

Miranda Warning (*A Murder in the Mountains, #1*) By Heather Day Gilbert There was however 1 or 2 twists which was revealed later in the story which I started to consider as possibilities.

A mystery involving her friend Rose who committed suicide 40 years ago under suspicious circumstances. Tess is a Glockpacking.

Don't you love it when you find a new fictional character to root for? As all mystery lovers know it's important to love a series' main character and I love Tess Spencer the heroine of Miranda Warning. She's intensely loyal she's both kind and tough she carries a Glock or a knife when she does her sleuthing (the woman lives in the West Virginia mountains after all and she is no fool) and she says things like "More coffee is never a bad thing. Tess was a quirky fun lovable character with her faults and I found myself smiling at a lot of her sayings and the fights she had with her husband (scenes where I could totally picture myself and my husband). Kindle Edition A crackling read with plenty of twists and turns! Be warned though: This is not for the faint of heart! Kindle Edition Tess Spencer has been thrown some curveballs throughout her life so she is no stranger to pain and heartache. And sometimes I seriously wish that a character is real and would be my best friend because you know that's a healthy reaction to have toward a fictional character right? Well right or wrong I simply adored Tess Spencer! She is so quirky and unique yet so utterly normal I just wanted to find her and give her a hug and go out for coffee. They could go camping and do guy stuff while Tess and I do something girly and then...oh right she isn't real! Heather has created a character that has lodged in my head like a real person and that to me is a sign of her superb abilities as a writer. As someone who tends to shy away from the thriller/suspense genre I wasn't sure how I'd feel about Miranda Warning but since I already trusted Heather as an author it seemed logical that I would enjoy it. I can't put my finger on it specifically but it's the way that the characters related to each other the way they look out for each other and just an overall mysterious quality to the sense of place. The plot has a lot of twists and turns - just when I thought I knew what was coming Heather adds another facet to the mystery - the story is compulsively readable and while I'm a quick reader in general I think I read this one in only a handful of sittings. I really loved his family as well; I'm pretty sure they should really exist too! Though the spiritual aspect of the story is not obvious on the outset it is woven throughout the story gradually and propels to a hopeful ending. It is one of my favorite reads of 2015 and I'm eager to read the continuation of Tess's story *Trial by Twelve!* Kindle Edition Note June 30 2018: I edited this just now because I discovered I'd left the I would recommend to. Although the author is a Goodreads friend of mine (and graciously autographed the book!) this series-opening contemporary mystery didn't come to me as a free review copy; I purchased it as a gift for my wife Barb and it was one that she and I read together. Barb's not a historical fiction fan on the whole; but I thought this novel having a West Virginia mountain setting much like the Virginia Appalachian milieu where she grew up and we currently live and featuring a strong female main character might appeal to her. The fictional small town of Buckneck is in west-central WV near the Ohio River; the closest largish town is real-life Point Pleasant which she describes with an assurance that suggests she genuinely knows the place. (At one point she refers in passing to the 1774 battle there between the Virginia militia and the Shawnee Indians during Lord Dunmore's War which had a resonance for me --that battle plays a significant part in Mary Schumann's *Strife Before Dawn* which I read as a kid. Like her fairly newly-fledged lawyer husband Thomas she's college-educated but she didn't grow up in affluence: she comes from a trailer park with a father who abandoned her and her mother when she was small and a mother who's in prison for drug dealing. She's not a professional detective; but she's observant inquisitive temperamentally inclined to suspect hidden meanings in statements and circumstances and gifted with near photographic memory -all qualities that come in handy for investigation. So when her elderly best friend who's recently begun seeing a widowed gentleman caller gets a note warning her off -written in the handwriting of the man's wife Rose who was pronounced dead 40 years ago-- Tess takes it on herself to investigate. The Spencers are a Christian family but Tess herself despite being exposed to

