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Josie Belle (Pseudonym), Jenn McKinlay

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By Jenn McKinlay, author of the Library Lover's mysteries and the Cupcake Bakery mysteries, writing as Josie Belle

Maggie Gerber and those discount divas, the Good Buy Girls, are gearing up for their first big holiday thrift shop sale. But one of the Girls—Joanne Claramotta, pregnant with her first child—is acting less than festive. It could be hormones. Or it could be Diane Jenkins, the young knockout her husband, Michael, hired as his new deli assistant.

Calming Joanne's nerves proves impossible when Maggie finds Michael unconscious on his deli floor—and with Diane next to him, strangled to death with her apron strings. Then Maggie discovers something even more disturbing.

There's no record of Diane having been hired. In fact, she has no history at all. It's as if she never even existed. Now Maggie fears that unwrapping Michael's secrets could really kill her holiday spirit.

INCLUDES BARGAIN-HUNTING TIPS!

Buried in Bargains Details

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From Reader Review Buried in Bargains for online ebook

Fred says

Buried In Bargains is the third book in the A Good Buy Girls Mystery series. I think it is the best yet.

The holidays are getting near and things are busy for Maggie at home and at her shop, My Sister's Closet.

Everyone is also busy getting ready for the Holiday Ball to be held at Bianca's fashionable home. Joanne, one of the Good Buy Girls, is in the early term of her pregnancy and is feeling jealous of the new girl that her husband Michael has hired at their deli. When Maggie overhears a private conversation between Michael and the girl, Maggie begins to wonder if something is going on. The next day Maggie goes to the deli to order additional food for holidays and finds the young lady has been strangled and Michael lying in a pool of blood from a head injury.

So it's time for the Good Buy Girls to put their heads together and to make sure the police don't continue to look at Joanne and Michael as the murderer.

All the characters we have learned to love and hate are back. Summer is back to reek havoc on Maggie's sanity. Also Britney's obnoxious self is back.

Also Laura, Maggie's daughter, is home from school and is a joy for Maggie to have help out at the shop.

Oh, yes, and Maggie has seemed to have made a decision of who the love of her life will be.

Definitely looking forward to this next book.

Ed says

#3 in the Good Buy Girls mystery series. Maggie Gerber is the pivotal GBG, 4 women who have a passion for bargains. Bianca Madison (A Deal To Die For (2012)) decides to continue the tradition of her mother and host a holiday ball. Maggie has all of the late Vera Madison's balls on consignment in her thrift shop. GBG Joanna is pregnant and jealous of the young lady her husband has hired for their deli. The GBGs and Maggie's family are attractive characters, but I felt that the obligatory victim and villain were rather obvious. Worth reading for cozy fans, who will enjoy the continuation of Maggie's romantic life.

Good Buy Girls mystery - Maggie Gerber and the Good Buy Girls, are gearing up for their first big holiday thrift shop sale. But Joanne Claramotta, pregnant with her first child--is acting less than festive. It could be hormones. Or it could be Diane Jenkins, the young knockout her husband, Michael, hired as his new deli assistant. Calming Joanne's nerves proves impossible when Maggie finds Michael unconscious on his deli floor--and with Diane next to him, strangled to death. Then Maggie discovers something even more disturbing. There's no record of Diane having been hired. In fact, she has no history at all.

April Schilling says

Loved it! I'm really enjoying this series though I feel like I missed something by not reading the second book before this one. Won't be a problem much longer though as I'm going to get it and read them again in order :D

Marie Geisel says

Not as good as the first two in series.

*** Jennifer says**

A vast improvement over the first two books.

Review: <http://jenn.booklikes.com/post/659812...>

Kate says

Not much action or adventure, and really very VERY little to do with Christmas. I think it was mentioned once or twice that someone was shopping for wrapping paper and that was pretty much the extent of the Christmas theme, which was disappointing. Still, it was an enjoyable enough read.

Meagan says

Quick easy read. The characters relationships progressed nicely and was the highlight of the book. The murderer was easy to pick, motive was easy too.

Book Concierge says

Book 3 in the Good Buy Girls Mystery series, has the quartet – Maggie, Ginger, Claire and Joanne – faced with another murder close to home. Joanne and Michael are expecting their first child, and she's feeling fat and unattractive, especially since Michael hired the pretty young, blond Diane as an assistant at the deli. When Diane is found strangled in the back room, Michael and/or Joanne are immediate suspects.

This has all the elements of a successful cozy mystery series: a group of friends who serve as amateur sleuths, a villainous temptress “mean girl” who is the bane of their existence, a handsome sheriff with a definite interest in widowed Maggie, and a lovely small community with a high murder rate.

I identified the culprit the first time said culprit made an appearance in the book. But it was still fun to watch everyone else catch up. The one thing that really annoys me is the relationship between Maggie and her former high-school rival, Summer. These two forty-year-olds act like they are still in junior high, throwing tantrums and all but wrestling one another to the ground. Grow up, ladies! Seriously.

