



Dakota

Martha Grimes

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Grimes' beloved Andi Oliver returns, on the run from her past

In this stunning sequel to Grimes' beloved Biting the Moon, young Andi Oliver is an amnesiac and drifter who awoke in a Santa Fe bed and breakfast with a man's belongings tossed about the room. Adopting a name from the initials on her backpack, Andi moves from one waitress job to the next, from Idaho to North Dakota.

It is in Dakota that she is hired at Klavans, a massive pigfarming facility that specializes in the dark art of modern livestock management. As Andi begins to uncover the truth about Klavans and a slaughterhouse called Big Sun, two men are on her trail, one a gunman hired to kill her, another who has followed her across three states demanding something from her forgotten past.

Dakota signals the return of one of Martha Grimes' most indelible heroines, a smart and troubled young woman who, though she doesn't know her own identity, knows right from wrong. Set against the breathtakingly expansive backdrop of the American plains, Dakota will reward Grimes' legion of fans as well as attracting new readers.

Dakota Details

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Author : Martha Grimes

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From Reader Review Dakota for online ebook

Karlan says

This book irritated me, but I wanted to learn what happened so I kept skimming. Andi, a beautiful young woman with amnesia, drifts from town to town and becomes an animal rights heroine. Although she meets a friendly sheriff, she doesn't consider asking him for help to learn her identity. A sort of romantic interlude is totally unbelievable. At the conclusion, she drifts on so a sequel is probably planned.

Anne says

I loved this book. I didn't want it to end partly because I knew that it probably wouldn't end, not really. Martha Grimes could write again about Andi Oliver. By the time the last page rolls around, Andi Oliver still has not remembered her past and we don't have any more idea than Andi does what happened to her before she woke up in the bed and breakfast at the beginning of Biting the Moon. And yet, the ending was satisfying even with the loose ends. The writing was Martha Grimes at her best. The characters were interesting and well drawn. The settings made me wish I could step into them, order a grilled cheese at the diner or take a walk down the main street or across a field. Much of the plot focuses on the abuse of animals in a factory farm, their subsequent brutal (and illegal) treatment at the slaughterhouse and Andi's attempt as just one person to right those (and many other) wrongs. I'll need to re-read Biting the Moon (which I do not remember very clearly) and then re-read Dakota, this time more slowly, to really savor it

Kd says

When this intriguing book appeared on our 'new' shelf, I had to back up and find the first one written about Andi, Biting the Moon. It was good enough to make me look forward in anticipation to Dakota. While realizing we need to use animals as a harvest, the harvest needs to always be done mercifully. The Jews have long known this from the Old Testament scriptures, and many of the kosher laws involve this mercy. I have always thought the injunction in the law books of the Bible about not 'seething (cooking) a kid in its mother's milk' is more about our attitude toward animal than what knowledge the milkee would have about what is being cooked in the milk.

Mark says

This is a sequel to Biting the Moon, which I think I may have read some years ago. It really doesn't matter, as this story has enough background that it can stand on its own without knowing all that happened in the previous book. Andi Oliver, a name she chose for herself because of the initials on her backpack, is a young woman with no past, literally. Her memory of anything prior to two years ago when she woke up in a motel room in Sante Fe has been obliterated. She has been wandering about the Great Plains, on foot, since making a dramatic escape and finds herself settling down in a small town in North Dakota. Andi causes trouble for some rough characters from the moment she hits town, but her sheer determination and uncompromising moral character allow her to make fast friends and lead her to become a crusader for animal rights in a

business where the almighty dollar blinds some to the utter cruelty of the work. The scenario is horrifying for its graphic description of the factory farm and slaughterhouse practices and the more so because it rings so true. There are some great characters here. A few developments that seem a little contrived, but not enough to render the book any great harm. I was captivated by this and found it hard to put the book down. It has renewed my interest in Ms Grimes, an author I had concluded I didn't like because of one other book that disappointed. I've got some catching up to do!

