



The Whole Cat and Caboodle

Sofie Ryan

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FIRST IN A NEW SERIES

Sarah Grayson is the happy proprietor of Second Chance, a charming shop in the oceanfront town of North Harbor, Maine. At the shop, she sells used items that she has lovingly refurbished and repurposed. But her favorite pet project so far has been adopting a stray cat she names Elvis.

Elvis has seen nine lives—and then some. The big black cat with a scar across his nose turned up at a local bar when the band was playing the King of Rock and Roll's music and hopped in Sarah's truck. Since then, he's been her constant companion and the furry favorite of everyone who comes into the store.

But when Sarah's elderly friend Maddie is found with the body of a dead man in her garden, the kindly old lady becomes the prime suspect in the murder. Even Sarah's old high school flame, investigator Nick Elliot, seems convinced that Maddie was up to no good. So it's up to Sarah and Elvis to clear her friend's name and make sure the real murderer doesn't get a second chance.

The Whole Cat and Caboodle Details

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From Reader Review The Whole Cat and Caboodle for online ebook

Moondance says

Elvis was sitting in the middle of my desk when I opened the door to my office.

Sarah Grayson has moved to North Harbor, Maine to open a second hand store. She had spent her summers there with her grandmother and it was a good place for her to start a new life. Soon after moving to town she acquired a scarred travel worn cat that she named Elvis. Sarah becomes a sleuth when her grandmother's friend Maddie is accused of murder. Maddie's friends join the investigation and the adventure begins.

It is quite obvious that Ms. Ryan has spent a great deal of time around cats. She understands their personalities and is spot on with their mannerisms. This is the first book in the series and it starts out with a bang. I'm so happy that I found another series by this author to love.

Elvis shines as a character. He isn't magical but he certainly is intuitive and smart. I love the interaction that he has with Sarah and her motley crew of detectives.

Maddie's friends are a varied lot and true friendship is evident in their faith that Maddie was not a killer. I am particularly fond of Mr. Peterson. His introduction mad me laugh out loud.

Sarah's high school crush is back in town working as an investigator for the medical examiner. Nick wants Sarah and her crew to stay out of the way so that he and the police can do their jobs. Like that is going to happen!

The store employees, Mac and Avery, are well rounded characters that add to the storyline. It is great to see people from teens to senior citizens working together for a common good.

The mystery has some twists and turns that keep your interest. I look forward to the next book.

Andree says

This one was fun, but not as fun as magial cats. That's pretty much all I have to say at this point.

Linda says

4-1/2 STARS!! I loved this story!! Sarah Grayson owns Second Chance, an oceanfront shop in Maine, where she refurbishes and sells other people's trash as treasures. Her rescue cat, Elvis, is an extraordinary companion who acts like he totally understands humans and everything else about his surroundings. He travels with Sarah most places she goes.

When Maddie, an elderly friend of Sarah's, winds up with a dead body of a suitor in her backyard; Maddie becomes the main suspect when his autopsy reveals an unnatural death. All her friends are horrified because

they know she couldn't hurt a flea!

This book is one of the most entertaining and engrossing stories I've read lately! The character of Elvis is so magical, funny, and heart-charming, that he almost steals the lead away from Sarah!

The secondary characters are interesting and eccentric, and you enjoy all of them, and you're left anxiously waiting to see what they're going to get into in the next story!!

Anne (Booklady) Molinarolo says

It looks like I've found another great cozy mystery series - Second Chance Cat Mystery Series! And The Whole Cat and Caboodle is a good debut entry to this series.

Sarah Grayson has returned to North Harbor, Maine to reinvent herself after losing her late night radio show, and her shop, Second Chance is doing nicely. She can't seem to keep the refurbished and re-imagined items in stock. And even her cat, Elvis, seems to help out. The wily cat also has another talent - he's a feline lie detector.

