



The Sugarhouse Blues

Mariah Stewart

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Allie, Des, and Cara, each having her own reasons for wanting a share of their father's estate, meet in the grand Victorian home in which he grew up, only to be greeted by another secret he purposely hid from them: his sister Bonnie. The women reluctantly band together to take on Fritz's challenge, working with a local contractor to begin the renovations financed by an account Fritz had set up for the task. While the restoration appears to go smoothly at first, it soon becomes apparent that the work will be more extensive than originally thought, and Des, elected to handle the money, needs to find ways to stretch out the remaining savings while searching for new sources of funding.

As strangers linked only by their DNA try to become a family, the Hudson sisters also try to come to terms with the father they only thought they knew. In the process, each woman discovers her own capacity for understanding, forgiveness, love, and the true meaning of family.

The Sugarhouse Blues Details

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Author : Mariah Stewart

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Genre : Romance, Fiction, Contemporary, Contemporary Romance, Womens Fiction

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From Reader Review The Sugarhouse Blues for online ebook

Jonetta says

The three Hudson sisters are well into the restoration of their family's old theater, the Sugarhouse, a condition of their father's will in order for them to receive the inheritance. A freak storm has damaged the ceiling, which is an art form in itself, creating new challenges, financial and creative. Des Hudson, the sister charged with managing the project funding, must look for ways to cost effectively resolve the dilemma and, in her pursuit, finds more than she thought she was seeking, including personal insights and revelations.

Des has the loudest narrative but she's not the only voice in the story. Cara is well on her way to possibly making Hidden Falls her new home as her relationship with the contractor, Joe Damanski, deepens. Allie continues to struggle with her alcohol dependency and developing relationship with Des, which fractured when they were teens. But it's Des who blossoms as she faces her past head on, embraces her new family and reconsiders having Seth MacLeod stay in the friend zone. That man turned out to be more than what met the eye.

This isn't a story with lots of action and drama, just a slow moving journey through a small-town community with all the upsides at center stage. The sisters are finding their way to creating a family experience they've never had and the transformations aren't rushed. There's an authenticity surrounding the characters and the story and it's not one you speed through. I loved putting the book down after a particularly insightful passage, just to ponder the message, and resuming later when I wanted a slice of this life again. I really liked the story and I've come to really like the sisters, even the complex and sometimes insensitive Allie. I'm looking forward to her voice in the next story, which was perfectly set up here.

(I received an advance copy from NetGalley in exchange for an unbiased review)

Ann says

The Hudson Sisters are back, restoring the historic movie house in the Pocono's in order to inherit their father's estate. This is book two in the series but is easily read without book 1, The Last Chance Matinee. This story has a romance for Des and we also catch up with Cara and Joe. Allie is still uptight and stressed but is certainly starting to fit into this developing family. All the ladies are growing and starting to appreciate their lives in small town Pa. Hopefully Allie and Ben will get their chance for romance in the next book. Lots of interesting side facts about old movie theaters and movies. I received this ARC in exchange for a fair and honest review.

? Kimberly says

While I would classify this as Women's fiction each of the sister's develops a relationship but the romance is served on the side as the focus is on the theater and the personal growth and familial ties of these three estranged sisters and their Aunt.

The overall premise of the story stems from conditions made in their late father's will. In order to receive

their inheritance, the three sisters must reside in their Aunt's Victorian home as they restore the family-owned theater. They've been given a stipend to get the job done, but they must be creative as the funds aren't nearly enough. Setbacks, discoveries and a growing love for the building help the girls to bond.

The first book while featuring all of the Hudson sisters offered a romance between Cora and their contractor. In *The Sugarhouse Blues*, it's Des's turn. But first, she has to face demons from her past. Des has two suitors, one who feels like her type and one who curls her toes and scares the heck of her. While one is very nice I had no trouble swooning over the other. I kind of wish she had been a little more forthcoming with the one she decided against but it fit Des's personality.

We continue to learn more about the sisters and what makes them tick. They become closer to their Aunt who is simply adorable from her car to her antics. Alie is keeping secrets, but we see her slowly begin to transform and something near the end of the book was an ah-ha moment for her.

I loved the research, old movie references and updates on their renovations of the theater. We also get to attend a couple shindigs and witness the back and forth banter and snark between Allie and a certain law enforcement officer. I am excited to get their story. There is an overall arc about a lost necklace which has me intrigued.

Stewart does a wonderful job of developing these characters and endearing me to them. While none are perfect, she has allowed me to understand them. Of course, the dogs, Allie's daughter, and secondary characters added to the tale as they brought the town to life. This review was originally posted at Caffeinated Reviewer

Suzanne Leopold says

The Hudson sisters want to collect their share of their father's estate. To collect their inheritance, Allie, Des, and Cara are obligated to work together and renovate the family's theatre. They have all combined forces and are living temporarily at their aunt's home in Hidden Falls, Pennsylvania. Unforeseen problems have put them over budget and recent storm damage has pushed back the completion.

