



Treasure Me

Christine Nolfi

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Petty thief Birdie Kaminsky has arrived in Liberty, Ohio to steal a treasure hidden since the Civil War. She's in possession of a charming clue passed down in her family for generations: Liberty safeguards the cherished heart.

The beautiful thief wants to go straight. She secretly admires the clue's author, freedwoman Justice Postell, who left South Carolina at the dawn of the Civil War and carried untold riches on her journey north. As Birdie searches for the treasure, she begins to believe a questionable part of the story: a tale of love between Justice and Lucas Postell, the French plantation owner who was Birdie's ancestor.

If the stories are true, Justice bore a child with Lucas. Some of those black relatives might still live in town. Birdie can't help but wonder if she's found one—Liberty's feisty matriarch, Theodora Hendricks, who packs a pistol and heartwarming stories about Justice. Birdie doesn't know that an investigative reporter will trip her up—as will her conscience when she begins to wonder if it's possible to start a new life with stolen riches. Yet with each new clue she unearths, Birdie discovers a family history more precious than gems, a tradition of love richer than she'd imagined.

Treasure Me Details

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Author : Christine Nolfi

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From Reader Review Treasure Me for online ebook

Melodie says

This was a terrific read for me. Oddball characters abound in the small town of Liberty Ohio. And they are about to have their lives turned upside down with the arrival of Birdie Kaminsky. Birdie is a thief by trade. She has blown into town to try to find hidden treasure that she believes will help her go straight. What she doesn't count on are the complications of a nosy but sexy reporter and the fact that she actually begins to like all those people she had just days ago considered easy marks. There are twist and turns throughout the book. While a lively read it is a bit predictable at times. I don't hold that against it. I enjoyed the adventure, the romance and the mystery. It was just what I was in the mood for.

Kelly says

****EDIT**** I reread this book after reading Second Chance Grill because visiting Liberty makes me very happy. I love this town and its inhabitants.

I did not read the concept of this book before I started to read it. I just jumped in. It starts out with an introduction of sorts to Birdie, a thief of the pick-pocket variety, and one who wants to turn over a new leaf, on the right side of the law this time. She journeys to the small town of Liberty, Ohio. Don't you love the name of this town? I just imagine 4th of July in a town like that. There's a treasure there that's been left behind by a family member as described in the concept above. The story of the treasure and starting life over in a small town is a little cliché for me. The REAL story here though is in the characters who are SO endearing. My personal favorite (and I would imagine this has been said before) is Theodora Hendricks, a woman after my own heart. People will say she totes a gun and a cell phone, but I'm telling you, her most powerful weapon is her stories. I cannot forget Finney either – just another character at the Second Chance Grill. And don't you love THAT? The Second Chance Grill in Liberty, Ohio? C'mon. This is great stuff right?

There's a love story going on between Birdie and Hugh and if sexual tension is your thing, then this book has it. Sometimes you might find yourself wanting to smack Hugh upside his male head because he's so frustrating but the fact that I wanted to do that, told me that Ms. Nolfi hit her mark inside my reader's heart. Without realizing when or how it happened, I was hooked. Great job, Ms. Nolfi. Great job.

I think I read somewhere that this was Book One in a trilogy but that Book Two is a prequel? I'm not sure on that but if there are more of these books, I want them and you should want them too! Run on over to Amazon and pick this up. It's a heartfelt read about life in a small town and one that you will find yourself enjoying.

What I liked: The ladies of the Second Chance Grill (in fact, that could be the name of the next book). Or better yet call it, Liberty, Ohio and include the whole town. Enchanting. I want to pull up a glass of iced tea and sit down with them on a summer afternoon. I read an author interview from Ms. Nolfi and in it she said that she thought the message of the book was that family isn't something we're just born into. We have to create it and nurture it. Not only that but, and I'm going to quote here: "The people you choose to love, and who love you -- day in and day out -- are life's only treasure." I love that message. I don't know if that gift is life's **only** treasure, but it is definitely the best. Treasure Me is definitely one of those treasures. Read it and enjoy.

What I disliked: There were an awful lot of characters in this book to keep up with. Everyone plays their part, so I guess it's okay, but somehow, I didn't need that many to confuse me. I know this sounds silly considering I just said that the supporting characters were what I liked so much about the book but trust me when I say there were just a tad too many.