And that will come in handy when Sarah and 3 of her grandmother's friends - the Charlotte Angels - investigate the murder of Arthur Fenty. He was the beau of another one of her grandmother's buddies. And the ladies have an elderly hacker - Mr P to help them out too! Can they save Maddie from prison? And what isn't she saying?

The novel is quite delightful and humorous. Sofie Ryan know how to keep the reader turning pages. And she doesn't give Elvis special insights except to detect a lie from some human. The characters are well developed. Kind of reminded of Jessica Fletcher a bit.

Diana says

This is a cute cozy mystery. The main character returns home after losing her job, to find a new start. One of her grandmother's friends ends up in the middle of a murder. She spends her time trying to keep the rest in her grandmother's clique out of trouble while they try to find the real murderer. I listened to the audiobook and really enjoyed it.

Amy says

I've never read anything by this author (Ryan/Sofia Kelly) but that's definitely changed after this book! Sarah Grayson has recently returned to her old hometown on the Maine coast and is now the owner of an upscale second-hand store. She has a number of elderly friends because of her close relationship with her grandmother. One of these older ladies is suspected of killing her boyfriend and Sarah is determined to prove her innocence. I really enjoyed the plot, pace, characters, dialog, well--that about covers everything! With a cat named Elvis, how can one go wrong? A good mystery is always key and there were a number of suspects who definitely had strong motives, down to the killer, who seemingly had none.

I will definitely be reading the next book in this fun series!

Rane says

Sofie Ryan is off to a great start with her newest series "The Whole Cat and Caboodle" with a special black cat named Elvis as he helps his human Sarah Grayson solve a murder mystery and clear the name of a friend.

Sarah Grayson is the type of MC I love to read about in cozies. Sometimes a mystery reader has to take their MC with a grain of salt, not so with Sarah. She keeps everything in perspective as she runs her "second chance" thrift/refurbished shop, deals with her family friend, Maddie, accused of murder and her grandmother's best friends taking up the cause to prove Maddie innocent. Sarah takes all the stride without jumping to any conclusions but leads with what she knows and she knows Maddie and knows she didn't do it. She doesn't get drawn into danger and even with her grandmother's friends Liz, Charlotte and Rose (aka Charlie's Angels) they make sure to keep everyone in the loop that includes the police.

Everything from Sarah's shop to, of course, the amazing feline Elvis was charming given a light touch without going too dark as they waddle through the murder victim's not so clean past. The supporting characters were fun and very dimensional. Sarah deals with repairing an old friendship and rekindling something with Nate Elliott who is now working with the Medical Examiner's office who was once her close friend when they both were teens.

Elvis of course steals the show with his characteristics that make him unusual but still very much a cat. The pace of the story was easy, the trouble I had was too much descriptive detail in someone's actions to what they were eating I could have done without or skipped.

This was a great start to the new series with a lot of charm and humor. I can't wait to see what Sarah and Elvis and "The Angels" get into next!

Betty says

The first in new series is a delightful read. The plot is excellent and carried out successfully. The characters are fleshed out and become friends at once. Sarah Grayson owns a second hand store. She has a number of helpers that add to the story. Elvis a black cat has chosen her as his owner. He likes to ride and go with her. He talks with Sarah and others. Sarah reconnected with high school friends. Her Grandmother's help Sarah out when one of them is arrested for murdering her boy friend.

Czekolada Hope says

I like the Magical Cats series from Sofie Kelly. For Second Chance Cat Mystery her brand new series were

boring. from first chapter to the middle of story line only. it described about sarah and her golden ages friends's relationship blah blah blah. it's all too much.

however, i'm still continuous reading her next book. I hope ms. kelly will write more role to Elvis.

Book of Secrets says

THE WHOLE CAT AND CABOODLE is a fun start to Sofie Ryan's new cozy mystery series with a gregarious feline called Elvis taking center stage. Elvis' person is Sarah Grayson, and she runs a nifty shop selling vintage and refurbished items in North Harbor, Maine.

