

# Something Wicked

this way comes... *Holiday Issue*



**December - The whole month-long Nutcracker game.** Toss a bag, knock down the cans and win a prize. Also a duck game.

## December 1 - 22

**Count the Nutcrackers.** We'll have a bunch of them scattered throughout the shop. Can you guess how many there are and submit the winning entry?

## December 1...

**Crunch of the Nutcracker** Story debut (first come, first serve) on free copies and nutcracker launch.

## December 12...

**Author Zoom Event** - "Stalking Stuffer Stories" Join authors R G Belsky, Don Helin and Wendy Tyson as they discuss their latest mystery novels. Author Dennis Royer will moderate this panel.

## December 18...

**Short Stories (Anthologies) Sale.** In honor of the shortest day of the year, why not enjoy a short story or two? One of the best short story collections is edited by Otto Penzler of The Mysterious Bookshop in New York City. It's a best-seller in our shop. So, if you've already read that one, we have others available. **This is an in-shop sale only - 15% off.**

## December 21...

**Short Stories (Anthologies) Sale.** *This actually is the shortest day of the year.* **This is an on-line sale only - 15% off.**  
Go to:

[www.MysteryBooksOnline.com](http://www.MysteryBooksOnline.com)



Join us for our lead-up to a **Killer Nutcracker Christmas!** Then join us during the month of December. See the details at left.

Extended Black Friday & Small Business Saturday!

Nov. 26 - Dec. 11

Sales on several mystery series will be in effect for these two days. Various books in "The Lady of Ashes" series will be on sale, as well as, the "Florence Nightingale" series by Christine Trent. Catherine Bruns's "Italian Chef" series will be buy 2 in the series and get the 1 free. Her "Cookies and Chance" series will be buy 3 and get 1 free. And, that's not all! Below is a coupon that can be used on other books in the shop on Black Friday and/or on Small Business Saturday.

### Extended...

**Black Friday & Small Business Saturday**

**This coupon is good for...**

**1 Free Used Book and**

**15% off all items**

**at Mechanicsburg Mystery Bookshop between  
November 26 & December 11, 2021**

Please present this coupon to the cashier upon purchase.  
**In-store only. Cannot be used on clearance items. Total purchase discount cannot be combined with Buy and Get Free deals.**



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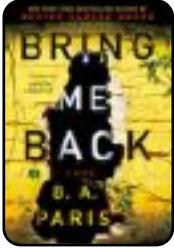
## Book Reviews

These books are available for sale on our website or by stopping in at the shop.

### Bring Me Back

by B. A. Paris

Type: Psychological Suspense - \$17.99



Twelve years ago, Finn and Layla were driving back home to England, from skiing in Megève, and pulled off at a picnic area on the side of the road. It was around 1:30 in the morning, and Finn had to use the toilet. He told Layla to keep the doors locked because he knew she was scared of the dark and didn't feel right about leaving her there alone. Walking into the bathroom, Finn passes a man walking out and moments later, hears a car drive off and a truck pulling hastily out of the parking lot. It wasn't long before the silhouette of his car was outlined against the dark on his way back, and he approaches closer to see that Layla isn't in the car. After waiting a spell to see if she had used the toilet, despite saying earlier that she wouldn't, his mind starts to panic. The love of his life has just disappeared...

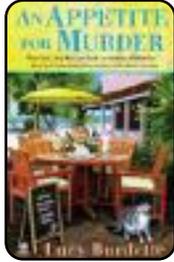
At least, that is the version that the French police know about. The version that Finn sold them. A version that, whilst holding faint traces of truth, is not what really happened. Now it's the present and the Simonsbridge's local paper has announced the engagement of Finn and Ellen, Layla's older sister. Everything is great. He manages stock trading from his home office, located outside in his garden, while Ellen works on her illustrations from her home studio. Finn has just landed a major investment for his best friend, Harry, and everything seems to be working out after years of depression and melancholy over what had happened. Brought together by Layla's memorial service held four years prior, Ellen moved in about a year ago and couldn't be happier with her life. That is until a small Russian doll shows up on the outside wall of their house.

