



Bishop Street

Rene D. Schultz

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Bishop Street is an emotional, gut-wrenching journey of survival, friendship, and second chances...

This story is about four powerful friendships that begin at Bishop Street Orphanage. It becomes tainted with lies and deceit, after they leave at eighteen.

Margaret Gray for the past twenty years has hidden behind a facade of normalcy. Now at thirty-nine, her childhood nightmares are back. Despite a successful writing career, and a flawless reputation, she is unable to keep all that she has built from crumbling around her. It's been twenty years since she's heard from her friends. Why didn't they answer her letters? Why didn't they contact her? Had they survived? Or... had Sister Theresa at the orphanage deceived them with lies, aiming to destroy their friendship, forever?

With nothing left to fear, Maggie hires Damon Depre, a private investigator to find her friends, and seek the truth. This starts her down a twisted path that will once again, test her strength of character. Will she find more than just her friends?

Bishop Street Details

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From Reader Review Bishop Street for online ebook

Christoph Fischer says

"Bishop Street" by Rene D. Schultz is the beautiful story four orphans that reunite many years after one of them left the orphanage behind at the age of 18. Riddled with guilt and longing the now successful writer Maggie decides to hire a private investigator to locate her three particularly good friends.

The handsome and charismatic investigator finds all three of them and helps with the meetings that Maggie has with each of the three individually.

There are sad and tragic excursions into their painful past but also wonderful memories revisited and together the reunited friends help each other to bring the ghosts of the past and present to rest.

Schultz has written great characters who you feel for, all very different and each bringing a new angle to the story. She gives us enough pain to see what life in some orphanages can be like, what life as an orphan can mean and how people can struggle all of their life to come to terms with having no family. But she also shows how this hardship can be overcome, how our protagonists have survived and have found their own new families.

This is a bitter sweet story with hope and redemption.

Kirsten says

I don't really know how to start this, except to say that the book was good. It kept me turning the pages wanting to find out what had happened to these friends over the years. Maggie is such a basket case at the beginning of this book, but by the end she is a woman full of life, warmth and happy to have her friends around her. The many turns that people take over the years is something to behold. I've never read a book like this. It made me want to reach out to all those people I haven't spoken to in years, just to find out if they're happy in their lives. This book was about one woman's journey to find the 3 friends who got left behind when she had to leave Bishop Street. I was so happy when she went to Elizabeth's and met her family. I was happy and curious when she and Rand reconnected. I cried when they finally found Lucy. And when they all got together, that was just beautiful. I absolutely adored the ending. My only question was whether or not Damon became a part of Maggie's life as well. I got the distinct feeling that he really would like to. I'd like to thank Rene for asking me to read this book, and allowing me the honor of doing so. It sounded interesting, and it was. You should read it. It's really good.

I received a copy of this book in return for an honest review.

Lynelle Clark says

"Sometimes in life we have to go through, what we go through, to get to where we are today..."

I received this book from the author for an honest review.

A heartwarming and emotional book that touched the very basics of human kind. The need to belong, to be accepted, to be seen and most of all to be validated.

A gripping story that will draw you in from the start, not putting it down till the very last page. The author did a wonderful work creating this story and it was written with heartfelt compassion, care and knowledge. I believe her main aim with the book was the restoration of people and the sacrifices we make to achieve

that.

When life hands you the raw side of its existence, the only thing that will bring you back is the loving support of family, even if it is not by blood.

All the characters in this book have crept into my heart and I wanted to be better acquainted. You want to see that life will finally turn around and give them that second change. Each character brought their own unique personalities to create this wonderful read, a read that I can recommend to all.

Elizabeth's family will cause a few smiles, touching the very need for connection and belonging. Each of her children were part of the antidote for the weary souls, Lucy, Maggie and Randolph.

Maggie was the one that was determined to get her family back. Having a breakdown in her life made her adamant finding her family. With the help of Damon and Denise she found them and we learn of the long road of recovery, of reconnecting and establishment of the old ties in something new and better.

Randolph, the only male in the small group will astound you with his in-depth wisdom and his ability to give into the places that are very important to him.

Lucy, the youngest of the group will break your heart. Her life-story very emotional as you walk with her to end the cycle of addiction and homelessness.

A wonderful story that was written from the heart, leaving you with the hope that second changes are possible.

Thanks Rene for this opportunity.

sue says

Please let me introduce you to Rene D. Schultz. I was given the chance to read this book of hers she has been sitting on for 7 years! I feel she has been hiding her talent under a bushel. My friend Philomena has the chance to read this first as I was reading a subsequent book. She raved a lot about it, and even rang me up about it! She said this was one I would love to read, she was NOT wrong.

