



Taken In

Elizabeth Lynn Casey

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When a trip to the Big Apple ends in murder, the sewing circle searches for a killer who's rotten to the core...

Winning an appearance on a top-rated, New York based morning show means the trip of a lifetime for librarian Tori Sinclair and the Sweet Briar Ladies Society Sewing Circle. Anxious to experience Manhattan with her friends, Tori is less than excited when fellow member Dixie Dunn opts to use the vacation as an opportunity to rendezvous with a man she met online.

Still, Tori never imagined her friend would be taken in by a con man specializing in scamming vulnerable older women—or that Dixie would be arrested for his murder.

Now, as the sewing circle goes up against Gotham's elite to prove Dixie's innocence, they will have to unravel tangled secrets and alibis, patch together a mess of clues, and put a clever killer in the city's hottest spotlight . . .

PATTERN AND SEWING TIPS INCLUDED

Taken In Details

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Author : Elizabeth Lynn Casey

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Marie says

I've been a fan of this series from the get go. I love the setting and the coziness of the town. I've loved getting to know each and every one of characters - feeling right at home amongst them. And I've loved the murderous predicaments they've all found themselves in. But the camaraderie between the ladies is what makes the story so much fun!

When I found out that the ladies would be taking a trip (and to NYC of all places!), I was so excited to see them outside of their element. Having traveled from small town USA to the Big Apple before, I knew exactly how they felt when they arrived. It's overwhelming and there are so many things that weren't what you expected them to be. But the awe of the big city is there - and being able to witness the mesmerizing wonderment of the girls as they experience something new was so exciting!

Of course there's usual sleuthing (my favorite!) and a few laughs, as well as a great mystery that keeps you engaged and guessing. This is a wonderful series and I can't wait for others to fall in love with the ladies of the Southern Sewing Circle.

I received a copy of this book from the publisher in exchange for an honest review. All conclusions reached are my own.

Debbie Lester says

Taken In is the ninth book in Elizabeth Lynn Casey's Southern Sewing Circle series. This series focuses on a group of ladies that could not be more different from each other, but all have a love for sewing and solving mysteries. Casey uses humor, originality and a lot of interesting clues to keep her readers coming back for more. Taken In may be book nine in the series, but it is certainly no stopping place. From Sweet Briar to the Big Apple, these ladies are taking over! A great addition to the series!

What I liked:

There is something about a group of ladies getting together to do a project, whether it is sewing, quilting, canning, cooking, crafting, reading or anything in between that builds camaraderie and relationships. One of my favorite parts of the Southern Sewing Circle series is the friendships that develop between these women. When you start a group like this, you really don't know what you are going to get and that's the best part. There is so much diversity in this group of characters. You have big age differences, different ethnic groups, varied personalities. It just gives an author so much to work with and I think Elizabeth Lynn Casey really uses this to her advantage, especially in her latest book, Taken In.

Because of the diversity of the group, Casey is able to take her characters into so many different directions. This time in Taken In readers get to see how the ladies fare in a different environment. The sewing circle is taking on the big city, as they go to New York to tape an appearance on a talk show. I love the fact Casey often uses common things and current situations in her books and the talk show angle was perfect, as well as, the internet dating scene which is also a big part of this mystery. Both were great ideas and very well executed.

Dixie is quickly thrown in jail for the murder of a man she met on the internet, whom she found out was a con man preying on elderly women. Tori and the other gals are quick to come to her defense and to start sorting out the clues that might lead to the killer. The mystery was interesting and there were a lot of possibilities where suspects were concerned. I thought Casey did a fantastic job of not only making the mystery compelling and intriguing, but also making this one funny. There was so much humor and that just added to its overall enjoyment.

Bottom Line:

I think this is one was a very well written addition to the series. It not only made me laugh, but it made me think. I didn't put it together too quickly and was surprised at the end. I loved the change of locale for the ladies, but I did miss Sweet Briar. There just wasn't anything not to like!

Deborah Almada says

A fun read, all of our Southern friends in the Big Apple, of course there is going to be murder and of course Tori and the gang will take care of it, with the help of their new friend Charles!!!!!!

LORI CASWELL says

Dollycas's Thoughts

The Sweet Briar Ladies Take New York as only they can!! Look out Kardashians!!!