As more of the same small Russian nested dolls start appearing, partnered with emails from an unknown source, Finn finds himself in a losing battle with the past and memories he thought he had buried long

### An Appetite for Murder - Key West Food Critic 1

by Lucy Burdette

Type: Cozy - \$7.99



Hayley Snow's life always revolved around food. But when she applies to be a food critic for a Key West style magazine, she discovers that her new boss would be Kristen Faulkner—the woman Hayley caught in bed with her boyfriend! Hayley thinks things are as bad as they can get—until the police pull her in as a suspect in Kristen's murder. Kristen was killed by a poisoned key lime pie. Now Hayley must find out who used meringue to murder before she takes all the blame.

*An Appetite For Murder* is truly delightful. This enjoyable read captured and held my attention from page one. Ditzzy Haley is a very likable character. She manages to always do the wrong thing but still gets results. She strives to find the real killer to save herself from prison since she appears to be the prime suspect. Because of Haley's escapades, you will find a lot of action-packed and sometimes life threatening scenes.

I was surprised to find out the true murderer. Plus, if you are looking for new recipes, you will find some at the end of the book. Sign me up to read *Death In Four Courses*, the next book in this wonderful series.

...Reviewed by Marcia

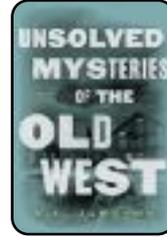
ago. Is Layla back? Could she be the one taunting him? What could she possibly want after all these years, if it is her? Only a few people know of the significance behind the dolls, leading Finn to start questioning everything he thought he knew. "And as always, not knowing is worse than knowing," or is it?

I thoroughly enjoyed this book and found it extremely hard to put down. The novel leads you through two parallel stories in Part I, what happened in the past and Finn's current life with Ellen. Part II shifts the viewpoint slightly as it flips between the

### Unsolved Mysteries of the Old West

by W. C. Jameson

Type: True Crime - \$16.95



Two subjects continue to fascinate people—the Old West and a good mystery. This book explores and examines 21 of the Old West's most baffling mysteries, which lure the curious and beg for investigation even though their solutions have eluded experts for decades. Many relate to the death or disappearance of some of the best-known lawmen and outlaws in history, such as Billy the Kid, Buckskin Frank Leslie, John Wilkes Booth, The Catalina Kid, Butch Cassidy, Pancho Villa's missing head. Others involve mysterious tales and legends of lost mines and buried treasures that have not been recovered-yet.

Did Pat Garrett really kill Billy the Kid? Who shot Pat Garrett? Did Butch Cassidy really die in South America or did he return to the U.S.? Is there still gold buried at Victorio Peak or did the U. S. government take it?

These are a few of the 22 mysteries explored by the author. Some information was obtained from family members, witnesses, and law enforcement officials. Anyone who likes Old West history with some added mystery will enjoy this book.

We may never know the truth about these stories, but that's probably why we love reading and hearing them.

...Reviewed by Sandy

unknown emailer and Finn, ultimately taking the reader to a shocking final Part III where we are watching everything unfold from Finn's perspective. This beautifully designed plot is enhanced with well-developed characters that feel real, woven into a story that is utterly bizarre but creepily plausible. Swear words are used appropriately, there is no gory violence being described, and limited sexual content. Overall, an absorbing read that thrilled me to the end.

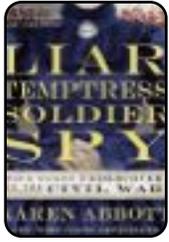
...Reviewed by Sarah

## Book Reviews • continued

### **Liar, Temptress, Soldier, Spy**

by **Karen Abbott**

Type: **Non-Fiction / Espionage - \$16.99**



After shooting a Union soldier in her front hall with a pocket pistol, Belle Boyd became a courier and spy for the Confederate army, using her charms to seduce men on both sides. Emma Edmonds

