

The Case of the Tough-Talking Turkey

Claudia Bishop

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Readers will gobble up this new McKenzie Farm mystery.

Veterinarian Austin McKenzie has met plenty of snakes-and none meaner than turkey farmer Lewis O'Leary. So it's no surprise when O'Leary's dead body is found in a dumpster. Circumstantial evidence points to a turkey feed salesman, but the doc has a feeling the guy was framed.

The Case of the Tough-Talking Turkey Details

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Author : Claudia Bishop

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Genre : Mystery, Cozy Mystery

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Pam says

11/16/07

TITLE/AUTHOR: THE CASE OF THE TOUGH-TALKING TURKEY by Claudia Bishop

RATING: 4/B

GENRE/PUB DATE/# OF PGS: Mystery/2007/194 pgs

SERIES/STAND ALONE: #2 in the Dr. McKenzie series

TIME/PLACE: Present/Summersville, NY

CHARACTERS: Dr. Austin McKenzie/veterinarian

FIRST LINES: Maybe global warming wasn't a scam cooked up by loser politicians after all.

COMMENTS: rec 11/02 via pbs. The O'Leary's have a large turkey farm in Summersville. Lewis O'Leary is the controlling, abusive patriarch. His 3 sons work for him. In addition to his family members who might inherit, there were animal rights activists that were after him for mistreatment of his livestock. Dr. McKenzie takes on the case to clear a feed supplier and has his hands full narrowing down the long list of suspects who wanted to see Lewis O'Leary dead.

Diana says

I love her books I liked this series more than the Hemlock Falls Mysteries. I wish she had written more of them.

Diane Morasco says

It is Doc McKenzie's second mystery. The Case Book ventures into turkey farm country. Veterinarian Austin McKenzie and pack set out to solve the murder of Lewis O'Leary, owner of one of the most enormous turkey farms in the Northeast. Lewis O'Leary is insolent, irascible, and as scurrilous as they come. Despised by all including his three sons and two daughters-in-law.

It appears all the evidence points to the local feed salesman, Gil Finnegan, whom Lewis has blamed of shorting his feed orders. However, Dr. McKenzie believes that the evidence is too rehearsed; thus he begins noticing Lewis O'Leary's legion of enemies. First of all there is the greedy family who stand to inherit, the post doctorate student who needs him to sign off on the data from a study that he has been doing on the farm and the animal rights activist who is determined to shut him down.

The characters are endearing and the animals being cared for and respected make this a pleasurable read. A delightful series.

Emily Crow says

I suspect I'm just not the right audience for this book. My least favorite type of mystery novel is the "cozy," which is what this is. And it exemplifies all the reasons that I tend to dislike cozies: the cartoonish characters, the annoying amateur detective, the highly improbable plot, and a world devoid of ambiguity. It's possible that someone reading this might think, "Heck, all those reasons are exactly why I like cozies!"

The story concerns big animal veterinarian and amateur sleuth Austin McKenzie, who agrees to find the person who killed a disagreeable turkey farmer, Lewis O'Leary. That's about it; there wasn't much to the story.

Mary Mathews says

A mystery with a humorous look at the quirky people in rural New York state. Austin McKenzie is a "mature" veterinarian/unlicensed private eye trying to find out who set up the local feed salesman as the murderer of the wealthy but rude turkey rancher.

Nancy H says

This book was okay. I like the author's other series better.

Jeanette says

I enjoyed reading this book. I liked the characters and story. I will read more of this series.

Tyler Spierdowis says

Animal lovers and mystery enthusiasts rejoice, because Claudia Bishop's "The case of the Tough-Talking turkey" encases everything found in an excellent novel. The story begins with brief accounts from several characters while connecting them as possible murderers; this serves to elevate the reader's curiosity immediately. Bishop's use of parenthesis and effective dialogue also allows her readers the connection which ultimately leads to a very pleasurable reading experience. As for those animal lovers: well the investigator, also the main character, is a veterinarian whom, every now and then, has to break from the case to respond to emergency house calls; not to mention, the victim is a poultry farmer. Bishop does run around the case in a round about fashion; however, this resonated well with me because it gave me time to try and solve the case by myself. What mystery reader doesn't enjoy the intellectual challenge of solving the case? Moving toward the end of the novel the tone builds haste as Bishop throws in an enthralling twist as to surprise her readers. I truthfully did not see what was coming when the actual murderer was named. I highly recommend this case file to any mystery reader, vegetarian, serf, politician, or peasant; however, I believe it will resonate

particularly well with those who hold the iconic small town values close to heart. Also, if anyone is like me and loves anything involving animals, then this book is tailored for him or her. Bishop's novel "The Case of the Tough-Talking Turkey" is enthralling, provocative, iconic, puzzling, mesmerizing, empathetic, and intellectual. Read it.

Tina says

So. Many. Typos.

Ironically the story is told first person by a character obsessed with grammar. This character was often rude while correcting others and it made me dislike him. I read to the end and the final five pages were disappointing.

Sonja says

Another good whodunit with Dr. McKenzie

Meredith says

Such a very good book. It is a bit slow to get into, but it's a roller coaster ride. I'm going to start the next one right away, 'cause I can't wait to see what the next book will be about.

Michelle says

This was one of the worst books I ever read. Not THE worst, but among them. There were glaring editing errors on almost every other page, the characters were uninteresting, with the exception of the vet assistant's father, and the final outcome was totally unsatisfying.

Marlyn says

As well as this series, she writes the Hemlock Falls mysteries. This is the second in the series about Dr. Austin McKenzie, who practices veterinary medicine in rural upstate New York. In this outing, Dr. McKenzie must solve the mystery of who killed a most unpleasant turkey farmer, in order to absolve the young man who sells him turkey feed.

Nan says

I picked up this paperback at the Dollar store prior to my hair appointment. For some unknown reason, my

beautician has removed all magazines, leaving nothing to read but big books of goofy hairdos. I don't generally go for mysteries, but I enjoyed this light little read. The sleuth is a veterinarian--sort of a Sue-Grafton-meets-James-Herriot situation. Lots of characters, so it's fortunate the author listed them along with their relationships at the beginning. The dialogue is amusing and clever, as are the descriptions of the characters. I wouldn't mind reading other books by this author, but not in the place of my ever-growing "to read" list.

Elaine says

very slow starting, not enamored of the characters, and I figured out who the killer was before it was revealed.
