



# The Inheritance

By Tom Savage

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## The Inheritance By Tom Savage

“Welcome to Randall House.”

With these words, an ordinary young woman is ushered into a strange new world. Yesterday, she was Holly Smith, living a comfortable, middle class life in Southern California. Today, all that has changed. For Holly Smith is actually Holly Randall, born twenty-four years ago to a woman convicted of a heinous crime, and given up for adoption as an infant. Now, the mysterious death of a great aunt she never knew has made Holly one of the richest women in America—and heiress to a magnificent Connecticut estate.

In the beautiful mansion above Long Island Sound, they are waiting for her: Uncle John and his imperious wife, robbed of what they believe to be rightfully theirs; the odd, reclusive great uncle, lost in his faded scrapbooks and disturbing memories of dark family secrets; the troubled young woman who roams the estate, murmuring cryptic warnings; the handsome servants' son to whom Holly is dangerously attracted; and the silent teenage boy who watches Holly's every move. But who are her friends and who are her enemies?

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## **The Inheritance By Tom Savage Bibliography**

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## Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Savage has garnered plenty of praise for plotting and taut prose of previous thrillers, including *Valentine* (1996). He takes a different, less successful turn in this unabashedly old-fashioned gothic mystery?weighted with cliches, contrivance and coincidence?about a young woman who learns that she's the heiress to a fabulous, haunted fortune. Fullsome lines like "That snowy twentieth of December, the day of the next death" (offered as a sentence) may attempt to parody the gothic novel but in effect interrupt the flow of the complicated narrative. A dying old woman, Alicia Randall Wainwright, instructs a lawyer to track down the baby girl who was born in prison and given up for adoption after her actress mother shot and killed her husband, Alicia's nephew, James Randall. That's how Holly Smith of Indio, Calif., learns that she is really Holly Randall, owner of a vast estate in Connecticut and assorted extras adding up to a \$600 million fortune. There are, to be sure, a few small drawbacks: an uncle and aunt who want Holly dead badly enough to hire a Mafia hit man; an eccentric, chess-playing relative who hides in the attic; a young woman who roams the estate at night, burying and digging up a doll. Holly is perky and beautiful, so she seems equal to the task of being a Randall?especially as she has a few sly tricks up her own sleeve. Savage exhibits skillful craftsmanship here but doesn't seem to have his heart in it.

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From Kirkus Reviews

It purports to be a gothic novel, but any self-respecting gothic ought to generate a chill or two. This one doesn't. When we first meet incredibly beautiful Holly Smith a figure firmly rooted in romance fiction she's just discovered that she's not Holly Smith at all. She's Holly Randall. For reasons too complex to detail here, she was given away as a newborn to this nice California couple who raised her to be a proper middle-class girl with modest middle-class aspirations. Now, suddenly, she finds herself an heir to a great estate. Among a whole passel of worldly goods that she stands to inherit is the Randall manse, which, from a distance, looks ``perfectly innocent." But ``appearances are deceiving," we're told. Consider Catherine and John Randall on the surface splendid, at the core obligatorily rotten. These are the Randalls whom Holly is usurping. It will surprise no one that they hate her. They decide in an eyeblink that a hit man is their sole sensible recourse, then set about hiring one. Actually, the general population of Randall House loves to hate, and loves to act mysteriously. Who, for instance, is that cowed person prowling the premises at night? Who is the strange young woman obsessively burying a totemic baby? Around these and other enigmatic figures the plot twists, tirelessly. But where there's no spark of life, there's nothing to raise a goosebump. Pedestrian prose, stilted dialogue, wooden and/or overfamiliar characters. In his third time out (*Valentine*, 1994; *Precipice*, 1995, etc.), Savage takes a step back. -- Copyright ©1998, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.

About the Author

**Tom Savage** is the author of three previous thrillers, including **Precipice**, **Valentine**, and **The Inheritance** (all available from Signet). He lives in New York City, where he divides his time between writing and working at Murder Ink, the world's oldest mystery bookstore. He is at work on a new novel.

## Users Review

**From reader reviews:**

**Joy Hanson:**

In this 21st century, people become competitive in most way. By being competitive right now, people have do something to make these survives, being in the middle of the actual crowded place and notice simply by surrounding. One thing that oftentimes many people have underestimated this for a while is reading. Yep, by reading a publication your ability to survive increase then having chance to endure than other is high. In your case who want to start reading a new book, we give you this specific The Inheritance book as nice and daily reading publication. Why, because this book is usually more than just a book.

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