cut off her hair and assumed the identity of a man to enlist as a Union private, witnessing the bloodiest battles of the Civil War. The beautiful widow, Rose O'Neale Greenhow, engaged in affairs with powerful Northern politicians to gather intelligence for the Confederacy, and used her young daughter to send information to Southern generals. Elizabeth Van Lew, a wealthy Richmond abolitionist, hid behind her proper Southern manners as she orchestrated a far-reaching espionage ring, right under the noses of suspicious rebel detectives. Using a wealth of primary source material and interviews with the spies' descendants, Abbott weaves the adventures of these four heroines throughout the tumultuous years of the war. With a cast of real-life characters including Walt Whitman, Nathaniel Hawthorne, General Stonewall Jackson, detective Allan Pinkerton, and Emperor Napoleon III, *Liar, Temptress, Soldier, Spy* draws you into the war as these daring women lived it.

I have read or heard about all four of these women previously but never with all the detail in this book. It's a fast reading account of the lives of these brave, but perhaps, unusual women. Anyone who is interested in the American Civil War would enjoy their stories. There are photographs and maps included. And, the reader will be familiar with many other characters such as: Abraham Lincoln, Jefferson Davis, Robert E. Lee, U. S. Grant and more.

Many of the well-known political leaders and generals of both North and South knew these ladies and of their exploits.

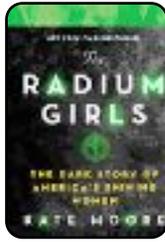
This is a well-researched, interesting book that provides useful information about the Union and the Confederacy. Not only does it tell the stories of these women but it gives some background to the battles and other characters.

...Reviewed by Sandy

### **The Radium Girls**

by **Kate Moore**

Type: **Non-Fiction/History- \$17.99**



In the dark years of the First World War, radium makes gleaming headlines across the nation as the fresh face of beauty, and wonder drug of the medical community. From body lotion to tonic water, the popular new element shines bright. Meanwhile, hundreds of girls toil amidst the glowing dust of the radium-dial factories.

As the women start to speak out on the corruption, the factories that once offered golden opportunities ignore all claims of the gruesome side effects. And as the fatal poison of the radium takes hold, the brave shining girls find themselves in one of the biggest scandals of America's early 20th century, and in a groundbreaking battle for workers' rights that will echo for centuries to come. A timely story of corporate greed and the brave figures that stood up to fight for their lives, these women and their voices will shine for years to come.

This book is a sad, moving story about the young women who get good (?) jobs painting luminous dials on watches and clocks in the early twentieth century. These jobs paid well for those who got good at it.

Tiny numbers on small watches required a very small pointed brush. The girls were trained to put their brushes into their mouths to make them very fine and pointed to paint the dials without smearing paint all over the dials. They were repeatedly told that this was entirely safe. But, in fact, the paint was made of radium. Women would leave their jobs every day "glowing" and since they were told it was safe (even healthy) they would sprinkle extra paint dust from the waste on their bodies and hair. And, never worry about how much paint they ingested while working. Lip...Dip...Paint.

Many of these girls and young women began having problems.. Their teeth were falling out and they started having body pains. No dentists or doctors knew how to treat them. No one knew anything about radium poisoning.

The author goes on to relate the heart breaking story of the health issues and the legal battles these poor, but brave, women encountered. Research from their bodies still affects us today. For them, it was a long, horrible struggle fighting "big business."

### **Diver's Paradise - Roscoe Conklin 1**

by **David Goodwin**

Type: **Police Procedural - \$16.00**



Former Rockford, IL detective Roscoe ("R" to his friends) Cocklin has retired to the beautiful Caribbean Island of Bonaire. He owns a modest resort hotel which he tries to avoid running by spending most of his time SCUBA diving and fishing. When an old friend comes to visit and brings along her boyfriend, no one expects a murder, let alone more than one murder. Cocklin meets resistance from the local Dutch constabulary but is compelled to be involved in the investigation and is even suspected of the crimes.

Author Davin Goodwin has crafted an excellent first in series mystery. His writing shows a good knowledge of SCUBA diving and flying and doubles as a travel brochure for beautiful Bonaire. He promises a follow-up novel which I will look forward to reading.