Mary says

I love the Richard Jury series and was anxious to read more of Martha's material. I found this series to be extremely dissatisfactory and disappointing. At the end of the day, nothing was solved, the plots seemed to go nowhere with no real resolutions. They seem to be books about a girl with amnesia that walks around getting away with whatever she wants because she's against animal cruelty. I found the character to be unbelievable, the arguments and issues unbelievable and felt at the end of the day I'd wasted valuable reading time.

Patricia says

Andi Oliver is a beautiful young woman and a drifter. Andi cannot remember her real past so she has made up a background for herself. She rarely tells anyone that she actually suffers from amnesia and doesn't know where she is from or if she has a family.

Grimes introduced Andi in the novel *Biting the Moon*. As Andi walks along the road, she discovers a donkey that has been mistreated. Andi manages to free the donkey and takes the donkey with her. When she reaches the town of Kingdom, she runs into Eula Bond that owns a vegetable stand. Eula is a kind woman and points her in the direction of the stables where she can put up her donkey for the night. Eula also tells her of a good place to spend the night.

Andi is befriended by a local rancher who offers Andi a place to stay and a job. The duties on the ranch leave Andi a lot of spare time so she takes a job at Klaven's pig farming facility. Andi has a soft place in her heart for animals and can't stand the abuse the pigs have to suffer at this facility.

Andi is an interesting character with a big heart. The book dwells on many animal rights issues and in places is difficult to read and learn the truth about how animals are really treated in some of the farm facilities and the slaughtering houses.

L says

Why have I not been reading more from Martha Grimes?!?! This book is wonderful! You've got engaging writing (thought "engaging" might not be sufficiently strong a term); animal rights issues; amnesia (not in a form that would please clinicians, I don't think, but it opens up possibilities for character & plot, so . . .); a small town in the west; solid characters, more than one of whom got under my skin and not all of whom are

human; and more. Oh, yeah, there's a plot, too, with an interesting mystery. But that's almost unnecessary.

Andi Oliver could have been just a bit too precious to tolerate or the sort of female lead who bullheadedly does the "stupid" thing & must be rescued by the man (i.e. "the girl"), but Grimes avoids both of those traps. I love the relationship between Andi & Dakota, as it unfolds, as it is viewed by others, and as Andi interprets it.

The pig factory-farm is consistent with what I've learned elsewhere, though the focus here is on the pigs, not the impact on the surrounding environment. Its role in the community of people is well handled.

Ok, gotta go find another book featuring Andi! According to the dedication, this one involved a demand by an Andi fan right here in SoFla. Let this be a lesson to us all; when you love something, let your author know!

Sandy says

I loved this book! I love what Martha Grimes does with characters. I am having trouble eating meat after reading it though. It was very thought provoking and informative plus it involved me so much that I had trouble putting it down.

Linda says

I love the Richard Jury series by Martha Grimes and I looked forward to reading this but I was disappointed. The main character is young woman who has been wandering for two years running from shadowy events subsequent to an unknown trauma that has led her to have amnesia. In addition she wanders into town leading a mistreated donkey she has stolen/rescued and gets away with it and subsequent misdeeds that most jurisdictions would not allow. She apparently is more concerned with animals more than people opining that the manner in which agribusiness raises and butchers pigs is more brutal than the Holocaust. Give me a break! The animal treatment conditions she presents are horrible but not what I signed on for in a mystery.

The plot of the mystery itself seemed secondary to the animal rights arguments. I prefer more plot, less digression.

Ann says

I love Martha Grimes' Richard Jury series. I truly do. But a few years ago, she became an avid animal rights advocate and her stories reflect those beliefs. This book isn't a real story; it is a rant against the mistreatment of feed animals. I know animals can be treated cruelly in processing plants and farms but, as one of the characters say in the book, "You stop eating them, we'll stop killing them." Andi Oliver is a young woman who suffers from amnesia (but no one knows this but her) and she is hitchhiking through North Dakota when she sees a donkey in a field so she steals it because it looks hungry. She takes it to a local farm where they

invite her to move in (donkey and all) and then she gets a job on a pig farm and steals pigs to keep them from being sent to slaughter. The few people who challenge her about her thievery are hushed by everyone from the townspeople to the sheriff. The story has no real point. The author doesn't seem to want to solve her identity or her past except for little pieces that pop up now and then. There is supposedly a contract out to kill her but who cares? Then she decides she should sue the owner of the pig farm for animal cruelty but the author doesn't even follow through with any solution. This was a waste of time and I was very disappointed.

