



Dressed to Kill

Lynn Cahoon

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Jill Gardner—owner of Coffee, Books, and More in the tucked-away town of South Cove, California—is not particularly thrilled to be portraying a twenties flapper for the dinner theater murder mystery. Though it is for charity...

Of course everyone is expecting a “dead” body at the dress rehearsal...but this one isn’t acting! It turns out the main suspect is the late actor’s conniving girlfriend Sherry...who also happens to be the ex-wife of Jill’s main squeeze. Sherry is definitely a master manipulator...but is she a killer? Jill may discover the truth only when the curtain comes up on the final act...and by then, it may be far too late.

“Murder, dirty politics, pirate lore, and a hot police detective: Guidebook to Murder has it all! A cozy lover’s dream come true.” —Susan McBride, author of The Debutante Dropout Mysteries

Dressed to Kill Details

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Author : Lynn Cahoon

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From Reader Review Dressed to Kill for online ebook

Jeanie Jackson says

Excellent! I love this series and Dressed to Kill is a perfect example of the reason. The story is well presented, the mystery is well written and complex, and the characters are wonderful. I have so much enjoyed watching Jill settle into the community and make great friends, and I love watching her interaction with Greg as their relationship develops.

This mystery totally had me stumped. Esmeralda put in her two cents worth but as usual, it didn't help much; I got the hint but still didn't know where to go with it. Of course there were so many twists and layers that I spent a lot of time guessing. What fun is it to have a challenge in a cozy mystery.

Yvonne says

Things are happening in the small town of South Cove, California.

Jill Gardner, owner of Coffee, Books, and More, and also the town's business community liaison, has her hands full. Sherry, the owner of the newest clothing store Vintage Duds, just happens to be the ex of Jill's cop boyfriend, Greg. Needless to say, Sherry and Jill do not get along. Sherry takes every opportunity to make Jill look bad and this time it's in front of the entire business community.

To add to Jill's woes, she agrees to be part of a dinner theater murder mystery. The production is being put on by the Friday Mystery Reader's group that meets in her own shop, how could she possibly refuse? She's not going to go through this alone, so she drags Greg along with her. Jill is a twenties flapper and Greg is her mob protector.

As the cast and crew rehearse for their play, they are all stunned to discover an actual dead body on the stage. As one of the leads in the business community, Jill is determined to find out who the killer is. She's more than a little shocked when her investigation leads to her nemesis, Sherry.

This is the fourth book in the series. With each book, Jill fits more and more into the South Cove community. Her relationship with Greg continues to blossom. I love their romance. It's developing at a nice, steady and believable pace. The mystery is intricately woven. There were so many different directions it could have taken. The author kept me guessing until the end. I feel as if I just finished a short trip to South Cove. This was a quick read and I'm looking forward to reading the next book.

FTC Disclosure: NetGalley provided me with a copy of this book to review for this blog tour. This did not influence my thoughts and opinions in any way. All opinions expressed are my own.

Lisa Ks Book Reviews says

There are many series I really get excited about when a new book is due to be released, and the Tourist Trap Mystery series is for sure one of those series. Each book gets better and better, and this is certainly true with book 4, DRESSED TO KILL. Author Lynn Cahoon has really added layers to the characters in this series, and it's been a joy being a part of watching it grow.

Once again protagonist Jill Gardner, owner of one of my favorite fictional shops, Coffee, Books and More, finds herself in the middle of a homicide investigation after being pulled into it by a friend.

DRESSED TO KILL was a first rate mystery that moved at a perfect pace making it a quick and extremely entertaining read. It was intriguing and well thought out and kept me guessing through the entire story. As always, author Cahoon fooled me with the reveal. I feel like I should have seen it coming, but I simply got outsmarted. ?

If you haven't read the Tourist Trap series, give yourself a gift and get the first for now because book 5, KILLER RUN will be out in August!

Mystereity Reviews says

I was given an ARC by the publisher, Kensington Books, in return for an honest review

4.5 Stars

The fourth book in the Tourist Trap mystery series, Dressed To Kill finds bookstore owner and part time sleuth Jill helping her police detective boyfriend Greg track down who killed a prominent banker and why. Along the way, Jill has to deal with Greg's rancorous ex-wife, Sherry trying to worm her way under her skin at every turn.

