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Hurt: Solitary Tales Series, Book 4



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Synopsis

His rebellion will soon turn to hope... When Chris Buckley first encountered the mysteries of creepy Solitary, North Carolina, he had little idea how far he would fall into the town’s shadows. After losing the love of his life, Chris tried to do things his way. He hunted for answers. And then he gave up trying to find them. But now Chris comes back to Solitary, knowing there’s a purpose for his being there. As he watches his place in a twisted and evil bloodline become clear, Chris waits for the last battle - and wonders who will be left when he finally makes his stand. The fourth and final audiobook in The Solitary Tales series shines light into deep darkness as Chris’s journey to Solitary comes to a dramatic close.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition
Listening Length: 14 hoursÃ Â andÃ Â 3 minutes
Program Type: Audiobook
Version: Unabridged
Publisher: Oasis Audio
Audible.com Release Date: January 30, 2013
Whispersync for Voice: Ready
Language: English
ASIN: B00B8BMXSM
Best Sellers Rank: #18 inÃ Â Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Religious > Christian > Emotions & Feelings #46 inÃ Â Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Religious > Christian > Friendship #213 inÃ Â Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Religious > Christian > Action & Adventure

Customer Reviews

...or will Chris Buckley find himself falling into the evil depths of the town of Solitary?He couldn’t get away that easily. After returning to his native Chicago, Chris finds himself back amongst the shadows and secrets of Solitary. He finds his true purpose, what the past year and a half have been all about. Many of his questions will be answered, but he’s not going to like what he finds out: he has until Memorial day. By May 28th he must make a decision. Embrace his family’s dark secrets and renounce a new found faith? Or be swallowed by the darkness and see those he most cares about be drug down into the depths with him. There is dark but there is also light: Kelsey. Is Chris strong enough to be the hero?Hurt is aptly named. It sums up the entire Solitary Tales series. Chris

has, quite literally, been through hell. Mysterious figures pulling at his life’s strings; seeing the love of his life killed in a ritual slaughter; witnessing the degradation of his Uncle’s sanity; allowing people to break his shell and get close to him only to find himself betrayed. Never have I read a series where a young and inexperienced protagonist has been put through so many torturous scenarios. And yet, Chris struggles on. And that’s why fans of the series like him so much, isn’t it? Just when he almost gives up, he doesn’t. Just when you think that this is the moment that breaks him, he somehow finds it within himself to plod on, to persevere.This novel is everything the previous three installments were. It’s mysterious, dark, foreboding, claustrophobic, funny, touching, and engrossing. It’s lengthy but it feels like it’s over in the blink of an eye. It’s the culmination of what, I think, is one of the more uniquely told stories I’ve ever read. Thrasher just grabs the reader and never lets go. The ups and downs are like an emotional roller coaster and throughout the whole thing, I honestly had no idea how it was going to end. But I will say this: the ending was completely satisfying. I won’t say if it’s a happy or sad ending though ;) You’ll have to determine that for yourself.Hurt is a great finale to a wonderful series; one that I’m sad to see come to an end.

The events that propelled teenager Chris Buckley into an ever-escalating horror story are coming to a head. The question is, will Chris and his loved ones survive?Welcome to Solitary, North Carolina, and welcome to "Hurt," the fourth and final novel in Travis Thrasher’s Solitary series.It is in "Hurt" that Chris (and the reader) gets all of his questions answered, and the answers are usually terrifying. He learns he’s been selected to assume the family "responsibility" from his dying great-grandfather, except that responsibility is a kind of ownership of evil.And it is in "Hurt" that Chris discovers what faith means. But he may lose his life, and his girlfriend Kelsey may lose her life as well.Thrasher maintains a fine tension between what looks like the regular life of a high-school teenager and the growing horror of what is happening around that teenager. It’s no mean feat to consistently move back and forth between normal and abnormal (or paranormal), and Thrasher pulls it off. He makes it look almost effortless - which usually means some serious sweat equity went into the writing and rewriting.As in the other books in the Solitary series, the right is tight. Chapters are short, likely to appeal to the Young adult audience the book is aimed at. How the book is structured has the effect of propelling the action of the story forward, and forcing the reader to confront the same choices Chris must confront and make. This emphasis on brevity continually heightens the tension, and makes Hurt a very fast read (and you want to keep reading)."Hurt" is just the right conclusion to the story. Thrasher has managed to maintain the interest and excitement across all four of the books in the series, and it’s quite an achievement.

Travis Thrasher may be THE author who will keep surprising me as a reader.As I was finishing "Hurt" I kept thinking how the author said that "The Solitary Tales" was his answer to the "Twilight" series. That may have been the genesis of the proposal, but I finished the series believing it is the 21st century answer to Frank Peretti's "This Present Darkness" and "Piercing the Darkness." Both series make real the spiritual warfare that Christians are involved in, but Thrasher makes it more personal by putting the burden on the teenage shoulders of Chris Buckley.Thrasher has kept the intensity building through Chris's journey from new kid in Solitary, North Carolina, to discovering his first love, from being the one who thinks he can make it on his own to realizing just how much he needs the One who can help him through life, from seeing lives being destroyed to seeing lives transformed. "The Solitary Tales" and "Hurt," in particular, are more than just a tale of Good vs. Evil, it is the story of how each of us must do battle against the powers, the principalities, the rulers of darkness in this world every day--maybe not in the way Chris has to wage the battle for Solitary, but each of us in our own way in our own corner of the world.As for Chris and Kelsey, Iris, Brick, Newt and the rest . . . I'd love to see Thrasher revisit them some time in the future (and he hints in an "After Words" at the end of "Hurt" that he's been thinking about more of Chris). Maybe nothing as chilling as "The Solitary Tales," but still mysterious and intriguing.A friend and I are already talking about reading the books straight through starting this coming fall. I can hardly wait!

The Solitary series comes full circle with "Hurt." I was tempted to give this 4 stars instead of 5 (pacing could have been tighter in places), I couldn't help but be impressed by how well Thrasher managed to tie everything from the first three books together, including a number of details that seemed almost random and trivial previously, making them all integral parts of the conclusion. That level of planning is worth 5 stars.

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