...Reviewed by Jay

On Dashiell Hammet

He's so hard-boiled you  
could roll him on the  
White House lawn.

...Dorothy Parker

There are photos of some of the women, their bosses, families and lawyers. This book had me in tears but, these courageous women finally got some justice. Today, many of our labor laws came about because of them.

I salute these women!

...Reviewed by Sandy

**Stabbing in the Senate - Washington Whodunit 1**

by *Colleen J. Shogan*  
Type: Cozy - \$13.95



Kit Marshall, a staffer in D.C. for a popular senator, lives with an adoring beagle and a brainy boy-friend with a trust fund. One morning, Kit arrives at the office early and finds her boss, Senator Langsford, impaled by a stainless steel replica of an Army attack helicopter. Panicked, she pulls the weapon out of his chest and instantly becomes the prime suspect in his murder. Circumstances back Kit's claim of innocence, but her photograph has gone viral, and the heat won't be off until the killer is found. Well-loved though the senator was, suspects abound. Langsford had begun to vote with his conscience, which meant he was often at odds with his party.

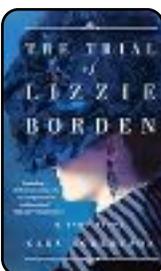
Not only had the senator decided to quash the ambitions of a military contractor, his likely successor is a congressman he trounced in the last election. Then there's the dry-eyed Widow Langsford. Kit's tabloid infamy horrifies her boyfriend's upper-crust family, and it could destroy her career. However, she and her free-spirited friend Meg have a more pressing reason to play sleuth. The police are clueless in more ways than one, and Kit worries that the next task on the killer's agenda will be to end her life.

*Stabbing in the Senate* is a fantastic whodunit that captures your attention from the beginning. Shogan gives insight to the happenings and dealings that could happen behind the scenes in senators' or congressmen's offices in today's world. Political views are motivations for all the different suspects. The characters are developed well for her first book in the series, allowing you to see what each one could gain by the senator's death. This is action-packed and suspenseful with a surprise ending. I was happy to see that political viewpoints weren't accentuated, with the emphasis instead on the internal workings of the offices. This is a series I will definitely follow. *Homicide in the House* is the second book in the series.

...Reviewed by Anonymous

**The Trial of Lizzie Borden**

by *Cara Robertson*  
Type: True Crime - \$18.00



On August 4, 1892, Abby and Andrew Borden were hacked to death in their Fall River, Massachusetts home. This case became one of America's most famous unsolved crimes.

With lots of illustrations and photos, this book chronicles the Bordens' family life, the murders, the arrest, trial and all of the characters involved.

Included is new information from newspaper accounts, trial records, some of Lizzie's correspondence, and some of the lawyer's private papers...some of which have never been released.

This case was based entirely on circumstantial evidence as there were no witnesses. And, of course, there were no CSIs in those days!

The judge certainly influenced the all-male jury's decision while instructing them before deliberation.

Now, 130 years later, we still don't know who murdered Abby and Andrew Borden.

Perhaps one day information from George Robinson, Lizzie's defense lawyer, will be released to the public. Does it hold the answers?

...Reviewed by Sandy

**Deadly Mystery of the Missing Diamonds - Dizzy Heights 1**

by *T. G. Kinsey*  
Type: Cozy - \$15.95



Jazz is the choice of music in London during the twenties. The Dizzy Heights Band plays a key role. Two band members "Skins" Maloney and Barty Dunn are asked by Superintendent Sunderland to keep an eye on new members. These members belong to the Aristippus Club – known as Topsy Harry. The band is playing at the Club to help the "alphabet gang" with their dancing. The "alphabet gang" is preparing for a dance contest.

Two members of the group are Charlie and Millie. Millie is the dance teacher. During one of the sessions a band member, Blanche, is killed.

