



Digging Up Trouble

Heather Webber

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Digging Her Own Grave

Landscaper Nina Quinn makes her living from surprise garden makeovers. It's not her fault that someone duped her into digging up the wrong yard. And she certainly can't be blamed when her handiwork turns the unsuspecting real owner apoplectic and he drops dead from a heart attack . . . can she? Nina's got enough trouble already, with her divorce from faithless hubby Kevin nearing completion and her unruly stepson up to his teenage neck in possibly illegal mischief. Now she's in danger of losing her business! But there's something screwy about this rather convenient "accidental" death of a man whom apparently no one could stand -- not even the "grieving" widow who's threatening to sue Nina's overalls off. To save her livelihood -- and her skin -- Nina's going to have to dig deeper into the dirt than she ever has before . . . and see what sort of slimy secret things crawl out.

Digging Up Trouble Details

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From Reader Review Digging Up Trouble for online ebook

Trisha says

Another good installment in this series. For some reason I get a big kick out of BeBe's antics and the fact that he caused her to find something many were looking for was a plus. The characters are lots of fun and I love all their flaws. The mystery in this wasn't necessarily the biggest mystery but still wasn't handed over on a silver platter too early in the story line (although since I had read it years ago, that might not be too fair to say). Nonetheless, I enjoyed it.

Renee says

Yet another Salvation Army find, and another good read. It's the third in a series, but I suspect that that might be an advantage in terms of ongoing family/relationship plot. Protagonist Nina Quinn, a landscaper living in Ohio, runs a firm specializing in surprise garden makeovers. (Whatever happened to all of those surprise home/garden makeover shows, anyway? I miss them!) It seems that she also has a habit of encountering murder victims, which doesn't make breaking apart from her almost-ex husband, a town detective, any easier.

I like Heather, I like her team of ex-con employees (thanks to Nina's cousin, who works in probation), I like her family and pretty much everything about the book and series. Parts of the plot were a little obvious, but I was willing to forgive that. Best of all, the book didn't suffer from plucky-heroine-ends-up-in-peril syndrome! That, alone, would make the series worth reading!

Karol says

I enjoyed this cozy mystery - Nina is such a likable character. The mystery itself was well-developed and had some twists that surprised me. Nina's sister and mother played less predominant roles in this novel, while her ex-husband, stepson, new boyfriend and employees took center stage. I especially enjoyed the characters Tam and Brickhouse.

Another really good read by this author!

Aurian Booklover says

Another great instalment in the Nina Quinn series.

Nina Quinn is a very curious woman and when her almost ex-husband's former sister-in-law Lindsey Lockhart wants to hire her to create one of her surprise gardens, she accepts. Nina does sense that something is not quite right here, but she wants to use the connection to get some answers about Kevin's first wife, who died in a boating accident. But Lindsey refuses to tell her anything, and as the garden make over has been paid for already, Nina has no choice but to get on with it.

And so, early one morning they begin the gargantuan task of transforming a garden that has been neglected for decades into a beautiful piece of paradise. But when a strange man accuses them of trespassing in his garden, and falls dead at Nina's feet because of a heart attack, she doesn't know what to do. Lindsey doesn't answer her phone, and the suddenly arriving widow accuses Nina of murder.

If Lindsey has tricked her, she really could be sued for murder as she has no permission from the home owner's to be in their garden at all.

Her almost ex-husband Kevin is a homicide inspector and is assigned the case. He can't believe his former inlaws are behind this, but there is no other solution. Apparently everyone hated the dead man, Russ Grabinsky. Lindsey's husband Bill and Russ were partners in Growl, a very successful vegetarian fast food restaurant, and the same place Riley is now working part time.

When Nina goes back to the house the next day, to try to persuade the widow to let her finish the job on the garden, and to have her drop the possible law suit, she gets rebuffed. Greta does not want to talk to her, and she appears to be really grieving for her louse of a husband. But why did Lindsey and Bill pay such an enormous amount of money to have someone else's garden made over?