Sarah gets dragged into a murder mystery when her grandmother's friend Maddie is arrested for murdering her boyfriend. Well, Sarah actually gets involved in the case because she wants to keep a group of dear elderly friends out of trouble. They are a stubborn and determined bunch wanting to find the real murderer on their own, and Sarah promises investigators that she'll keep them out of of trouble. Or at least try to!

The mystery was good and the plot moved quickly, but what I loved most was the cast of characters. Elvis the cat was an intriguing little fellow, savvy about what's going on and able to give the humans a push in the right direction. Cat cozy mystery fans will love him. Sarah was likable and easy to connect with. I enjoyed her back story, and her complicated relationship with her childhood friend Michelle Andrews and old flame Nick Elliott. Sarah's group of elderly friends were a lot of fun and provided several good laughs along the way. Looking forward to the next book in the series!

Source: Review copy from the publisher

abby says

Fair or not, I didn't have any expectations for this book I found at for a buck at a charity sale. I'd never heard of the series before or the author (who also publishes under the name Sofie Kelly). I was pleasantly surprised.

Sarah Grayson recently moved to the small town in Maine where her family summered when she was a kid. She's opened a thrift shop where she sells collectibles on consignment and re-purposes vintage items, the teacup gardens being a favorite with tourists. She's also been adopted by Elvis the cat, who milks the scar on his nose for all the human attention and cooing it's worth. Her grandmother's circle of friends are like family to Sarah, and so when Maddie is accused of killing the her conman boyfriend, she knows it can't be true. Together with gang of senior citizens calling themselves "Charlie's Angels," Sarah looks to prove Maddie innocent.

This book is well written and really cute. Elvis is a bit over the top, but it's hard not to appreciate his charms. I liked that Sarah was reluctant to go sleuthing, as opposed to immediately sticking her nose where it didn't belong. The minor characters are all fun and quirky. I especially enjoyed Mr. P, the world's oldest hacker/nude art model.

I suck at reading series. Most of the time when I write in a review "I'm totally going to keep going with this

series!" I don't even read the next book, but this time I've already ordered the next installment. I can't wait to reunite with Elvis and the gang for their next adventure.

LORI CASWELL says

Welcome to the oceanfront town of North Harbor, Maine. Sarah Grayson owns and operates Second Chance, a shop that sells used items that have been given makeovers and some have been totally repurposed. She even holds classes so people can transform their own pieces.

Sarah's grandmother holds the mortgage and several of her grandmother's friends work at Second Chance. Sarah has known them most of her life and they are her friends as well as her grandmother's. Mac, a retired financial planner, is Sarah's right hand. Together they turn some people's junk into beautiful treasures. Elvis is the store mascot and not your typical cat. Elvis has used up his nine lives but was rescued by Sarah. The big black cat with the scar on his nose from one of his battles goes everywhere with Sarah and seems to understand every word she says and humans in general.

When one of Sarah's elderly friends fails to show up for a class everyone gets worried. Maddie would never miss a class. When they find her she is in her garden with a man who is very dead. Maddie is the prime suspect, of course, but Sarah and all her friends know she could never hurt anyone. Before the murderer has a second chance to kill someone else they need to clear Maddie and find the real killer.

Dollycas's Thoughts

An excellent debut!

This cozy has a really great twist. While Sarah is the main character (with Elvis coming in at a very close second) she is not the one doing the investigating at least at the start. She is more a wrangler of the group who has set up an office in the store and started calling themselves Charlie's Angels. Senior citizens, Liz, Rose and Charlotte along with a little help from Mr. P. (Bosley) are trying to track back through dead man's past to see who could have killed him. They happen to turn up plenty of suspects. They also add a whole caboodle of humor to this story too. Elvis also becomes quite an asset as the story plays out.

Added to the character mix is Nick, Sarah's "old high school flame" who works for the coroner's office and Michelle Andrews, she and Sarah used to be best friends but not anymore and she is the detective that caught the case. Can old flames reignite? Can old friends come back together and be friends again?