Des is responsible for all the finances surrounding the renovation. Her goal is to finish the project and return to her home in Montana. She views this opportunity as a chance to get to know her half-sister Cara and to rebuild her relationship with Allie. They have been estranged for many years after Des' success as a child actress. Although they fight often, Allie and Des slowly begin re-connect as secrets they kept from each other are disclosed. At the same time, Des finds an unexpected romance in this unlikely location.

The Sugarhouse Blues is the second novel in Mariah Stewart's Hudson Sisters series. *Last Chance Matinee* is the first book and my review can be found here <https://suzyapproved.com/2017/03/27/t...> . I am excited for book three to be published in 2019.

Kris - My Novelesque Life says

THE SUGARHOUSE BLUES (The Hudson Sisters: #2) Written by Mariah Stewart
MAY 15, 2018; 400 Pages (Gallery Books)

Genre: contemporary, small towns, family drama, romance

????????????????(I received an ARC from the PUBLISHER via NETGALLEY?)?

RATING: 4 STARS

I have been waiting for over a year for the second book in the Hudson Sisters series. The Sugarhouse Blues did not disappoint. One thing I really enjoyed about this novel was that it had characters in the past and future books. This book was Des and Seth's story, but we get more about Allie, Des and Allie's relationship, Fritz and Barney's past. It really makes the town and series come to life. It also makes me remember the characters and story for when the next book comes out. I was nervous starting this one, afraid I would have forgotten details from the first book. As soon as I got to chapter 2, I remembered it all, and enjoyed the continuing story of remodelling the Sugarhouse.

Des is one of my favourite characters and I enjoyed the sweet romance between her and Seth, the mayor. Seth is the bad boy on the outside with the heart of a nice guy. Des is a bit standoffish and looking for a stable man. She doesn't think Seth is that guy. Seth proves her wrong as the two work on the theatre and rescue dogs. The novel also sets up book three with Allie and Ben's tension (and chemistry) and how Allie is spiralling into alcoholism. I would recommend reading these books in order as the story continues to the next books.

For more on the book please visit my blog [My Novelesque Life](#)

Jess says

And another one that I read as part of my book slump! I liked this a little better, but I didn't especially like Des in this book and her romance struck me as underdeveloped. I'm most interested in Allie and the Sheriff, but I don't know how they make that work given what happened in this one.

Could have used more renovation porn.

CD {Boulder Blvd} says

This was a little better than the first book, but it is definitely not a standout read. 2.5 stars rounded up. I think the best way to read this series would be to wait until all three books are complete and binge read all three. I definitely regret reading the first two now and needing to wait until next year for any completion to a story. As I said in book #1, I feel like I'm reading a cliffhanger but there's not tension or drama that produces a "cliff". The stories just end in the middle of the storytelling.

There is a lot of repetition throughout book 1 and 2 and I'm guessing that book 3 will have the same issue. It happens when authors take one story and divide it up by three characters. Their stories are happening concurrently but then you force it into three separate books. Both books 1 and 2 had pages of filler that was boring and didn't advance the plot or add character development. The dialogue was too basic and a few scenes that may have been good were summarized instead.

Basically if this was one book, it may have been good but subdividing into 3 books just makes each of the books a slow read with a lot of filler that needs to be skimmed.

Des's story with Seth was a little more interesting than Cara's story but it all felt a little too contrived. Except for having ink and smoking cigars, he's absolutely perfect for Des. As in book 1, there's not much development in their relationship.

There are some elements of the family history that could be interesting but it's presented with a broad brush and not really developed. Maybe the author is waiting for book 3 to actually have more meat to the story? Another example of subdividing one story into three books means minimum plot per book.

The hard cover MSRP was \$28.00. Definitely not worth that price. Glad I checked out of the library but the library still had to pay with our tax dollars.

Debbie says

The Hudson sisters are back still trying to renovate the old movie theater that was left to them by their father in his will which included several very strange surprises. And in this book, the surprises about their father just keep on coming.

The sisters have had a setback occur regarding the fresco ceiling of their beautiful theater. A major setback which has them trying to figure out how they are going to handle this new problem.

Allie and Des are still at each other though in a sisterly way and there is a mystery about their father that unfolds, as well.

And, are one or two of the sister's falling for the small town of Hidden Falls? Sisters all from different states and locales brought to this small town as their father's last wish. Or is it someone they are falling for?

The continuing saga, while not as full of surprises as the first book, does muster several more from the secrets still waiting to unfold.

A really good series that I am truly enjoying.

Thanks to Gallery, Threshold, Pocket Books and Net Galley for providing me with a free e-galley in exchange for an honest, unbiased review.

Diane Perry says

I received this book from Netgalley in exchange for an honest review. I did not read the first book in this series, but it didn't take me long to catch on to the story. These three sisters are trying to restore the family theater. I quickly learn there are many secrets in this family. The relationships among the sisters turns out to be very fragile, but there are trying hard to make it work. It was a good story and I am interested enough to

stay with this series. Very enjoyable.

Amy says

Last year I read The Last Chance Matinee and was totally captivated by the Hudson sisters and the authors inspiration for the books. The first time around you meet all three of the sisters but it was really Cara's story and this time around it's Des turn. It's not completely necessary to read the first book, but you would be more familiar with the characters and their histories if you started at the beginning.

