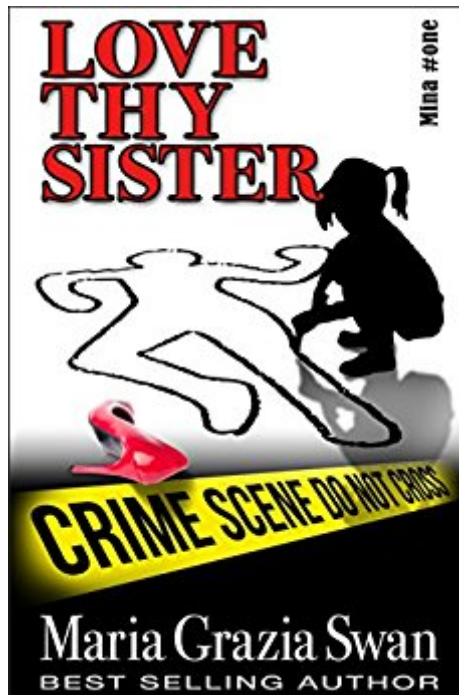




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Love Thy Sister (Mina's Adventures Book 1)



Synopsis

Italian-born Mina Calvi lives in a mansion in idyllic Orange County, California with her protective older sister, Paola. Unemployed again and aimless, Mina can't seem to find her niche in her adopted country, but confusion and restlessness soon become the least of her problems. Someone is stealing from the software business owned by Paola and her husband, losses so great the business is sinking like the Titanic. And the strange death of a company employee turns out to be murder. Then, while, facing a loss so terrible she can't bear it, Mina discovers an old family secret that turns her world upside down. There's some solace in the arms of her blue-eyed lover, amateur sleuth Brian Starr, but danger still stalks her at every turn, edging closer and closer as Mina tries to untangle the web of lies, adultery and treachery, and put her life back together

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Customer Reviews

Review: LOVE THY SISTER (Mina's Adventures #1)What appeals to me the most about Mina is her ingenuousness. Try as she might (and periodically she does attempt to "fit in"), even at twenty-three, she still doesn't align with her sister (the only surviving family member), the Southern California laid-back facade lifestyle, nor employment, nor social interactions. I am not certain if it is

her Italian nativity transposed to the hectic Orange County, California venue, or growing up in the shadow of a much-older half-sister who "has it all." Perhaps it's just Mina's personality, but the constant overtone of uncertainty and indecision, while it makes for fecklessness and a tendency to go headfirst into situations, tact tossed aside, renders her an appealing character, almost like a much younger sister one wishes to protect.

This is a standalone series opener from a new to me author. Mona Calvin is a young twenty something who lives with her older sister, Paola, and brother in law, Michael Davies. Much of the story revolves around Paoli and Michael's business, West Coast Software. The heroines are from Italy, Mina's boyfriend is French, and Michael's mistress is from Mexico. This is a standalone if you don't read the teaser for the next book. If you do, you can expect quite a few changes to come in Mina's life. C'est la vie. This book gets 3.25 stars.

Mina is a likable and quirky main character. She can't keep up with her laundry, her room is a mess, and she doesn't have the best judgement in men. Very relatable. There is a murder early on, but the book gains a lot of momentum in the second half, with several interesting twists and turns. The author ties up all the loose ends very nicely at the end. At the moment, there are 3 more books in the series. The main character has a lot of room for growth, being young and single. I look forward to reading more.

This book had so much to offer. A great cast of characters and a great deal of mystery and intrigue. There were so many things happening and so many unexpected twists and turns. I highly recommend this book.

At twenty-three, Mina Calvi is still trying to fit in her sister's world in America. She misses Italy, but like any wide-eyed girl, L.A. has lots to offer. And while she misses Italy and her parents, she's developed a real taste for peanut butter sandwiches, and besides, she's learned to adore her beautiful, successful older sister. But as Mina soon learns, success isn't everything. Her sister, Paola, is in an unhappy marriage, and though her software business appears to be successful, someone is stealing from them. Paola, suspecting her unfaithful husband, hires a young college student, Brian, to follow him. The results are death for someone Mina loves, and a resolve to find the killer. All of the characters are very cleverly drawn, secrets unfold, and red-herrings abound, and just when I thought I knew who the killer was, the author leads in different direction. I especially

appreciate when an author gives us an original plot or an unusual protagonist--as in this case, the young sister. The culprit is eventually uncovered, thanks to Mina's tenacity as an amateur sleuth, and all the loose ends are wrapped up very nicely at the end. Highly recommended!

Love thy Sassy Protagonist! ;) Good, interesting mystery that left hints as to who-dun-it, or rather who-could-have-dun-it, without giving it away. Fun variety of characters, especially the sassy Mina. She's smart, but being an Italian native, sometimes naive about California living. Lucky for her, there is a young man willing to help her out. I am definitely looking forward to the rest of the series, and to see how Mina's life will change.

I rented this book five star because there wasn't anything higher. The book was intriguing with the plot twists and turns and keep you wondering. I read it all in one evening would recommend it to everybody. I loved Mina, she was so lovable

Maria Grazia Swan has a gift for description which pulls the reader quickly into the locations of her stories. With only a few words she lets the reader see and feel what her characters are experiencing. Although fluent in English, Maria's writing retains the subtle flavor of Italy. This is an entertaining book with a lively plot. I wish I had read this first book in the series before reading those that followed, as it explains much of what puzzled me in Mina's character in the other books, such as her overly emotional reactions and immaturity. I tend to become annoyed when the characters I'm reading withhold information from police, go off sleuthing on their own or fail to call the authorities when commonsense tells them otherwise, but in this case, such acts might be explained by Mina's background and personality.

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