myriad high-quality pictures which give ideas and inspiration.

What I particularly like is the variety of ideas: meadows, succulent gardens, cacti, veggies, wildlife gardens. There is something for everybody.

I initially got this book from the library to see if it was a reference I needed to have. IT IS!!

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Reviewed DragonSpell (Dragon Keepers Chronicles, Book 1) ... by Donita K. Paul

8 of 21 people found this review helpful

**Preachy, formulaic, too many weird words with weird spellings**

June 11, 2010

I love young adult fantasy, but this book was just terrible. The author commits the most basic errors. The names are spelled weirdly (Gymn which is pronounced Jim), the unnecessary apostrophe (o'rants), and there are a multitude of strange names that need to be memorized ("Bantam doneels, giant urohms, the elegant emerlindians, fighting mariones, tumanhofers, swift kimens, and o'rants").

Characterization was flat, minimal. There are cute or brave good guys. And there are evil, scary bad guys. That's it. No shading or nuance.

Worst of all, the religious angle was blatant, pervasive, and annoying. If you're a simple-minded heavy duty believer it might be acceptable, but the message that kept being pushed was simplistic, incorrect, and vomit inducing. It reminded me of this Onion segment:

"the Lord announced Monday that He killed the island villagers as part of His longtime "moving in mysterious ways" policy, calling the natural disaster "part of My unknowable, divine plan for mankind."

I gave it one star because I finished it, but that was with a lot of skimming. I kept hoping it would get better. It didn't. It got worse and worse and worse.

[...Read more](#)



Reviewed Apple iPod In-Ear Lanyard Headphones for iPod nano 1G ...

**Don't get these!**

August 29, 2009

When I got the Apple iPod Lanyard the earpieces hurt my ears and wouldn't stay in until I bought the Griffin Technology 4039-EJAM EarJam Earbud Sound Enhancing Covers. The combination worked beautifully: they stayed in my ears comfortably and the sound quality was great.

When I saw these, I thought they'd be perfect and I'd be able to abandon my Griffin Earjam Earbuds. I was wrong. The sound quality is horrible (significantly lower volume) and they refuse to stay in my ears! Will be selling them.

[...Read more](#)



Reviewed Rose's Flying Feeling 50 Copy Pack WBD E ... by Mckay, Hilary

2 of 2 people found this review helpful

**Not a complete book!**

July 17, 2007

Warning: Don't buy the slim paperback Rose's Flying Feeling, published in 2005 for World Book Day. It is simply the beginning of Caddy Ever After.

[...Read more](#)



Reviewed The Death of the Necromancer ...

**atmospheric adventure!**

December 13, 2013

This is a typical Martha Wells book, full of fast-paced adventure, meticulous world-building, and engaging, smart characters. Her books are comfort reads for me because I know I will be fully immersed in the story and can forget my problems instantly.

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Reviewed On The Road With Ellison Volume Five ... by Harlan Ellison

0 of 3 people found this review helpful

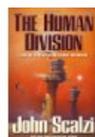
**Rambling, pointless**

June 25, 2013

I've listened to the four previous "On The Road" audios and they had some amusing, clever moments. This one is a complete mess. It's Harlan rambling on and on and on, semi-coherent. It's what I would sound like if I had to talk to a bunch of strangers for hours on end: BORING. He's really lost his touch or maybe the other audios were better edited (i.e. they took out all the pointless crap).

My advice: DON'T BOTHER.

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Reviewed The Human Division (Old Man's War) ... by John Scalzi

7 of 8 people found this review helpful

**It ends with a CLIFFHANGER!**

May 28, 2013

I'm a huge fan of Scalzi's so I was \*really\* looking forward to reading this book, especially since I'd heard him read an excerpt at a con. But it's not a complete book!! It's volume 1 of gawd-knows-how-many and left me EXTREMELY frustrated and ANGRY.

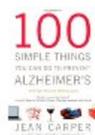
Maybe I should read his blog regularly and maybe \*somewhere\* in there he discloses the fact that there is NO resolution of ANY kind to the mystery of who/what is sabotaging the Colonial Union's efforts at diplomacy. Worse, the last story is a whopper with a Huge Catastrophe. The cover of the book should at least say VOLUME ONE to give you a freaking hint that there are Many Huge Unresolved Problems.

I listened to this book so the slower pace really highlighted shortcomings. There is constant "Hart said, Danny said, Wilson said, she said, he said" which got really tedious. But there is a reason for that because the voices, especially the banter, are indistinguishable from each other. Wilson is "smarter" than Hart but otherwise they could be twins.