This story was so much fun starting with the t.v. show Taped With Melly and Kenneth that brought the friends to the big city. Maybe the author should send a copy to Kelly Ripa and Michael Strahan, they would probably get a kick out of it!!

I felt so sorry for Dixie being stuck in jail. But the rest did what they do best, and this time they had help from a new friend they met in the Big Apple. Together they tracked down the truth and the real culprit and I was completely taken aback as the clues panned out.

Elizabeth Lynn Casey takes on quite an adventure with our friends from Sweet Briar. There is never a dull moment when these ladies get together and New York barely intimates them at all. She has written an absolutely wonderful story. The locale may have changed but these characters bloom wherever they are planted. There are parts that are laugh out loud funny and others that will warm your heart.

The Ladies of the Sweet Briar Society Circle are quite a group. They range in age from 22 – 84 and are each as different as can be. There is even one that doesn't even sew!! They don't always see eye to eye, in fact there are times they don't agree on anything, but their friendship runs so deep. They are there for each other through anything life throws at them. Friendship like this rare, something to treasure. I am thrilled to be able to tag along with them through each of the stories in this series.

I hate it when these books end. I was completely Taken In by this story and I know you will be too!

Eileen says

Once again Elizabeth Lynn Casey has shown that the love, trust & support of one another within a close knit group holds strong when one member gets in trouble. This group of ladies who wouldn't normally be friends due to their age span, but due to their love of sewing they have become much more then friends. The Southern Sewing Circle gals are chosen to appear on a tv show in New York City. Then one of them is arrested and jailed for the murder of "con" man who hits on older women. So the ladies once again work to find the killer & get their friend released. These ladies are a hoot, as Margaret Louise would say. They meet up with a worker at a book store, Charles, who helps them in solving the murder. Charles is such a fresh addition to the story that I'm hoping he shows up in a future book, helping the ladies in another murder case in Sweet Briar, their home town. I love how Ms Casey bridges the age gap with the relationships that the 7 ladies build with each other. I can't wait until the next story.

Sherrie says

This was very well done. It shows a lot about this group of women who sew together and how women of all ages can get along and be good friends in any situation. It brings in another character who sees them like they are and gives them a chance to see New York through his eyes. Dixie goes on a date and has a good time however the next day she is arrested for murder even though she just met the guy. So Tori and the girls go find out who really killed her date and get her out of jail.

B.E. says

First off, the disclaimer.... I won this through a contest on the author's FB page. But I didn't have to say I liked it or even to review it. (And frankly, I think these disclaimers are a waste of time, but hey, stuff happens.)

Anyway, this is the ninth book in a series that I haven't read any of the other books from. (You know, book budgets being tight these days.) I do admit I was a little worried I wouldn't be able to get into it because I might've missed so much from the first eight books. I was worried for nothing. This book is awesome and it's easy to catch up with the ebb and flow of the gals' relationships through the telling of the story. Okay, I did have a little trouble warming up to Leona, but she's written as sort of a pain, so I guess that was what the author was going for. Still, in the end, I did warm up to her and I learned to love all the gals, plus their new friend, Charles.

As for the mystery, Ms. Casey kept me guessing right up near the end, and even though the real villain was on my list of suspects, I put the person on there because I just didn't know who the killer was and this person was as likely as any other character.

All in all an enjoyable read and I'm definitely going to hunt down the first eight books while I wait for the tenth book to come out. =o)

Tia says

Normally I love this series and will finish a book in 2 days. This one just moved at a snails pace, it was not believable at some points, Tori's sweetness which is barely tolerable most of the time grated on my nerves in this book. This one seemed to be mostly "filler". I ended up skipping to the end 3/4 of the way through because I couldn't take it anymore. Will keep reading the series. Just wouldn't recommend this one to anyone.

Fred says

Taken In is the ninth book in the Southern Sewing Circle Mystery series.