If you have read the Magical Cat Mysteries by Sofie Kelly you will quickly realize the Sofie Ryan is the same author. She has a unique way of writing especially for her feline characters. They jump right off the page and into your heart.

This is a wonderful start to a new series with a group of characters I already love. I am looking forward to book #2.

Randee says

This is the first book in another excellent mystery collection by the author who also writes 'The Magical Cat Series' under the pseudonym, Sofie Kelly. If you like that one (and I do, I do!), you are bound to like this one as well. A black cat named Elvis is the companion helper to Sarah, the owner of a second hand shop. Elvis likes to watch the game show, Jeopardy, and assists Sarah with a well placed paw, meow or facial expression. I found this to be charming and entertaining and look forward to reading more in the series.

Sarah says

I have a huge TBR pile. Yet, I saw this 1st in a new series pop up and immediately wanted to read it. This was strengthened by the fact that I read several great reviews by other book bloggers I follow and it was a no brainer for me.

There wasn't anything not to love about this. The setting, North Harbor, Maine, the cast of characters, the main character, Sarah, her awesomely wonderful cat Elvis, and the mystery itself.

There were a few spots where I initially thought there were typos but they weren't; it was just that the author introduced a subject, made you sort of think she forgot what she had written and then cleared it up a few pages later.

All in all though, a great debut and I look forward to reading more in the series and also reading the author's magical cat series (even though I'm a dog person!).

Lesya says

As much as I love cats, I'm a little leery of cutesy cat mysteries. I like my cats to be cats, even if they do help to solve cases. I don't want talking cats. Sofie Ryan avoids that situation with the first in a new series, The Whole Cat and Caboodle. Elvis, the cat, doesn't talk, but he certainly communicates. Just like Diesel in Miranda James' Cat in the Stacks mysteries, this is a cat to fall for. There are also many other reasons to read this book.

Sarah Grayson returned to North Harbor, Maine, where she spent her happiest summers at her grandmother's. Now, she owns Second Chance, a shop where she sells used items that have been refurbished and repurposed. And, Elvis, a used cat, somehow acquired her. Elvis also acquired a whole slew of admirers who recognize a loving, intelligent cat.

Sarah also has a slew of admirers, the women who are her grandmother's best friends. When Sarah teaches a class, and one of those friends, Maddie, doesn't show up, everyone says it's because of the new man in her life. But, it's not like Maddie to fail to call. Sarah and Charlotte head over to check on her, and find Maddie sitting in her garden, next to the man she's been seeing. But, Maddie is in shock, and Arthur Fenety is dead.

Two of Sarah's old friends are on the case. Charlotte's son, Nick, is now working for the State Medical Examiner's Office. And, her former best friend, Michelle, is the investigating officer. That doesn't mean Maddie has it easy. All clues point to her as the main suspect. Sarah quickly calls another friend, now an attorney, and leaves the case in his hands. But, her grandmother's friends, Charlotte, Rose, and Liz, have something else in mind. The three are determined to turn "Charlie's Angels", and find a better suspect. Elvis

is on their side, while Sarah reluctantly agrees to keep the women out of trouble.

My sister, Christie, actually sent me an excellent summary before I read this book. She said she liked Sarah and Elvis. No one was "Too Stupid To Live", trying to hide information from the police. And, she told me I would love Elvis. She even liked the size of the print, a little larger than normal for a paperback. Christie summed it up perfectly. This first book in the Second Chance Cat mystery series does have an enormous cast of characters, but it's an introductory book to the series. Ryan is introducing them, providing backstory, and preparing for future books. It's just hard to sort out the three "Charlie's Angels" sometimes.

But, I suspect readers will enjoy meeting Sarah and all her friends. The Whole Cat and Caboodle is an intelligent mystery set in a small town filled with people who care about each other. And, they all seem to care about Elvis. It's a mystery filled with food, music, friends, and one streetwise intelligent cat. What more do you want?
