Bart Did It. What A Treat This Book Is!

Award-winning author Bart Yates has established himself as a formidable writer gifted with rare insight, depth, and talent. Now, in an unforgettable new novel, he presents a blistering portrait of a troubled family, of bonds that can be battered but never broken, and of the friendships that can make us whole again. Hester Parker resides in an elegant Victorian house in the town of Bolton, Illinois. She spends her evenings listening to the lush tones of Mahler and Chopin, drinking sub-par Merlot, and reflecting on a life that has suddenly fallen apart. At seventy-one, Hester is as brilliant and sharp-tongued as ever, capable of inspiring her music students to soaring heights or reducing them to tears with a single comment. But her wit can’t hide the bitterness that comes with loss -- the loss of her renowned violinist husband, Arthur Donovan, who left her for another woman, and the loss of her career as a concert pianist after injuring her wrist. In this home that holds so many memories, Hester and Arthur raised three volatile children -- Paul, a talented and neurotic cellist, Caitlin, an accomplished literary
professor who inspires both dread and worship among her students, and Jeremy, sweet, spirited, and as musically gifted as his parents. Though Caitlin and Paul still live in Bolton, both have taken Arthurs side in the divorce and rarely see their mother. When Hester decides to rent out the attic apartment to Alex, a young college student, she has no idea of the impact he will have on her life and her family. Good-natured and awkward, with secrets of his own, Alex becomes an unlikely confidant and a means of reconnecting with the world outside Hesters window. But his presence also exposes old memories and grief that Hester has tried to bury. Over the course of one remarkable month, Hester will confront angry accusations, long-hidden jealousies, and the inescapable truth that tore her family apart and might, against all odds, help reconcile them again. And her brief friendship with Alex will leave each with a surprising legacy acceptance of the past, a seed of comfort in the present, and hope for the future, wherever it may lead. Tender and funny, heartbreaking and wise, The Distance Between Us is a masterful evocation of family and friendship, of the pain that goes hand-in-hand with love, and of the grace and wisdom that remain when heartbreak finally subsides.

**Personal Review: The Distance Between Us (Kensington) by Bart Yates**

Hester Donovan is a complex character. At the same time she is a sympathetic character trying to keep her life from spinning out of control and a vengeful harpy getting revenge on those family members everyone by now - who do not do as they are told. I wanted to slap her and I wanted to hug her; that’s always a good sign.

After reading Yates' novel, The Brothers Bishop, I was expecting a complex gay novel with well-written characters and unexpected storylines. Well, there is nothing gay in this book but everything else is there musical talent, sacrifice, depression, death, divorce and the joy of youth.

This book has a 'happy' ending. However, the entire universe is not wrapped up in bright ribbon and put on a shelf. There are still the messy strings that can be examined and accepted but never completely put away and forgotten.

Read this novel.

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*The Distance Between Us (Kensington) by Bart Yates 5 Star Customer Reviews and Lowest Price!*