**Mrs. Claus and the Santaland Slayings - Mrs. Claus 1**

by *Liz Ireland*  
Type: Cozy - \$15.95



Love is full of surprises—though few compare to realizing that you're marrying the real-life Santa. April Claus dearly loves her new husband, Nick, but adjusting to life in the North Pole is not all sugarplums and candy canes. Especially when a cantankerous elf named Giblet Hollyberry is killed—felled by a black widow spider in his stocking--shortly after publicly arguing with Nick.

Christmastown is hardly a hotbed of crime, aside from mishaps caused by too much eggnog, but April disagrees with Constable Crinkle's verdict of accidental death. As April sets out to find the culprit, it'll mean putting the future of Christmas on the line—and hoping her own name isn't on a lethal naughty list...

*Mrs. Claus and the Santaland Slayings* is a fun, whimsical read. Ireland does a wonderful job setting the scene at the North Pole. This light-hearted read calls to mind the North Pole you imagine as a child. Snowmen are alive, reindeer can talk, and, of course, Santa is in charge of Christmas with the elves as his employees.

Unfortunately, there also has a touch of the real world. Murders are being committed. You have a good chance of figuring out the murderer since the suspect list has only a few names. Even so, this book is full of excitement with the ending being very suspenseful. I'm curious to see what will happen in the next book of the series, *Mrs. Claus and the Halloween Homicide*.

...Reviewed by Marcia

This adds to the plot and makes it harder for the band members.

Skin's wife, Ellie, lends a hand in snooping and finds there is a plot to steal the Club's treasury. As the dance contest approaches, the trio (Skins, Elie and Dunn) must solve the missing diamonds mystery and murder.

The book is an entertaining read. It keeps the reader engaged as the mysterious events unfold.

...Reviewed by Bernie

## Book Reviews • continued

### The Coffee House Sleuths - Christmas Cozy 1

by T. Lockhaven

Type: Cozy - \$9.99



The Coffee House Sleuths is a new mystery series set in a small seaside town called Lana Cove. Lana Cove had the same Santa for decades until a young punk with a fake beard moved into town and took over all the big Santa jobs. George, the original Santa, wasn't give a reason for being dismissed and replaced so precipitously.

When Michael, Ellie and Olivia heard George's sad tale, they decided to investigate. This neighborly action didn't work out well for George because someone offed the peppermint punk and the cops looked at George.

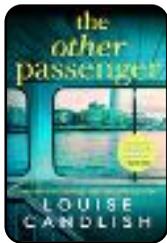
Sleighed is a fast-paced novella with holiday appropriate humor and likeable characters. I liked the book and think others will enjoy it, too.

...Reviewed by Anonymous

### The Other Passenger

by Louise Candlish

Type: Thriller - \$17.00



It all happens so quickly. One day you're living the dream, commuting to work by ferry with your charismatic neighbor Kit in the seat beside you. The next, Kit hasn't turned up for the boat and his wife, Melia, has reported him missing. When you get off at your stop, the police are waiting. Another passenger saw you and Kit arguing on the boat home the night before and the police say that you had a reason to want him dead. You protest. You and Kit are friends—ask Melia, she'll vouch for you. And who exactly is this other passenger pointing the finger? What do they know about your lives? No, whatever danger followed you home last night, you are innocent, totally innocent.

*The Other Passenger* is set in ultra-chic, contemporary London. As a world capital, London is filled with famous museums, the trendiest shops, world-class theater and music venues but it also has a downside. Though there are plenty of luxury flats and elegant

### Crimson Snow - British Library Crime Classics

edited by Martin Edwards

Type: Historical/Traditional - \$14.99



Life isn't the only thing that's like a box of chocolates. The flavors on offer in *Crimson Snow* are sweet and sad and humorous and chillingly cold blooded. *Crimson Snow* contains a classic country house murder, a Christmas ghost story, a couple of just-for-fun short, short stories and one touching but deadly murder. The stories are all different lengths so the reader can match the story they read by the amount of time available.

If you have already read *Crimson Snow*, the British Library Crime Classics has published a new Christmas collection this year *A Surprise for Christmas*. There are also two collections from previous years – *Silent Nights* published in 2015 and *The Christmas Card Crime* published in 2018.

