



Miller's Island

Leona Bryant

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Hurt feelings severed the relationship between Mari and her sister following the tragic deaths of their parents. A single mom, Mari, has dedicated her life to her daughter and avoided her sister since the reading of her parent's will. In desperate need of rest and relaxation, Mari decides to use the beach house she inherited for the first time since her parent's deaths. Located on the island Mari loved so much that she named her daughter after it.

Doing so causes a chain of events that begin soon after her arrival on the island. First, her daughter believes that the house is haunted--lights that randomly turn on, whispers on the wind and rooms that no longer exist, exist. Next, Mari discovers she's not the only one in search of much-needed vacation time. Her estranged sister, her quirky aunt, and the visitor only Mari's daughter can see - all make appearances and change the course of all their plans.

To complicate matters, an old flame is rekindled and Mari is left trying to make sense of it all. Can all be forgiven? or are some sins completely unforgivable? Will all the shattered and missing pieces ?of their lives finally come together and bring ?peace to this family?

Miller's Island Details

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Author : Leona Bryant

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From Reader Review Miller's Island for online ebook

Donna Newcome says

This story really moved me. Mental illness is such a difficult subject to include in a story. This was covered very well. I really liked this.

Powder River Rose says

A nicely unfolding and extremely well narrated ghostly fantasy romance. Meghan Kelly has a lovely array of voices and sets a nice pace. She was able to speed up or slow down as the story required whether it be at one moment the gentle, easy speech of the grandmothers, only to switch from that character in mid-sentence and negotiate a conversation with the lightening ferocity of 14-year old Miller; I was happy to listen to Meghan's voice all day.

One real disappointment I had was with the redundant words and grammatical errors starting about 30 seconds in with "...on the island....on the island" in the same sentence and similar errors here and there throughout the book. I just wish that editors actually edited. If it's frustrating for me then I imagine others find it to be as well and some may even give the story up which would be a shame. That being said, overall the errors were minor in comparison to how well the story developed.

Leona Bryant has given us a wonderful story of a disconnected family facing life's challenges through love, sorrow, mental illness and a haunted house. Lost love was the main theme and the author delicately and intricately wove threads of family sufferings and history in amongst this beautiful heartfelt generational romance. Involving the children in the search for and creation of a genealogical history was a thrill to hear and visualize.

There's not much to say about Mari. She's intelligent, kind to a fault and so wrapped up in work that she's missing the best parts of her daughter's life. I enjoyed the approach the author had in creating a hopeful father/daughter relationship in any story by letting it play out as it did with Miller and Doc. I loved Aunt Frankie too, she was an intelligent, tough and vibrant woman who helped hold the family together. The mental illness aspect was, in my opinion, thought out. It's not an easy subject to convey to others and Ms. Bryant gave a good picture through Therese's story even though at times readers may just think of her as a whining, ungrateful witch. I know I did.

There may be spelling errors in character names due to reading the book and not seeing the written words, my apologies. This audiobook was given to me by Meghan Kelly and Audible in exchange for a fair and honest review. Thank you for an enjoyable story.

x-posted on Audible and www.facebook.com/powderriverrosereviews

Jeannie Zelos says

Miller's Island, Leona Bryant

Genre: Romance, Mystery, Paranormal

Review from Jeannie Zelos book reviews

Well, this book contains so much....once you really get into the story. To begin I felt it was a little slow, but once I got to grips with the story and the characters I understood that slow start actually set a solid backing. Anyway Mari – mum to Miller – is lovely. Her sister Theresa, wife to Jake (that man is a saint) has three kids, but has always felt second best to Mari and is very resentful of everything she has. When their parents died they were both left homes, Theresa the family one and Mari the family beach house (not a shack but what sounds like a huge, sumptuous home) Under the terms of the will Theresa is allowed to spend two weeks at the beach house every other year, providing she notifies Mari first. The two now have little to do with each other, and Theresa hasn't bothered to do that for the past few years, just telling the solicitors she'll be there and turning up each year. She's invited various friends too, giving them the impression its her house....and of course this year she doesn't know that Mari has plans to stay there the whole summer, for the first time since she inherited it. Firecrackers in store!

