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Victoria Griffith

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Victoria Griffith : Amazon Burning before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Amazon Burning:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Heavy turbulence ahead!By Richard VoorheesAuthor Victoria Griffiths new mystery novel, " Burning," offers readers a marvelously unsettling riderichly imagined, sexy, suspenseful, politically engaged, tragic, paradoxical. The storys protagonist, Emma Cohen, a young and relatively nave journalist, is both gutsy and endearingly vulnerable. (The girl cant help it. And neither can the boy.) As for the

author, she clearly takes great pleasure in leading her heroine thousands of miles off the beaten path from New York to Rio de Janeiro to Boa Vista and finally to an encampment of vicious thugs mired deep in the Brazilian rain forest. Griffith skillfully paints a panorama of Brazilian citizenry environmentalists, children of privilege, power brokersthe venal, the indigenous, the murderous. This debut novel is a brilliant flight of fancy. Storm warning: Heavy turbulence ahead! 4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. A great story set in the backdrop of some of Brazil's ...By Natasha HouseholderWow, this book kept me riveted! A great story set in the backdrop of some of Brazil's great cities and of course its magnificent rain forest! A great mystery that kept me guessing until the very end, and all the while I felt embraced by the glory and the peril of the rain forest, its denizens, its advocates and its enemies....a GREAT read. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A fast-paced murder mystery rich in culture and suspenseBy YA Book Madness Blog3.5I received this book as a gift from the publisher.+++I would not classify this as YA but more of a New Adult murder mystery or contemporary.PROS:This cover is beautiful. It captivates, the colors explode off the book capturing the wild and untamed majesty of the . (Though Im not too sure about that black purse).The descriptions of the are bold, dark, and embrace the dangerous whimsy of the deepest recesses of the jungle.Between the landslides, the vicious animals, the uncertainty of life or death, its a precarious world that reeks of danger and corruption. The suspense mounts as each scene is laced with the unexpected and the anticipation of something sinister.Mystery, Nancy Drew style, weaves throughout the plot. There are clues that shout out, clues that are subtle, and those that are so seemingly random you dont know what to make of them. The puzzle is tantalizing. Youre consumed with the desire to solve the riddle of the murder and everyone looks suspicious. Its hard to know which characters to trust.I learned so much from this book. It was like being transported to a magical and slightly nightmarish dream world. Insight into the crime rings, the risks journalists take, the prevalence of guns and attacks on the streets were terrifying and enlightening. It really opened my eyes to issues in the in terms of environment and domestic crime. The ian Indians, the Yanomami, I had no clue that they existed or any idea about how their culture words and interacts with the rest of Brazil. These tidbits of information were fascinating and show that Victoria did her research.Emma was an unconventional protagonist. Shes headstrong and courageous but scared. She throws herself into stories, fighting for her career and refuses to give up on her dreams because something scandalous marred her image. Her fears are very real, of intimacy and trust but also her fear of what humanity is becoming and how we treat our fellow man. The scenes in the hospital were brutal, bleak, and disturbing but hopeful. Theres so much to be said about advocacy and the power a great journalist has in spreading the word and getting funding.Jimmy is a bubbly, sexy, and funny male lead. Hes playful at some points and extremely serious in others. Hes devoted to his photography and very passionate about using the photos to make a statement. Paired with Emma, this duo is dynamic. They accentuate each others strengths and calm their nerves by getting lost in their chemistry.CONS:The subplots were left undeveloped and although they played a significant part in character growth and overall personality, there was not enough discussion. For example, Emmas father, Mike, as a journalist was kidnapped by the Taliban and tortured, leaving him with severe nerve damage. This was mentioned briefly but it says a lot about how Mike deals with Emmas aspirations and the events that happen later in the book. Theres a huge disconnect between this story, the near-rape sexual offense and battery lawsuit, and emotions.Environmental activism is a prominent aspect of this story but merely discussed, there wasnt any in depth exploration into the politics. It seemed like, at first, because of the way the story was set up, that this would be the foundational motivation and guideline for the entire investigation but it gets lost as smuggling exotic animals, kidnapping, and the illegal gold trade get thrown into the plot.The sex scenes alternated between flowery and blunt.

Amazon Burning is a spectacular debut Young Adult novel, which might also appeal to the older reader. The Authors powerful description of the Amazon rainforest forms the perfect, wildly exotic, backdrop for this extraordinary tale of a young urban woman coming of age in the midst of intense conflict . When 22-year-old aspiring journalist, Emma Cohen, is forced to flee the comforts of her New York University student life, she manages to persuade her father to give her an internship at his newspaper in Rio de Janeiro. There, Emma is immediately swept into a major news story, and a life-threatening situation, when a famous jungle environmentalist, Milton Silva, is mysteriously murdered. Emma must now enter the Amazon rainforest, with her father, to investigate. She is both awed by the enormity and beauty of the Amazon, yet appalled by its reckless destruction. Moreover, not only will she have to brave its primal world, but also fight to survive the kidnappers, villains, corrupt activists, and indigenous tribes that lay in wait all along the ever-twisting trail of the murder case. Stretched to the brink, its up to Emma, her father, and a dreamy news photographer, to unravel the mystery and live to tell the tale.

Victoria Griffiths debut novel is a triumph! Burning is a spellbinding tale of love, intrigue, and murder set in the imperiled rainforest. A young womans coming of age story is deftly woven into this vast ecological conflict, as indigenous tribes struggle to defend their land against the loggers, ranchers, and miners who are destroying it. A nonstop thrill ride that will leave you wanting more. (Courtney Farrell, Bestselling author of Enhanced)About the AuthorVictoria Griffith is the author of the award winning non-fiction picture book 'The Fabulous Flying Machines of

Alberto Santos-Dumont', which won numerous awards, including the prestigious 'Parents' Choice'. Before becoming a full-time author, Victoria spent twenty years as an international journalist, fifteen of which were as a foreign correspondent for the UK's Financial Times. During that time, in which she served as the newspaper's US science correspondent, followed by a stint as its' representative in Brazil, she covered a wide range of topics, including architecture, space exploration, the human genome, the growth of the Internet, and Brazil's Yanomami Indians. Environmental issues also featured and she spent some time in the rain forest. She even managed to fit in some children's book reviews. Victoria currently resides in Boston with her husband and three daughters.