



Quicksilver

Toni Dwiggins

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** A harrowing hunt in the California gold country **

* Second Edition, Revised and Expanded *

A young man disappears in the Mother Lode wilderness. He leaves behind a gold-flecked rock and a vial of toxic mercury. He is a misfit in the modern world, a throwback to the Gold Rush days.

A venture capitalist--whose gold country is Silicon Valley--hires forensic geologists Cassie Oldfield and Walter Shaws to track his missing brother.

Following one of the 'lost rivers' of California, Cassie and Walter plunge into the dark history of the legendary lands, into the dark past of the brothers, into a poisonous sibling feud that threatens both lives and the land.

And they are not the only ones on the hunt.

Quicksilver Details

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Author : Toni Dwiggins

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From Reader Review Quicksilver for online ebook

Cassandra says

Toni Dwiggin's Forensic Geology series is a delightful read for anyone with any interest in geology - this prequel novella is no exception. Well written, suspenseful.. A true page turner. I love that the geology terms are authentic and used properly, and I love that Toni uses them in a way that adds to the excitement without bogging it down with hard science. It was a great set up for how the rest of the series is if you come to it new and start sequentially.

I left off a star simply because I felt the end came too abruptly. I really just wanted there to be more!

Pat Cummings says

When I was a child, my parents were puzzled by the way thermometers kept disappearing in our house. Little did they know that my siblings and I loved to play with the silvery liquid that poured out of them once they were broken! And little did WE know that we were playing with a killer...

Toni Dwiggins brings that fascination and danger to life in this novel that, like *Badwater*, mingles mining history, eco-terror and deep knowledge of rocks and human frailties. And, yes, there was plenty of toxic mercury released into the environment in the bad old days of gold mining - but the lure of the gold is still strong, as the characters in this novel make clear.

Cassie Oldfield herself is not immune to that lure, nor is her partner Walter. Yet for the forensic geologists, I believe it is closer to the *Spell of the Yukon* as made explicit by Robert W. Service:

- . There's gold, and it's haunting and haunting,
- . And it's luring me on as of old;
- . Yet it isn't the gold that I'm wanting
- . So much as it's finding the gold.

Stunning story, great geology - another winner from Toni Dwiggins!

Linda says

I loved this book. If Ms. Dwiggins does not personally have forensic geology expertise, she fakes it very well.

Carol White says

Love these Forensic Geology books!!

I cannot get enough of them. Totally fascinating.

Please write some more.

Douglas Cook says

Well worth reading.

First sentences -

The man who had hired us took the lead. His name was Robert Shelburne and he was as sure of this path as he was of himself. Nevertheless—if anyone was asking—I sure could not recommend this way up the mountain. There was no trailhead. There was no trail—the path did not exist on the map I carried. It was a rogue route, blazed long ago, surviving today as little more than a hint. It shot straight up the slope and was so thickly haired with trees and brush that we were nearly hiking blind. I heard my partner Walter Shaws, a couple dozen feet below on the path, muttering words he would not normally speak aloud.

Dwiggins, Toni (2013-11-07). Quicksilver (The Forensic Geology Series, Prequel) (p. 1). Kindle Edition.

Ann says

First in the series -- though some reference sites list it as a prequel with the first in the series being *Badwater*. Either way, it's an enjoyable mystery/adventure. The investigators, in this case, are Forensic Geologists -- which means probably about what you think.

The book does throw a lot of jargon at the reader, and would benefit from a glossary that explains 'em -- though they are explained generally when first used, and in a way that doesn't detract from the story telling. But still, it can get a bit confusing. Still, even if the terms are all new to you, it's still not difficult to follow the story.

This book is available in the Kindle Unlimited program, as are the later ones in the series. I'll definitely be reading on.

Janis says

When you think forensic geology you think dirt in the cuff of a pair of pants or from the wheel well of a car - to help solve a crime. In this case our forensic team is using their skills to locate a confused suicidal man lost in the mountains while in grips of Gold Fever. Are they too late or is there more to this case than meets the eye. A good read, more background on the characters would be great but it is the first in the series so hopefully we learn more as the series progresses.