This was a thoroughly enjoyable mystery full of red herrings, plot twists and, of course, hunky cops. I admit that I didn't know who did it, even as it was being revealed.

It's always fun to visit South Cove and its quirky citizens, from the eccentric Esmeralda to the crotchety Lille. The characters are all likeable, and the dialogue is realistic and draws you into both the story and the town. I could definitely see myself at CBM curled up with a mystery and a slice of cheesecake. (Why don't more bookstores serve cheesecake?)

Overall, Dressed To Kill is a fun and enjoyable book that deftly combines mystery, suspense, a little romance, and cheesecake.

(view spoiler)

Jonathan says

Another very good book in an engaging series! In *Dressed to Kill* Greg's ex, Sherry, opens a vintage clothing

store in South Cove. Jill, who has become an enemy of Sherry's, is less than excited about her store, but nevertheless attends a meeting at the store. But soon after Sherry's boyfriend is killed and Jill finds herself caught up in a murder investigation. Can she find the killer before the killer finds her?

The characters were, as always, really fun and entertaining to read, I especially like Sasha and Aunt Jackie. In this installment we see Greg and Jill having to overcome some things in their relationship, such as Sherry, Greg's ex-wife who recently moved to town. I really like my books to not only have great characters, but also great interactions between characters, and this book fit the bill, it was full of quality interactions that I'd expect to see in day-to-day life.

They mystery was very good, I absolutely did not expect the killer and when they were revealed I was shocked. I had two other people in the book who I thought were likely suspects, and the mystery was going along to agree with my thoughts, but at the very end it turned in a way I never imagined.

Overall a great book in a great series and, thanks to the kind folks over at Kensington, I already have an ARC for the next book, *Killer Run*, so expect a review for that within the next few weeks. With good characters, and a great mystery, *Dressed to Kill* gets 4/5 stars!

Crittermom says

When the South Cove business association plans a dinner theater murder mystery for charity, Jill Gardner is prepared for murder and mayhem of a fictional variety. But when a real body shows up on stage at the dress rehearsal, things turn deadly serious.

The victim is none other than Kent Paine, a banker known for his charm and his promiscuity. Greg's ex and Jill's nemesis, Sherry is the prime suspect. After much coaxing, Jill reluctantly agrees to help find the real killer. The more she digs, the more motives and potential suspects come to light. Was the motive drugs, money, or love?

Dressed to Kill is the third tourist trap mystery by Lynn Cahoon. It is an enjoyable cozy with a likeable amateur sleuth and quirky characters. I especially liked Maggie, the kitten who always visited Jill whenever Esmeralda had a prediction for her.

While stringent armchair detectives may occasionally groan "Why didn't she tell Greg that sooner" or "how could Jill not have noticed that", the mystery is entertaining.

The tourist trap mysteries are fun, fast reads, that are appropriate for mystery lovers of all ages. *Dressed to Kill* is a perfect light afternoon read.

I received a copy of *Dressed to Kill* from the publisher and Netgalley.com in exchange for an honest review.

--Crittermom

Paula Ratcliffe says

In this book everyone is getting ready for dinner theater murder mystery that is going on in South Cove when one of the participants winds up dead. Of course the person who dies happens to be dating Sherry who is Greg the cute cop that is dating Jill's ex-wife. Did Sherry have anything to gain by the death of her boyfriend? Or was someone else determined to kill Kent?

Also in this book is more interaction with Jill's neighbor Esmeralda. Jill keeps finding Esmeralda's cat on her property and it's up to Jill to return the cat and get a reading by her neighbor each time. Which makes Jill wonder if Esmeralda is the real deal or not?

This book was full of so much action and adventure snad learning about the women in Kent's life and who had enough anger and vendetta to kill him and why. I was totally stumped on the killer and all I can say is Ms. Cahoon you rock in the world of mystery throwing so much caution to the wind. I thoroughly enjoyed all the antics and mystery that was going on. Can't wait to see what is next in this fabulous series!

