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Faultlines



Synopsis

It's the phone call every parent dreads: in the middle of the night, Sandy Cline learns that her twenty-year-old son, Jordan, has been in a car accident. Her nephew, Travis, was also in the car, along with Travis's girlfriend. All three are alive—but barely. The car was smashed against a tree along a remote and winding road, beautiful but deadly, in their rural Texas Hill Country town. In the wake of the car crash, the close-knit family is tested like never before. Jenna, Travis's mother, blames Jordan—as well as her sister, Sandy—after reports surface that Jordan had been driving. As the young adults struggle to survive, tension between their parents escalates. But when trust is broken and a shocking family secret is exposed, it creates a perfect storm of harrowing consequences. Rumors in the small town spread like wildfire. When details of the accident are questioned, Sandy and Jenna wonder if their family has been destroyed beyond repair. As always, there's much more to the story—if the family is to survive, they will have to come together to confront the terrible truth and overcome their pain. But are some betrayals unforgivable?

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Customer Reviews

By Jacqueline Pelham I received an advanced copy of *Faultlines* for an unbiased review. In *Faultlines*, Barbara Taylor Sissel writes about family relations and how its dynamics can change in an instant. This suspenseful story deals with a loving family torn apart due to a devastating automobile accident involving cousins where driving while intoxicated is involved. Two sisters experience guilt, blame, and grief as they try to come to terms with the tragedy. When one sister reveals a long kept secret about the other, another wedge is set in place adding to the heartbreak. What I especially like about Sissel's writing is that she digs deep into her characters as if she is living their experiences. Through her passionate writing, the emotions and beautifully written wisdoms seem so real we have sympathy for all sides of the conflict. I have read several of Sissel's novels and have found that the endings are seldom tied up with pretty little bows because real life doesn't work that way. They are however powerful and satisfying as a truth is revealed, and we come away with a better understanding of the gray areas of love, hope for the future, and sought-after forgiveness. I loved this book and recommend it to any reader who enjoys a good suspenseful story told with the finesse of an author who has honed her craft and exhibits empathy for those in turmoil. A great read.

Faultlines begins with every parent's worst nightmare; a phone call in the middle of the night, a horrendous car crash caused by under aged drinking. From that moment the reader is taken on a thrill ride of deceit, suspicion, betrayal, and long-buried family secrets. This book will have you on the edge of your seat as the story unfolds, holding your breath, and gasping with surprise at the twists and turns of the story. This is also the story of a mother's love for her child, and how a family can quickly unravel under the worst of circumstances.

A parent's worse nightmare Can a person make amends and ask forgiveness for the secrets, lies, betrayals and bad choices made in their life, even if the ramifications deeply affected others? Can forgiveness and love still be found within peoples' hearts, when the one that has caused so much pain tries to make amends? What if you have your own secrets, lies and had made bad choices, can you make amends and forgive yourself? These are the questions and dilemmas that face Sandy Cline in *Faultlines*. *Faultlines* is a hauntingly beautiful story of love, loss, heartache, secrets, betrayals, forgiveness and redemption. The storyline is well-written, realistic and intriguing, it pulls the reader in from the beginning, and takes them on a roller coaster ride as they follow the intertwining emotional journeys of Sandy Cline and Libby Hennessey. Set in the Texas Hill Country town of Wyatt, author Barbara Taylor Sissel weaves a compelling story that contains a tangled web

of inner demons, secrets, alcoholism, love lost, betrayals, choices made and paying the price, making amends, seeking forgiveness and redemption. This is an intricate story of how tiny faultlines develop within a family and lives are shattered after a senseless tragedy, and learning how to mend the damage and start anew, that will leave the reader pondering what they would do if they were in Sandy and Libby's shoes. With a realistic cast of characters who have flaws and imperfections; and a rich description of the Texas Hill Country setting, Faultlines is a captivating tale full of mystery and suspense that engages the reader's imagination; and a psychological and realistic look into the complicated and fragile dynamics of relationships, and the consequences that come with choices made in life. Disclaimer: I received a copy of the book from the author / publisher in exchange for my honest review.

I'm glad I was home when I read the end of this book. Admittedly, I am a sap, but the tears are still flowing as I write this review. Clearly, the characters felt very real to me and I could feel their fears and their pain. I'm not saying that the ending was or wasn't sad, you'll have to find that out yourself but I will it was very touching!!

The story grabs you on the first page and doesn't let go. Each time the situation seems to begin to resolve, another secret is revealed and the tension builds again. I love that Taylor Sissel's characters are so three dimensional that you feel you know them by the end of the story. Her skill with description puts you right in the room with the characters as the sisters try to find common ground or feeling the impact of the car hitting the tree. Another great read from Barbara Taylor Sissel. Enjoy it!

I really enjoyed this story. I know it will resonate with me for long time. The two sisters who are so close must overcome tragedy and heartache we all hope doesn't happen to us. Each sister has a son, both are only children but these two boys are closer than brothers. Secrets come out and the reader is kept on the edge of her seat. I had difficulty putting this book down. As it progresses it is very difficult to guess what will happen. Please do yourself favor and read this, you won't be sorry, I promise.

A very good book. Reading it made me sad, angry, compassionate and happy. It made me realize, not for the first time, how fragile life is, and what it is that is really important in our lives. Being the wife of a retired police officer, the character 'Huck' angered me. He was the worst that can be in law

enforcement. But, he had his trauma too. We are all only human in the end...and we need to remember that we're all in this together. This life.

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