Kessi says

Interesting concept using geology and forensics, however I did not quite get it. The two main characters, Cassie Oldfield and Walter Shaws seemed to spring up out of nowhere and I did not understand where they were coming from; what their role was until I read further along in the book. The environmental side was fascinating and the quicksilver poisoning of the land very relevant. Luckily I read a review in which someone mentioned that the other books were better so I will read the next one.

Kim says

Fast read- I stayed up past my bedtime to finish this book. Exciting and educational! I actually looked up some geology terms like "chiastolite hornfel" so I had some clue what the formations I was reading about looked like!

Nina says

Who would have thought there would be such a profession as forensic geologist? The story concerns two such folk who solve mysteries using their estimable scientific knowledge. A good opportunity to learn about such things as chiastolite hornfels, auriferous graves and andesite breccia. However, the characters behaved and responded in improbable ways, and the choppy writing style made it a bumpy read. E.g., " I peered inside. No light. The sound of flowing water. A blast of cold air. I shivered." That can get tiresome

Catherine Nobles says

For many reasons, Quicksilver is a wonderful story. I greatly enjoy science based thrillers but I had never read anything that featured geology; the concept of forensic geology intrigued me even more...neat CSI stuff. Having read three of Toni Dwiggins' books so far, I can say all of them are a mixture of good science--LOTS of good earth science--intrigue, pathos, humor--a good bit of that too--and tragedy. And of course, lots of suspense. Quicksilver is no exception.

At its heart, I think, Quicksilver is a tragedy, for several reasons. At the forefront, is the tragedy of the Shelborne brothers, so different...one having grown up feeling inferior to the other, the other aware and taking advantage. Always competing, trying to outshine the other in the eyes of their father. One obsessed with fulfilling his father's dream of finding the gold his father didn't before he died. The other obsessed with money and success. Ms. Dwiggins described the one who didn't quite live up to Dad's expectations... "Henry was a damaged soul. A wounded soul, betrayed by his father and his brother, not an asset in their world, surely not an asset in anybody's world. Hurt to the core. A man in the wrong century. And all he wanted now, here, was an apology from his brother."

Betrayal of the earth is the other big tragedy, what humans did to the earth in their obsessive greed for the yellow stuff. I was totally unaware of the problem with mercury in gold mining, and Quicksilver made a huge, dramatic impact in my mind about the issue of mercury poisoning, the long-term effects, and the enormous difficulty in ridding the earth of mercury contamination. Further Google investigation of the

matter enlightened me regarding the severe environmental problem with mercury which continues to this day.

Quicksilver may be a fast-paced fictional thriller, but it brings to life an environmental issue and piques an interest in earth science in a way that is so entertaining that it doesn't seem as educational as it really is. All of Ms. Dwiggins' books have this characteristic. She makes learning fun.

Steph says

I am always up for a good mystery, plus I love it when a story integrates some good science. This book has potential but it tried a bit too hard to blend the two.

Liana says

I picked this up at the Redmond Airport "Fly-brary" and chose it because it takes place in the NorCal area where I grew up. I formed no alliance with characters, especially not the swoony, albeit strong, female co-lead. The geologist jargon did nothing to appeal. Characters so odd as to be unbelievable.

Marley says

I found Quicksilver for free download on Kindle and thought what the heck. Try it. It turns out to be one of the strangest books I've ever read--which is a compliment. And compelling. Who knew geology could be this much fun or "mysterious?" We get right into the story and there's never a dull moment. The Shelburne brothers are compelling, each crazy in their own way, who carry "sibling rivalry" to the limit. If you don't know anything about geology, don't worry. Author Toni Dwiggins does, and she makes it painless. At the end of the book she also gives us some nifty sites to learn more about gold mining and mercury, and also some maps of the territory in the book. I'll be reading more of her work.

Penny says

A thoroughly enjoyable introduction to The Forensic Geology series. Interesting locations that were quite new to me made me slow down and try to build a vision for Cassie and Walter to climb through. Nice twisty plot that surprised me. Even the characters broke out of their expected roles, adding just more goodies to this prequel.

I do wish there was more geological background. Not a college course but more information about the locations where the story is situated. I had to wiki quite a few terms to understand some of the scenes and the importance of certain geological forms that were pivotal to the unfolding action.

I enjoy scientific procedural novels so "Quicksilver" was right up my alley. Good read but not for everyone. I am looking forward to reading more in her next books.

