

Title: *The Inheritance Games*
Author: Jennifer Lynn Barnes
Genre: Fiction

Reviewer Name and Grade: Shan L., 8th Grade

Date Reviewed: March 21, 2021

The Inheritance Games is a fiction book about a girl named Avery Kylie Grambs. It is based in the 21st century, in the United States of America. Avery is a girl whose mother died when she was 15. She lives in an apartment with her older sister, Libby. Avery is a girl who thinks of other people, and she has a quick tongue and a sharp wit to match. Libby is a girl who can't resist helping other people. Avery and her sister get pulled out of school, and are told by a handsome boy that she is requested to be at the reading of the will of one of the richest people in the country. A billionaire that she has never met before left her his whole inheritance. The four grandsons of Tobias Hawthorne all have different outlooks on Avery. Jameson thinks that this is one last puzzle left by his grandfather. Grayson thinks that Avery is a scam artist hoping to steal the Hawthorne fortune. Nash, the oldest, doesn't care about the money, but is still interested in seeing what will happen. Xander is the youngest and the pet of the family. The rest of the family hates Avery for stealing their money. Tobias Hawthorne leaves letters to the four grandsons and Avery. Jameson and Avery are going to solve the puzzle, but they need every one of the brothers to help. Someone in the family wants to kill Avery, shown by the bullets fired at her and the car that someone drove straight at her. She has to adjust to life as one of the richest people in the country, and at the same time learn more about the people around her. She keeps hearing about a girl named Emily, and realizes that she died near the Hawthorne House. When Avery figures out that Emily dated both Grayson and Jameson at the same time, she starts to question her feelings for the two Hawthorne brothers.

Did the plot (for fiction) or presentation of information (for nonfiction) keep you interested?

The plot kept me interested because there always seemed to be a new piece of information. At the same time, whenever one question was answered, more questions seemed to come from that answer.

Was the pace of the book too fast, too slow, or just right?

The plot of the story was interesting, but it seemed to lag a bit at times. At other times, the plot could be going too fast to handle. For example, the part after Avery was almost shot was going pretty fast, and the people of the Hawthorne House weren't really shown with that much information.

What grade level(s) is this book appropriate for?

I think that this book would be appropriate for 5th graders and above because there was some minor violence and romance, but not much. It would also appeal to kids because there is a lot of action and puzzles.

What type of reader would you recommend this book to?

I would recommend this book to people that like mystery and puzzles. There are a lot of those things in the book, but not too much so that you feel really confused about what is happening.

What other information do you think would be helpful for teens to know about this book?

I think that another thing teens should know about this book is that there is still a moral to the story, even though it may not seem like it. The book is sort of telling you to find it yourself, and don't bring others into your problems if they don't want to be there.

Rating:

I would rate this book *4 stars out of 5* because there was a lot of fun and action, but the parts where the plot moved slow made the book feel longer than it was. It was boring when they talked about events that weren't actually relevant to what was happening in the book, but I still see how the things in the book gave way to other parts that were relevant to the plot. There was also an element of surprise when you expect one character to be that bad one of the story, but it's actually a different person. This book was good, so I hope that you will read it and recommend it to someone else!

Reviewer Name and Grade: Nolan J., 8th Grade

Date Reviewed: April 2, 2021

One of the first things you get told in *The Inheritance Games* is how the main character, Avery Grambs, has been playing games with her mother pretty much since she was born. However, when Avery's mom dies, she doesn't have anywhere to live except her older sister's home. Her older sister, Libby, lives in a house with her boyfriend, Drake, who abuses Libby because of her kind nature and being easy to manipulate. Avery is just trying to survive by living in her car, going to school, going to work at a diner, and then going back to her car to get ready for the next day. One day at school however, she gets called to the principal's office and then told that she needs to attend a hearing of a will for someone she never even heard of. The man whose will's hearing they are attending name is Tobias Hawthorne, and he has a net worth of over 46.2 billion dollars. Avery and Libby are quickly flown to Texas to attend the hearing, where they meet the rest of the Hawthorne family. They aren't very quick to welcome her, and are confused on why Avery was inheriting a part of Tobias Hawthorn's money. During the hearing, the family argues about how there must be a mistake because of how little they get, and then when Avery's share gets announced, all the people in the room are shocked. Tobias Hawthorn left a small share to his daughters, an even smaller share to his grandsons, and then left the remaining money, to Avery, and the sum made the shares he gave to his family look smaller tiny dent compared to what she inherited even though she was a random stranger. Because of this, Jameson, one of the grandsons, teams up with Avery to go on a treasure hunt set up by Tobias Hawthorne before he died, starting from only the fact that in the letter he wrote to all of them, his name, Tobias Tattersall Hawthorne was spaced out so that if you look at it from a microscope, his middle name looked like it was two words, "tatters all". Through this one clue, the hunt starts for reasons why Tobias Hawthorne gave everything to Avery, and the book leads you through a journey encompassing the entire Hawthorn House, from an entire forest to the secret passageways sprawling throughout the house.

