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Bittersweet Farm 8: Tea Biscuit



Synopsis

Spring has arrived and with it new horses, new challenges and old adversaries. As Talia's birthday approaches, her way forward is less certain than Greer's vision of her future. No matter how much Greer takes on, she manages to handle all of it, from the Ambassador of Good Cheer to organizing a horse show. Unfortunately, Greer can't manage Cam as easily. What Lockie has avoided saying for months can't go unsaid any longer and he chooses to have the talk after her eighteenth birthday party. Talia's first question is "Are you leaving?"

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Customer Reviews

Barbara Morgenroth is an amazing author who has managed to create such a beautiful world within the pages of each book that makes up the Bittersweet Farm series. Each new book is an artistic delight, interwoven with a deep understanding of hurt, betrayal, love and loss, and Tea Biscuit is no exception. One of the things I love most about these books is Barbara's ability to

transport you to new worlds with her in depth knowledge of people and places. The Bittersweet world is a world where people come from different places and pasts and Barbara has a way with words that describe each character path in a way so that we can relate. Each book in this series demands my constant attention and is rarely predictable. Just when you think you know what happens next, Barbara throws you in the deep end (usually at the end of a book, thanks Barb!). Reading these books takes you on a wonderful and surprising journey, and you will feel privileged to get the chance to read these books. As for Tea Biscuit, the title alone leaves you yearning to know the story behind the newest horse at Bittersweet Farm. With each book in the series, my expectations are raised higher and higher, yet Tea Biscuit still does not disappoint. I love that we see so much character development from Tal in this book, resulting in a space for Lockie to express his own feelings of vulnerability. The Zuckerlumpens are as adorable as they ever are and every interaction with them leaves you smiling. I love the twist in Greer and Cam's tentative relationship. I also love Cap and her easy-going and reliable nature. These books are a must read! Tea Biscuit was amazing and I am looking forward to reading much more from Barbara Morgenroth!

I am going to publish this review twice. Once for the first Bittersweet Book

“Mounted” and the last in the series so far, book eight, “Tea Biscuit” because they are pretty much one LONG book in a wonderful continuing saga of a family, friends, lovers and galloping horses. 1,645 pages so far, to be exact. One of the big things I love about Ms. Morgenroth's writing is all the extraneous stuff about food, tack, riding in general is so smoothly woven into the narrative that you never feel overwhelmed by so many details. How many books have you read that continually divert to pages of the scenery, things going on not relating to the narrative that you want to yell, “get on with the story”? I have read many. In this series it just works beautifully. The hardest part of reading these books to me was knowing that they were going to end, at least until the author puts pen to paper (so to speak) again. These books could almost be construed as a guide on how to ride because they are so correct in all the terms and sport usage. The best part is the underlaying gift of the correct way to live your life. Trying to do the “right” thing by people AND animals that you are surrounded by. When the first book begins, another new trainer has come to try to get Greer, Talia's half sister ready for the big final equitation class and it needs to be done ASAP as Greer will “age out” this year. You have to be under 18

which is a Junior rider in order to compete for it. This is your introduction to Lockie Malone who will change their world forever. His understanding of the minds of the horses he works with and the riders he is trying to teach is almost Buddhist in how it works. He is a young man of deep presence who almost died in a 3 day eventing accident which moved his life into a totally different direction that he is trying to learn to live with but while doing so, he is teaching the correct way to understanding the truth about dealing with the emotions the girls have developed that are damaging to live with. With the support of the most incredible cook to grace a kitchen, Jules.. (very much a mother figure in the series) a father who has finally understood that he needs to be more present in his daughter's lives and Lockie's arrival, healing begins for both girls. Greer has a mother, sort of. Talk about the bad witch, this lady fits the bill and Greer's psyche has paid the price. Her father has been divorced from her mother for several years but during the marriage, he found his true love and they produced Talia, only a year or so younger than Greer. They eventually marry because Talia's mother is ill and she wants someone to protect her daughter and Andrew loves then both. So then you have Talia losing her mom and coming to live at Bittersweet Farm with her dad and half sister Greer who pretty much hates her. Not a fun scenario for either of them. Here lies the base for the series. I could go on and on because I fell so much in love with the characters that I would want to babble on about them all as each is added into the mix but I will leave it here as the premise for this wonderful series. I am an older adult and I have to say that I felt like I was closing the door on my new family when I hit the last period in book eight. I doubt that the author will ever be able to keep up with my desire to read more and come to the two weddings I foresee some day in the future. How about Andrew falling in love with Jules huh?? Then the girls can stop wondering if she is going to leave the farm. ;

What can I say about this one...? When I finished book 7 I was already looking forward to book 8 and it seemed like I had a longer wait than usual so I was quite happy when I saw it was available. I didn't buy it right away, but when I finally did I finished it in a shorter amount of time than the others because I didn't want to stop reading it. I even took my iPad mini to work two days in a row so I could keep reading it when I'd normally work on one of my own stories. I'm going to be hugely bummed when the time comes that the author puts an end to this series. Maybe she'll do a few books from Greer's point of view. I bet that would be interesting reading. In the meantime, I look forward to reading the next book in Talia and Lockie's story.

Have read the complete Bittersweet Farm series and am looking forward to what comes next and hopefully more after that. I love the way Barbara writes making such clear pictures so we can feel a part of the story. Love the relationship Lockie and Taila have and can't wait to see how that progresses. I also am anxious to see what develops between Greer and Cam; he has to somehow make Greer see his concern for her and I look forward to seeing that develop also. See much more good writing in Barbara's future.

Ms Morgenroth has a gift for creating an ending that doesn't leave the reader frustrated, just saying "Please, more!" In book 8, we see all the characters begin to find their own paths in life, but the final chapter leaves us with a shocking revelation that could create some roadblocks in those paths. I can't wait to see how each handles a possible detour!

Good book.

Very sad to reach the last book in this series. Great characters with real world issues involving the complicated world of horses. Hoping there will be more to come.

Ms Morgenroth writes with minimal, unnecessary descriptions and good, solid characters; I really hope she continues the story and will buy any others

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