I have been on a rollercoaster of emotions with this read, happy tears, sad tears. Each character became family, pulling at my heart strings.

In my humble opinion, there are "writers" and there are "authors", for me, Rene is most definitely an AUTHOR. She has the ability to allow each character to breathe, to develop in such a way they become quite real. I felt that there was a Maggie, Rand, Lucy and Damon out there somewhere. Reading through it I just saw how they must have been when they were children, each brought something to the group. I can't tell you too much because I would be spoiling it.

So I am going to introduce the author too and a bit about her. I have had the pleasure [and believe me, it has been a great pleasure] to chat to her online and in our 2Authors Promote Group on Facebook. Humble charming lady, I really do not think she knows her worth as a writer. In turn, I love that humbleness about her.

Please Please, buy this book, make a gift of this book to your friends, I am not on commission and urging you to buy this for that reason lol I am saying, you won't regret it. Tearjerker, bit of a love story growing, the life time strength of friendships made, touching emotions that you never knew you had, this authors has strengths, stick with her.

Fiona (Titch) Hunt says

I was given this by the author as I had read a previous book DONE DEAL.

This is a wonderful story of 4 friends who was growing up in an Orphanage and through the love and determination of 1 woman, they all come together in their hours of need.

I found Maggie who is an author and is a wonderful woman who wanted nothing more than to find her 3 friends who were like family. Elizabeth is a homebody with 5 wonderful children and a lovely husband and a lovely person. Randolph is a man who is so full of life now that he can buy whatever he wants after his upbringing. Lucy is the lovely woman who has problems with addiction, with love and help from her friends who are like family, she can get through anything.

I loved the characters and the way the story melded into what happens to each character and how they've over the obstacles in their lives.

Paul says

I received this book from the author for an honest review.

This is really a very attention-grabbing book as we met Maggie, the main character of this book. A successful author that was tormented by flash backs from the past. As the plot builds we are drawn into Maggie's past and the things that made her miserable. As she continues we experience some terrible things that happened to her and her 3 friends during their stay in the orphanage in Bishop Street. She was confronted with the question "What happened to my friends after the orphanage?" The story captured your attention so that you too wanted to know more. Well written, the story develops in her quest for her three friends that was her only family in her younger years. This is really a heartwarming tale as you meet each character and what has happened in their lives during this separation. As Maggie continues with her search we learn more about her own problems she must face. Meeting with the friends one by one, filling in the blank pieces of a 20 year period. I really enjoyed this story; emotions were invested as the author draws me into their lives with compassion and sincerity. A very thought provoking and soul searching story, with well defined and strong characters that will keep you reading till the very last page.

Well done Rene you had me in tears for quite a few chapters.

Lauren says

This is an amazing story about loss, hate, addiction, poor parenting, love and the power of friendship. Four orphaned kids ban together to over come the bullies and mean Sister that they are stuck with. 20 years later they join together again. This story keeps you on an emotional roller coaster. Sometimes you just need that second chance. I did want a romance to kick up in the story, but the author left you with enough details to piece it together. Great read. WaAR

Jada Ryker says

Unbreakable Bonds

In Bishop Street, by Rene Schultz, the past and present are interwoven into a powerful story. As a small child, Maggie was left on the doorstep of an orphanage. She was abandoned by her mother because the man in her mother's life insisted he did not want to carry the burden of a child.

At the orphanage, Maggie forged strong bonds with Lucy, Elizabeth, and Randolph. In an atmosphere of abuse, the four built not only friendships but also family ties.

Now, Maggie is near forty and a successful author. The cruel Sister Theresa is dead, but her poisonous legacy lingers in the form of Maggie's bad dreams and symptoms of PTSD. Desperate to find her friends, Maggie turns to Damon Depre, a private detective. Although fearful of the results, she hires Damon to find the others.

Maggie's journey traverses not geography but time, as she searches for her friends and relives her terrible childhood. In spite of the gray film of grimness from the long-ago abuse, Maggie finds ways to laugh, as well as exploring a romantic attraction. As her journey moves toward its destination, Maggie faces difficult decisions and learns about second chances.

Robin Morgan says

How many times have we finished reading a book by an author and wondered what had been this author's inspiration in writing each of their main characters? Well, Rene D. Schultz is the first author I can recall who has given us this information even before we get to the first page of the actual story; and with it, I feel, gives us a somewhat better understanding of the characters themselves.

The first two characters we meet are Margaret [Maggie] Gray and her secretary Denise Lockwood. Ms. Schultz had already informed us that Maggie is the author in her and that Denise is her humor; both of which, without going into any details, I can attest to having read her first book, "Searching For Mr.Right.com."