E.L. Farris says

Nolfi's Treasure Me is a quirky, fast-paced, fun mystery. I loved the main character, Birdie, who is a thief. A likable thief, if that makes any sense. Birdie made me smile from the first page to the final one.

The characterizations in Treasure Me are solid. Nolfi does a good job painting scenes realistically. The writing is crisp, unadorned, and technically proficient. I found myself rooting for Birdie and the other main character, Hugh, a down on his luck investigative reporter.

If you appreciate a well-written, romantic mystery, I highly recommend Treasure Me.

Author E.L. Farris

Jessica says

I really enjoyed this feel-good story! It was a fast and easy read and kept me entertained the entire book!

Birdie is a thief and is searching for a family treasure. She meets Hugh, a reporter while trying to find the family heirloom in Ohio. They must share the only rental in town and so Birdie has a hard time hiding her secrets.

I loved Birdie's character! She was sassy and really just wanted to have a normal a.k.a. legal life. I loved reading about how Birdie was beginning to learn to trust people and trying to make amends for the life she led. Birdie is really a good person and wants to show people that side of herself.

I wasn't crazy about Hugh right away. He was so confusing with first warming up to Birdie and then being angry with her but I guess that's what helped provide the tension in their relationship.

My favorite characters were the ladies from the Second Chance Grill. Theodora was so much fun and fiesty! I loved that she carried a pistol around with her and she really wasn't afraid of anything! They kept me entertained and I want to read more about them for sure!

I thought the mystery and all the history in the book was amazing! It kept me guessing and was completely entertaining the entire book!

This book captivates you from the beginning and you fall in love with each and every character and the town of Liberty. It is a fast and easy read that makes you feel good when you finish it. I think this would make a great Christmas present for those who love mysteries and chick lit!

Bette Crosby says

I Loved it! This is a fun read with quirky characters throughout, but an underlying story that has depth, mystery and romance. Although it is set in Ohio, it has the flavor and feel of Southern Fiction. The story takes any number of twists and turns and just when you think you know what will happen, it changes direction. Behind the mystery of the hidden treasure is a delightfully sweet romance. I not only recommend this book, I've already loaded the prequel onto my Kindle.

Wendy Hines says

Birdie is a thief, even though she wants to go legit. But she's carried a scrap of paper her mom gave her for years, a clue to a treasure. Birdie wants that treasure so she can afford to not be a thief. She arrives in Liberty, a very small town, and immediately go to the Second Chance Grill, a place she saw in the newspaper that was the home of the painting she was seeking. The painting is of Justice Postell, a freedwoman who went north years ago, carrying the baby of the plantation owner. The owner being Birdie's great-grandfather. Birdie figures that if she can find the portrait, it will give her the next clue to the big treasure.

Hugh is an investigative reporter who has a problem keeping his pants up. Getting fired because he misses so many deadlines seems to be things a bit more in perspective for him. His boss offers him a proposition - go to Liberty to follow up on a possible scam without a paycheck and if he can deliver the goods, he saves his job.

Hugh and Birdie arrive at the restaurant at the same time and both want the only available apartment in town. The proprietor bades them to share it, with Birdie waitressing to work off her share. They don't like it and they don't like each other, but there is something sizzling between them.

Birdie meets Theodora, an elderly woman who is a spitfire. She takes to Birdie immediately and shares her stories about Justice. Birdie is enraptured. She's always wanted a family. Her mom was a thief and her father in prison. Birdie also finds some new clues to the rubies while she is making new friends in the small town. She's never stayed long in any place, but she'd like to stay here. Unfortunately, she knows if she finds the rubies she has to leave.

Hugh is on to Birdie; he starts investigating her and knows her for a thief. He's angry at himself for wanting her but he can't help himself. He wants a relationship with Birdie, but she doesn't do long-term anything. It's just easier that way.

But when another reporter gets wind of Birdie and the rubies, things fly apart. Birdie is terrified of the townsfolk she has been pickpocketing as well as the disappointed looks on her friends faces. She thought she had trusted Hugh, perhaps loved him, but instead he breaks that trust.