Barbara ★ says

I had a really difficult time with this book. The first half was ok but kinda rambling. Andi Oliver is an animal lover who rescues (steals) animals from cruel or abusive masters...first a donkey, then a sickly pig and finally a piglet. Everyone, including the sheriff, ignores this behavior which I find bizarre since Andi is a stranger in town who appears leading the stolen donkey. The book totally goes downhill for me when Andi gets a job at the neighboring pig factory farm. These chapters describing the cruelty and torture of the pigs is brutal, disgusting and very disturbing. The story drags on and on with no real purpose until Andi decides to sue the pig factory for cruelty to animals and starts hunting up witnesses and talking to a lawyer. I finally gave up on page 323 with less than 100 pages to go as I just couldn't stand it any longer.

Fran says

I couldn't finish this book, although I made several attempts. The characters are flat and honestly, very annoying. The plot is inconsistent and did not pull me in. I felt let down and finally cut my losses and just stopped trying to muddle through it. Too many good books out there to waste my time on this.

Joanne says

For those of you who read my review of *Biting Mooon*, I am sure you are wondering why I even bothered to read this, the next journey for our heroine, Andi Oliver, or whatever her name is. I hoped we learned who she was. We didn't. While this was better written, it still rambles and frustrates the reader. And nothing is solved. Don't bother to get the threeequal - even if it finally uncovers what we want to know, who will care?

Emily says

This book is disturbing both because of its complete lack of closure as well as the horrible things that happen to animals. So, it's basically just like the first Andi Oliver book. Andi has graduated from saving animals from leg traps, canned hunts and dogfights to agribusiness and slaughterhouses. She's also still searching for her missing memory, but this book focuses a lot more on the former than the latter, which is unfortunate. I want to read about what happened to Andi to make her have amnesia, not pigs being dragged around by their ears. Grimes' writing is still fantastic: vivid, genuine and eloquent, which makes the scenes in the slaughterhouse more disturbing, but also allows the reader to appreciate the beauty of the North Dakota scenery.

Both of Grimes' young female characters, Andi and Emma (*Hotel Paradise*), put themselves in situations

that could be dangerous and are a lot more trusting of strange men than I would be, but Grimes allows more bad things to happen to Andi than she ever did to Emma. This is more realistic, but, again, disturbing to read about.

Really, though, most of all, I'd just like some closure.

Always Pink says

I read this book trying to solve the riddle that Martha Grimes is to me. What makes her tick? She is a master of characterisation, and I love all her protagonists – most of them have a hurt child hidden somewhere within them. Andi is the bleakest of them all, as she has no story – her amnesia allows only for the tiniest glimpses of a childhood self, all else we see is an awesome young adult taking life head-on, however much courage that might take. She may be 19 or 20 years old, identifies with any maltreated animal, is fearlessly brave and of course beautiful. So Grimes shows how men flock around her wherever her love for animals brings her, circling her as it were, some grossly, but many also protectively, all sensing her vulnerability. Helped by the good guys and by her own gut-feelings (and mere stubbornness) Andi wards off any danger that arises from her activities as an animal rights activist as well as from her beauty as if moving under a big protective shield. - Too good to be true? It seemed to me that Grimes is writing an alternative story here to what in all probability would have happened to someone like Andi. Sadly that may tell us a lot about Grimes's own experiences. She seems to be willing Andi's story towards some kind of a happy ending, but her history, both unknown and self-made, propel her forward like tumbleweed, not allowing for such an easy cop out.