That starts off a chain of events, with Theresa's feelings about Mari quickly coming out – she wants to pack up and leave, but Jake and the kids have looked forward to coming and he refuses. The house is big enough for all of them to stay and not have to have close contact, and Mari is happy for that. She can see how disappointed the kids and Jake would be to leave, and she's always got on well with him. Their aunt too is staying, and she's a huge part of the story and a great character. Theresa's anger and oddness get worse, some of the awful things she's done in the past come out, Miller can see someone no-one else can, though others feel strange about certain parts of the house, and there are some odd happenings. Theresa has become someone Jake doesn't recognise, not the wife he's known all these years, the mum that loves the kids and does so much, the loving person he married, the woman everyone so much admires, she seems to have gone and this termagant taken her place. Everyone is upset and on edge, and then someone from the past appears, and that just tops off all the wicked things Theresa has done and brings them all to the edge.

Its a packed novel, full of everyday problems and things we all have to deal with, along with a mystery to be puzzled out and some very real dangers to some of the characters. Its a tale of love and loss, revenge and retribution – showing how anger in the end hurts the person concerned more than anyone else. Theresa's anger and slighted feelings end up doing her real harm, and she faces losing everything that she has. It all felt very real, even the paranormal elements if you're an open minded reader. I am, so had no problem believing that part.

Stars: Four, it's a solid read, packed with multi layered plots that bind together, and come to a head in a shattering but satisfying climax.

ARC provided by Netgalley and publishers.

Carlissa says

This is the first book by Leona Bryant that I have listened to and I enjoyed it so much that it was hard to put down at night to go to bed. The first thing I did in the morning was put the ear plugs back in my ears to listen to more of the story and continued until I finished it. The narrator, Meghan Kelly, was very good and the voices she used for the different characters made it easy to tell who was talking. The only thing that bothered me about the narration was the volume in some places was extremely loud (like when Theresa was having one of her tantrums) and I was constantly adjusting the volume control.

Since I am lousy at writing reviews, here is a review by Power River Rose that I like.

I received a free copy of this audiobook from the author/narrator via Audiobookblast.com for an honest review.

Celia Kennedy says

Ms. Bryant does a remarkable job weaving together a multi-generational love story of the Beaupre family. This book has just enough of everything, to make it a book for everybody.

We meet mother and daughter, Marisol and Miller, as they head to their beach house for the summer. For teen Miller, this feels like punishment. To Mari, it feels like a much needed opportunity to reconnect with her fourteen year old daughter. What begins as a quiet summer for the two of them becomes a life changing event for many.

Ms. Bryant explores the complicated world of sibling rivalry, when Mari's sister, Teresa, unexpectedly appears with her family. Wanting to develop a relationship with her nieces and nephew, Mari agrees to let the family stay. Beyond normal bickering and complexities, we travel in and out of lifelong jealousies and regrets.

While we read of Mari and Teresa's history, and learn about their lives we are introduced to the complex scenario of a long lost love and an unplanned pregnancy. Will all those involved find the loving companionship they've long since dreamed of?

This same question can be applied to an interesting paranormal twist in the book. The Beaupre Beach House was built several generations previously, and has remained haunted since the sad loss of friends and family during a violent hurricane. Young Miller and other relatives have been gifted with the ability to see their ancestors and feel their pain. Piecing together facts, the book becomes more than a tale of healing between siblings, it evolves into a tale of helping wandering souls reconnect and find peace.

A great read - and though the threads seem to be a bit convoluted, Ms. Bryant manages to smoothly guide the reader through this unique and compelling book. Well done!

Chloe Thurlow says

Miller's Island is my first Lisa Bryant novel and I understand now, having read it, why her earlier Music City was so highly-acclaimed – it is now on my TBR list.

Exhausted, haunted by the past, single mom Mari takes a break with her daughter Miller at the beach house she has inherited on Miller's Island, off the Florida coast, a place she so loves it provided her daughter's name. Since the death of her parents, and the contention over their will, Mari has not spoken to her sister, Teresa.

Mari's joy at being on the island quickly turns to fear as she believes the old beach house is haunted. She sees things her mother doesn't, and we are kept in a state of tension uncertain whether the girl really is seeing a ghost, or whether the estranged Teresa is playing tricks on them. Throw into the drama the return of an old lover, and Mari's life becomes a Chinese puzzle she will only be able to put together once she finds the key

piece.