With romance, buried treasure, suspense and drama, Treasure Me is fantastic! I read this book in one sitting as I couldn't put it down. I was drawn into the characters lives, relishing their every move. Great character development, excellent dialogue and a solid plot set the tone for this lively and entertaining tale. I felt sorry for them and I got angry with them and that is the mark of a great writer. I highly recommend Treasure Me! Loved,

Terri says

Birdie is a con artist and a thief. She is getting tired of the life as well and decides to go to Liberty OH where legend says, her ancestor went in search of a new life as a free woman. AND that she was given a treasure to help her start that life. Birdie wants to follow the clues and find a fresh start.

Hugh is a journalist whose career is on its last legs since he can't keep his life together. His one chance is to go dig into a story that he reported on before with great success.

Their paths cross and is it possible for them to overcome their pasts and be together?

I really enjoyed this book, it was a fun read with some great characters, history and small town charm and angst. Not to mention, a little bit of mystery and love.

Casee Marie says

A finalist in the 2008 Amazon Breakthrough Novel Awards, *Treasure Me* is a fusion of mystery, romance and history that bounds from the Women's Fiction genre into unfathomable depths. It's a triumphant novel that sparks with warmth and honesty, brimming with emotion and leaving the reader with the genuine satisfaction of a remarkable reading experience. I consider myself uniquely fortunate to have had the opportunity to know it. In case it wasn't obvious, this review will be something of a rave. I truly loved this book!

...read the full review at my blog, plus a Q&A with the author!

Laurie says

Her mother a beautiful, wanted con artist and her father in jail, more often than not, due to his thieving ways, Birdie has obvious deep-rooted trust issues. On her own since she was sixteen, Birdie dreams of going straight and settling down; tired of the nomadic life her illicit vocation demands.

Hugh arrives in Liberty intent upon scooping a scandalous story in order to save his faltering career. Haunted by his past, Hugh is an expert when it comes to turning on the charm while simultaneously keeping a discreet distance between himself and others.

Following an elusive clue that tells of a hidden family treasure, Birdie arrives in Liberty the same day as Hugh. She hopes to find out what became of a freed slave named Justice, who seems to be an ancestor. Birdie longs to feel connected, to find relatives who are not tarnished by criminal tendencies and thieving inclinations. Hugh, likewise, is chased by his own demons. With his life in shreds, his reputation pummeled, Liberty may be a last chance at salvation. In Liberty, fate throws Birdie and Hugh together unexpectedly, much to the chagrin of both. As each of them strives gallantly to maintain their personal space and keep cherished secrets safe, they find themselves engaged, instead, in a halting quest to transform expectations and embrace a brighter future.

Birdie and Hugh are complicated personalities that do not fit any standard protagonistic mold, yet both have many likable traits, as well. I was captivated, held hostage, as the story progressed. There is humor and

heartbreak in this well-edited story of a young woman searching the past hoping for a connection that will be powerful enough to derail an otherwise lonely and bleak future. About the last thing an accomplished thief needs is to have a journalist poking around and living practically in her coat pocket, yet that is the situation in which Birdie finds herself. This book, like its characters, defies easy categorization. It is a tale of mystery, a treasure hunt, an unveiling of interracial philandering and love in past generations, and an exploration of small-town dynamics. Mostly, though, it is a journey of self-discovery, and of finding unexpected courage, resilience, friends, and acceptance for two lost souls who somehow manage to trump the odds and make us cheer.

Laurie

Reviewer for Coffee Time Romance & More

Jackie says

Goodreads Book Blurb

Petty thief Birdie Kaminsky has arrived in Liberty, Ohio to steal a treasure hidden since the Civil War. She's in possession of a charming clue passed down in her family for generations: Liberty safeguards the cherished heart.

The beautiful thief wants to go straight. She secretly admires the clue's author, freedwoman Justice Postell, who rose above the horrors of slavery to build a new life in Ohio. According to family lore, Justice left South Carolina at the dawn of the Civil War. Heavy with child, she carried untold riches on her journey north. As Birdie searches for the treasure, she begins to believe a questionable part of the story: a tale of love between Justice and Lucas Postell, the French plantation owner who was Birdie's ancestor.