Did the plot (for fiction) or presentation of information (for nonfiction) keep you interested?

The plot was interesting with many plot twists being in unexpected areas, and gave you a new breakthrough in the plot to keep you interested in what would happen next. There were also parts not directly related to the mystery, and it kept you guessing what would happen at the end and then changing it at the last moment.

Was the pace of the book too fast, too slow, or just right?

I thought the pace of the book was varied throughout the book, because in some places it went from one hint to another in a flash, and then it took time to expand the relationships between the characters in the story, slowing it down a bit.

What grade level(s) is this book appropriate for?

This book has a bit of romance, danger, and it often uses some iffy language, so this book would be appropriate for teenagers from grades 8-9.

What type of reader would you recommend this book to?

I would recommend this book to anyone who enjoys mystery and romance, but there is more mystery than romance.

What other information do you think would be helpful for teens to know about this book?

This book has some borderline swears, and there is also the use of guns in the plot.

I would rate this book *4 stars* because it felt like there were a lot of common ideas used in many hunt books that I felt like could of been more creative, such as the hidden passageways in the manor, or having the main characters be proficient at games and puzzles before they get sent into a world full of them, using their skills in puzzles to solve the problem at hand.

Reviewer Name and Grade: Karan S., 9th Grade

Date Reviewed: May 22, 2021

The Inheritance Games, a Mystery-Based book by Jennifer Lynn Barnes, is about Avery, an intelligent and kind student who lived with her sister, Libby and her boyfriend Drake, but eventually moved into her car for a significant amount of time. One day, when called into her school's office, she is welcomed by Grayson who notifies Avery about having to attend the presentation of his grandfather's will in Texas, Tobias Hawthorne, a person she hasn't met before. After the presentation, she realizes, while his daughter and grandsons are left with only a little money, she's left 48 million dollars as well as his possessions. The only condition is that she must reside in his house for one year without kicking any of his other children out. While residing in her new house, Avery starts school where the other children attend, however, she hears many horrifying rumors in school about the bad things which happened to the other people who lived in this house before her, such as the death of Emily. In addition, letters were left to the children by Tobias and there's believed to be clues hidden within the letters. Over time, many clues are found and solved by the children such as through the ink of the letters and miniscule engravings within aimless items, eventually leading to Avery resulting with the numbers of her birthday, as well as Emily's death. Avery learns why and how Emily had died.

Did the plot (for fiction) or presentation of information (for nonfiction) keep you interested?

Mystery books always have a way of keeping the reader intrigued and engrossed and this book was nothing less of that. The problems Avery as well as the others were presented with always kept me attentive for reading more and finding out what happened next. Overall, this book definitely kept me interested.

Was the pace of the book too fast, too slow, or just right?

For a mystery book, it's expected for the pace and speed in which the book progresses to be faster than the normal pace of any other book in order to keep up with the plot. Due to this, I believe the pace was just right for the type of book this is.

What type of reader would you recommend this book to?

I would recommend this book to a reader who enjoys mysteries, puzzles, and problem-solving for this book has lots of that.

What grade level is this book appropriate for?

This book is appropriate for those from grades 6 and up.

What other information do you think would be helpful for teens to know about this book?

Some other information to know about this book is that for some it might be considered as "gruesome" and it has a sequel in the chance you like this book and want to read more.

5 stars: I'm really glad I read this book; it was awesome!

I thoroughly enjoyed this book and consider it one of the better books I've read in my time. Not only did it keep me extremely interested, but it also provided brilliant and unexpected results later throughout the story. Through finding out about this book, I am glad I read it and found it to be a worthwhile read.

Reviewer Name and Grade: Jason L., 7th Grade

Date Reviewed: December 19, 2021

The Inheritance Games is a mystery book about a girl named Avery Kylie Grambs, an intelligent and sharp-witted girl who finds out that she has inherited billions of dollars from a total stranger. Taking place in the 21st century, Avery is a teenage girl who was barely scraping by until she was requested to be at the reading of the will of Texas billionaire Tobias Hawthorne. Something completely unexpected happens: The old man, whom Avery had never met, disinherits his family and leaves her almost his entire fortune. There is only one stipulation, and it is that Avery must live in Hawthorne House for a year without kicking the Hawthorne family out. Avery is thrust into a completely new life of being the richest teenager on the planet, and with this life comes all kinds of different problems. She must deal with the press, paparazzi, four charming Hawthorne grandsons, and angry family members determined to find out why they were disinherited for Avery. Jameson Hawthorne, one of the grandsons of the deceased billionaire, thinks that Avery was his grandfather's last puzzle to solve. Together, the two of them uncover clue after clue in Hawthorne House. However, Grayson Hawthorne, the "heir apparent" and Jameson's brother, believes that Avery is a con artist and is determined to expose her.

