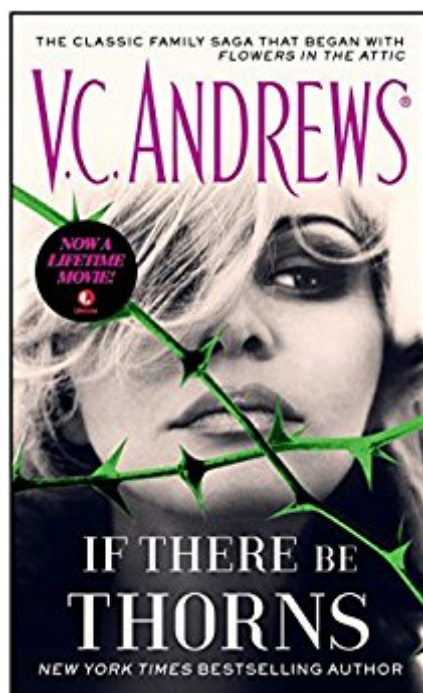


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# If There Be Thorns (Dollanganger Book 3)



## Synopsis

Now a major Lifetime movie eventâ Book Three of the Dollanganger series that began with *Flowers in the Attic*â the novel of forbidden love that captured the worldâs imagination and earned V.C. Andrews a fiercely devoted fanbase. They hide the shocking truth to protect their children. But someone who knows their dark secret is watching. Christopher and Cathy have made a loving home for their handsome and talented teenager Jory, their imaginative nine-year-old Bart, and a sweet baby daughter. Then an elderly woman and her strange butler move in next door. The Old Woman in Black watches from her window, lures lonely Bart inside with cookies and ice cream, and asks him to call her âgrandmother.â Slowly Bart transforms, each visit pushing him closer to the edge of madness and violence, while his anguished parents can only watch. For Cathy and Chris, the horrors of the past have come homeâ and everything they love may soon be torn from them.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The greatest lovers in the history of literature are back. When we last left Cathy and Chris they were living happily ever after in their dream house in rural California with their two sons Jory 14, and Bart 10. They also have a new adopted infant daughter Cindy. Their cover story is that Chris was the

much younger brother of Cathy's late husband Dr. Paul, hence their last name is Sheffield. But since this is VC Andrews there are troubles in paradise. Bart is a sadistic psycho who hates everyone and tortures animals. His behavior can only be attributed to mental illness since Cathy and Chris have provided a ridiculously sweet childhood for him. To make things worse, the surviving Foxworths, John and Corrine are back and the Sheffields' new next door neighbors. They entice Bart and Jory over to their house with gifts all the time corrupting them with Cathy and Chris's dark past and with tales of how noble the late Malcolm was for punishing "devil's issue" whom commit incest. When Bart begins attacking his parents calling them "Devil's issue," they realize it's time to pay their new neighbors a visit. The flaws: The key problem with 'ITBT' is that it pales in comparison to the other Dollanganger books. While those books brought us to tears that just wouldn't stop and caused me to miss weeks of sleep, (literally) 'ITBT' comes off more like a made for TV sequel with a thin plot existing only as an excuse to bring back the greatest lovers in the history of literature Cathy and Chris who fans can't get enough of. If Cathy and Chris went to an insurance seminar it would still be interesting. The other major flaw is the villain Bart.

THIS book was written. Dear lord I can't believe I wasted the time to read it again. There were so, SO many things wrong with this book that it made it quite laughable to read. Bart. What a psychotic little child he was! From the beginning you can tell that he had emotional issues. I completely understand children playing pretend (or at least they used to before the age of electronics took over) but he took it to a whole new level. His obsession with death and dying was a bit concerning as well. I personally can't attribute it to going to pay respects to the graves of Cathy and Chris' brother and sister or "going to see the witch ole' lady in black". This kid was seriously messed up in the head. The way he was fascinated with killing things (like the caterpillar he killed when he was sitting in the tree and the spider Jory caught him tearing the legs off of before he squished it). The way he was treated by his parents was appalling as well. Sure he was a clumsy kid because his nerves didn't reach his skin but there is no reason to get so mad at him for knocking things over like they did. I think they're partly to blame for his crazy. It was clear from the beginning that Jory was the one who was loved the most because he could dance and then when they adopted Cindy (seriously? ANOTHER freaking person in the book with a name that begins with the letter "C"?) she was the one that they all doted on. In a way I could understand the introvert that Bart was but the crazy was taking it a bit too far. Another thing about the parents is they just didn't CARE about him, or at least that's how I felt. He would go off for hours at a time, coming back well after dark and when asked where he was and what he was doing his answer was "Nothin' and nowhere".

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