If the stories are true, Justice bore a child with Lucas. Some of those black relatives might still live in town. Birdie can't help but wonder if she's found one—Liberty's feisty matriarch, Theodora Hendricks, who packs a pistol and heartwarming stories about Justice. Birdie doesn't know that an investigative reporter who has arrived in town will trip her up—as will her conscience when she begins to wonder if it's possible to start a new life with stolen riches. Yet with each new clue she unearths, Birdie begins to discover a family history more precious than gems, a tradition of love richer than she could imagine.

My Thoughts

In *Treasure Me* author *Christine Nolfi* has given us a story the likes of which I

have not enjoyed since watching one of my favorite Michael J. Fox movies Doc Hollywood for the billionth time! Being born and raised in a small town is like being part of an overextended family of sorts and in this story Birdie Kaminsky finally gets a taste of that when she lands in Liberty Ohio. Birdie is chasing the dream of **buried treasure** that she has fostered since being told the tale by her mother about a former slave Justice Postell who was the lover of one of Birdie's ancestors and rumored to have been given riches to take north when she left the Carolinas and settled to build a new life for herself in Ohio...

Finding the treasure is not the only thing on Birdie's mind, she is also slowly learning to ignore her thieving impulses as she grows fond of the towns inhabitants and closer to the owner and other two waitresses at the Second Chance Grill.

While Birdie grapples with her newfound conscience she also forms a strong romantic attachment to Hugh Schaeffer the reporter who worms his way into her heart despite her better judgement.

Birdie also finds more than she bargains for when she discovers her true ancestry and a family she never thought she deserved... This is a very heartwarming story that allows us a glimpse into some of the attributes as well as the downfalls of living in a close knit community... The characters are richly drawn and in the case of Theodora downright true to life as the grandmother, sister, mother, best friend figure we all dream of having and rarely do!

There are many things going on in the story, several plot lines that interweave to keep you on your toes while you work them out in your mind. The main ones that stick out in my mind are these:

Will Birdie find the treasure she has come to Liberty for? Will it allow her to follow her dream of going legit and leaving behind her petty thievery to survive from day to day? Will she and Hugh have their HEA? Will Birdie end up behind bars once her past catches up with her?

Best advice from me to you is answer these questions for yourself by reading the book as soon as you can get your hands on a copy... You will not regret it as it will prove to you that a family is one you choose to love and who loves you right back whether they are blood related are not!

Recommended for fans of romance with sexual tension more than actual sex, fans of second chances and those who believe we all can be who we want to be if we work at it hard enough and have a little help along the way from those who believe in us and care enough to take a chance on us!

I have to disclose that this book was an e-arc copy submitted to me by the author for an honest review and that there is no other compensation from her or the publisher except for the review copy and my reading pleasure and enjoyment of the characters depicted in the story.

Frederick Brooke says

It didn't take long before the heroine of this book, Birdie Kaminski, had a lock on my heart. A small time thief raised by a con-artist mother, Birdie has grown up to be a quick-fingered pickpocket living by her wits, going hungry at times, but always keeping her feelings safely bottled up deep inside.

Birdie is on a quest to find a treasure stash that is part of the family legend. She's convinced that if she can only find the jewels, she'll have enough money to go straight. That's how she ends up in the small town of Liberty, Ohio, where the clues lead her, and where she finds a kind of home waiting tables at the Second Chance Cafe.

Enter Hugh Schaeffer, investigative reporter for the Akron Register, who's on a 9-year tailspin involving wine and women and has been given one last chance by his editor. Hugh's assignment also takes him to Liberty, Ohio, and the stage is set for these two beaten down characters to meet.

The dialogue sizzles in this book. The plot is totally original, involving a story that dates back to the Civil War. The setting is this lovely little town with its cafe, its town green where Christmas trees are sold, and its eccentric old denizens, like Theodora Hendricks, who carries a pistol around with her and isn't afraid to use it.

Treasure Me achieves a perfect balance between its marvellously flawed characters, its intricate plot and its sparkling dialogue. Forget all your cares, turn off your telephone, and surrender to the potent charms of Treasure Me. This is a book that will remind you why you love to read.

Donna McBroom-Theriot says

I just finished reading Treasure Me and I am setting here trying to gather my thoughts. The book was written so that I felt I was one with the main character, Birdie. I felt her pain and her torment through each step of her journey.