Something more is going on here, and Nina is determined to find out what. Why is Bill sneaking around the house while she is doing the same? Who has been arguing with Greta about being blackmailed? What is it with the lawsuit the home owners association? Why does Bill need the accounting books back so badly?

I really enjoyed this third book in the series. I like how Nina and Riley's relationship has changed from the teenager who could barely stand her, to what it is now. Nina's personal life is a bit of a mess though. Her husband cheated on her with his female partner, and Nina kicked him out. But she still has feelings for him, and now he is making sounds of regret and wanting her back. So why is he still living with Ginger? But Nina is also seeing someone else, the attractive vice principal of Riley's school, who is really good to her. What is she to do?

As her cousin Ana is a parole officer, almost all of her employees are former convicts. And now one of them is giving her trouble by not showing up at work, or being very late. She hates to have to let him go as he is very good at finding the special objects for her gardens. But her other employees have to work harder to catch up for him, and she can't have that. So Nina and Ana try to figure out what he is doing, if he is violating his parole or if he is in trouble. And of course that means donning wigs and trying to find him in the seedier part of town. Where they happen to find someone completely unsuspected instead ...

Nina's star secretary and good friend Tam is going into labour, and she really needs a replacement. At first she is so not happy with whom Tam send to her, but when the lady has to leave again, she sorely misses her competency.

Nina's mother and sister are a real pain though, and at first Nina is happy with what they have surprised her with, but well, things get worse and worse. Still, it does help her finally end up in the arms of the man I want her to choose, so all is well after all.

The plot of this mystery was not all that hard to guess, but it was fun to see Nina unravel it nonetheless. I liked the ending, the good deed that Nina did with the blackmail pictures. I was surprised by the killer though. I was suspecting someone else completely.

I really enjoy Heather Webber's writing style, her quirky characters and her sense of humor. An older

neighbour Lothario, who has a name of being a jinx and getting his female companions killed. Nina's former English teacher whom she still fears but is again a part of her life. Her employees with their colourful backgrounds. But I do admire her for giving these people a second chance. A huge dog called BeBe with a crush on Nina ...

9 stars.

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Carrie says

I thought this books was about the same level as the previous books. I found them entertaining, but I like them less than the author's other series. My opinions on the characters and overall plotlines are the same as previous books, still enjoyable and entertaining. Parts of this book were a bit slow, but as a quick read, it quickly got better.

I've never been in Nina's position of being cheated on and awaiting a divorce, so this is purely my opinion of how I think I would be in that situation. But I found her teetering with Kevin to be a bit annoying. I am not sure how I feel about Bobby. I think he's a better choice, but I honestly think she could do better. my favorite relation ship has to be between Nina and Riley, I just adore their interactions.

The story was like the others, Nina gets dragged into a murder plot and feels she has to solve it. As far as subplots go, I wanted something more from the Jean Claude arc. I knew it would be something like that, but I wanted something more.

Overall I enjoyed the book. Will I read the next one? Sure, it's already on my library want list.

Robin DeJarnett says

When I realized that reading a hundred books in a year meant reading two a week, I started looking for some that would be a little faster to read than the 400 page paranormals I've been hooked on for a while. I picked up 'Digging Up Trouble' at RWA last summer, and at about 240 pages, was able to finish it pretty quickly.

This one caught my eye specifically because it's written in first person, something I'm trying to do. I really enjoyed the voice of this book, and was very comfortable in Nina's head.

It's been a while since I've read a true mystery - and this one was fun, for the most part. The main character, Nina Quinn, is a kick, with her self-imposed commandments (she doesn't believe in coincidences, for one) and her ever changing middle names ("That's me. Nina Colette Good Citizen Ceceri Quinn"). She's the owner of a gardening company called "Taken By Surprise" that specializes in one-day garden re-dos (a la 'While You Were Out'), but seems to get caught up in murder as regular part of her business.

