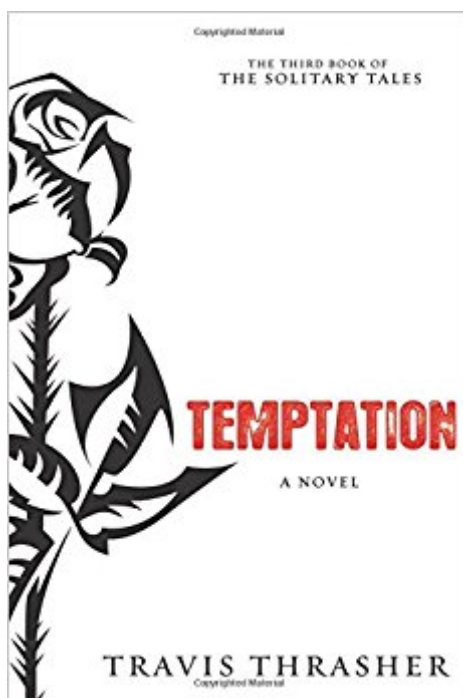


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Temptation: A Novel (Solitary Tales Series)



Synopsis

The third book in the Solitary Tales series for young adults, *Temptation* follows the soul-wrenching twists of Chris Buckley's journey as he heads deeper into a darkness that threatens all he loves best. As a reluctant student at Harrington High's summer school, Chris meets a fun-loving senior girl who offers a welcome diversion from Chris's past. Soon Chris no longer searches for the truth about the town of Solitary. He no longer tries to pierce its shadows. He no longer questions his role in its mysteries. He makes a new choice: he runs. What he doesn't realize is that he's running the wrong way and is very close to being beyond any choices at all.

Book Information

Series: Solitary Tales Series (Book 3)

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Customer Reviews

"In the third installment in Thrasher's Solitary Tales, Chris Buckley, who is originally from Chicago, moves with his mom to Solitary, North Carolina. Narrator Kirby Heyborne presents diverse characters and a range of emotions while keeping the story fast paced and compelling. He particularly succeeds in conveying the many viewpoints Chris confronts as he faces temptation and makes difficult decisions, especially when the line between good and evil is not fully apparent. Adding to the story is Chris and Lily's romance, which is sweet yet believable." S.G.B. © AudioFile Portland, Maine --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

Travis Thrasher is the author of more than a dozen works of fiction, including Solitary, Gravestone, Isolation and Ghostwriter. His writing is known for its honesty, depth, and surprising twists. Thrasher lives with his wife and daughters in Chicago.

So far I am the 13th person to review "Temptation" by Travis Thrasher.... and I am the 13th straight 5 star review. I wonder why "Temptation" and the Solitary series are not more popular? They are the very definition of teenage angst and the struggle to feel comfortable within your own skin. What I don't understand is why there are only 13 reviews! Now for the review on the book - "Temptation" - I will say that it is not quite as good as Gravestone: A Novel (Solitary Tales Series) (the second book in the series) - but it is still very good. The first 2/3 of the book is a change of pace compared to "Gravestone" and "Solitary" it is surprisingly upbeat. A new romance has emerged, but once again it seems a little odd. In fact, the whole town has become surprisingly supportive towards Chris. The result is a little more predictable than the other two entries in the series - however, it does set the final book in the series - Hurt: A Novel (Solitary Tales Series) for a climatic finish. In terms of writing style - Travis Thrasher has a very direct to the point style. What sets the "Solitary" series apart is that Thrasher does not write in a bubblegum style that you find in some YA fiction. Final verdict - Temptations is another fine installment in the Solitary Series. And while I give the book a hearty recommendation, I will warn you that it does NOT stand on its own, and the previous two books must be read in order to understand anything that happens in "Temptation" 5 Stars