The ladies of the Southern Sewing Circle are looking forward to trip to the "Big Apple" and being on the Taped With Melly and Kenneth show. Dixie Dunn is really looking forward to the trip, as she will be meeting a gentleman that she met on the internet, for the first time. As the ladies are watching Dixie's breakfast with Dreyer, Leona recognizes Dreyer as a con man who preys on older single women. The group soon learns where he lives and they head over to where he lives and as they are approaching they notice a crowd has gathered and learn that someone has pushed Dreyer off his balcony. When the police come to question Dixie, she is soon taken away in handcuffs, arrested for the murder of Dreyer. The police found a torn scarf in her purse that matched a similar piece found in Dreyer's apartment. So, now it is up to the sewing circle ladies to find the murderer so they can ALL return to Sweet Briar. Luckily the ladies have met a bookstore manager with Dreyer and offers to help them.

This was a very fun and funny book, with a great cast of characters. Tori is somewhat the leader of the group and the librarian back in Sweet Briar. Then there is Rose, who is 80 something, and a kind lady, but one that won't take any guff from anyone. The twins, Leona and Margaret Louise are like night and day. Margaret Louise is kind hearted and get all with everyone, Leona likes to act like she perfect and everyone should do as she does.

I will be watching for the next book in the series.

Kristina says

Another delightful book in the Southern Sewing Circle Mystery series. While the mystery was very easy to solve, there were some very funny moments in the book. My favorite is the parody of Live with Kelly and Michael. In the book it is Taped with Melly and Kenneth (and Zelman as the producer). I got a good laugh out of it. This book shows all the members (except the Mayor and Melissa) going to New York to be on a show. However, Dixie gets framed for murder while in New York and the ladies have to solve the crime. They meet a delightful man, Charles, who helps them navigate New York and solve the crime. I did miss the book being set in their cozy town though with all the normal characters. Also, Tori had a lot of doubt about herself and her abilities in this book. I hope the next book in the series is about Tori and Milo's wedding.

OpenBookSociety.com says

<http://openbooksociety.com/article/ta...>

Brought to you by OBS reviewer Kayt

Taken In was a fun and entertaining read in the Southern Sewing Circle Series. The ladies of the Sewing Circle are taken out of the comfort of their hometown Sweet Briar and plopped down in Manhattan. The ladies won an appearance on a top-rated NY based morning show. While in NY Tori's former enemy Dixie plans a meeting with a man she met online. All of the ladies have helped to boost Dixie's profile and can not wait to see how things go.

Unfortunately after Dixie's meeting the man ends up dead. Then his history as a con man is discovered. After the wonderful time the ladies had with Melly and Kenneth (had to laugh when I read their names), things fall apart. Dixie becomes the prime suspect in the murder. She is even arrested when evidence is found in her possession. The ladies know she could not have been involved.

The wonderful ladies of the Sewing Circle come together to prove their friend's innocence. The friendship between these ladies makes this series especially wonderful and heartwarming, while still full of laughs and plenty of twists and turns. This group of women, of all different backgrounds and all different age groups, has such an amazing friendship. Their friendship is the reason they won the trip in the first place. It is also the reason this series is such a treat to read.

Ms Elizabeth Lynn Casey's writing is easy and fun. As a southern woman myself, sometimes I am amazed at how we are portrayed in literature. This series does an admirable job of that, still keeping the laughs coming and the mystery enjoyable. Of course some of the characters are a bit outrageous, but that is how we can be at times. I would recommend Taken In to any cozy reader, as well as crafters. Also readers that enjoy well developed characters and relationships. Another enjoyable installment in the Southern Sewing Circle Series.

OBS would like to thank the publisher for supplying a free copy of this title in exchange for an honest review as part of their ongoing blog tour

Lisa Ks Book Reviews says

The Southern Sewing Circle Mysteries are one of my favorite series and a new book in the series always tops my "must read" stack of books. TAKEN IN only solidified my love of this series.

I'll admit, I was a bit worried to see Tori and the ladies taken out of Sweet Briar and put onto the mean streets of New York City. My worry was for nothing. Turning that group of ladies loose in the big city was brilliant!

I knew it was going to be a wild ride from page one, and I laughed my way through the first chapter. Who am I kidding? I laughed my way through the entire book! The only thing that could have been better than reading about these fun ladies and the mystery they find themselves embroiled in, would have been to get to

go on the trip with them myself!

Besides the fun, it was a wonderful mystery that kept me guessing the whole way through and into the wee hours of the morning, because I simply could not put it down until I was finished!

