



## **Restrike**

*Reba White Williams*

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# Restrike

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## **Restrike** Reba White Williams

Money and murder go hand in glove in the rarified art world of Reba White Williams' exciting first novel, Restrike.

Cousins Coleman and Dinah Greene moved from North Carolina to New York after college to make their mark on the art world: Coleman is the editor of an influential arts magazine and Dinah is the owner of a print gallery in Greenwich Village. But their challenges are mounting as one of Coleman's writers is discovered selling story ideas to a competitor and The Greene Gallery is in the red because sales are down.

When billionaire Heyward Bain arrives with a glamorous assistant, announcing plans to fund a fine print museum, Coleman is intrigued and plans to get to know Bain and publish an article about him. Dinah hopes to sell him enough prints to save her gallery. At the same time, swindlers, attracted by Bain's lavish spending, invade the print world to grab some of his money.

When a print dealer dies in peculiar circumstances, Coleman is suspicious, but she can't persuade the NYPD crime investigator of a connection between the dealer's death and Bain's buying spree. After one of Coleman's editors is killed and Coleman is attacked, the police must acknowledge the connection, and Coleman becomes even more determined to discover the truth about Bain. In an unforgettable final scene, Coleman risks her life to expose the last deception threatening her, her friends, and the formerly tranquil print world.

## **Restrike Details**

Date : Published June 1st 2013 by Delos

ISBN : 9781939052001

Author : Reba White Williams

Format : Paperback 407 pages

Genre : Mystery, Cozy Mystery, Fiction, Art, Crime

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## From Reader Review Restrike for online ebook

### Toni says

Two cousins raised as sisters solve a crime with the help of numerous supporting characters in the art world of NYC. The story, at times, was a bit snooty and pretentious and I caught myself rolling my eyes a few times. Though the cousins were "poor" growing up, somehow they still managed to go to a private high school, Duke and Columbia. That doesn't seem all that poor to me. The dialog was off in a few places and could have been streamlined some to get to the real point. I don't need to read "how are you? I'm fine". A simple "greetings were exchanged" would have been less cumbersome and tedious to read.

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### Gillian Wong says

So this was a strange one to review, because unlike many of the quotes on the back cover, I didn't really feel like it was very similar to Agatha Christie's books. I thought the author had a very unique style, one that I liked. Williams doesn't use long descriptions--she doesn't waste words, but scripts out a scene and the characters using just enough words (a talent that is not common in current day fiction, I find). I liked that she also managed to explain the art world without making me feel like an idiot. That said, I think someone interested in art and auctions might have been a little bit more interested. I know I feel excited when people sort of slip in things I actually know about.

Coleman and Dinah had side stories running through that I liked to read about. I thought it made them very human. I did want to hear more about Rachel than Dinah though, so hopefully we will see her in the rest of the series. I didn't think the side stories overpowered the main one, but would have liked the main one to be made even more suspenseful. I think there's a difference between a story being powerful and I-must-read-more-can't-leave-this-seat as opposed to I-can't-figure-out-who-the-killer/thief/criminal mastermind-is-and-kind-of-want-to-know. Many books have guessable endings--this one DID NOT, which I was very glad about, but it could have had more POW behind it. (view spoiler)

Something that I felt she could have done a little better was smooth the journey from one scene to the next. The way she did it made things feel slightly abrupt, even for me, and I LOVE minimalist writing (I am perfectly happy with dialogue describing the entire scene, for instance). Also, the beginning was very vivid, but because Williams was so effective in describing the character (view spoiler)I got really irritated with the character. And as much as this was definitely an example of good writing, because it portrayed character and scene so well, it meant I began the book feeling peeved. To readers who haven't read the book yet--this character is very minor, so just power through.

I am a little surprised that there will be more than one novel, because Coleman and Dinah seem such specific characters, but am interested in learning how Williams figures out a mystery for them to solve.

This is a review of an advanced copy I received from Goodreads.

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### Inga says

My review:

Restrike by Reba White Williams was a nice and cozy mystery with a solid plot and interesting characters. I enjoyed how the story developed, the settings and the twists and turns.

