



Dixie Divas

Virginia Brown

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The Divas are a martini-drinking crowd of aging belles in a historic Mississippi town filled with money and mansions. When the ex-husband of Diva Bitsy is found murdered, and Bitsy is accused, the Divas set out to solve the crime. Book one of acclaimed author Virginia Brown's cozy mystery series.

Dixie Divas Details

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From Reader Review Dixie Divas for online ebook

Emily says

Dixie Divas was recommended to me by a friend as a quick, funny read. While it does have its amusing moments, the book didn't really make me laugh out loud. The whodunnit is pretty interesting though - I didn't expect the ending.

Mirah W says

While this doesn't have a sophisticated mystery plot that doesn't matter....I was laughing out loud throughout this book. As a girl from the South, I understood some of the idiosyncrasies that come from that region and the author was spot on. The dialogue was hilarious...in some ways it reminded me of the quick, back-and-forth banter from the tv show 'The Gilmore Girls'. I will pick up the next book in the series in hopes of more laughs.

Ellen (more books, please) says

***I was given an Audible credit for this book. I honestly can't remember if part of the "deal" was an honest review. But here it is anyway.

The basics: This is a perfectly fine book. It had cohesion, an interesting story, and the narrator's voice was perfectly satisfactory.

The characters were well written. They were consistent in their actions and reactions. They weren't 20 somethings with 20 something issues. They were more, umm, mature characters with issues that most people will never have, but hey, most books are like that.

The story line, well, I had basic issues with it. Our protagonist, Trinket Truevine, has just moved back home to a rural Southern town. She is newly divorced and her schedule is wide open. She decides her aging parents need her. Well, she should have checked with them first. They are doing just fine but are happy having her home so she can babysit the critters while they take some trips.

Trinket has a cousin still in their hometown by the name of Bitty. Frankly, when listening to it I was hearing "Biddy," and that would have been a very unfortunate nickname. In fact, the nicknames got to be a bit old and almost burdensome in listening. Too many nicknames, too many background stories.

But I digress.

This is a cozy mystery, which generally requires a body or three and some, well, mystery. That is given in spades in this book. Again, lots of background, lots of history revisited. All of it is perfectly acceptable, but sometimes it was just too much. Too much to keep up with, too much to process, too much to retain.

Generally, there is a lot that goes on in this book that would get people a lot of serious jail time. Now, I might be more sensitive to this since I do work in the legal profession (court reporter). But there were bodies found and then moved. There were bodies found and not reported. There were lies of omission. There was purposeful changes in timelines that would definitely be called obstruction.

Another issue I had trouble with was it seemed as if this book was written long ago and just of updated in this century. The one thing that continually came up (and again, I am not sure why this was mentioned so often) was that Trinket's brothers died in the Vietnam War. Really? Trinket is in her mid 50s. My memory (and I apologize for not writing it down) is that they died in the Tet Offensive. Well, the Tet Offensive was in 1968. Trinket mentions her parents are in their 70s. Well, my uncle was in the Tet Offensive and he is in his 70s. I can't imagine that someone in their 70s has children old enough to be killed in the Tet Offensive. And then Trinket mentions knowing their school friends and interacting with them. Well, Trinket is in her early 50s so I seriously doubt there was much interaction there at all.

Again, because this was an audio "read" for me so I may have missed some key elements. But this is one issue I had with the book. I kept being totally taken out of the story by things such as "no way would the police let them walk after even XYZ" and "really, she has brothers who died in Vietnam?"

Now, had I not had these issues, I think I would have enjoyed the book more. I think it needed some heavy editing. There was too much detail given. Sometimes there was so much detail given I thought I was being set up for something later in the book where these details would be important, but that never materialized.

There was also a late/lame attempt at a love interest for Trinket. It seemed totally forced and inorganic.

In retrospect, I think a lot of things were laid down as sequel fodder. It made for a clunky story.

I do appreciate the credit and I am sorry it took me a few months to write this review. But I can honestly say I have been cogitating on it for a bit. Enjoy it for what it is. If you can let things like timelines and lying to the authorities and seemingly much older brothers go, you will probably enjoy it.