...Reviewed by Anonymous

Georgian townhouses for Russian oligarchs, Arab oil sheiks and dot.com billionaires, the people who work as clerks and baristas have great difficulty finding a single room they can afford.

Readers will recognize the characters in *The Other Passenger* as noir stand-bys. Janice is the under-achieving male narrator. Clare, his wife, is a classy broad. Young Melia is the femme fatale in the story and Kit, her husband, is the unreliable friend who disappears. These people live in a world indifferent to their needs and unforgiving of their weaknesses. But their story is full of surprises and will keep you turning the pages.

The book is an entertaining read. It keeps the reader engaged as the mysterious events unfold.

...Reviewed by Anonymous

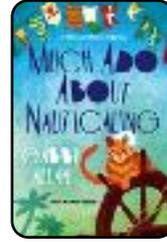
Note: One of CrimeReads's Most Anticipated Crime Books of 2021.

Longlisted for the Theakston Old Peculier 2021 Crime Novel of the Year

### Much Ado About Nauticaling - Whit and Whiskers 1

by Gabby Allan

Type: Rom-Cozy\* - \$15.95



On a small island, located roughly twenty miles off the shore of California, Whitney Dagner runs a glass bottom boat touring business with her brother, Nick. Due to the island's small size, very few regular cars are found traveling the streets so most of the residents drive autoettes to get from one place to another (aka golf carts). The day starts out normal as Whit arrives late for work, does three well planned tours scheduled for the day and finishes tidying up the boat with the help of her brother. But when "The Person of the Year" floats under their glass bottom boat, the Sea Bounder, her brother becomes the prime suspect for the police when his alibi turns out to be false.

As she begins down the path to clear his name, Whit discovers some of her brother's secrets that cast doubts in her mind that he didn't commit the crime. But her best friend, Maribel, and ex-boyfriend, Felix, help her keep hope as the novel progresses and more truths come to light. More women from the deceased's life emerge with possible motives and we all know about a woman's scorn. Could it be one of the ladies, or a man who believes that the deceased ruined his life many years ago? Sometimes the past will not stay behind you.

The style of writing is enough proof that this author dove all in with the theme of this novel. She describes the island life very well and establishes a pleasing image in the reader's mind of Santa Catalina. This book is the first in a new series, so her fans can look forward to another installment entitled, *Something Fishy This Way Comes*.

...Reviewed by Anonymous

Note: This is a new "category" established by Kensington Publishing...a romantic cozy.

## Book Reviews • continued

### **The Lincoln Deception - Fraser & Cook 1**

by David O. Stewart

Type: Alternative History - \$15.99



Warning: This book will most likely lead to hand cramping and sleep deprivation due to its addictive nature and inability to be put down.

The year is 1900, and it has been thirty-five years since one of America's most beloved

Presidents, Abraham Lincoln, was shot and killed by actor John Wilkes Booth. Most of the country has been led to believe that this Confederate loyalist acted alone in the assassination, but when Dr. Fraser hears the dying words of the man who prosecuted the case, his curiosity is hooked and he decides to dig deeper into the matter.

Along the way of his amateur sleuthing, he acquires the useful assistance and a unique friendship of a man named Speed Cook, a black baseball player that was shoved out of the major leagues and is looking to start a colored newspaper. These two people, very different in many aspects of their lives, forge an unlikely alliance in an attempt to quench their thirst for the truth, resulting in a gamble with their very lives as they threaten to expose decades old secrets that some people would deem best forgotten. Their journey takes them from Ohio to Indiana, New York, Baltimore, and Washington D.C. as they make their way in trying to solve the greatest mystery of 19th century America.

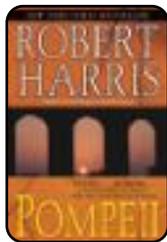
With a plot that is as wonderfully complex as life itself, the conspiracies surrounding President Lincoln's Assassination come to life in an inspired masterpiece of intertwined events being viewed through the perspectives of two relatable characters. Personally, I found this book to be humorous and thoroughly delightful to read. Strong language is not overly utilized and the storyline follows along more of the basis for a classic mystery. Throughout the course of this novel, there are multitudes of people that come into the frame and there are various events happening simultaneously, so I would caution that there is a lot to follow as you ride beside them on their adventure while they try to decipher who the puppet master was behind the dastardly crime that went down in history.

