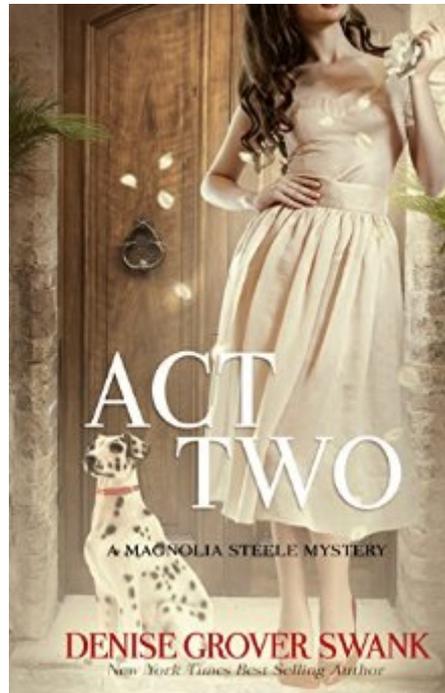


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Act Two: Magnolia Steele Mystery #2



Synopsis

Book Two in the Magnolia Steele Mystery series by Denise Grover Swank. For as long as Magnolia Steele can remember, the past has had its hooks in her. Her time as a Broadway actress in New York City was an escape that ended in public humiliation, but now that she's back home in Franklin, Tennessee, she's feeling the grip of the two incidents that stole her innocence. The first was the disappearance of her father when she was a teen, who left home for a meeting and never came back. The other incident...well, her memories have returned, but it's best left where it belongs in the past. Hoping for closure, Magnolia decides to look into her daddy's cold case. Though the town gossips are convinced he ran away with his client's wife and money, she has always suspected foul play. Talking to a few of his old acquaintances seems harmless enough until the man she arranged to meet turns up dead. There's evidence someone murdered him to keep him quiet, and she realizes that whatever conspiracy her father was mixed up in is far from over; it's entering its second act. If Magnolia keeps digging, she's not sure she can trust her own momma to help her, let alone her new friends and the police detective who's eager to woo her, but after years of running, she's ready to stand her ground.

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Customer Reviews

Warning: Do not read this book unless you have Center Stage (Magnolia Steele Mystery #1)When the sequel to Center Stage opened with, "What the hell are you doin'™, Magnolia?" I was gladly pulled back into the world of Magnolia Steele. At the end of Center Stage, Magnolia was cleared of the murder of Max Goodwin and was begged by her agent to go back to New York and reclaim the starring role in Fireflies at Dawn. Magnolia, having also remembered the gruesome events from her graduation party 10 years ago that sent her running away in the first place, is ready to flee Franklin, TN again. But one thing stops her in her tracks " Momma is dying. It has been about a month since then and Magnolia is trying to find her place in a world she thought she left behind. At constant odds with Momma, Magnolia finds a new job and apartment with the help of lovable country singer wannabe and ladies'™ man, Colt Austin. There is an understanding between Colt and Magnolia on the lines of "I won't ask for your secrets if you don't ask for mine." Too bad secrets have a way of coming out and soon Magnolia learns, "you can't hide from your past." One of the teasers for the book is "some secrets can be deadly." Magnolia tries to find out what happened to her father 14 years ago and soon people who may know the truth start turning up dead. Even though she is threatened by persons known and unknown, Magnolia just cannot let it go. Throughout the book, I discovered and was moved by the deep and loving relationship Maggie had with her father and how much his disappearance affected her, her mother and her brother Roy. Even though Magnolia feels like he betrayed her, she turns to Detective Brady Bennett for help time and time again.

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