Des is a character that I warmed to quickly the first book so I was excited to learn more about her this time around. She's a huge animal lover, she runs a shelter back home in Montana so if you're a dog lover there are some sweet moments with some pups here. The girls Aunt Barney is my absolute favorite, she's a sassy gal, full of wisdom and charm, just the sort of matriarch you imagine when you think of a mature woman with a heart of gold.

The family is still trying to restore the old theater and it's not an easy process, especially as they're running out of funds. I love that this has such a realistic plot, there are no heroic rescues or unbelievable saviors, they face the same issues anyone of us would come up against. The romantic aspect is also true to real life, relationships evolve at a reasonable pace, no one falls in love at first sight, no Prince Charming, but it is sweet and fun still.

There are still some family secrets and mysteries to be solved although Stewart does answer a few questions she leaves a few things hanging, a surefire way to keep me continuing with this series. This is a well written, smooth novel, ideal for a summer read, more depth than a beach read but with all of the fun!

Sugarhouse Blues in three words: Charming, Authentic and Captivating.

Chris C - A Midlife Wife says

Charming story. Part of a series but easily followed.

Sometimes we need a break from all the stress and craziness of the day. Picking up a new women's fiction story is a perfect way to set the mood.

Mariah Stewart has written so many books that you almost don't know where to start. However, she is bringing us a brand new series called The Hudson Sisters and it is a interesting delightful look at an estranged family forced together under interesting circumstances.

The author showcases each character with their own special quirks and talents. She is wonderful at blending these into the story and making it come to life.

With the sisters focusd on re-creating a legacy in their hometown, we are also treated to a little hints of romance sprinkled the along way. Just enough to make it interesting and a beautiful story.

A solid writer with so much talent, Mariah Stewart crafts wonderful stories that take us away to small-town

America and build strong families we wish we were a part of.

* advance copy for review consideration
full review - <http://amidlifewife.com/the-sugarhouse...>

The Blonde Bookworm says

The Sugarhouse Blues is the second novel in The Hudson Sisters series and I have been looking forward to this novel all year! I read the first book (The Last Chance Matinee) last year and absolutely loved it, so I was really excited to read book two and pick back up with the Hudson sisters. The Sugarhouse Blues did not disappoint! It was told mostly by Des, but there was still a lot of input from Cara and Allie as well. I love this group of girls and felt like I was one of the sisters while reading!

This novel wasn't suspenseful and it wasn't filled to the brim with romance, but it had a constant steady pace that matched the tone of the slow moving small town vibe. It was such an enjoyable read filled with interesting and entertaining characters. I honestly felt like I wanted to move to Hidden Falls by the end of this novel! The Sugarhouse Blues was a fantastic summer read perfect for reading while in a rocking chair on the back porch with a cold glass of lemonade! Thank you to NetGalley and Gallery Books for sending a copy of this novel in exchange for an honest review.

Rating 4/5

Kristen says

In Mariah Stewart's The Sugarhouse Blues, the 2nd installment in the Hudson Sisters woman's fiction series, this novel is about family and the ties that bind them together and finding a new start somewhere. For Desdemona "Des" Hudson, she joined her sister Allie and her half-sister Cara on a monstrous project to restore the Sugarhouse theater. It was reported on their late father's will. That theater have been in their family for centuries and now needs a major restoration to fix the leaking ceiling. They all had something that brought them there, when they've gotten to know each other better. Both Allie and Cara are divorced, while Des looks for her own Mr. Right. Between the three of them, they researched the history of the theater and learned more about their own father's hidden secrets. As the days go by, they worked hard to put the theater into place and talked about life and love, shared laughter, secrets, and memories, before the restoration could be completed in their new home.

Chris Conley says

I love this series. No easy fixes, no quick resolutions...just people who feel real figuring out how to solve problems. I like these women. The community feels real and welcoming.

Linda Zagon says

My Review of “The Sugarhouse Blues” by Mariah Stewart Gallery Books. Publishing Date May 15, 2018

I would like to thank NetGalley and Gallery Books for an ARC of “The Sugarhouse Blues” by Mariah Stewart for my honest review. The genres for this book are Fiction and Women’s Fiction. This is the second book in “A Hudson Series Novel”, but it can be read as a standalone. The timeline of the story is mostly in the present but goes to the past when it pertains to the characters or events.

The author describes the characters in the story as complex, complicated and dysfunctional. Three sisters, Alex, Des and Cara, each have their own problems and motivations for working together to restore their deceased father’s prized theatre , for the inheritance. The sisters see lies, betrayals, and deep secrets that were buried with their father. To renovate this theatre, Fritz, the father had left money. Unfortunately with unexpected leaks, and rising costs of construction, there might not be enough money to finish this project, unless the sister’s can find a way together.

The author discusses the importance of love, loyalty, friendship, forgiveness , communication and understanding. Can this project succeed? Will the sisters be able to set aside their differences and work together?

This was an easy read, and I regretted that it ended very abruptly. There are many more questions that have to be answered. I eagerly await the next novel. I would recommend this emotional and enjoyable novel for those readers that enjoy Women’s Fiction.
