



The Girl from Felony Bay (Felony Bay Mysteries)

By J. E. Thompson

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The last year has been rougher than sandpaper for Abbey Force and her dad. He's in a coma after his accident a year back, wherein he was framed for a terrible crime he didn't commit. And their home, Reward Plantation, an idyllic spot on the eastern coast of South Carolina, had to be sold to pay off his debt to society. Abbey is stuck living with her uncle Charlie, who, even in the few hours a day when he's sober, ain't exactly your ideal parental role model.

But it turns out the new family that moved into Abbey's old house has a daughter named Bee. And she's just as curious about all the No Trespassing signs and holes being dug out by Felony Bay, in the corner of what used to be Abbey's home. It appears someone's been poking around a mystery that dates all the way back to the Civil War—and it just might be the same someone who framed Abbey's dad.

Fresh, funny, and heartwarming, *Girl from Felony Bay* is the perfect book for fans of Rebecca Stead's *Liar & Spy* and Sheila Turnage's *Three Times Lucky*.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 4-7-Spirited Abbey Force, 12, is the only child of the former owner of Reward Plantation, near Charleston, South Carolina. After a curious accident 18 months before, Abbey's father was found in a coma, surrounded by stolen jewels. Now Abbey lives with her cruel uncle and is determined to prove that her father is not a thief. Help arrives in the form of the daughter of the new plantation owner, Bee Force. The plot is clever, with clues dropped in each chapter and a surprising betrayal at the end. Suspense builds steadily, fueled by buried treasure, villains, and old-fashioned sleuthing. Thompson writes with plenty of dialogue, and the action is nonstop, but there is attention to detail as well. The landscape of Felony Bay-complete with alligators, mosquitoes, and a derelict cabin-creates a setting central to the story. With mixed success, Thompson takes Southern gothic tropes and incorporates them into a fast-paced mystery with subplots that tackle tough issues. Abbey is sensitive to Reward Plantation's slaveholding history. She is aware that her friend Bee, who is African American and shares her last name, is descended from people who were once slaves there. The story is a little heavy-handed, but tenacious Abbey makes it appealing to readers.-Martha Baden, Prescott Public Library, AZα(c) Copyright 2013. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

From [Booklist](#)

Twelve-year-old Abbey Force doesn't know who caused her father's "accident," which has left him in a coma for the past nine months, but this spunky sleuth aims to find out. Because her incapacitated father was also blamed for the theft of a wealthy socialite's jewels, Abbey's beloved 300-year-old Reward Plantation, nestled in the South Carolina Lowcountry, had to be sold. Now Abbey must live with her no-good, gambling uncle Charlie. When African American Beatrice Force, also 12 and with family woes of her own, moves into Reward, it not only raises the issue of former slavery on the plantation but also gives Abbey a partner with whom to explore the suspicious activity around the plantation's bay. Abbey's first-person narration, combined with pirate folklore and the possibility of poisonous snakes and hungry alligators at nearly every turn, heightens the suspense and gives this debut novel a decidedly Southern flair. The story never forgets that at its center is a little girl who has lost everything and is more determined than even Nancy Drew. Grades 4-6. --Angela Leeper

Review

KIRKUS REVIEWS

A tale bursting with intrigue and adventure finds its setting deep in the South Carolina Lowcountry.

Twelve-year-old Abbey Force has had a rough time of things lately. Her beloved father has suffered an accident and now lies in the hospital in a coma. Meanwhile, he has been accused of stealing from a client named Miss Lydia Jenkins, and his law firm, in an attempt to salvage its reputation, has sold the Force family home, Reward Plantation, in order to repay her. Abbey is forced to go and live with her good-for-nothing Uncle Charlie and his wife, Ruth. Her luck begins to change when the new owners, also named Force, well-to-do descendants of the slaves who once lived at Reward, take up residence at the plantation. She and new best friend and neighbor Bee Force stumble upon a mystery-someone is digging holes at Felony Bay, perhaps in search of buried treasure. Soon, they are neck deep in a dangerous mess involving Abbey's father's so-called crime, her Uncle Charlie, Miss Jenkins' riches and possibly the town sheriff. A predictable outcome, lengthy final explanations seeking to tie up loose ends and one too many subplots weigh this one down. Bee and Abbey are amiable protagonists, though, and their spunk and perseverance, combined with the realistic

and richly developed setting, deliver considerable appeal.

A successful turn by a promising new author. (Mystery. 9-12)

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Raymond Hernandez:

Reading a guide can be one of a lot of activity that everyone in the world loves. Do you like reading book so. There are a lot of reasons why people fantastic. First reading a book will give you a lot of new data. When you read a book you will get new information mainly because book is one of many ways to share the information or maybe their idea. Second, studying a book will make an individual more imaginative. When you studying a book especially tale fantasy book the author will bring you to imagine the story how the characters do it anything. Third, you may share your knowledge to others. When you read this The Girl from Felony Bay (Felony Bay Mysteries), it is possible to tells your family, friends in addition to soon about yours publication. Your knowledge can inspire the others, make them reading a publication.

Juan Carrillo:

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Brian Paige:

Playing with family in the park, coming to see the water world or hanging out with buddies is thing that usually you might have done when you have spare time, and then why you don't try matter that really opposite from that. Just one activity that make you not sensation tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you already been ride on and with addition of knowledge. Even you love The Girl from Felony Bay (Felony Bay Mysteries), you could enjoy both. It is good combination right, you still desire to miss it? What kind of hangout type is it? Oh seriously its mind hangout people. What? Still don't get it, oh come on its known as reading friends.

Randolph Urban:

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