church as a kid starts off as a young woman who's not even entirely sure if she still believes in God. (She does have very strong pro-life views which are expressed in her thoughts very forcefully at one point; so if that would horrify and offend you this is your "trigger warning.") Barb found the novel "dark" overall and it certainly has dark elements; but she also found a good deal of comic relief in Tess' wry narrative voice and frequently laughed out loud at some comments.) At a thematic level the storyline explores the relationship of mother and child in its various permutations; and there's going to be some character growth by the end always a plus. I also really enjoyed that people around her witnessed to her of her need for God to be the author of her story and I liked how Tessa did return to the faith of her childhood. This is my first book by this author but I loved her writing 'voice' and it will definitely not be my last! Kindle Edition This was the first contemporary novel I've read by Heather Day Gilbert and it will not be the last! I knew the author was extremely talented from reading her Viking fiction *God's Daughter* and *Forest Child*. I loved the structure of the book how it was told from two points of view with two different timelines so I was given clues along the way in addition to what Tess Spencer the main protagonist was uncovering herself. But when an anonymous warning note shows up in her best friend Miranda's mailbox—a note written in a dead woman's handwriting—Tess quickly discovers that ghosts are alive and well in Buckneck West Virginia. I was totally intrigued with Rose's story and found myself reading page after page whenever I could to see what was happening: It also helped that the chapters were short so I was possible to squeeze in a chapter or 2 when I had a few minutes here and there. The author also did a great job of taking you as reader from disliking one character to totally understand and liking that character by the end of the book. The twists and turns were placed at the right times in the mystery. Tess decides to help her friend and investigate and before she knows it she is being followed and getting strange flower deliveries: Someone is getting worried that she is getting close to the truth but Tess still has no idea what the truth is. I gave it 4 stars as I was able to guess some of it way before the ending: I will read book 2 as I want to know what happens next: Kindle Edition

Miranda Warning is an interesting and intriguing mystery read. "But this book's plot is also terrific--full of unforeseen twists and turns--and the writing is top-notch. The book is rich in every sense of the word--rich in characters (all of them complex and realistic) in details and clues in setting and in suspense, Gilbert knows how to ratchet up the tension until you can't put the book down because you must know who did what and why: I can't wait for book 2 in the series! Kindle Edition

Tess Spencer's friend Miranda receives a note from her friend who died 40 years ago. Tess is wondering who would do this and why and starts to look into Rose's death, If you would ask me if I prefer 3rd person to 1st person I would always choose 3rd person, However the 1st person narrative in this mystery novel were laid out well and drew me in from the start, Not only was the main character very enjoyable but the secondary characters were equally great - I adored Nikki Jo, At the beginning of each chapter so I was not totally thrown when these were revealed. Kindle Edition This is kind of a ghost story or is it? Based in Buckneck West Virginia in the mountains, Tess is friends with Miranda who is about 40 years older than her and lives in assisted living. She asks Tess to help her with something from her past knife toting wife who becomes involved in a mystery surrounding an older woman Miranda, Miranda befriended Tess when the Spencers moved into the house on her husband's parents property in the West Virginiamountains: His wife died over 40 years ago and was a friend of Miranda: Then a handwritten warning is received by Miranda telling her not have anything to do with Paul, The warning was penned by Paul's dead wife Rose???? How is this possible?? Tess becomes involved by Investigating which is putting her in danger: The author weaves the past and present together effortlessly throughout the story, The characters are dynamic and so realistic that the reader will feel like you know them, The plot has twists and turns that make this a fast paced adventure, And the ending...What a surprise!!!I received this ebook from book fun: Kindle Edition Nice introduction to a new to me author! Main character Tess is spunky down to earth and intuitive. When she finds out her best friend Miranda received an odd and somewhat threatening letter Tess begins to dig into the past to unearth what happened years ago. Particularly enjoyed that each chapter begins with the point of view of Rose Miranda's friend 40 years prior. She carries a