Cozy mysteries are my reading comfort food, and as winter approaches, I'm sure I'll be reading more of them.

Cornelia says

Buried In Bargains by Josie Belle has twists and charm, romance and mystery, and Best of all Christmas.

I didn't know who-done-it until the main character, Maggie Gerber figured it out. There is also a romance brewing between Maggie, the resale shop owner (sleuth), and the local sheriff, Sam. And they are both baby boomers. I love that.

There's a great bonus as well, in the back of the book are money saving holiday tips and a recipe for Maggie's To-Go-Gift, her Hot Chocolate for two. This is a perfect Holiday read if you like mysteries or romances or both. It also will make a great holiday gift.

Ayny says

Grrr disappointing, so skimmed through to the end, which was no surprise. Unreal how many times the characters names are mentioned in full and their backstory, every few paragraphs. Between the cop divulging case information to civilians and smooching everywhere, I could not take it! As if people would be privy to confidential crime reports, and allowed into hospital ICU rooms.

Sarah says

Josie Bell is the pseudonym of Jenn McKinlay, author of the Cupcake Mysteries. Under this name, she writes the Good Buy Girls series about four friends always looking for a good deal when out shopping. I like this series well enough. The characters are likeable and easy to keep track of. I wish the theme of bargain shopping was a little more prevalent in the books though. It seems that Maggie and her friends, especially in this book, spend a lot less time shopping and a lot more time sleuthing. I think a good cozy should have a mixture of both the theme and the sleuthing.

That being said, this one was a little predictable. I knew who the killer was way before we ever found out as readers and I almost never do. I know a lot of readers can figure it out but I feel like if you do, you're probably guessing. This one was pretty obvious.

I love Jenn McKinlay's other 2 series, the Cupcake Mysteries and the Library Lovers series so I definitely want to keep reading this one. However, this series isn't as strong as the other 2 but it is interesting enough to keep reading.

Jenndian says

Another great addition to this well-written series by Josie Belle, aka Jenn McKinlay. several of the scenes were very poignantly written and brought tears to my eyes. I really enjoy this series and it has a different feel from Jenn's other series. I also enjoyed the comedic scenes provided by Summer. If you want a great Cozy to read for the holidays, then this book is perfect!! I can't wait for the next one!

Tarri says

Buried in Bargains is the third installment in cozy mystery series about a group of four good friends who bond over their love of bargain shopping. Maggie Gerber is the main character and she is a curious widow with a grown daughter and a new relationship with her high school boyfriend. Sam has recently returned to town after 20 years away and is the sheriff.

I liked the first two books in the series more than I liked this one, but it could have just been the subject matter (young woman found murdered). I'm not sure, but I do really like the characters and I love the way the author moves the relationship between Sam and Maggie along at the speed it would happen in real life.

Cathy Cole says

I've come to the conclusion that one of the reasons why I enjoy Josie Belle's Good Buy Girls mysteries so much is that, by reading them, I experience something I've never had: the close friendship and emotional support of a group of women. These books almost make me want to start wearing nail polish and looking for bargains on shoes. Almost. (Sorry, Jenn, but I never was and never will be a girly girl.) This time around, Maggie and her friends are still dealing with the dangerous diva, Summer Phillips, but the emphasis is less on bargains and cat fights, and more on family, relationships, and a first-rate mystery.

Another thing that I love about this series is that no character is really left behind. When a long-married couple splits in one book, they don't disappear; we get to see how they deal with living apart. When these amateur sleuths help a dead woman's daughter, the next book shows us how she is coping-- and how she is able to move with her life. This is definitely a series about family and about friends, and while a killer is being hunted, Buried in Bargains really delivers. A word of warning: when reading about the fancy dress Christmas ball, please have tissues on hand. You will need them. It's one of the very best cry-for-happy scenes I've read in a long, long time. I also have to admit that finally getting a chance to see Maggie's daughter was a bonus-- as well as watching further progress in the relationship between Maggie and Sheriff Sam Collins.

If you love feeling invested in the crime fiction you read, get hold of the Good Buy Girls series. The whodunit aspects are good, and the cast of characters is so strong that you'll wish you could move to St. Stanley, Virginia, to become a part of such a loving, supportive group. Buried in Bargains is the best of the bunch so far. It can be read as a standalone since the author does provide enough backstory for you to get a feel for the characters, but I'd advise that you read 'em all. Why deny yourself the pleasure?

Bring on the next one-- I have my coupons ready!

Juanita says

I liked this one. I'm glad the love triangle is over - I hate when they get dragged out, especially when it's obvious who the MC should be with, as was the case here. I thought it was fairly obvious who the murderer was, but I can see why the characters had a hard time figuring it out.

My only complaint is the fact the characters used last names when talking about other people far too frequently. When speaking to a close friend about another close friend's husband, it's extremely impractical to refer to the husband by both his first and last name, especially as far in as chapter 18 when we know who everybody is. That sort of thing drives me crazy in a book.