As far as the narrator, her voice was interesting. It is not a smooth voice. It is hard to describe. The thing I did like, I will admit, is she sounded the age of the characters. It is not a young and perky voice. You could envision a 50-plus heroine with that voice.

Marsha says

I kind of wish that I could give it 3 1/2 stars; it was better than not, but it wasn't fabulous. It was pretty standard but enjoyable. Better than I expected.

Jill says

This book was entertaining at times and boring at others and I felt like it really never gave a good reason as to why the person that did it did it. I listened to it and I really thought the story teller was over the top

JAMES JACKSON says

Divas

I laughed so much. Yes, the southern slang is real and Bless Your Heart or so n sos heart has different meanings. It's the tone of voice when said. Lol. MS is full of history and rumors and stories

Margarette says

I expected this book to be similar to the Southern Sisters series of humorous cozy mysteries by Anne George. Dixie Divas features cousins, Bitty and Trinket, who are both age 51 and are as close as sisters. Any similarity to Southern Sisters ends there. Although I'm sure Brown thinks she has created equally funny, charming and lovable characters, the Dixie Divas were none of those things to me.

Bitty's antics and manner of speaking are often on the maturity level of a teenage boy, and that doesn't make her charming or funny. Trinket is obviously smarter, since as narrator she always makes it clear that she knows what she should do, but she always stupidly does whatever Bitty suggests. I know cozy mysteries demand a little suspension of belief, but I couldn't suspend to the level of this book, where there was no logic at all. The mystery begins when Biddy discovers the body of her latest wealthy ex-husband, a senator. Their acrimonious divorce received so much media attention that Biddy is sure she'll be suspected of murdering him, so of course she and Trinket move the body, more than once. After that, the book is nearly over before anything interesting happens concerning the mystery.

This would be a short story if Trinket's narration didn't include her every thought. For example, when her father's new shirt reminds her of his loyalty to Sears, she's then reminded of the fun she and Biddy had as children when he and his brother took them to Sears -- which was a reasonable way to show the closeness of the families and how long Biddy and Trinket had been bosom buddies -- but she also rambles on about the history of Sears, the split with Roebuck, blah, blah, blah. Similar rambling and irritating passages constantly interrupt the flow of the story.

This may be the most boring and poorly edited book I ever finished. I can't think of one good thing to say about it.

Mary says

I was looking for a quick, fun read and this fit just fine. The chapters were a bit too long for easy reading, but the characters were quirky and the ending was not 100% obvious.

Diane ~Firefly~ says

Don't expect a normal mystery. This book is really more about the "character" than the mystery.

What I enjoyed:

* The characters were pretty interesting.

* Jackson Lee, I'd say I want him as my attorney if ever needed, but then I'd be selling out my love and respect of John Lloyd Branson.

What could have been better:

* The book was too long and too descriptive. I just don't care that much about what is in a room or what people are wearing. It took me 5 days to read this and that was because there was so much extraneous description to get through.

* The names make me glad I didn't grow up in the South. Trinket, Bitty, etc.

* How can that many people be ok with moving a body?

* (view spoiler)

Lelia Taylor says

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Virginia Brown

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Murder in Holly Springs, Mississippi? That's not exactly a frequent event but, being a small town, Holly Springs has no shortage of scandal and whispering. Some might say the victim deserved it but, when Eureka "Trinket" Truevine finds the body, it takes a particular kind of grit to serve sweet tea to the police officers sitting in Bitty Hollandale's parlor. They're looking into the disappearance of Bitty's ex-husband, recently re-elected Senator, and Trinket just found him in the coat closet. One teeny little problem—Bitty saw the body somewhere else so how did he get in her coat closet? She and the ex had a very nasty divorce so, of course, she'll be #1 on the suspect list.

Enter the Dixie Divas, a group of women "over thirty and under a hundred" whose raison d'etre is a love of chocolate and wine. Membership is by invitation only and, since Trinket recently moved back to town after years away and membership is limited to an even dozen, she has to wait her turn and, meanwhile, attend meetings as Bitty's guest. Men are allowed only if they're delivering something or are the entertainment and everyone is sworn to secrecy about what goes on at these meetings.

