



## A Bitter Draught

*Sabrina Flynn*

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## **A Bitter Draught** Sabrina Flynn

San Francisco, 1900. Isobel has faked her own death, and is relishing her second life, but when a mysterious woman writes her last words in sand, Isobel risks her freedom to uncover the truth. As she plunges into a storm of betrayal, the winds are determined to throw Atticus Riot on her course, and the two detectives collide in a sea of madness and murder.

## **A Bitter Draught Details**

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Author : Sabrina Flynn

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## From Reader Review A Bitter Draught for online ebook

### Liz says

If I could give another half-star, I would, for the character-development, scene-setting and plotting. I did really like the inclusion of San Francisco as a main character. I liked the boat and the description of her rigging, gear and of actually sailing her, so she appears as more than a piece of scenery. The author also got it right. Major brownie points.

But I just could not give four stars. I was too distracted by hanging plot points, issues with pace, timing & just plain old basics like grammar. Futileness and discreetness are not English words; futility and discretion are. Believability also suffers when too much action and plot are stuffed into too little time, without taking a few breaths to calm down, or giving the reader a little relief. It also helps to make the important scenes more memorable, as in, you remember them without confusion as to their proper places in the story, after the story is done.

Plot point issue: I still didn't understand whether Violet killed herself, and August watched her die and added the sandy coda, or whether she was killed by him, and he then acted the innocent bystander. I thought her method of weighting herself down improbable, as It kept me wondering if she hopped to her death, with legs bound.

p.s. Creepy story line, but effective.

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### Robert Thompson says

#### Disappointment

Yes, I was disappointed at least until I realized that Riot and Bel were on a converging course. A great read with just enough romance to not be soap operas.

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### Susan says

1900 San Francisco, when Isobel Amsel (aka Miss Bel) becomes intrigued by a message left in the sand by a suicide she decides to investigate, but does case of Riot's have any connection.

Well-written, with well-drawn interesting characters mixed in with a good mystery.

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### Annelie Wendeberg says

Great second instalment in this mystery series! I loved how the relationship of Riot and Bel slowly changed and then developed into something more. Sabrina Flynn has a wonderful way with words that pulls you right in and be part of the stories she tells. She draws her characters with swift and accurate strokes and doesn't lose sight of side characters -- they all come alive the moment you open the book.

Very well done!

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### **Aimee says**

The second installment of the Ravenwood Mysteries was just as satisfying as the first- thoroughly enjoyed delving further into 1900s San Francisco and peeling back the layers of Atticus and Isobel. I'm hooked and will be adding Sabrina Flynn to my list of authors whose books are downloaded on their day of release!

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### **John says**

Sabrina Flynn knocks it out of the park in her second installment in her Ravenwood Detective Agency series! This follow-up to From The Ashes brings Atticus, Isobel, et al together on the hunt attempting to solve a series of murders, at first apparently unrelated but upon further investigation unraveling a web of mysterious circumstances and unexpected evil. The author deftly tells a tale of love and hate, jealousy and fidelity, murder and mayhem, in a fast paced and enthralling story that doesn't let go. Continued excellent character development enfolded in a first class mystery makes this a five star read, imho! I wait with great anticipation for the further exploits of the Ravenwood Detective Agency!

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### **M.R. Graham says**

A Bitter Draught far surpasses From the Ashes. I am absolutely in love with Bel and Riot and their entire cast of supporting characters, as well as the detail that builds the atmosphere.

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### **Chelsea LaVere says**

If you think that second installments are always letdowns, this one will change your expectations! Like the first, the mystery is well-crafted, and the characters are just so "I'm obsessed with every single one." It's going to be a sad day when I finish the third one and have to wait for the next one to come around!

"A Bitter Draught" is a continuation of "From the Ashes" so they do need to be read in chronological order to best understand the characters and timelines. You will also fall in love with 19th century San Francisco as a character and will appreciate the consideration the author has given it, especially in this book. The adventure takes you on the water, in the city, to Napa Valley, and back.

Without giving spoilers away, if you love a great mystery involving a seemingly confusing-knotted-up question of "how would this have happened?," historical fiction, well-developed characters (seriously obsessed with Riot), and dashes of humor, intrigue, a cat named Watson, and attention to detail, this series is a must read.

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### **Ann says**

## **Excellent**

Great second installment. Like the first book I couldn't put this one down. Pre-ordered book 3, and I can't wait for the further adventures of Bel and AJ and the hint of attraction between them.

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## **Sabrina Flynn says**

"Meticulously researched, wonderfully engaging, and frankly romantic as hell..." -*Tara O'Shea*

"...(Flynn) draws her characters with swift and accurate strokes..." -*Bestselling author Annelie Wendeberg*

"...beautifully plotted and paced..." -*Alice Wright*

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## **Aradia Cloud says**

I took my sweet, precious time reading this book because I wanted it to last forever. Alas, here I am at the end.

The many faces of 'Bel' throughout this book were fascinating and entertaining alike. I love how we had the entire book to get to know her better (she's awesome), as opposed to just hearing about her through the first half like in previous book.

Riot, I think, is my favorite character. He's beautiful, witty, and clever to boot. I always love when he and 'Bel' interact, because it's like putting two of the greatest minds together and something amazing almost always comes from it.

I love this book, and this entire series.

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## **Annette Jones says**

### **A Real Page Turner!**

Riot and Isobel are at it again! Now that Isobel is free to roam albeit in disguise, her thirst for mysteries lands her with her first case of a woman whom apparently died by suicide. However, she thinks it may be murder. Soon her case brings her to Riot, who also has a case he's been working on. Later, their cases overlap, putting both in harm's way as well as a bit more closer intimately.

Sabrina Flynn's second installment of the Ravenwood Agency series is even better than the first. As soon as I started, it was difficult to put down and even wanted my doctor to take his time with other patients so I could at least finish the chapter. Once again, Sabrina has taken her readers back in time with such prose one may feel they are standing on the dock with the spray of the sea in one's face. Very well written and I look forward to the third installment.

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**Margaret Hollon says**

Better than the first one! Anxious for more; lots more!

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**Myereading says****There are some books I like...**

and there are some books I love. This definitely fits in the love category. The mystery, the setting and the chemistry between the two main characters seemlessly mesh in this turn-of-the-century San Francisco tale.

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**Paula E says**

I LIKE THE main characters quite a lot in the first and second book of this series. Unlike a Sherlock and Watson I think they balance each other strengths and weaknesses very well. Definitely looking forward to the third book.

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