Linda says

4-1/2 Stars. It's always nice to re-visit Jill and her Aunt Jackie at Coffee, Books, and More. Detective Greg King is Jill's boyfriend; his ex-wife, Sherry, seemingly Jill's worst enemy. Toby, is Jill's part-time barista, plus Greg's part-time police officer, and a great friend to both. Jill's best friend, Amy, is always a wealth of information and advice, and she's fun!

In book 4, the victim is a two-timing schemer--in more ways than what's obvious as the investigation progresses. Of course, the murderer is mentally unbalanced, but really put some time and thought into their premeditation of the murder. In addition to trying to figure out the whodunwhat's, I enjoy the relationships in this cozy series. Jill always wants to help her friends and vice versa. I loved the fact that Jill is spending more time reading and relaxing in this story. I always enjoy Emma, Jill's golden retriever. Readers can be confident that this is an entertaining story.

I received a complimentary ebook from NetGalley and Kensington in exchange for an honest review. This review is my own personal opinion and not influenced by anyone else.

Kim says

This is the 4th book in the Tourist Trap Mystery series, and I liked the characters a whole lot less in this one than in previous books in the series.

Jill Gardner is pressed into playing a role in a community dinner theater murder mystery production when an actual dead body turns up. All eyes point to the ex of her current boyfriend. Jill is forced to do some digging of her own to discover the truth about who committed the crime.

I felt this installment in the Tourist Trap Mystery series was a bit disjointed and nowhere near as fun to read as the previous tales. Of course the setting, South Cove, is as lovely as ever. An idyllic little town and Lynn Cahoon's description will make you want to move there yourself.

If you liked the other Jill Gardner/Tourist Trap books you will be reading this one anyway. If you haven't yet

read any of them I recommend you start with the first book in the series so you can get a feel for the characters and town.

Not a bad read but the story seemed disorganized in parts and the overall plot could have been handled better.

Gary Sundell says

Another fine entry in the series. Characters you can care about. Characters who have grown as the series has progressed. Even though I am not a big fan of the cop boyfriend trope, it works in this series.

Laura says

I liked the characters a lot less in this book than I did earlier in the series. Jill's insecurity about Greg and Sherry is ridiculous, and I just find it really difficult to believe that she makes all the breaks in the case doing obvious thing that the police never thought of doing. The attitudes of the characters also read quite old, so it's difficult to picture them as the ages they actually are. Because I didn't care for the characters, it was tough for me to care about the mystery.

Received from NetGalley.

Betty says

Romance, mystery with a twist of paranormal will hold your attention. This is the fourth book in the series and it was relaxing as Jill Gardener and Greg King continue their romance. Jill's neighbor warns her to be on look out for danger. Jill is acting in a play and at rehearsal they find a dead man. Aunt Jackie gets arrested. Jill needs to find answers before she loses everything important to her.

Disclosure: I received a free copy from Kensington Books through Netgalley for an honest review. I would like to thank them for this opportunity to read and review this book. The opinions are my own.

Judy Collins says

A special thank you to Kensington Books and NetGalley for an ARC in exchange for an honest review.

*Lynn Cahoon returns with **DRESSED TO KILL**, the fourth book in the Tourist Trap mystery series – a small quaint town near the beach in California; with an array of business owners, shops and fun characters—A new cozy mystery to solve, and Jill and her gang are in the center of mischief, once again at South Cove. (love all the front covers; I think may be my favorite!)*

As the novel opens Jill Gardner—owner of Coffee, Books, and More—and her Aunt Jackie, point out the newest shop in town – Vintage Duds. This tastefully designed boutique clothing shop selling upscale designer clothing at a ridiculous price, looks intriguing with loads of curb appeal.

Of course, Greg (Jill's boy toy) was formerly married to the woman (Sherry), so Jill is not ready to make nice with the owner. She is already dreading the business-to-business meeting, and of course, Sherry is hosting an upscale cocktail party; more than the usual cookies. If Sherry wasn't the owner, she would be impressed. Sherry is now dating Kent, the small town bank branch manager. As the meeting continues, her list of reasons why she hates Greg's ex-wife is growing by the minute.