The characters are what made the book for me, the plot was okay, though the under-lying reason for the trouble wasn't too hard to discern. The reason the book only gets three stars from me is due to the ending - I enjoyed the build-up, the subplots, and the multiple suspects, but the final reveal did not live up to the rest of the story.

I'm starting to develop a pet peeve for books that build and build and build on a story for hundreds of pages but then only devote one or two pages to the climax. Yeah, I want to know who did it, but I also want a little time to collect my emotional pay off as well. I felt a little short-changed with this one.

This is the third book in the series, and I have the fourth, so I'll give that a try and see if the trend continues. Hopefully this was a fluke and I'll get that 'ah' sigh at the end of the next book with an ending that I can savor.

Vanessa Holloway says

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Ewa says

I thought book about landscaping has to be boring and snoring, but I really enjoyed it - I liked characters, setting, plot. It was really quick and light to read. Mystery itself was good as well.

Bird says

I'm really enjoying this series! The light touch of romance appeals to me, and I enjoy seeing the nontraditional parent/child relationship between Nina and Riley.

My one complaint was the Jean-Claude subplot. It felt superfluous, and could easily have been excluded without affecting the story (except perhaps making it flow more smoothly).

Mary Ann says

As this series progresses- I like Nina more and more. And the crazy cast of characters is just as lovable as the heroine. These are real people, with real lives and that makes everything just that more believable. There was a lot going on and there was a lot of juggling that at times had my head whirling. But I like that carnival ride feeling when I'm reading a good mystery. The ending was a little too tidy for me but it certainly gave us a hint about what was to come in the next one.

Lildemonyo says

This is the 3rd book in the Nina Quinn series. I have loved the series since Book 1. Nina is such a great Character. She is one of those characters you could imagine meeting in real life. I have no trouble stepping into these books. From her Helpful (Not always in the best way) Mom to Her Pushy Always there Neighbor. If you love a great cozy mystery and wonderful characters. I think you would love this book.

Caitlin Copp says

Nina's plate is full with make overs but she can't help but agree to take on a make over for her soon to be ex-husbands first wife's sister. She is hoping to get the scoop on what happened to his first wife who died tragically when Riley was young. It doesn't take long for Nina to realize something isn't right and she soon learns that she has been duped into making over the wrong yard. When the homeowner comes home in the middle of the day and finds his yard torn apart he keels over and dies. Nina fears for her business when his widow threatens to sue her and Nina is determined to prove that he was murdered and did not die as the result of her make over. Another great one, really like this series and will continue to read it.

Sarah says

Nina takes up a new landscaping job, and begins work. It soon appears that she has been tricked into landscaping the wrong yard! The owner makes an appearance, and dies of a heart attack from the shock of it all. The owner's wife is threatening to sue Nina, and she's going to need to find out what really happened if she wants to keep her business.

Jeannie and Louis Rigod says

I began reading about Nina Quinn years ago with the first novel "A Hoe Lot of Trouble" and loved it. I had lost sight of the novelist until I was lucky enough to be re-introduced to her via a reading group. Then Ms. Webber wrote a new series about Lucy Valentine and I fell in love again.

So, being confused I ordered the original series out of order. So, This is the third book and guess what? I love it. Nina Quinn is a hard-working, reality based person who happens to find bodies in the most unique ways.

I would love to be counted a friend among her group in the book. Her employees have the most fascinating pasts and her family is family.

Do yourself a treat and read this series from start to finish or even re-read them. Then go and read all the other books Ms. Heather Webber has written.

MissSusie says

As usual Nina Quinn seems to be a magnet for dead bodies. And she is still struggling with which man she wants to be with.

There were times in this book that I felt I missed a page but didn't; like when her and Ana were gong to go find out about Jean-Claude and they find out about the accident then the next page its the next day and she's at work without telling us what happened the night before it was a bit confusing. And the ending was very anti-climatic and felt rushed. I guess she made her decision but it was never explained and I felt a bit cheated especially since this is the last book in this series. There just seemed to be alot of holes in the story and alot left unexplained.