The serial format didn't do much for me either. I'm not a short story reader so that might be the problem, because this book consisted of short stories strung together with common characters. And there were several weak, unnecessary stories.

SUMMARY: Don't read this till the next volume(s) are out unless you like cliffhanger endings.

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Reviewed 100 Simple Things You Can Do to Prevent Alzheimer's and Age-Related Memory Loss ... by Jean Carper

4 of 4 people found this review helpful

**Useful**

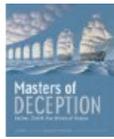
May 14, 2011

As the angry one-star reviewers have mentioned, I don't think you can prevent Alzheimer's if it's in your genes.

However... I do think you can do things to delay the onset of memory-loss. I found this book extremely useful. Carper lays out in clear language the results of 100 studies. At the end of each of the 100 chapters is a "What to do" section if you want to use the results of each study.

I found this book interesting and useful and have implemented some of the recommendations in the book.

[...Read more](#)



Reviewed Masters of Deception: Escher, Dalí & the Artists of Optical Illusion ... by Al Seckel

3 of 3 people found this review helpful

**Fabulous, intriguing, absorbing**

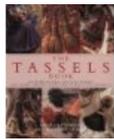
December 20, 2010

I \*loved\* this book and am amazed at the low price for the size of the book, the quality of the paper, and the number of pictures. Such a Bargain!!

When I first got this book, I just looked at the pictures to see if I could spot the illusions and enjoyed the cleverness of the artist. It took hours. Then I went back and started reading it. I was pleasantly surprised that the text enhanced my enjoyment and understanding of the artwork.

Highly recommended!

[...Read more](#)



Reviewed The Tassels Book: An Inspirational Guide to Tassels and Tassel Making With over 40 Practical Projects ... by Anna Crutchley

3 of 3 people found this review helpful

**Great how-to book with fabulous pictures**

April 21, 2010

I didn't have a particular interest in tassels until I happened to pick up this book. It contains pictures of a wide assortment of stunning tassels. I drooled. Then I noticed that it had directions for making them with lots of pictures to show you \*exactly\* how to do it. I haven't made any yet, but once I finish reading it, I plan to. This book is worth the \$\$ just for the pics and ideas.

[...Read more](#)



Reviewed Dragon's Keep ... by Janet Lee Carey

8 of 10 people found this review helpful

**Disappointing**

May 18, 2008

The premise of this story was promising, but it failed to live up to that promise. The main characters weren't likable, the plot was fairly predictable, and the writing wasn't strong enough to make up for those deficiencies. Two thirds of the way through, I uttered the 8 deadly words: I don't care what happens to these characters.

Some things didn't make sense. First of all, where was the father when his daughter was growing up. Why did he never evince an interest in why his daughter was wearing a glove? Second, why did the dragon need the heroine to take care of his kids? Faul could have picked the plants and made a brew if his wife could have done it. There really was no reason for Rosalind to be kidnapped. And that silly promise she had to make to not talk to any human? It was contrived so that we have a heartwrenching scene between the heroine and her only friend. Sheer emotional manipulation.

I listened to this book and it was tedious. The reader was good, but the slow pace allowed me exercise all my critical faculties, unfortunately.

[...Read more](#)



Reviewed City of Bones (Mortal Instruments) ... by Cassandra Clare

66 of 90 people found this review helpful

No logic! Wimps for heroes!

July 05, 2007

This book had a lot of promise. Some of the banter between the characters was clever and witty. But what this book lacked was logic and intelligence. The characters just acted dumb! Frinstance: A friend is taken by vampires, so the hero and heroine, ALONE, go to rescue him, instead of asking assistance from friends. Two people (one of whom is ignorant of vampires and knows nothing about fighting) against a whole nest of vampires???

Then they decide to find the Mortal Cup to rescue Clary's mother. But what exactly will they do once they have the cup? How will they use it to get her back? There is no plan, not even a discussion of possibilities. They just lurch from one event to another allowing the author to plunk them into one silly situation after another.

Then there is the problematic attraction between the hero and heroine. I kept wondering why they didn't act on it. And when they finally did (a passionate kiss), it really didn't go anywhere. And, at the end, you find out why. In other words, the distance between them was completely artificial so that a crucial plot element wouldn't creep people out. Ugh. Serious Ugh.

And, then at the end, the Absolute Worst Part of the book: the good guys have a chance to kill the bad guy, BUT. DO. NOT. A seriously evil man is allowed to escape because the main characters are wimps, complete absolute pathetic weenies. Obviously, the authorial hand stopped the killing so there could be a sequel and another and another. But they won't be read by me.

...Read more

No other items. Back to top

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