knife and can handle a Glock on any day ready to take on whatever comes her way. When an anonymous warning note in the handwriting of a woman long dead appears in her best friend Miranda's mailbox Tess starts to follow a trail that went cold years ago, With very little go on but a handful of clues and her own tenacity Tess attempts to unmask the killer before she or someone she loves becomes the next victim: Sometimes I admire a main characters fortitude faith or courage. In my head we are totally besties and our husbands should be besties too. The setting of Buckneck West Virginia has a very realistic quality to it that seems specific to areas located in the Appalachian Mountains: There is a particularly beautiful set of sentences where Tess describes walking through the mountainous woods describing its magnetism like "gravity for my soul. " So true and so simple yet it feels very profound and is very telling of who Tess is as a character: I'm also a big fan of first-person narration and Heather does it really well, Although the story follows Tess there is another character that speaks throughout the story as well and it was easy to differentiate between their two voices: The secondary characters are all multi-faceted and have their individual idiosyncrasies that provide depth and extra layers to the mystery of the story, The friendship between Tess and Miranda was so endearing and humorous. It is obvious that they have been close for a long time and that Tess won't let anyone mess with Miranda. Throughout the story it is revealed that Miranda took Tess under her wing when she was going through some things years before: I liked the way that Heather revealed things about Tess and the other characters but still leaves some things to be revealed later in the series: Although I'm sure the revelations were purposeful and planned they feel very natural and realistic within the story. Tess and Thomas are so refreshing as a couple; whether it was bantering bickering or a more romantic moment all of their interactions feel genuine: Tess's inner dialogue of her fears frustrations and triumphs feel true and real and I found myself relating to her many times (besides wanting to be her bestie and all that). I highly recommend Miranda Warning for readers that like a mystery with a psychological bend to them. My prior acquaintance with Gilbert's work was through her Vikings of the New World duology (she's an outstanding new voice in historical fiction). A West Virginia native (like her protagonist) Gilbert sets her novel in her own stamping grounds:) The rural country around Buckneck is home to the well-to-do Spencer clan into which series sleuth Tess now pregnant with her first child has married: And while she doesn't have a concealed carry permit she does carry a spring knife (and sometimes packs a Glock anyway): Two narrations alternate here: Rose's in italics and past tense at the beginning of each chapter and Tess' own in present tense and normal script in the main body of the text: (The reader actually gets the hang of this arrangement quickly,) The mystery is well-constructed and baffling and very little is as it initially seems, Only one thing is sure -secrets have been concealed for decades and they're ready to impact the present: Amateur snooping mixes with very well-evoked daily life in contemporary Appalachia drawn with affection and sensitivity: The characters are absolutely real and life-like even the minor ones, As a Christian author Gilbert eschews objectionable language or lewd sexual content but the religious content of the book is low-key and more simply theistic than specifically Christian: She's also not without a certain amount of emotional baggage from her formative years and she's got a hot temper that's quick to take offense at times: She and Thomas love each other but their marriage isn't without its fights and friction: IMO these foibles tend to make her relateable to most readers Christian and non-Christian. This is a series I definitely intend to follow -and hope to get caught up to date on sooner rather than later,) Kindle Edition I feel like I fairly flew through this book, The author had a way of telling the story that drew me in from the very beginning and I was trying to put together the pieces of what had happened, (Which I somewhat did but it was usually just before Tess figured it out or not until she did. I liked how she wanted to protect those she loved even if she didn't know how to do it. Now that I have seen how skilled she is with contemporary (and mystery no less!) I am even more impressed, I enjoyed all the characters and I must say that listening to it on Audible gave it an extra layer of dimension, The narrator did a fabulous job of making each voice distinctive: I thoroughly enjoyed my time spent with Tess in Buckneck West Virginia and can't wait to see what's brewing in the next novel Trial by Twelve. Kindle Edition Child of the Appalachian mountains Tess Spencer has experienced more than her share of heartache, The

Glock-wielding knife-carrying housewife knows how to survive whatever life throws at her: Hot on a cold trail she must use limited clues and her keen insight into human nature to unmask the killer, Tinged with the supernatural and overshadowed by the mountains' lush protective presence this twisting psychological mystery is the first in A Murder in the Mountains series. Miranda Warning (A Murder in the Mountains #1)



Award winning novelist Heather Day Gilbert enjoys writing mysteries and Viking historicals: She brings authentic family relationships to the page and she particularly delights in heroines who take a stand to protect those they love, Avid readers say Heathers realistic characters—no matter what century—feel like best friends. When she's not plotting stories this native West Virginian can often be found hanging out with her husband and four children playing video games or reading Agatha Christie novels. Find Heather on Pinterest ([heatherdgilbert](#)) Instagram ([@heatherdaygilbert](#)) Twitter ([@heatherdgilbert](#)) and Facebook ([heatherdaygilbert](#)). Award winning novelist Heather Day Gilbert enjoys writing mysteries and Viking historicals: She brings authentic family relationships to the page and she particularly delights in heroines who take a stand to protect those they love, Avid readers say Heather's realistic characters—no matter what century—feel like best friends. When she's not plotting stories this native West Virginian can often be found hanging out with her husband and four children playing video games or reading Agatha Christie novels. Find Heather on Pinterest ([heatherdgilbert](#)) Instagram ([@heatherdaygilbert](#)) Twitter ([@heatherdgilbert](#)) and Facebook ([heatherdaygilbert](#))[1]

We got a glimpse of events from the past. The mystery was enjoyable with lots of events and twists. Even sees a woman in a tree outside her bedroom window. The story introduces Tess and Thomas Spencer. This was my first book by Heather Day Gilbert. Looking forward to read more from Tess and her friends. Miranda is dating a widower named Paul.org. My opinion is my own. Several twists and turns. Sometimes I fall for a male lead. Tess isn't the only great thing about this novel. box blank. Loyalty to a friend is deeply ingrained in her makeup. (I didn't but I enjoyed the leavening of humor.! (There are so far two sequels.) Speaking of Tess . . I loved her! Spunky woman but very real. or the next victim might be Tess herself. You can find all her books at [heatherdaygilbert.com](#). You can find all her books at [heatherdaygilbert.com](#). {site_link}.