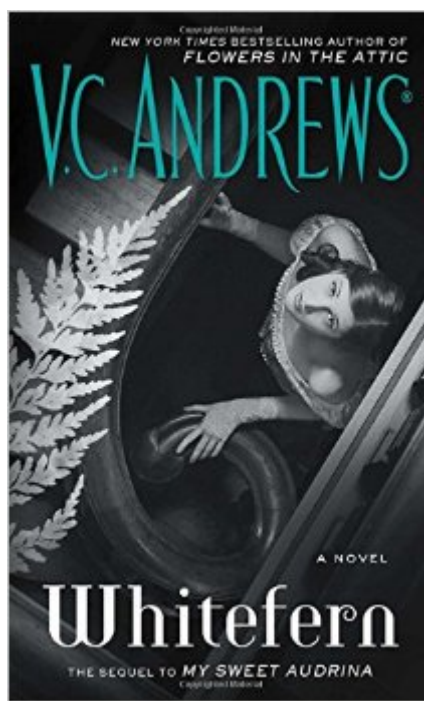


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Whitefern (The Audrina Series)



Synopsis

The long-awaited sequel to *My Sweet Audrina*, one of V.C. Andrews's most beloved books—and now a Lifetime movie! Whitefern swallowed Audrina's childhood—and now the sprawling Victorian mansion threatens her adult life too...Audrina remembers a better time, when her husband, Arden, was a young man with a heart filled with devotion for her. He didn't used to be this ambitious, expansive...this cruel. But then, the death of Audrina's father changed a great many things. When the reading of her father's will reveals that Audrina herself will control fifty-one percent of the family brokerage—the halls of Whitefern again don't feel safe. Arden's protestations become frantic, nearly violent. And while Audrina didn't anticipate running the family business, she's curious to do so. And she can't help but wonder what had made her father change his will at the last minute? What did he know about Arden that she didn't? Trapped in the middle of it all: her fragile, simple sister—the beautiful, trusting Sylvia. Audrina promised her father she'd watch over the young woman. But after years of relative quiet, the dark days of Whitefern may have returned...

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I'm a huge fan of V.C. Andrews actual work - the Dollanganger series, the Casteel series, the original *My Sweet Audrina*. I endured the ghostwriter's work all the way to Gemini series, but gave up since each series had become even more poorly written, recycled, and unresearched than the last. Still, I was such a fan of the original *My Sweet Audrina* that I gave this a chance and even

pre-ordered. Well, if you're a fan of the ghostwriter's latter works, then this book is for you. Besides the fact that the book was once again peppered with inconsistencies, something that I thought could be avoided with only one book to reference, the largest inconsistency were the characters. They were so different that they weren't even echoes of the original ones and the only similarity they had were the names. The detailed writing and intricate storytelling of Ms. Andrews wasn't even attempted let alone accomplished. Even the watered down Lifetime movie of My Sweet Audrina held more suspense and intrigue than this sequel. It was merely a set up, a bunch of dragged out filler in the middle, and then a hugely predictable ending which was most likely done as some lackluster attempt to connect it to the original story. The whole thing was just awful and not in the guilty pleasure way.

Before I read this book, I was joking around about it with a fellow V.C Andrews fan about how the story would unfold. It seriously HURT to find out that my joking was very much a reality. I'm sorry but this book was garbage. Melodramatic, predictable and boring! Years have passed and Audrina is now a good little house wife to Arden who has blossomed into a chauvinistic, arrogant pig. How do you stay with someone who throws the fact that you sexually assaulted right into your face?! It made no sense. The dialogue was crap. Every scene with Arden has him saying something too "out there" to be real. And Audrina's empty head is a boring cave of questions she never bothers to answer or solve for herself. "Hello?!" "Hello?!" "Is my husband really that much of a jerk?" YES. From about page 30, you guess what will happen (and it does). I'd have preferred it if she had done a Corrine and laced Arden's plum-sauce porkchops with a little extra something. Oh and the rest of the cast? Forgettable! It's like the author took bits and pieces of other V.C Andrews characters, blanched them and shoved them in here. Evil old woman? Check. Innocent, beautiful girl? Check. Dramatic pregnancy? Check. Oblivious mother figure? Check. I struggled to keep myself interested and finished quickly-not because it was good of course, but because I skipped whole paragraphs with oh so dull descriptions with a side of Audrina's idiocy. Maybe the shock therapy affected her after all poor thing... I loved the first book. It was haunting, frightening and beautiful in its own way. But this...? I'd ask for my money back but how about you, the author, keep the money and leave the original V.C Andrews characters we know and love blissfully alone.