Bitty calls in the Divas and they promptly start by stuffing Philip into Leaf and Garden bags and then haul him to an open vault at the cemetery for temporary storage, somewhat hampered by the need to get the job done before 5:00 when everybody gets off work and someone will be sure to notice a bunch of women carting around a rolled-up carpet. Being ladies, though, they do remember to bring along a tasteful arrangement of dried flowers. When they go back to the cemetery that night, they're confronted with one more teeny little problem.

Virginia Brown is an award-winning author of many romance novels and her writing experience and talent is evident in this tale of Southern comedy and mayhem. There's something about Southern fiction that sets it apart (disclaimer: this reviewer is Southern and, therefore, probably somewhat biased) and Brown does it oh-so-well.

Highly recommended.

Reviewed by Lelia Taylor, November 2009.

Allison says

Well I ended up really enjoying this even though it seemed really, really long and not quite what I would call a cozy mystery. Loved the characters - especially Trinket (such a cute name). The 2 names for the Pug were funny too, I have to say I probably would call the dog Chitlin more than it's real name too. Bitty was hysterical, loved her. This book was mostly about the characters and their relationships and truly a story about Mississippi more than a murder but I enjoyed it anyway. Wish I had a friendship with gals that would help me move a corpse not once but twice with no questions asked lol. Those Dixie Divas are MY kind of gals, plus the buckets of sweet tea would make life all the better. Would love to have Bitty's Mothers Mint Julep recipe though...

Heather says

Reading this book was like traveling a sine wave between 2 and 3 stars. While reading this book, I cycled through a few states:

"Hahaha, this is amusing!"
"Do grown women really act like that?"
"Are you kidding</i> me??"
"What a fun read! I love these characters!"
"Haven't we covered this ground in detail</i> before?"
"What just happened?!?"

In the end, I'm not entirely sure what the motive(s) for the crime(s) were. Seriously. You'd think that'd be clear, wouldn't you? However, it's an enjoyable read if you're not looking to think. And you shouldn't, especially if you're looking for "clues" to help you "solve" the mystery.

minor spoiler(view spoiler)

Wrighty says

"You found my philandering ex-husband?" Bitty asked. "Where? Mexico? Paris? In Tupelo with a cocktail waitress?" "In your closet," I answered. "Dead." Break out the hoop skirts and the zinfandel. The Divas are on the case. Wine. Chocolate. Transvestite strippers. Just another good-time get-together for the Dixie Divas of historic Holly Springs, Mississippi, where moonlight and magnolias mingle with delicious smalltown scandal. But Eureka "Trinket" Truevine, the newest Diva, gets more than she bargained for when she finds her best Diva girlfriend Bitty Hollandale's ex-husband in Bitty's hall closet. He's dead. Very dead. Now Trinket and the Divas have to help Bitty finger the murderer and clear her name. Virginia Brown is the nationally acclaimed, award-winning author of fifty novels.

I'm always happy to find a book that includes humor no matter what genre it may be. That's what attracted me to this one. It did get off to a bit of a slow start for me and I'm not exactly sure why. Perhaps I was just anxious to get into the story. Once I met more of the characters the pace picked up.

Trinket has come home after a recent divorce and anticipates a quiet life helping her parents in their family home. But when her friend Bitty is accused of murder, plans change. A group of Bitty's friends who call themselves the Dixie Divas take Trinket into their circle and make it their mission to help find the real killer. Fortunately for me, this isn't an easy task but it is funny. The ladies know how to mix southern charm with kick-butt attitude and of course it leads to trouble. I enjoyed them more than the actual murder mystery.

This was a light read and nice stress reliever during a hectic week. I look forward to the next book in the Dixie Divas Mystery Series.

Thank you to LibraryThing Early Reviewers for a review copy of this book.

Tomi says

Laugh out loud funny read. A very sarcastic protagonist who pulls no punches. And one of the best explanation of Southern life and values I have ever read. Heading on to the next one in the series!

Lori Enrico says

Horrible