Coleman and Dinah are cousins who are both closely connected to the art world. Coleman has an art magazine and Dinah has an art gallery dealing mostly with prints. Coleman is finding out, that somebody from the magazine is selling her articles to a competitor before they even see the print on paper. Coleman is determined to find out who that person is and let the thief to deal with the consequences. Dinah needs to sell lots of prints to save her gallery.

Both Dinah and Coleman are drawn into the world of art forgery, swindle and the body count keep increasing. Nothing is as it seems and the author keeps surprising the reader more than once.

I liked the setting of the art world and how the author developed the story. I truly enjoyed both Coleman and Dinah who were very different, but still closely connected to each other and to the art as well. There were many interesting characters who gave extra spice to the story.

Restrike is a great mystery and I can't wait to read more writing from Reba White Williams! I highly recommend Restrike to mystery lovers!

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## **MartyAnne says**

RESTRIKE by Reba White Williams (Coleman & Dinah Greene Mystery #1)

The art world of New York City offers plenty to see and gossip about, especially when a VERY wealthy and attractive man shows up, starting his own print gallery as a history of the medium. The talk of the town generates a lot of buzz-- even more so when evidence shows up that the most recently bought prints were actually stolen, and their provenance a fabrication. Another item turns out to be a restrike -- meaning someone stole the original plates that the artist used to print them, and faked a new print to look like an old one done by the original artist.

If that sounds straightforward, it is because this is just the tip of the iceberg. Grab yourself some push pins, string and a cork board -- you might not be able to follow it all otherwise. There are old grudges, family secrets, competition of different types, at least two murders, and cheating, cheating, and more cheating! It is sure to keep you tuned in until the final pages.

ENDING: Sets up next book nicely, with humor.

TAGS: art, print artworks, restrikes, art magazines, old family secrets, murders, cheating, sex play, Southern, old money, new money, richness, riches, born family, created family.

Permalink: <http://martysreads.blogspot.com/2013/...>

Goodreads: <http://www.goodreads.com/review/edit/...>

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## **Laura says**

Restrike by Reba White Williams bills itself as an art world mystery centered in New York City, and starring

the cousins Dinah and Coleman as amateur sleuths. While the book did improve slightly towards the end, overall the first half was a slog of a read, and the plot was convoluted, a bit too convenient, and the mystery seemed to just kind of unravel by chance with very little significant puzzle pieces actually uncovered by the sleuths. Overall the book was written on the typical Romantic novel level, and there was a fair number of grammatical/context errors which were missed by the editor. Only recommended for those who are looking for a fluffy mystery with some thrill, but still a comfortable read. Given 1 star or a "below average rating".

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### **Kammie says**

Thrilled to have won this! I can't wait to get it and to read it.

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### **Ellen Dark says**

I enjoyed this book, but I felt I was coming in in the middle of the story. There were several characters that I had a hard time keeping track of as well. That being said, I want to read the next in the series.

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### **Lovey Dovey Books says**

Reba White Williams explores the New York art scene with all the suspense of a well-written murder mystery. Restrike invites readers into the lives of the Greene cousins: Coleman and Dinah. Coleman is a journalist and owner of the ArtSmart magazine. She has a curious mind that really spurs the story's pace. Her cousin Dinah is married to investment banker, Jonathan Hathaway, and the owner of a print gallery. With both girls knee-deep in the art world, it's inevitable that the mysterious murder of a virtually unknown print dealer would attract their attention and have them searching until answers are found.

Restrike is a murder mystery that goes beyond suspense and thrill. Jimmy La Grange's death is the starting point of a chain reaction of events that may take readers by surprise, but will definitely intrigue. The connections between characters becomes a tangled web, deceit, betrayal, jealousy and secrets included. The story was a little slow going in the opening chapters, but once I acclimated to the terminology and really understood what was so significant about Jimmy's death, I felt the excitement start to bubble up. I wanted this crime solved just as much as Coleman and Dinah, even when it wasn't believed to be art related.