I felt privileged to follow along with her as her family history came to life through the people she meets in Liberty. The book was full of loving, caring, and the occasional hard-to-love people (person). As you consume word after word, page after page, you forget that you are reading fiction. You begin loving Birdie and the quirky extended family she has found in the little town.

Birdie is a small time thief, a product of her upbringing. She longs to straighten out her life, but she finds life tough on the right side of the law. She arrives in Liberty with little more than a piece of old parchment that has been passed down from generation to generation. Birdie thinks the treasure to be found will somehow bring her the happiness she seeks. The one clue, on an old piece of parchment reads, "Liberty safeguards the cherished heart."

We watch as the kind people of Liberty enter Birdie's life and for the first time she begins to trust, and tries to leave her life of crime in the past. Things begin to unravel just as Birdie begins to think of Liberty as home. A newspaper reporter uncovers the secrets of her life and as her story begins to surface, helped along by an expose in the newspaper, Birdie must find a way to make amends for her thieving ways, and the town is prepared to make her pay.

Throughout the book, she finds additional clues to the buried treasure, only to find that someone has beaten her to it. That someone, Theodora, turns out to be her biggest champion. She is an interesting old character

full of sarcasm and wit. We all would love to look into our past and find a rich and intriguing family story; a story of love and devotion and loyalty. When I finished the last page, I felt honored to have journeyed along with Birdie as she discovered her ancestral roots and found the gift of love from unexpected family. You expect a happy ending, and that is what you receive, but there are unpredicted loops and detours along the way that sneak up behind you unexpectedly. This is a wonderful heartwarming story and in the end, you find that Liberty truly does safe guard a cherished heart. To give any more of the storyline away, would ruin the book. And, this book needs to tell its own story. this book needs to be read.

Elyse Walters says

This is the 2nd book I've read by Christine Nolfi.

Nolfi is a wonderful storyteller!!!

"Treasure Me" was wildly entertaining!!!

If you enjoyed the movies: Mystic Pizza, --Romancing the Stone -- and the TV show Cheers --- You'll have a great time reading this gem!

Pure pleasure! (wonderful characters)

Alexis Villery says

I'm kind of speechless after finishing this book but I'll try to do the best that I can.

This is a tale of redemption. Birdie, a thief, has known no life but crime, lies, and betrayal. While searching for her family's lost treasure, she discovers the small town of Liberty. Here she meets Hugh, a reporter who has a past in which he is ashamed and the rest of the quirky citizens of Liberty. Is the story about Justice hiding jewels real or an illusion? Even more important, can people really change?

I loved loved this book. I was emotionally invested the entire span of the book. For those of you who stop reading after five pages, you'll want to stick with this one until Birdie gets to Liberty, which is where the magic begins. While there is a treasure, this is a big mystery. This story centers around all of the different characters in the town of Liberty and unveils their life behind closed doors. I LOVED all the characters in the book and found them to be realistic and endearing. I was so invested in their individual stories. Birdie is thirty-one but she doesn't read that way to me. Her actions, thoughts, and feelings really made me think of a younger character. This isn't a negative but I am curious to what others think about this.

I especially loved how Birdie had to make choices and face the consequences of all of her decisions. There are no cop outs. I feel like this review is jumbled than most because there are so many things I loved about this book but I can't really tell why because everything is so connected.

I recommend this to those who love stories centered around small towns and enjoy stories of redemption. Especially when multiple people need it. I truly fell in love with the story of Justice and the town of Liberty.

Nancy Steinle gummel says

Treasure Me by Christine. Nolfi is a delightful story. It tells of second chances and hopes of redemption. Making friends and finding distant relatives. It tells the tale of a grifter named Birdie. Bring in a run down investigative reporter, Hugh. Mix the two together and you have a volatile effect. Birdie arrives in Liberty, Ohio on Lake Erie. She's seeking clues to a past relatives mysteries. Hugh is writing a follow up of a story he debited over a year ago about former cancer patient, Blossom. He thinks her dad is robbing the fund where donations to help her were set up. His career depends on the story. Finnegan who runs the Second Chance Grill hires her to help waitress and makes her share the apartment with Hugh. Then she meets Theodora who tells her wonderful tales about Justice, the freed slave who is Birdie's relative. See how Birdie's thievery is broadcaster to the world and how the townspeople react. See if aHugh and Birdie can share the truth about each other and how Theodora helps her.
