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Chimes From A Cracked Southern Belle



Synopsis

Most people think the reason Dee Millings married the best looking man in the Carolinas who turned out to be a complete psycho and near-murderer is because she was raised all wrong. Dee, a 38-year-old heroine to root for, sets out on a path winding with loveable kooks, wanting to prove there is a great life on the other side of tragedy and a crazed ex behind bars who continues to mail threatening letters from prison. Her new adventure begins two years after the crime spree that nearly stopped her heart and left her flat-lining. She packs up her two young kids and settles in her parents' South Carolina hometown where she deals with a delightful, but over-the-top mama who pretends her grown daughters are virgins. Dee finds new purpose for herself and her children, discovering joy in places she never expected it: in a nursing home where she tends to the likes of 104-year-old Annie Sue who still drives and has a hankering for cold draft beer. Offering heaps of comic relief, Dee's Aunt Weepie lives to crash funerals just to get the covered-dish meals after the gravesides, no matter she has no idea who's in the coffins. Her antics lead her to making a daring decision that could change Dee's life forever. As Dee begins a journey toward recovery and becoming a registered nurse, a dark secret resurfaces, one that if handled right, could be her ticket to allowing herself to love again.

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Customer Reviews

Chimes from a Cracked Southern Bell is totally amazing. It starts with Susan Reinhardt's usual humor that makes me feel like she REALLY knew my mama, grew up in my community, and had some illegal way of seeing inside my head about so many little things I've never actually shared with anyone. But this is what I've come to expect from Reinhardt, so it was nothing out of the ordinary. So many hilarious anecdotes more than once made my family come down and see what I was laughing so loudly about---for example: (a) "...the other mothers wore clothes from the Lands End catalog and flat leather shoes and spawned children they dressed in linen and oversized bows and who never got terribly dirty or mucousy...How would I ever fit into this world?" (b) "...She meant well. Only I wasn't well enough for what she meant." (c) "Rev. Bryce Jeter, Satan's Soulmate, had led 26 men and women to salvation during funerals. I always thought it strange that a preacher would issue a call for live souls while trying to send dead ones off with a reverent bang." (d) "...I preferred the Methodist's less dramatic forms of a saving..." It was all the sorts of things I loved from your humor/memoir books, but then again, so much more. The premise of Prudy's near-murder is so twisted that you can't help but laugh a little. We're allowed to do so for so long that it's almost silly, and then----BOOM!---- it gets worse---much, much worse. The real pain is so very intense it's like we've stepped off the edge into a totally different book. Susan Reinhardt NAILS it---the sheer, gut-wrenching pain here is as real as anything else is funny. How can she go to such opposite extremes in 372 pages? And do it SO WELL?

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