Leona Bryant has the novelist skill of making her characters known to us as if they are our own flesh and blood. She builds tension through precisely drawn scenes and adroit dialogue until our fingers burn flipping the pages to find out what is going to happen next.

Piper Templeton says

Miller's Island by Leona Bryant is an enjoyable romantic beach novel that digs beyond the sandy surface to bring forth engaging characters and complex relationships. Two estranged sisters and their families wind up at their family beach house for the summer. Past secrets are revealed, and they all must come to terms with their past. Lurking in the background is Louis, a ghost only certain members of the family can see, like open-minded, earnest Miller, and Aunt Frankie's pet feline. Louis has his own past to come to terms with and resolve.

The setting is glorious, on a fictitious island off the coast of Mobile, Alabama. The author captures the feel of the Gulf Coast in the summer. It becomes a character in and of itself.

Mari and Theresa are the two sisters at the heart of the story. Bitter, angry, and delusional, Theresa seemingly stops at nothing to hurt her beautiful, bright, successful sister, Mari, a lawyer who never found love after meeting the love of her life, Travis, on Miller's Island as a teenager. The novel takes quite a serious turn as it explores and reveals Theresa's underlying problems.

I did find the dialog at points could be stilted. However, this romantic and mysterious novel, with just the right touch of the supernatural, is sure to engage readers of all ages.

Caroline says

When sisters Mari and Theresa collide after years apart, the entire family is on edge as the encounter unleashes pain and troubles from the past. The entire dynamic of the family is altered and the tale provided interesting surprises along the way, as stages of the characters lives revealed themselves I couldn't help but be captivated and moved with raw emotions.

The family dynamics are exceedingly well drawn, providing great perspective on relationships between characters in such a way that you'll sure to be fixated with the read. I found Theresa's façade just as unnerving as the entities and could have easily seen this journey into the tale take a number of turns but delighted with the path the author has taken.

Miller's Island is an unforgettable tale that has certainly exceeded my expectations and has compelled me to read more of the author's works now & in the future. I encourage others to read this tale and can't recommend it enough. ?????

Jada Ryker says

Take a Trip to Miller's Island

For the first in many years, Miller's Island is the epicenter of Mari's trials and tribulations. Miller, Mari's fourteen-year-old daughter named for the island, was the outcome of a long-ago tryst. Mari wonders if her daughter's father will resurface. Teresa, angry and materialistic, shows up unexpectedly with her family in tow. Aunt Frankie arrives for her visit, along with her cat Simba.

Secrets are everywhere. As the vacation continues, odd events "haunt" the group.

Leona Bryant's Miller's Island is an excellent exploration of family feelings and values. Mari and Teresa work through a lifetime of misunderstandings and skewed perceptions. It's a great story of empathy, forgiveness, and letting go.

Ann FitzGerald says

I wanted to like this book after all the good reviews, but a few chapters in, I began to wonder if I was reading a story written for a high school English class. The characters, as far as I read, seem immature and cliche. The worst part is the writing style. There are numerous misuses of commas, creating run-on sentences. The final straw for me was the use of "had went." Apparently this author doesn't know how to use the past perfect tense ("had gone"). I have never before seen such drivel in a published work. I thought there were editors to avoid this type of problem. Looks like standards are dropping?

Alicia says

What a truly well written and wonderful book "Miller's Island" is. Such a strong and powerful novel that realistically addresses everything from family dysfunction, child out of wedlock, deep rooted misunderstandings, mental illness, family bonds, and the love that brings family together even at the worst of times. Welded throughout this novel is ancient history and the stories of the generations of families who have come before.

With amazing character development, story development and detail, "Miller's Island" is a novel not to be missed. I highly recommend this novel.

Lilmismolly says

Miller's Island by Leona Bryant

Miller's Island by Leona Bryant is an enjoyable contemporary romance with a few paranormal elements interwoven into the story. Considering how many Ghost Hunter-type shows are on the television these days, I thought the premise of the story quite clever. At first I was not sure if the resident ghost was friend or foe, and I loved how the ghost was finally set free from his earthly binds.