If you are a fan of the Southern Sewing Circle Mysteries, make sure to add TAKEN IN to your collection. If you haven't read the series, get to ordering! You are missing out on a wonderfully written series, by a talented author who always delivers on mystery, fun, and characters that you will want to call friends.

Suzanne says

I guess I should start by saying this was a new author for me and I picked this book because it sounded interesting and fun even though it isn't the first book of the series. That being said here goes my review.

The Sweet Briar Ladies Society Sewing Circle has won a trip to NYC to appear on a morning talk show called "Taped with Melly and Kenneth" and the producer is a man called Zelman. Not a brain trust as to what show that was modeled after.

So the members of the circle that could go Rose, Margaret Louise, Debbie, Beatrice, Dixie, Leona, who is Margaret Louise's twin, doesn't sew and takes such care of her self that she can pass for half her age, and Victoria the MC who moved to Sweet Briar when her great-grandmother died and left her the sewing shop. Georgina and Melissa are the other two members who couldn't go. Did I mention Leona's rabbit Paris, who goes everywhere with her, stays in an over sized handbag.

The ladies planned a fun three days in the big apple with all expenses paid. Dixie has been down, pun intended, for awhile so Rose, Mary Louise and Beatrice went on line and found her a man to meet while they were in NYC. Dixie's date John turned out to be a con man. Long story short, he turns up dead, and Dixie is thrown in jail accused of his murder.

The ladies, while investigating meet Charles who knew John because John came into the bookstore where Charles works so Charles helps the ladies in their quest to find the true killer and free their friend.

The story is cute if a bit unbelievable in some parts but that's alright because it's a story after all. What started to get on my nerves and take up space was Victoria, forever lamenting about how sad she was that Dixie was in jail. There were times I thought I was re-reading the same page over again. And the pet rabbit. Unless this was written before 9/11 you can't sneak a rabbit on a plane in an over sized tote. The smell alone would be a dead give away. Somethings I do think should stick to real life.

The ending was good. And one I never thought of. I will probably go and read at least the first book to see why a new member of the group takes charge of everything.

I really didn't get a feeling for the characters except for Charles. His personality sparkled. The bickering between Rose and Leona with snide remarks thrown in by Margaret Louise brought vivid pictures to my mind of long time friends who really care and love one another. I could have done without the rest of them, especially the Kenny Rogers bobble head in every picture.

And the NYC settings were a lot of fun, subways and Central Park Zoo especially since a lot of authors don't include those.

For those that don't know how I review, every book no matter who the author starts with zero stars and have to earn each star.

If it wasn't for the subway and the zoo this book would have stopped at 2.

Tess says

Taken In was really a wonderful title for this book, because I found out that I was really "Taken In" by it. I have been reading about the Sweet Briar ladies since Sew Deadly was Published. Elizabeth is very good at drawing me in, my desire it to live in Sweet Briar. ;-0

The ladies are in NY city! The trip was won by Margaret Louise, for writing a letter about friends. Can you imagine these ladies alone in the big apple? The ladies expected the trip to be a short one. A day or 2, then home to their lives in Sweet Briar. Everything was going according to plan until the murder. Sure NY had more than it's share of them, but one that the ladies were involved in? One where 1 of the ladies knew the con-man who died, the lady was accused of it and arrested! Certainly NOT in their plans. Tori and the ladies set out to prove the innocence of their friend, but not without a few mishaps, and a new friend, Charles. He turns out to be heaven sent and does help in proving the lady's innocence. I think that we may be seeing more of Charles.

Elizabeth has written about the ladies and Sweet Briar until I am ready to move there. I need to find a cozy cottage near our lady friends, and settle there for my golden years. Thank you Elizabeth for a series that touches my heart in every book.

Emily Cullen says

The Sweet Briar Ladies Sewing Circle has won a trip to New York City to be on a t.v. show and spend a couple of days sightseeing. Dixie decides to go out on a date with a man she met on line who turns out to be a scammer of older women. When the man winds up dead the police think Dixie is the killer and put her in jail. Tori and the other ladies must find out who really did it to bring Dixie and all of them home. I really enjoy the "Southern Circle Mysteries". Always good stories, great friends and a sweet romance.