In "Bishop Street" the author tells the story of Maggie's quest to reunite herself with the only three friends she had growing up in the orphanage, the only home she knew. Those three were friends Elizabeth [the mother in the author's life], Randolph [the successful one] and Lucy [the lost child]. And with the help of Damon she was able to connect with each one again.

It's interesting how Elizabeth wound up isolated in small town in North Dakota on a small farm away from the madness of a large city; and the other three in the same large city on the west coast, with each one of these three having built a wall around their personal lives, and each with their own personal reasons.

Yet, throughout the story there are no long drawn out chapters about their lives of her characters in the orphanage on Bishop Street, just snippets dispersed throughout the story itself which adds to the poignancy

of the scene.

While Maggie is basically satisfied with how the first two of her friends have turned out. However, she can't help her desire to help Lucy, the last of her three friends, not only to regain her former dignity and self-respect; but also to regain custody of her daughter who had been taken by social services due to her abuse of alcohol and drugs. Does she succeed? I'm not going to say, it's in the book.

Even though all four of the main characters lives took different paths after they each left the Bishop Street Orphanage, each one took the same single memento of a special day there; a memento they've kept close to them even twenty years later.

Schultz's descriptive style of writing many times pulls you right into the scene being created, and it feels as if the action is taking place in front of you.

Bishop Street is a great poignant of an individual's will to survive and succeed, regardless of what life had brought them. Which is why I'm not hesitating in giving it 5 STARS.

Maxine (Booklover Catlady) says

This is a book that had me loving it in part, and being frustrated with other parts. A conflicted read for me, one that had me analysing the book more than I would have liked to. I pushed aside as much of that as I could and settled back to see where the book would take me as the reader overall.

The book is a tender and often emotional story of one woman who shared sad years of her childhood in an orphanage with three other special children that became close friends amidst the horrors of orphanage life. All were abandoned to this Christian orphanage, all feel the pain of being an unwanted child. Like many children in these situations, four of them bonded together and drew strength from the common friendship.

I was expecting the orphanage scenes and memory flashbacks to be quite disturbing based on some reviews I had read, they are not, they are sad certainly but I would not say disturbing. There is nothing too graphic, or sadistic, certainly not a happy environment, certainly abusive in a lot of ways, but those scenes did not get to me too much. Maybe I am a bit thick skinned as an avid graphic crime novel reader! But if you are worried they are all horrible and disturbing, don't be, do read this book as they are not. It just showcases the trauma they all went through.

Margaret Gray, now a successful author decides that after 20 years she wants to track down her three other friends from the Bishop Street Orphanage, to see if their friendship is still strong or was it torn down after she left the orphanage first by the cruel nuns in charge. She hires a Private Investigator by the name of Damon Dupre to find her friends, she won't rest until she gets answers and peace in her heart.

Positive aspects are the heart warming moments in this book with moving scenes and encounters and special moments savoured. It also highlight triumph of the human spirit over adversity for most, the will to keep going, be strong, get better, do things different. I enjoyed journeying with Margaret into both her past and present and of course looking to the future with her.

The things I had issues with that stunted my reading flow were the overuse of very descriptive sentences and words, where a simple event such as a hug was over-described for want of a better term. **Everything described was a bit over the top.** This detracted from the plot as it comes across as very unrealistic. I just couldn't accept that so many characters were all having these very unrealistic dramatic moments for an entire book. There seemed to be words used just for the sake of it, rather than enhancing the paragraph it cluttered it.

The narrative seems forced at times, conversation doesn't seem true to form in some way, again it's that overuse of emotion, expression, words.

I had massive issues with the relationship between the PI Depre and Margaret. **Who the hell does he think he is quite frankly?** She HIRED him, yet from the onset he is telling her what to do, how to speak, to calm down, to do what she is told. **Sometimes when he speaks to her it's bordering on verbal abuse for goodness sake.** Then throw in some sexual tension especially from Margaret towards him? Just no..

He did not work for me as a character that was meant to be helping her, paid by her, she was his client. Sure he did his investigations but why was he then so over-involved?. There should have been a firmer line written between them as characters, it comes off as very out there. I hated the way he spoke to her, have no idea why it was written like that and no idea why this strong woman just did what she was told no matter what tone he used. He was awful and spoilt a lot of this book for me.

I actually wanted to kick him out of the book, he brought it down so much for me! Just shoo! Go away!

Then we have the scenes where one of the friends from the orphanage comes to live with Margaret, it seemed her fast forward from addiction healing was very rapid indeed, knowing how long it usually takes (in real life). And again why was Mr PI in the house all the time? What's it to do with him, he's not a counsellor, a therapist, a doctor or a nurse. And he's not in a relationship as such with Margaret, so why are you there again? Frustrated me so much!

