



Last Call

Allyson K. Abbott

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Bar owner Mackenzie “Mack” Dalton and her barstool detectives love to puzzle through cold cases. But when one of their own disappears, danger is on tap . . .

Fresh off solving a murder that hit too close to home, Mack’s trust is shattered. But when Milwaukee police detective Duncan Albright asks for her help with a shooting, she can’t resist using her extra-perceptive senses to benefit others. It turns out the victim was the ruthless businessman their friend Mal was investigating undercover. And now Mal is missing—and his fingerprints are on the gun. Was his cover blown, forcing him into hiding? Or could he be a straight-up killer on the run? Mack doesn’t know what to believe anymore—except her own gut, which leads her to secret rooms, shocking revelations . . . and the fear that this could be her final round.

Last Call Details

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From Reader Review Last Call for online ebook

Nessa says

Oh my goodness! I was reading a Mattie Winston mystery earlier this summer and was excited to discover that Annelise Ryan also writes under a pen name, of Allyson K. Abbott. So I started this series. I love the way the author reveals the story to the reader, there's an interesting situation, combined with the medical background that works with law enforcement.

With a twist in this series.

Mack our protagonist is a bar owner, who also doubles as an independent consultant to the police based on her observations experienced through her condition, called synesthesia, or basically enhanced emotional experiences that involve more than one sense.

In this scenario, Mack is juggling multiple situations; she has one case with a juvenile who happens to have synesthesia also who may be involved with a family member's homicide; a case that is questionable based on what the members of her Capone Club have discovered through local news; a bar renovation; and a friend who is MIA and may be involved in one of the homicide cases. The story is intellectual, flows freely and is fast paced. Can't wait to read the rest of the series!!!

Paula says

I had a difficult time getting into this book. I did like the storyline surrounding the child, Felicity, and Mack's synesthesia and how that played out in the clues and the storyline, but I wasn't really invested in the other characters or the Capone Club. I will check out the earlier books of the series, though, and see how those stories develop.

Becky says

One of the reasons that I am rating this 5 stars is that another character has synesthesia, the unique trait that Mack has, and her story is woven into one of the mysteries needing to be solved very well. As usual, Mack has her great support group working with her as well as Mal and Duncan. Clever plotting!

Sue Em says

Strong cozy series with an usual milieu and protagonist. Mack Dalton owns a bar in Milwaukee a setting that is developed and used to great advantage in this series. However, it's her synesthesia that has gotten to her to be official consultant for the police. Synesthesia, a neurological disorder, has her experiencing every sense in at least two ways. Sounds can be tasted, smells can have visual manifestations, etc. Using this, she can become a human lie detector or recognize if something is changed or missing.

She has used the synesthesia to help solve crimes in the past, including her father's murder. Helping her solve crimes is a cast of bar regulars called the Capone Club. Sufficient exposition is provided to make this an acceptable entry point into the series, but I'm betting you'll want to go back and read more.

Highly recommended. Thanks to netgalley and the publisher for the opportunity to read this book in exchange for an honest review.

Lisa Morin says

Last Call is an amazing addition to this already wonderful series.

Mack is a bright, down to earth character who always looks for the best in people.

She has overcome some tragic events in her life, and these events have made her become the person she is today.

This book captured my attention from the beginning and kept me on the edge of my seat until the end.

This story shows Mack and Dalton, her boyfriend, in a different light while investigating a murder that leaves a small child vulnerable.

I can't say enough about this book, I enjoyed it very much and would recommend it to any reader who enjoys a well told story.

I volunteered to read and review an ARC of this book provided by the publisher and NetGalley.

Christine says

In this latest edition of the Mack's Bar series has Mack assisting the police in a shooting investigation using her synesthesia. Things take a turn when Mack and her boyfriend and detective Duncan Albright, realize their friend and fellow cop who was working undercover may be involved. Mack finds a hidden cubby in the victim's house and it reveals a child who appeared to have witnessed her father's murder. It complicates things when they realize the child has a form of autism. Mack is the only one who can communicate with her. Mack and Duncan work together to piece together what happened and to clear their friend's name.

I really enjoyed this book. I loved Mack's interaction with the young girl, Felicity. I also liked watching her relationship with Duncan develop more. I hope there are more books in this series. The ending was good but felt very final. I highly recommend this series.

Shelly says

Last Call is the sixth book in Allyson K. Abbott's Mack's Bar Mysteries series and the first book I had read in the series. While it can stand on its own, it does provide spoilers of the previous books. The author does a stellar job at creating suspense. I love the concept of The Capone Club, a group of amateur sleuths and a couple of real detectives that meet to discuss crimes. They meet at Mack's Bar, a bar she inherited from her dad. When her dad was murdered, Mack began helping the police with the gifts of her synesthesia condition. It is now the one-year anniversary of her dad's death and Mack is helping to investigate a murder involving a suspect whom Mack knows well. I have to admit that I had a difficult time getting into this book. The details of Mack's synesthesia simply interrupted the flow of this book too much for me personally. However, the author spins a terrific story.