...Reviewed by Sarah

### **Pompeii**

by Robert Harris

Type: Historical Thriller - \$17.00



All along the Mediterranean coast, the Roman empire's richest citizens are relaxing in their luxurious villas, enjoying the last days of summer. The world's largest navy lies peacefully at anchor in Misenum. The

tourists are spending their money in the seaside resorts of Baiae, Herculaneum, and Pompeii.

But the carefree lifestyle and gorgeous weather belie an impending cataclysm, and only one man is worried.

When Exomnius, the acquirus for the Augusta aqueduct, disappeared seemingly into thin air, Rome sent one of its brightest young men to take over. His name was Marcus Attilius Primas and he was the scion of a noted family of civil engineers. Though his job was to keep the water flowing to the nine towns around the Bay of Naples, Attilius couldn't resist solving the mystery of what happened to his predecessor.

While Attilius is going about his business the reader gets a fascinating view of Roman society from the opulent seaside villas to ratty hole-in-the-wall warehouses. Rome's system of slavery, which allowed owners to execute slaves for their entertainment, also allowed ex-slaves to become wealthy and politically powerful.

When the imminent eruption of Vesuvius causes the aqueduct to fail, Attilius meets with Pliny the Elder to request his aid in the use of a ship. Since he is the admiral of the Roman fleet at Misenum, Pliny grants him a ship, a crew and building materials. This also gives the author, Robert Harris, the chance of drawing a portrait of one of the most eminent Romans of all time, Gaius Plinius Secundus, also known as Pliny the Elder. Pliny goes to his death because he can't resist the chance to record the eruption of Vesuvius.

This is a great read. It has lots of action and suspense. I found myself saying "No, Attilius, no! Don't climb the volcano today!" But he did and lived to tell the tale.

...Reviewed by Anonymous

### **Wicked Yarn - Craft Fair Knitters 1**

by Emmie Caldwell

Type: Cozy - \$7.99



Mother's Day should be a cinch for the good folks of the Crandalsburg Craft Fair, and knitting enthusiast Lia Geiger has a good feeling about this year's yield. But things quickly get knotty when Lia's daughter announces she's quit her job and Lia finds herself tangled up

in the murder of her best friend's ex-husband. While Belinda's alibi quickly gets her off the hook, nasty rumors spread throughout Crandalsburg that shroud the entire fair in suspicion.

Could the vendors be responsible for the murder of a man hell-bent on unraveling the fair just days before his death? Lia and her crafty group of Ninth Street Knitters must put down their needles to gather clues and save the crafty community they've grown to love.

*A Wicked Yarn* is an enjoyable read taking place in today's world. It was neat to read a mystery referring to Pennsylvania locations. It made it homey because of being set close to where I live. The characters are well developed so it gives you the sense that you know them and can anticipate their reactions to events. There are a number of suspects that keep you guessing. After getting to know the characters it's hard to think they would actually commit murder even with the motives in evidence. There is an exciting and suspenseful ending revealing a motive that was not obvious. I was surprised to see who the murderer is. I look forward to reading the next book, *Stitched in Crime*.

...Reviewed by Marcia

"I know there are people who believe that you should forgive and forget. For the record, I'd like to say I'm a big fan of forgiveness as long as I'm given the opportunity to get even first."

Sue Grafton, *V is for Vengeance*

## Book Reviews • continued

**The Secret Life of Miss Mary Bennet - Secret Life of Miss Mary Bennet 1**  
*by Katherine Cowley*  
**Type: Historical Mystery - \$17.99**



*In Jane Austen's revered Pride and Prejudice, Mary, the middle sister, is often passed over. Until now...*

Upon the death of her father, Mary Bennet's life is thrown into turmoil. With no fortune or marriage prospects, Mary must rely on the kindness

of her relatives.