Williams's writing style is notable, as well. Restrike is written in third person with multiple perspectives. While Coleman and Dinah are our driven heroines, readers get to know their friends and enemies, too. There's a well rounded variety of characters, some you'll love and others you'll love to hate. I think it shows real talent that while presenting the perspective of many characters, even those under suspicion, Williams was able to keep the truth hidden from readers. While the ending wasn't outrageously shocking, I never would have guessed exactly 'whodunit'.

I am absolutely clueless about art, I didn't even know how wide the range of the art world extended. Williams made quite an impression on me in that regard, because Restrike not only takes readers deep into Coleman and Dinah's lives, but pretty much paints a perfect picture of what goes on in that world. I can say with absolute certainty that even if art isn't your forte, Restrike will be a very appealing read!

\*ARC provided via JKS Communications in exchange for an honest review\*

Also posted on Lovey Dovey Books

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## **K. Lincoln says**

I had high hopes for this one. I did learn something about prints and the New York art/social scene and how I was bored by reading about a large group of people getting dressed and meeting each other for meals at various restaurants.

It was kind of like Sex in the City without any of the fun of caring about the main characters. The two main characters are ostensibly cousins involved in the art world :Dinah and Coleman Greene.

However, we spend alot of time in other peoples' POV. I also felt like their actions and feelings were conveniently turned on and off alot. Dinah is supposedly happily married but wants to leave her husband after one disagreement? Coleman is "in love" with Bain but then just conveniently forgets about him once Rob is on the scene?

Mysteries are great when you care about the danger the sleuths are in, here I just didn't care, possibly because of the unneringly light tone of the prose and over-summarized action, but possibly also because the New York art scene isn't my cup of tea.

Actually, no. I LOVE reading People magazine because I have that bordering-on-stalkery fascination with knowing the intimate details of celebrities and social elite because they are real people to me. I find the same kind of fascination with books that seduce me into caring about the rich characters who constantly notice the brand-names of other peoples' suits and talks about "their Jimmy Choos" and can get into exclusive restaurants just by smiling at the Maitre'd....but this book didn't seduce me.

I think if the narrative had focused on one or more of the cousins more, if we had spent more time in their emotional lives, it would have been more exciting. Instead I got a bit of a confusing array of characters going out to lunch and selling prints here and there and financing each other's galleries and art magazines.

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## **Kari Anderson says**

From Goodreads:

Cousins Coleman and Dinah Greene moved from North Carolina to New York after college to make their mark on the art world: Coleman is the editor of an influential arts magazine and Dinah is the owner of a print gallery in Greenwich Village. But their challenges are mounting as one of Coleman's writers is discovered selling story ideas to a competitor and The Greene Gallery is in the red because sales are down.

When billionaire Heyward Bain arrives with a glamorous assistant, announcing plans to fund a fine print museum, Coleman is intrigued and plans to get to know Bain and publish an article about him. Dinah hopes to sell him enough prints to save her gallery. At the same time, swindlers, attracted by Bain's lavish

spending, invade the print world to grab some of his money.

When a print dealer dies in peculiar circumstances, Coleman is suspicious, but she can't persuade the NYPD crime investigator of a connection between the dealer's death and Bain's buying spree. After one of Coleman's editors is killed and Coleman is attacked, the police must acknowledge the connection, and Coleman becomes even more determined to discover the truth about Bain. In an unforgettable final scene, Coleman risks her life to expose the last deception threatening her, her friends, and the formerly tranquil print world.

My Thoughts:

This is the second art-related book I have read in the past few months. I was never good at art, I embraced the teasing during art class in high school and I can't tell you a Monet from a Manet... wait are those even real artists? Well, that settles it. I know nothing about art. But in both of the books I have read about the art world, I have fallen so deep into the scenery, I've had a hard time digging myself out.