Betty says

Mack Dalton is now a consultant to the Milwaukee police department in the 6th installment of Mack's Bar series. Mack accompanied Police Detective Duncan Albright to his next case. They find a businessman shot from behind. The gun lying nearby and their friend Mal's fingerprints are on the gun and Mal is missing. Mack informs the officers that there are two different types of blood present. Her synesthesia allows to point out several items. Mack finds a hidden room and young girl who appears to be autism and possibly has some form of synesthesia. At this point, the tale has several twists and turns as Mack and Duncan attempt to find answers. Who is the girl? Where is Mel? The Capone Clubs bring another puzzler to the police attention. Did the victim died a natural death or was he murdered? I highly recommend this book and series. Recipes for cocktail drinks are included.

Disclosure: Many thanks to Kensington Books for a review copy. The opinions expressed are my own.

Sherry says

Best of All!

When I read these books I feel like I could be not only a regular at Mack's bar, but part of the Capone club. They feel so real! I love a good mystery & this was had several. I also am a sucker for a happy ending. I hope this was not the last book in this series, but if it is, it was wrapped up beautifully!

RO G'ma says

Last Call is the sixth book in Allyson K. Abbott's Mack's Bar Mysteries series. Both mysteries are presented well throughout the entire book. There are lots of red herrings and twists and turns to sort through and the characters are well developed and likeable. There is some adult language in this book, but no graphic violence or adult situations. The author is talented in creating suspense and tension with her written words.

Mackenzie "Mack" Dalton owns Mack's Bar in downtown Milwaukee and has a neurological condition called synesthesia, which causes her to experience sensations in multiple modalities, such as a voice triggering a taste and a lie tasting different from the truth. This makes her an asset to Milwaukee Homicide Detective Duncan Albright and her crime-solving group, The Capone Club, which is comprised of a diverse crew of amateur sleuths and a couple of detectives. Mark Holland, chief of police and Tony Dixon, the current DA, recently invited her to work with them on a consulting basis. Previously, Mack received letters with puzzles that she must solve within a specific timeframe to prevent the death of people she knows and cares about and she's currently recovering from an accident that prevented her from making it to one of those locations.

On the anniversary of her father's murder, Mack's boyfriend, Milwaukee Homicide Detective Duncan Albright receives a call about a murder. Given the emotions she's feeling, Duncan offers Mack an out, but in her new role as a consultant, she insists on going to the crime scene. The victim is identified as Sheldon Janssen, the number one man for Wade Klein, a construction company owner who is under investigation for conducting business in a very unprofessional manner. Duncan and Mack's good friend and undercover cop, Malachi "Mal" O'Reilly's fingerprints are on the murder weapon and no one seems to know where he is.

Mack's synesthesia leads her to a scared little girl inside a hidden space in Sheldon's house. Mack bonds with the girl, Felicity, who is Sheldon's daughter, and believes she is autistic and might have some form of synesthesia.

Sonja West, one of The Capone Club's members, brings Mack's second official case to her attention. Sonja, the owner of an upscale hair salon, suspects one of her clients, Caroline Knutson, murdered her husband, Oliver. The case isn't in Duncan's district, but he agrees to look into it. Detective Roberta "Bobby" Dillon agrees to allow Duncan and Mack investigate the case with her.

I received an Advance Reader Copy of this book from NetGalley and voluntarily reviewed it.

Kristina says

Last Call by Allyson K. Abbott is the sixth A Mack's Bar Mystery. Mackenzie "Mack" Dalton has been asked to be a consultant for the Milwaukee Police Department. Her synesthesia has helped solve several recent cases and Duncan Albright calls her his secret weapon. Duncan is called out to a murder scene and Mack joins him for her first consulting gig. They find Sheldon Janssen dead from a gunshot wound and his little girl hidden in a secret room. Mack is surprised to discover that the little girl, Felicity has undiagnosed synesthesia. Mal O'Reilly's blood and fingerprints are found at the scene, but no one can find him. It turns out that Mal was working undercover at Wade Klein's construction company and Janssen was Klein's right-hand man. They do not know if Mal has been badly injured or if his cover has been blown? Sonja, a Capone Club member, brings the group a case to solve. Caroline Knutson has been griping about her husband for quite some time, and suddenly Oliver turns up dead. Instead of grieving, the widow is updating her look at the salon with a pleased countenance. Mack and Duncan team up with the lead detective, Roberta Dillon to make sure Oliver did not have help getting to the great beyond. As if Mack does not have enough to keep her occupied, the O'Reilly clan is working on the bar's elevator and, to keep them safe, they have moved into her apartment. Come along to Mack's Bar, pull up a stool, grab a bite to eat along with a refreshing beverage and help the group solve the two crimes in Last Call.