But even as she arrives at the castle, she's faced with one mystery after another. Who is Lady Trafford really and what is she hiding? Do her secrets and manipulations place the small seaside community at risk of an invasion by Napoleon Bonaparte? Always curious, Mary sets out to discover the truth. But when she discovers the dead body of a would-be thief she outed prior to her father's funeral, Mary jeopardizes her position at the castle and her family's good name in her quest for the truth.

The author in this new series, brings Miss Mary Bennet from *Price and Prejudice* to life. After Mary Bennet's father's death, Lady Trafford arrives at the Bennet home. She is an unknown relative that takes an interest in Mary. Lady Trafford offers Mary an extended stay and educational opportunity. Mary accepts the offer.

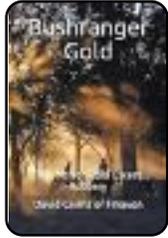
Upon her arrival at Castle Darrington, she observes and experiences a series of mysterious and strange events. Mary is now puzzled and uses her observation skills to investigate these happenings. She finds out that Lady Trafford and nephew are involved in spy activities. They are working on different aspects of spying during the Napoleonic war with England.

Mary's observation skills bring her into this world. After a series of twists and turns in the book's plot, Mary finds herself at a decision point. Lady Trafford invites Mary to join the group. She accepts and is now launched into the spy game leading to a number of adventures.

Stay tuned for the next in the series.

*...Reviewed by Bernie*

**Bushranger Gold - McIvor Gold Escort Robbery 1**  
*by David Cairns*  
**Type: Action / Adventure - \$11.99**



Mid-19th century Australia has many tales of daring bushrangers, or highwaymen, such as the famous Ned Kelly. This true crime novelization is set in 1853 and concerns less well known persons.

The author begins by giving a detailed history of the main players and explaining their entry into lives of crime, then bringing each individual's story up to the point in time that they band together to form a crime syndicate.

They planned to steal a large shipment of gold, transported from the remote gold fields by horse cart and accompanied by six armed guards, without firing a shot.. Most of their plans went awry, but they still managed to steal several thousand pounds worth of gold.

The police were anxious to make a quick arrest in order to deter other gold escort robberies and had 400 men out searching for the bushrangers.

The author conveys a true sense of the time and the rugged Australian people in this tale of crime and adventure.

*...Reviewed by Jay*

**Murder and the Heir - Violet Carlyle 1**  
*by Beth Byers*  
**Type: Cozy- \$11.99**



**Christmas 1922.**

It's Christmas time. Aunt Agatha invites her niece Violet and nephew Victor, as well as, family members and friends. Among the invited are several cousins that spent summers with Aunt Agatha.

Violet is shocked when Aunt Aggie reveals someone is trying to kill her. The story reveals cousins and an uncle have good reason to kill Aunt Aggie. Finally, someone does her in.

Now Violet and Victor are not only suspects, but they must catch the killer. The reading of the will gives a clearer picture of who killed Aunt Aggie. Violet tracks down her cousins and uncle to check their alibis. The discoveries help to entertain and keep the reader's interest.

There are other books written by this author that may peak the reader's curiosity.

*...Reviewed by Bernie*

### Shop Hours

Wednesday and Thursday	12:30 pm til 6:00 pm
Friday	12:30 pm til 5:30 pm
Saturday	12:00 pm til 5:30 pm
Sunday through Tuesday	Closed except for special events

Please note that, in addition to the hours above, we have the following changes:

- December 11 - Open from 3:00 pm until 6:00 pm
- December 24 - Open from 12:00 pm until 3:00 pm
- December 25 - Closed
- December 31 - Open from 12:00 pm until 3:00 pm
- January 1 through 14 - Closed for inventory.



# From everyone at Mechanicsburg Mystery Bookshop

## Happy Holidays!

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DEDUCTION  
DEERSTALKER  
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NUTCRACKER  
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PUZZLE  
SLAY  
SLEUTH  
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WHODUNIT  
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