Temptation, Travis Thrasher's third volume in the "The Solitary Tales" tetralogy, has arrived and with it readers begin to get the answers to the important questions that series protagonist Chris Buckley has been asking since he discovered that things aren't quite right in Solitary, North Carolina. In some ways 16- (and later 17-) year-old Chris Buckley is a rat trapped in a maze he didn't create. As he searches for answers, he keeps running into dead ends. But when the answers are given and he finds himself closer to having the truth set him free, the light of that truth is blinding. Thrasher knows how to build the suspense to great heights before he begins revealing the tidbits that keep Chris--and the reader--searching for answers. Pastor Jeremiah Marsh continues to be a creepy presence in the series and serves as Chris' seducer, tempting Chris to take on a mysterious role in Solitary. As the manipulation of his life continues, Chris finds himself alone and with no place to turn for help. Readers are finally introduced to Chris' dad and Chris realizes that the reality of what went on between his parents is different from what he believes. Mr. Buckley's arrival in Solitary comes at a crucial point in Chris' journey to uncover the town's secrets, and a conversation with his

dad allows Chris to make an important decision leading to end of this book. Temptation delivers enough chills to satisfy readers of supernatural suspense and will remind Christians that we are indeed fighting a spiritual battle. Thrasher chooses to end the book at a turning point for Chris, with Chris making a major decision, and with the reader left hanging until the final book in the series, Hurt, is released in January 2013. Note: I received a copy of this book from the publisher in an exchange for an honest review. All thoughts and opinions are mine.

Temptation, continues the story of Chris Buckley and his quest to find answers in the unusual town of Solitary. True to the book's name, Chris is faced with a multitude of temptations, not the least of which is the drop-dead gorgeous new girl Lily. Oddly enough, with his new 'love' he begins to experience something he has yet to find in Solitary--peace. But is this peace permanent or only a temporary reprieve and more importantly, what will it ultimately cost him? As Chris begins his senior year, he finally starts to find some answers, but with those answers come more mysteries, not to mention more drama. The third book of the Solitary Tales series is dark and haunting, with sides beginning to emerge, and caution thrown aside. But perhaps most disturbing of all, apathy becomes the prevalent emotion in Chris' life. It's taken three books, but this series has finally won me over. I truly realize I am not the target audience for The Solitary Tales. It has a lot of qualities found in adult fiction, but the overwhelming amount of drama has caused me to enjoy the series but not love the series. However, Temptation finally makes the turn that I've needed it to take in order for my impatience to kick in to high gear. In this book, the story becomes less drama and more suspense. The characters begin to grow-up a bit and drop the 'chip on the shoulder' attitude. Best of all, rich spiritual themes emerge to pull the entire story together. This series is quite impressive in its complexity. The story line itself seems simple enough, but Thrasher has done an excellent job of adding side stories to supplement the main plot. However, I did feel a bit misled by the opening. I read almost the entire book believing a particular event was going to happen, only to find out I had misinterpreted the prologue. I'm glad I was wrong, but it slightly effect how I related to one character. I'm amazed at the number of characters that have been worked in and how each one plays a part in the overall story. The introduction of Lily makes for some interesting scenes with Chris. Kelsey's character (plus her family) has become one of my favorites and I'm certainly looking forward to seeing how her story fits into the next book. Even the minor characters of Brick and Harris are quite intriguing and serve as a nice contrast to the darker personas of Pastor Marsh, Gus, and Staunch. Also, I'm thrilled that another responsible adult showed up and did what should be done. It is great to finally get some answers as to why Chris is so special. I think I was probably as

tired as Chris was of hearing he was special, but having no idea why. Thrasher answers this question, but also leaves plenty of mystery as to the specifics of his unique gift. It'll be quite interesting to see exactly where this part of the story goes and to see the big plans of the antagonists in this book. As I mentioned earlier, the best part of this book is the spiritual elements. By bringing Chris' dad into the story, it opens the door for the spiritual themes to thrive. While Mr. Buckley's part is minor, a lot is accomplished through his presence and sets the stage for Chris to show some maturity. While I liked the first two books in this series, this third book is excellent. The storylines start to come together, the drama eases, and the addition of responsible adults makes this book much more enjoyable than the previous ones in the series. Thrasher still has a lot of ground to cover in Hurt, the final book in this series. I'm looking forward to seeing what he has in store for us. Review copy provided courtesy of David C. Cook

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