I never knew there was such a thing as a restrike until I read this book.

re•strike (v. ri?stra?k; n. ?ri?stra?k): a new print made from an old lithographic stone, metal engraving, woodcut, or the like

That's my art lesson for the day. Thank you, come again. I have to say the more I read about the glamour and glitz of the New York art scene, the more intrigued I am. I enjoy the few museums I've been to, but that's just not my world in West Virginia. The only museum in my town is the Mothman Museum... Yes, I'm serious. I may need to do a little more reading up on this high society.

Now to the book: Williams has anything a girl could want in this book. Lust, wealth, murder, scandal ... and a couple of hotties to keep the pages turning if you can't get into the art. Although there were times I had no idea what I was reading about, the art wasn't too technical, but anything over paint by number is too much for me, I breezed through this book. There were so many different agendas in this book and skeletons hid behind the corners, you can't put it down until you know if the same person is behind all the drama, or if it's just coincidence that it all happens at once.

I've read so many murder mysteries in the past few years, I fancy myself an amateur sleuth. I can normally figure out who the bad guy(s) is(are) before the author reveals them. But Williams had me stunned in this one. I said out loud, "Really? That's the killer?" I was a bit shocked, not who I expected and not for the motive.

I really like Coleman and her drive and passion in her career. I am excited to see where the next book in the series takes her. I also liked Dinah, but I'm hoping she loses her controlling, possessive, jerk of a husband. Not that it bothers me too much... But even more than both of them, I absolutely loved Rachel's character. She played her own little role in London, but boy is she fierce. She finds out a partner is out to get her and she pulls out all the stops to make sure she doesn't lose her name or her fortune. I hope that she will make some more appearances in the series and maybe help out a little if the future mysteries cross the pond.

I give Restrike 5 out of 5 bookmarks.

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## Jane says

This was a decent mystery, but I definitely don't get all of the four star reviews. I may or may not read the others that are to come.

## Leslie says

Restrike is book one in a new mystery series starring cousins Coleman and Dinah Green and set in the New York art world. Coleman is the editor and owner of ArtSmart, an influential magazine, and Dinah has recently opened her own print gallery in Greenwich Village.

Mysterious billionaire Heyward Bain arrives on the scene with plans to open a print museum. Coleman sees the opportunity to snag an interview with him while Dinah is trying to sell him some of her gallery's prints. Sales are down and she could use the income. She would like to move her gallery to a better location but is encountering resistance from her jealous husband who has provided the financing for her current gallery.

After some rare, expensive prints that haven't been seen in years show up at auction, the seller is found dead, setting off a series of events. Meanwhile, many of Coleman's ideas are showing up in a rival magazine before she can publish them. One of her employees is selling her ideas, but who did it? Then one of her employees turns up dead and soon Coleman is fearing for her own safety as she begins to ask questions someone doesn't want answered.

When it comes to fine art I know what I like when I see it, but I don't know much about the art world itself or the terminology, such as the word 'restrike'.

re-strike -

a new print made from an old lithographic stone, metal engraving, woodcut, or the like.

The meaning of the book's title soon becomes apparent when supposedly old prints begin to show up on the market and are in pristine condition. The author's extensive background in art shines through as she creates an informative, detailed, yet never overwhelming world in the New York art scene.

Coleman and Dinah are well-developed and interesting characters. As we learn more about their background we learn how Coleman became a strong, independent woman while newly married Dinah is just beginning to discover her own resolve.

It didn't take me long to become fully engaged in the plot. Fast-paced and energetic, this a page-turner that's hard to put down. The mystery builds along several story lines, eventually coming together as the connections between the characters are exposed.

A good choice for an enjoyable summer read.

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## Rhonda says

4 stars

Restrike: Coleman and Dinah Greene Mystery No. 1

I would like to see if their will be no. 2 I would read it. I was trying to figure out who did what and I was kept guessing. Some of the ending I did not like but that has nothing to do with the story really.

I like Coleman and Dinah. They both worked hard from the time they were children and continue the work. Coleman has her own art magazine. She is single and does not think she wants to get married ever. She sews and makes a lot of her own clothes. Someone is stealing story ideas from her magazine.