Avery's sister Libby moves into the gigantic mansion with Avery, and her ex-boyfriend soon poses a serious threat. After an assassination attempt, Avery's safety is no longer guaranteed. On top of that, she learns that both Jameson and Grayson have both dated a girl named Emily, and she finds out about the backstory that led to Emily's tragic death. Will she be able to push through and find the answer to the riddle, or will whoever is intent on getting rid of her succeed?

Did the plot (for fiction) or presentation of information (for nonfiction) keep you interested?

Yes, the plot of the book was very interesting as new clues from the puzzle kept being brought up, and they kept me on the edge of my seat wanting to know what would happen next. There were a lot of interesting plot twists, and the author did a good job of not focusing too much on the puzzle. Other minor subplots were included, and they were equally enjoyable to read.

Was the pace of the book too fast, too slow, or just right?

The pacing of the book was sometimes too fast, but at other times the story dragged along slowly, especially the parts about Avery and Jameson's developing relationship. Backstory was revealed a bit at a time and there were no dumps that spoiled the story. Some of it seemed a bit unrealistic because Avery and Jameson were able to figure out clues extremely quickly, but then again, mystery books move at a faster pace so I'd say the pacing was just right most of the time.

What grade level(s) is this book appropriate for?

This book is appropriate for grades 7 and above due to aspects of teen romance and mild profanity.

What type of reader would you recommend this book to?

I would recommend this book to readers that enjoy a good mystery, and people who like puzzle-solving. This book does a good job to make you think a lot.

What other information do you think would be helpful for teens to know about this book?

This story ends on a cliffhanger, as it is part of a trilogy. In addition, some aspects of violence appear in this book such as firearms and assassination attempts.

4 stars: I enjoyed this book and found it worthwhile reading.

I would rate *The Inheritance Games* 4 out of 5 stars. I extremely enjoyed the mystery part of it where the characters were solving puzzles, as it was enticing and always kept me thinking about what would happen next. Most of the subplots were interesting to read, although some were irrelevant and rather boring. The pacing was sometimes a bit off and dragged the story down, but overall this was a great read. I would definitely recommend you to read this book, and I hope you will enjoy it as much as I did!

Reviewer Name and Grade: Ashley L., 9th Grade

Date Reviewed: March 3, 2022

Avery Grambs (the protagonist) is living in Connecticut with her half-sister, Libby after her mom dies. One day, Avery is called down to the main office. There, lies Grayson Hawthorne. He informed Avery that her presence is required at the reading of his grandfather's will. Avery has never met his grandfather (Tobias Hawthorne) but, still, she is forced to board a private plane and travel to his mansion in Texas. There, Hawthorne's attorney reads the will and Avery soon realizes that Tobias left 48 billion dollars for her and only pennies for his daughters and grandsons. To inherit the money she must stay in his hellbound house for one year. Avery moves in and starts attending the fancy private school. There, she meets Thea, who warns her about the Hawthornes because the last girl, Emily who lived in the house was found dead. Avery ignores her advice and begins to look for clues with Jameson (Tobias's grandson) for why Tobias would leave nearly his whole fortune to someone he didn't know. Avery's life soon takes a turn for the worse when Libby's toxic boyfriend brings the press in and pressures Libby for money and people from school that she never knew to start to warm up to her. As Jameson and Avery get closer to the truth, they start falling for each other and an epic love triangle may appear with Avery, Grayson, and Jameson.

Main characters

Main protagonist and narrator: Avery Grambs was a broke teenager before she became a billionaire. She's brilliant, competitive, mature, and practical.

Tobias Hawthorn: A rich, wealthy philanthropist who named Avery as his heir. He is manipulative and smart.

Nash Hawthorn: The eldest grandson. He's very Southern and hires most of the servants and people who work at the mansion.

Grayson Hawthorne: The second eldest grandson. He is serious, reserved, and suspicious; he was supposed to be the apparent heir.

Jameson Hawthorn: The third eldest grandson. He is Avery's love interest and is a caring, flirty and mysterious character.

Xander Hawthorn: The youngest grandson. He is the smartest Hawthorne and very cheerful and playful.

Skye: Tobias's daughter and the mother of the Hawthorn grandsons. She's a more selfish, snarky, and wicked character.

Zara: Tobias's daughter and doesn't have kids; the grandson's aunt.

Did the plot (for fiction) or presentation of information (for nonfiction) keep you interested?

The plot kept me very interested.

Was the pace of the book too fast, too slow, or just right?

The pace was just right.

What grade level(s) is this book appropriate for? What type of reader would you recommend this book to?

This book is for Grades 7 and up. Fans of *One of Us is Lying*, *Knives Out*, and *The Liars* will love this book.

What other information do you think would be helpful for teens to know about this book?

I definitely recommend this book and I read it in one day.

4 stars: I enjoyed this book and found it worthwhile reading.

I finished this book and the whole series in three days. This book was actually so good and I really liked it. My favorite character was Jameson; he reminded me of Cardan Greenbriar from *The Cruel Prince* mixed with Rowan Whitethorn from *Throne of Glass*.