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Center Stage: Magnolia Steele Mystery #1



Synopsis

First book in the Magnolia Steele Mystery series by the New York Times and USA Today bestselling author, Denise Grover Swank. Ten years ago, Magnolia Steele fled Franklin, Tennessee after an incident that left her with hazy memories and a horror of the place where she had been born and bred. Though her abrupt departure destroyed most of her treasured relationships, she vowed never to return . . . until she has no choice. When Magnolia's breakout acting role in a Broadway musical ends in disgrace, there's only one place she can go. She finds herself on her momma's porch, suitcase in hand. Drama follows Magnolia around like a long lost friend. She reluctantly agrees to help her momma's catering company at a party for a country music star, only to find herself face-to-face with a sleazy music agent from her past. After a very public spat, Magnolia not only finds him dead but herself center stage in the police's investigation. Now she must scramble to prove her innocence, relying on the help of acquaintances old and new. But the longer Magnolia stays in Franklin, the more she remembers about the big bad incident that chased her away. The past might not be finished with her yet, and what she doesn't remember could be her biggest danger.

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Customer Reviews

Wow, another great series from Denise Grover Swank!! I didn't think I could love another of Denise's characters as much as I love Rose Gardner, but I think Magnolia Steele is sitting right there next to Rose. First of all, EVERY SINGLE book that Denise has written captures my attention and my heart from the very first pages. Center Stage is no different, your heart goes out to Magnolia as she is dealing with both her recent humiliation in New York City and the fear she feels from the events that happened 10 years ago, events that she can't remember but knows they were terrifying and caused her to leave Franklin, TN the very next day. The action kicks up rather quickly as a murder occurs, and of course Magnolia is in the wrong place at the wrong time and becomes the lead suspect. She takes it upon herself, along with some new friends and family, to investigate the crime and clear her name. Along the way, she finds herself in some awkward, scary, and surprising situations. Being home brings back more memories of the terrifying experience that caused her to leave 10 years ago, and some anonymous communications warning Magnolia to essentially keep it buried leave you at the edge of your seat to find out what happened on that fateful night. Seeing and interacting with people from her past leaves you feeling the guilt, sadness, and even anger that Magnolia is experiencing. I really enjoyed the fact that the new people that come into her circle give her a sense of happiness, belonging, and even possible romance. While the murders seem to be resolved by the end of this installment, I am not so sure that's the end of it.

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