Greg King, the hot South Cove police detective and Jill's hunky boy toy continues to keep her occupied. However, these business-to business meetings make her want to commit murder. She is more than a little jealous of Sherry and does not like her in the same town with her man.

All the familiar and fun characters are back – Bill and Mary, owners of the South Cove B&B, Sadie-Pies on the Fly, Josh-Antiques by Thomas (Jackie's new beau), Lille – diner Diamond Lille's-dating the town bad boy, Leslie Talman-The Glass Slipper, Dustin Austin-Bike Rental Shop, Darla (Winery) and her new boyfriend Matt, the winery's manager, Amy Newman (her best friend)- also City Planner and secretary to Mayor Baylor, Darla- writer for South Cove Examiner, Doc Ames, Emily Esmeralda – fortune teller, Toby Killian – Jill's barista and part time cop, and of course Emma, Jackie's faithful golden retriever. As always, the best thing about owning a book store is the research (Jill is always in the middle of investigations).

Her Aunt Jackie is in charge of planning a mystery dinner theatre at South Cove Winery the following weekend. The Friday Mystery Reader's Group had written the mini play, cast the characters, and were selling tickets with proceeds going to the local women's shelter. Jill is going as a twenties flapper and she wants Greg to be her mob protector.

In the afternoon she is taking Emma for a run at the beach and sees Kent Paine; however, the woman with him was not Sherry! Oddly enough later that evening when they are at the theatre with the production: "Dying for Trouble" Kent Paine is dead. Not a prop, a real live dead body. The production would need to be postponed to another time.

Jill thinks she needs to tell Greg about seeing Kent earlier, before she begins gossiping to her friends. Of course when nosy customers come in for coffee and books the next morning, everyone has an opinion about the murder and thinks because she dates Greg, she gets firsthand information. Drugs, murder, who would want to kill Kent? Someone at the bank? What was he involved in? Sherry? The redhead? Sherry is definitely a master manipulator...but is she a killer? After all she was at the winery around the time he died.

As usual, Greg warns Jill to stay out of it, to tend to her own business. No matter what Greg says, when murder happened on his watch, her life is always involved, even when she tries to stay out of it. Of course, she never stays out of it.

Jill gets a reading and the cat visits (Maggie) and everyone has their input about the murder. Her reading said "Things aren't what they seem. Some are silver and others gold." Plus someone is spilling information to Darla? Greg and Jill now have two taboo subjects: *Open investigations and Sherry*. However, the entire town thinks she can be the go between.

Another quirky murder mystery, with wit and humor for a whodunit, with a full cast of eccentric characters. Having read all the books in the series, I think this is my favorite. If you have not read the other books in the series, you will get a glimpse of each.

Lynn writes with crisp contemporary dialogue, and always in the know with social media and the latest trends, keeping you guessing with twists and turns. If you love cozy mysteries set in a small town, with

familiar warm and interesting characters, this series is for you! I enjoyed catching up with the familiar characters, and as always, love Jill's tenacity, and drive and side kick, Aunt Jackie. *You feel like you have a front row seat at a murder mystery dinner performance, of whodunit.*

Looking forward to the next upcoming book in the series, #5 **KILLER RUN**, (sneak preview included) coming August 18, 2015. *Appears Jill —has somehow been talked into sponsoring a 5k race along the beautiful California coast. The race is a fundraiser for the local preservation society—but not everyone is feeling so charitable!*

JDCMustReadBooks

Stephanie says

One is silver and the other gold

Esmeralda's fortune telling included the phrase that set off the fun camp song in my head and kept it there all day. This series just keeps getting better. This is the fourth book, and would stand alone well, but I hope people will read this in order to catch the little nuances that make me smile. Jill, Amy, Aunt Jackie and their friends are such fun. I particularly enjoyed the exchanges between Jill and her boyfriend's ex-wife. Another good murder plot, surprising ending, and strong writing made this a five star book.