Last Call may be the sixth novel in A Mack's Bar Mystery series, but it can be read alone. The author summarizes the first five books in the series (the cases in each one). We learn about Mack's synesthesia, how she inherited the bar, the Capone Club, updates she has made to the bar, and her relationship with Duncan. If you have not read the other books, it will spoil it them you. However, it is has been a while since you read a book in A Mack's Bar Mystery, you might find it helpful. I thought the story was nicely written with steady pacing throughout (for the most part). I did feel that the frequent explanations of Mack's synesthesia interrupt the flow of the story. It is obvious that the author did her research on synesthesia from the way she presents the information and the amount of detail included. The two crimes were interesting, but they were not complex. The way one of the murders was executed was unique and clever. There are good clues to aid readers in solving the cases before the solution is revealed. The members of the Capone Club are mentioned in the book, but we spend little time with them. It can be difficult to keep all the characters straight (there are so many with the bar employees, Capone Club, O'Reilly family, police officers). I thought the ending was sweet and romantic. A majority of Last Call felt like filler. I would have preferred the author focus on one murder mystery. The way Last Call ended makes it seem as if it is the last book in A Mack's Bar Mystery series.

Susan Johnston says

Princess Fuzzypants here: Mack is a different type of detective which makes this a different type of mystery. It still has the twists and turns and characters that make for a riveting story but it is Mack's gift or curse, that lifts it above the crowd. Mack was born with a neurological condition whereby she experiences her senses differently from the rest of us. When she smells something, she will often have a visual reaction as well. Every sense is doubled up, so to speak. It caused her no end of challenges as a child until she was diagnosed and allowed to develop her abilities.

Her talents make her a valuable asset to police, once they can get beyond the skepticism. Her greatest advocate is her boyfriend and the two of them have three separate but connected mysteries to solve including two murders. In the course of the investigation Mack finds a child who has a similar condition on top of so many other factors that conspire to isolate her. Thankfully Mack is able to connect and help the little girl. I love Mack. She is a fascinating character who has allowed her differences to define her in a totally positive way. I love the characters who surround her and I loved the clever twists that are wound into the narrative. All in all, I could not put the book down.

I give five purrs and two paws up.

Angela says

I have enjoyed this series. The unique neurological condition that the main character suffers from is fascinating and gives her a "Holmes" like perception of the world. While I have always felt that the cast of characters was a tad too big to keep track of, everyone is likable in their own right. The ones who matter the most to our main are well described and we get just the right amount of back story on them as background characters. The romantic story line is the only one I have felt was lacking a bit. I've never really connected to the two as a couple.

In this installment we are treated to 2 mysteries to solve. The "official" police one involves the case Mal has been undercover on since he was introduced as a character. This mystery was well thought out and intriguing. I did not guess the murderer until late in the story. The second mystery is the "Capone Club" one. This also was well thought out but I figured it all out with the first synthetic clue that Mack had and couldn't figure out herself until later. Despite that I enjoyed watching Mack and Duncan figure it all out.

My only complaint is in a particular writing choice. I don't really like when the author has her characters have a conversation, in this case, their plan to capture the villain and their theory on the crime, and not have the reader listen in on the conversation. I get that for the reader to have that conversation would mean revealing the solution earlier than the author wants but it just feels out of place considering the reader is present for all other conversations but all of a sudden we are shut out. For me it is distracting from the flow of the narrative.

Overall I enjoy the series. This did feel a bit like a "last call" book and I don't know if there will be more but I will continue to read them if there are more stories to read.

Anne says

Last Call is probably my favorite of the books in this series so far. I never really connected with Mack, but

events in this book made her seem warmer and more approachable than in past books. There is a new character introduced which may be why I found Mack more likable.

If you're new to the series the rehashing of Mack's synesthesia and past crime solving may be helpful, for readers of the past 5 books it could be a bit tedious, because there's quite a bit of it. Since it's been a while since I've read this series it didn't bother me and was actually helpful.

I received my copy from Netgalley in exchange for my honest review.

Ann says

This is book 6 in the Mack's Bar series. With Mal missing, Mack and her bar stool friends are eager to solve the latest case. police detective Duncan Albright asks for her help with a shooting, and the victim turns out to be the bad guy that Mal was investigation. The police think Mal is the shooter but Mack and the gang know he's in trouble. I received a copy of this ARC in exchange for a fair and honest review.