Dinah owns a print gallery and lives above it. Her husband Jonathon is rich and wants to control her. They have not been married long. Her gallery is in the wrong spot and she wants to change it.

There is going to be a new museum opening in NYC about art prints. Heyward Bain is mega rich is opening it. He does not talk about his past. Where he got his money or anything about himself. He is very curious about Coleman.

Coleman wants to interview Heyward Bain for her magazine. She thinks he is handsome and would not mind dating him. She is also interested in Simon who is buying the prints for Heyward's museum. He is keeping secrets too.

A man who is selling the prints to be auctioned off is murdered right before the prints are bought. The police do not think it is related to art. Coleman does and wants to find out.

The crimes start to add up and threaten Coleman's life. There are a lot of suspects. The police are not putting the cases together like Coleman and friends are gathering.

I did not put the book down till I had finished and it left me wanting to see what happens next in their lives. I was given this ebook to read and asked to give honest review of it when finished by Netgally.

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## **Reeka (BoundbyWords) says**

As seen on my blog:

I have absolutely zero knowledge about the buy and sell world of art, and even less about the potential crimes that occur within it. What I do know, is that *Restrike* was the perfect way to become acquainted with both aspects. There was little opportunity for me to feel bombarded with art lingo, and the story line had just enough scandal to keep me reading until the very end.

*Restrike* made me realize how much I missed reading mysteries. Prologue: Crime is committed, check. There are several witnesses who may have seen something, check. Anticipation instilled for following the clues and eventually catching the culprit, double check. After we meet the main leads, it's only a short while until the ball gets rolling, potential suspects are laid out, and you're wracking your brain trying to pinpoint the bad guy before the author reveals him. I enjoyed every last second of the thrill. The main characters, Dinah and Coleman Greene, were great as a team, and entertaining in their own individual storylines. However, I didn't grow deeply attached to them, and felt like their back stories could have used some more depth.

The plot of *Restrike* was multi-faceted, and involved some surprisingly dark elements. It explored paths that lead to forgery, theft, murder, and domestic and sexual abuse. The majority of the juicy bits/twists occurred at the end, and I could not have predicted 90% of them. Reba White Williams had me guessing until the very last second, and then dropped bombs of ALL sizes. I especially enjoyed what I learned about art: the selling

and buying of obscure prints, the work and stress that goes into owning an art gallery and running an art magazine, and the ends to which people might go to secure the most coveted pieces. Restrike was what mysteries should be: exciting, and fast-paced. It also didn't hurt that some of the characters more personal moments, could have been moments borrowed from real life.

I look forward to reading future installments featuring the Greene cousins.

**Recommended for Fans of:** Mystery, Thriller, and Contemporary.

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\*DISCLAIMER\* I received this book as a print copy from the publisher, in order to participate in the blog tour

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### **Scott says**

Restrike by Reba White Williams is the first book in the Coleman and Dinah Greene Mystery series. Telling the story of the Greene cousins who grew up in a poor family, but have turned things around and are both heavily involved in the New York art scene. Dinah runs a small gallery specializing in prints while Coleman runs an art magazine featuring East Coast artists.

When a rich man moves into town with plans on opening a print museum both of the Greene women are drawn into the drama that follows him. Bain is buying some very rare prints at auctions for well over the estimated sales value and when one of the sellers winds up dead Coleman begins to look into it for her magazine. She is unable to come up with anything on Bain and has to fight her attraction to him to investigate him honestly.

I was a bit hesitant about this book after seeing the cover (I have an ARC and the cover is slightly different than the one pictured). I actually put off reading this for a timed review until darn near the last minute, as it turns out that didn't end up being a problem. I really enjoyed the book and had fun reading it. Reba did a good job providing a lot of suspects to keep the reader guessing about what is really happening. Each of the characters also has a strong personality and rich backstory.

I can't speak to the realism of the story as I have never been to New York and have absolutely no experience with the kind of art that is discussed. Even without a background in the basis of the story it is easy to enjoy. If you enjoy stories with strong female characters and a good amount of mystery this is a book to check out.

Review copy received from a literary publicity agency.

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