

# A Bitter Truth (Bess Crawford Mysteries, 3)

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Trying to help a woman in distress, World War I nurse and accidental sleuth Bess Crawford learns that no good deed goes unpunished. When battlefield nurse Bess Crawford returns from France for a well-earned Christmas leave, she finds a bruised and shivering woman huddled in the doorway of her London residence. The woman has nowhere to turn, and propelled by a firm sense of duty, Bess takes her in. Once inside Bess's flat, the woman reveals that a quarrel with her husband erupted into violence, yet she wants to return home—if Bess will go with her to Sussex. Realizing that the woman is suffering from a concussion, Bess gives up a few precious days of leave to travel with her. But she soon discovers that this is a good deed with unforeseeable consequences. What Bess finds at Vixen Hill is a house of mourning. The woman's family has gathered for a memorial service for the elder son, who died of war wounds. Her husband, home on compassionate leave, is tense.

Charles Todd is the New York Times bestselling author of the Inspector Ian Rutledge mysteries, the Bess Crawford mysteries, and two stand-alone novels. Among the honors accorded to the Ian Rutledge mysteries are the Barry Award and nominations for the Independent Mystery Booksellers Association's Dilys Award, the Edgar and Anthony Awards in the U.S., and the John Creasey Award in the UK. A mother-and-son writing team, they live on the East Coast.

"Makes fine work of the brooding atmosphere." (New York Times Book Review on A Bitter Truth)

"Outstanding." (Publishers Weekly (starred review) on A Bitter Truth)

"Bess is a very strong series lead, the historical setting is as well developed here as it is in the Rutledge books, and the mysteries are just as elegantly constructed. Readers who have yet to sample the Crawford series should be strongly encouraged to do so." (Booklist on A Bitter Truth)

"Few writers surpass Todd in depicting the insanity of war." (Kirkus Reviews on A Bitter Truth)

"Todd brings World War I England and France to life with an intriguing plot and an intrepid sleuth." (Library Journal on A Bitter Truth)

"A thoughtful mystery with an excellent plot, well-drawn characters and wonderful atmosphere." (Associated Press on A Bitter Truth)

"A well-envisaged plot, a deep sense of time and place and characters drawn with care and compassion." (Richmond Times-Dispatch on A Bitter Truth)

"Charles Todd has developed believable characters that carry along this story with lightning speed from the first page to the last." (New York Journal of Books on A Bitter Truth)

"The Todds excel at complex characterizations....For lovers of upper-drawer British

whodunnits and Anglophiles in general. A Bitter Truth should prove a sweet treat indeed." (Wilmington Star-News on A Bitter Truth)

"A lovely picture of a slower world." (Charlotte Observer on A Bitter Truth)

#### Other Books

Judy Moody. Third grader Judy Moody is in a first day of school bad mood until she gets an assignment to create a collage all about herself and begins creating her masterpiece, the Me collage.

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