This story centers around the troubled relationship between Mari and her sister Teresa following the tragic deaths of their parents. Teresa has grown up her entire adult life despising Mari and feeling like Mari's life was handed to her on a silver platter. However, Mari worked hard for all that she accomplished including attending college as a teen-aged single mother and eventually law school. Teresa on the other hand barely graduated from high school, never attended college, and exaggerates about her career and her wealth (she's a special needs aide but tells everyone she's a teacher, and her husband is a mere teacher). Things come to a head between the two sisters when Mari takes her daughter to the family beach house on Miller's Island and Teresa decides to take her family to the beach house at the same time (it's clearly Teresa's fault because it was Mari's "year" to use the beach house).

Besides the unhealthy jealousy and venom that Teresa continually throws at Mari and her daughter, we learn that she is actually suffering from a mental illness that has gone undiagnosed her entire life. We also discover that there is a 150-year old tragedy connected with the beach house, that binds the original owner of the house to it. And finally, Mari comes face to face with the father of her daughter whom she has been pining away over for the past 15 years.

Meghan Kelly narrated this story and I was thoroughly entertained by her performance. Her narration flows naturally at an even pace and she was easy to listen to. She has differing voices for all characters, male and female, and young and old. Simply put, it was a very enjoyable story. I was provided a copy of this audiobook by the narrator in exchange for an unbiased review.

Lucinda Moebius says

Great story

Miller's Island is a great story with well developed characters. The story takes you on a journey through the hearts, minds, body and souls of many characters. I loved discovering the mystery of what happened to the characters as I was confronted with ghosts both in the spiritual realm and from the past of the characters. Each character in the story needed to come to terms with choices or mistakes they made in the past and working through those ghost brought the real ghost story full circle.

I wanted to give this book 5 stars, but there were too many editing errors to justify a perfect score. The errors drew me out of the story and I needed to go back and reread before understanding the scene. In addition, one of the characters suffered from a mental disorder and I felt the initial psychotic break as well as the resulting diagnosis and treatment was resolved too quickly. It usually takes multiple visits and sometimes some initial stays in a psychiatric hospital to diagnose and regulate medications and months, if not years to create a treatment plan that works for a patient. The psychotic break was believable as well as the character's actions, I just wanted a more believable frame of reference for the diagnosis and treatment.

Overall this is a great read and very enjoyable. Once the editing issues are resolved I'm sure the book will be worthy of a 5 star review.

Sarah Stevens says

Millers Island is the story of two sisters and the rekindling of their severed relationship. There is a dash of the supernatural and a dash of romance thrown in, two things that I liked.

One thing I really did not like was how one sided the relationship issues seemed to be, with Teresa always somehow being the selfish and immature one, while big sister Marisol remains a stoic and mature peacemaker, innocent of any actual wrong doing though her sister wrongs her over and over again Yes, even with a mental illness involved. Real life is much messier than that and it really bugged me, probably because there have been a few severed relationships in my own life, causing dirty bleeding metaphorical wounds for both parties involved, and looking back there were always things both parties did wrong, even if one party was more wrong than the other, even if one had more "issues" its never as one sided as this was, it's just too cut and dry for me. Eventually after someone pushes you so many times , your gunna explode, your gunna push back. Just sayin'. Also, you don't have a mental breakdown and then just snap back from it.

I thought the narrator did a good job. She had a clear, easy to listen to voice and had distinct voices for each character.

I also liked how the story moved across generations with the supernatural aspect. I am a suckers for a good ghost story! 3 stars

Deedra says

I nearly LOVED this book! I think about an hour could have been cut if they got rid of all the repetition. I mean give me the story once, not 4 times. The story was good. Mari and her sister Teresa have never gotten along. When their parents died Mari got the beach house and Teresa got the house. Teresa was never happy. She shows up at the beach house unannounced with family in tow on Mari's time there. Mari asks her to stay and what a rollercoaster ride we get. The dynamics are real, trust me. Mari has a daughter born after a Teenage summer at Millers Island. She could never locate to dad to tell him he had a daughter. As it turns out, Teresa has played a part in this, as well as many other nasty things. Meghan Kelly is a terrific narrator for this story! I was provided this book free of charge for an honest review.