Warning: if you have fond(ish) memories of the original My Sweet Audrina, penned by the late great VC Andrews herself,, walk away from this insipid sequel. Silly me, I thought that Neiderman might veer from his cut-and-paste tired recycled scenarios and actually try to write something that would

echo VC's writings..I was wrong. VC was the queen of purple prose, but in a *good* way; Neiderman is the king of simple sentences. This story is essentially interchangeable with any of the other 'masterpieces' he has written under the Andrews name. Absolutely nothing holds true to the original characterizations. really needs to offer the "No Star" option because this ws just that bad.

So. Writing crap under VCA's name was not enough. Nor was adding to the Dollanganger series with the Christopher's Diary series Now he has to add to the Audrina book. Because he, the publishers, and VCA's family have ZERO respect for the hard work of a dead woman, who unlike Neiderman, actually CARED for her craft. (Neiderman may have cared once, as is evident by his earlier works, but it's clear that at this point, he doesn't care about anything besides the money and piggybacking on someone else's name because he knows he can't be anywhere near as successful under his own name) Those who have been following my reviews may be surprised at how late I am in reviewing Neiderman's latest work. There's a good explanation for that. I work in a store (not a bookstore, but a store with a book section primarily for new releases and what not. You'll see the more recent books by Nora Roberts, James Patterson, etc etc. Up to a couple of years ago, it was easy for me to skim through a Neiderman book after I was done with my shift and be on my merry way, the same day it was released. The books my store chooses to stock are determined in a very large part by what sells, since it is a fairly limited section. And apparently, Neiderman's books simply are not profitable for the company I work for, as it appears that other stores under the same company have stopped stocking VCA books (I've looked at a few other stores!) And I assure you, it is not a small company, as its stores and businesses span several states. So now I have to wait until it is convenient for me to head over to the Mart of Walls (Walmart for you non-American peeps) to check out their stuff. I head down there a while ago with my boyfriend and scored a great deal on a new pair of shoes I needed for work. Sweet! (and some hard cider, as well) Anyway, back to the story! And yeah, that store does carry these books, although they were not specially featured or anything and were actually shoved over to the side/corner with little visibility. (I remember in bygone years when a new VCA release was always within the top 10 new releases in the book section at Walmart among other places) Having read several negative reviews on and Goodreads, I was not the least bit surprised at the poor quality of this story. But then I would not have been surprised even if I had not read other reviews. The characters in this book are so far removed from the original MSA. While Arden was weak before for having witnessed her rape and not admitting it to her, in this book he is just so unlikeable and idiotic. And Sylvia confuses me. In MSA, it is implied that she is a victim of

Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, something strongly hinted at with the observation that her mother drank bourbon-laced tea multiple times throughout her pregnancy. In this book, Sylvia's intelligence seems to wax and wane at the author's convenience because apparently now Sylvia has dementia. Never mind the fact that autism is not visible/diagnosed until at earliest, the child's toddler years, and in MSA, there was obviously something wrong with Sylvia at birth, which is typical of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, including facial traits. The baby didn't come home at all for the first 3 years of her life. But then, I actually know the difference between FAS and autism because I, yanno, actually do research. And having Audrina and Sylvia sleep together in a way that is described as them being lovers—ew. Just, ew. While Audrina was purposely kept naive in MSA, with a reason behind it, she was a complete idiot in this book. She was shown to have matured at the end of the book, and here she just goes back to being an idiot. But then Neiderman writes plenty of people throughout his books as idiots, as if he perceives his readers as idiots. And as per usual, the evildoers have an easy way out—in this case, Arden takes a tumble down the stairs. Come on, that is just effing lazy. He raped Sylvia, Audrina should have gone after his man-bits with a meat cleaver. But then, in MSA, while Arden was a weak and flawed man, I sincerely do not believe he would want to rape anyone, let alone a severely mentally disabled person. Neiderman has re-written Arden into a person who would do such a despicable thing, and I don't even...I don't feel that VCA would have ever written Arden the way Neiderman did. The evilness of Arden's character here was so cardboard and the story itself pretty predictable. It simply does not muster as a VCA-inspired work at all. It would be great, SO great if Neiderman wrote a male lead who actually manages to redeem himself somehow in the end. But then, it'd be totally great if Neiderman did plenty of other things in addition, like, taking his time to craft the story and do research, and read/understand the source material.

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