My feeling is that if those things I have commented on can be edited to be more realistic and not so over the top this book would send a much more powerful message, it would also be easier to read. I bet this is not the first criticism of these aspects of this book that have been said, nor will they be the last. I hate to find things in a book I want to love and give five stars too, but my followers like my reviews because I am honest, always honest.

It's not an awful book, I did enjoy it, but I did not have that sense of not wanting to put it down. I read it over a couple of days, again parts of it are done really well, I really did enjoy the lead up to the final chapters and the close of the book. I give this one 3 stars, which of course is a Goodreads rating of "I liked it", because I did like it, I just felt some of it held the book back from being amazing.

I have the follow up book to Bishop Street to read and am keen to find out what happens to the characters I have come to know in this book. Watch for my review!

I received a copy of this book from the author, Rene D. Schultz in exchange for a fair and honest review. Many thanks.

Jan says

I picked this up through NetGalley based on some really high ratings I had seen, but this was not what I expected at all.

4 children thrown together in an orphanage make their own kind of family to help deal with the abuse they endure at the hands of a ruthless nun. 20 years later, one of these children is a highly successful author and hires a PI to try and find the other 3. (As close as they were, I found this to be a big hole in the story. With her being so successful, why didn't they reach out to her?)

The rest of the story centers on the reuniting of these childhood friends. How 3 of the 4 moved on to build successful and fulfilling lives, and then they team up to help the 4th get back on track,

There were some heartwarming moments, but overall I would sum this up with one word: CHEESY.

This barely scratched the surface on their past abuse at the orphanage, and just skimmed through some of their years together. It was hard to understand how they all lost touch yet came together without questioning a thing. Everything was just too perfect here with perfect happy endings. The worst was the addict storyline, where an addict miraculously recovers with some brief withdrawal symptoms and individual counseling. I know some people who would have a hard time with this portrayal...

I understand the author was looking for a feel good read, but this just didn't do it for me. Apparently this is the first in the series. With the story wrapping up like the perfect bow on a present, I'm happy to leave these characters behind in their perfect world.

ARC provided by NetGalley

Joyce Wetherbee says

The story centers around Maggie Gray who grew up in Bishop Street Orphanage. Abandoned at seven when her mother chose a boyfriend over raising her daughter, Maggie is now a successful author. An emotional meltdown and recurring nightmares brings her to the decision to locate and reconnect with three friends she hasn't seen in twenty years.

A private investigator has located each person and provided a brief report on how they are doing. Maggie's journey to reconnect with each person is fraught with tension, memories, and fear. Each of the children were at the orphanage for different reasons, reasons that have left mental and emotional scars that have shaped who they are as adults.

This story is definitely not one in my preferred genre, but every once in a while, I try to step outside my comfort zone and explore something else. I was uncomfortable when the characters had flashbacks of the abuse and bullying that occurred the orphanage. None of the four children grew up unscathed by the abuse or the bullying from other kids.

This was not a story that held me in its grip from start to finish. There were points in the story where I had to set the book down and take my mind off what had been done to them as children. Although outside of my preferred genre, this was surprisingly, a good story. It felt as though the author either had first hand knowledge or researched her subject matter very well.

There were several errors missed in the proofreading/editing phase that got in the way of enjoying the story. I was given a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

This book is available at Amazon.

Philomena Callan Cheekypee says

Oh my god..... I loved this story. This was about a sad story been turned into a beautiful story. I had goosebumps reading it. It certainly brought a tear to my eye a few times.

The author grabbed my attention straight away. I was glued to this story. Words cannot express how I felt about it. Such sad & joy mixed together in this story made it a fantastic read. I'm so looking forward to reading more from this author:)

Received from author in return for honest review.

Wanda Hartzenberg says

What a moving story. This book is about four orphans that lived on Bishop Street. Some older than the rest as they aged out of the system they lost touch, not by choice but due to a malicious unexplained woman who lied and lived to torture these children.

Approximately 20 years later Maggie, a very successful writer cannot go on anymore. She needs to write the wrongs of leaving her friends behind and so she hires a private eye to find them. As she is reunited with them one after the other she slowly starts to put her life together and finds that the one thing that survived time was a snapshot taken that they all held a copy with. A recluse turns into a family woman, an addict consultant and sponsor, a friend, an elder sister and the cement that once again reunites a group of strangers into a family. A family not by blood but my choice, circumstances and the one thing stronger than blood. Love.

This is an amazing story. I cannot recommend it enough. Nothing like your normal read. It has a raw truthfulness to it that I adore.

WaAr
