



## If the Shoe Kills

*Lynn Cahoon*

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The tourist town of South Cove, California, is a lovely place to spend the holidays. But this year, shop owner Jill Gardner discovers there's no place like home for homicide...

As owner of Coffee, Books, and More, Jill Gardner looks forward to the hustle and bustle of holiday shoppers. But when the mayor ropes her into being liaison for a new work program, 'tis the season to be wary. Local businesses are afraid the interns will be delinquents, punks, or worse. For Jill, nothing's worse than Ted Hendricks--the jerk who runs the program. After a few run-ins, Jill's ready to kill the guy. That, however, turns out to be unnecessary when she finds Ted in his car--dead as a doornail. Officer Greg assumes it's a suicide. Jill thinks it's murder. And if the holidays weren't stressful enough, a spoiled blonde wants to sue the city for breaking her heel. Jill has to act fast to solve this mess--before the other shoe drops.

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"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

72,500 Words

## If the Shoe Kills Details

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## **From Reader Review If the Shoe Kills for online ebook**

### **LORI CASWELL says**

#### **Dollycas's Thoughts**

Spending the holidays in South Cove sounds wonderful if you can look beyond finding a dead body or two. Book three in this series introduces us to Ted Hendricks and a program that matches businesses up with people looking for work. They work as interns as they gain experience to land them a full time job in the future. We quickly learn that Ted is a real creep and had someone not put the people of South Cove out of his misery he would have been headed to jail. It looks like suicide but Jill knows is was murder and is out to prove it.

Cahoon has brought back the characters we loved in the first two books, Jill, Aunt Jackie, town detective/Jill's boyfriend, Greg King, Officer Toby/barista, and more. We meet Marie, the owner of the stained glass shop across the street from Coffee, Books, and More. No one knows much about her past but she and her store are a welcome addition to South Cove. We also deal with Greg's ex-wife, the mayor's wife because she decides to take over planning the holiday festival, both women cause chaos. We also meet all the interns working through the holidays at several businesses.

She has immersed these characters in a story with a bit of romance, the aforementioned chaos, some humor, and plenty of stuff for Jill to poke her nose into so that trouble soon follows.

I loved that the intern working Coffee, Books, and More starts Aunt Jackie's marketing juices flowing and that she comes up with a fabulous way to promote reading for a group of people that are unable to purchase books.

This was a very fast read for me, the title had me thinking I knew who the killer was and I was waiting for a connection to be revealed only the more I read the more I realized I was wrong.

A very entertaining read and I look forward to more Tourist Trap Mysteries coming soon!

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### **Yvonne says**

It's holiday time in South Cove, California and Jill Gardner has her hands full. Not only does she have her own bookstore/café to run, but she's asked to be the liaison for a new work program which is run by Ted Hendricks. Each business in the tourist town is assigned an intern to assist them, but the store owners are afraid the interns will turn out to be delinquents and not trustworthy. It's up to Jill to convince them to participate. The big problem is that Hendricks is not a very nice guy. When Jill finds Hendricks dead in his car, she figures that's one less problem to deal with. Her detective boyfriend thinks it's suicide, but Jill suspects something much more sinister than that and she intends to find out what really happened to the creep.

This is the third book in this delightful series. I love re-visiting Jill and her friends. I wish I lived in South Cove...it sounds so quaint (except for the murders, of course). The author does a great job in writing the dialogue and creating a believable and idyllic setting. You can't help but feel you are visiting this small town.

It's a fast-paced story. A cozy mystery at its best! This book has all the ingredients you need or want for a few hours of enjoyment - mystery, romance and a cast of characters that will make you laugh and cry. The characters have quickly become friends of this reader. I couldn't put this one down and look forward to the next installment of this fun series.

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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.

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### **Micky Cox says**

The third book in the series and an interesting twist to the plot. While there are multiple plausible suspects, it is pretty well set up to lead the final suspect. Great characters, although I did struggle a bit with the personality development of a few characters in this installment. The glass shop owner apparently hates Jill, yet trusts her? While it is a little thing and did not detract terribly from the storyline, it doesn't sit quite right. Overall the story line was good, characters are good. I'm just hoping for a bit more consistency in personalities as they develop and really hope to be over the is he or isn't he over his ex-wife nonsense soon.

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### **Elizabeth says**

I am so enjoying this series and am thankful that I've been able to receive a complimentary copy from the publisher and NetGalley to provide an honest review.

I have now read all three books in this series so far and have found them to be well written and with great characters and plots. "If the Shoe Kills" didn't seem like the best title to me, but the story itself was great, Jill and Greg are great together and the remainder of the cast of characters were interesting and fun. I like that the author adds new characters each time while continuing to center the storyline around the main characters.

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### **Marcia Trotter says**

I love this series!

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### **Robin Morgan says**

This book is one of three I've recently won which had been offered as part of an internet giveaway by the

publisher and the following is my honest opinion for this book.

This story takes place in the relatively small tourist town of South Clove, California. Who doesn't love these quaint small towns, I know I do; especially the small stores which populate towns like this. As I read this book images of the television program "Murder She Wrote" kept popping into my mind. I saw Jill Gardner filling the shoes of crime author Jessica Fletcher; and like Jessica, Jill is involving with books, she sells them instead of writing them.

And like Cabot Cove, Maine where Jessica is the protagonist, there's a lot of intriguing things happening with Jill taking on the role of the protagonist.

Being well-known and liked in South Clove, the mayor finagles Jill into becoming the town's liaison to a new work program to benefit the town's merchants for the holiday season. Jill first has to sell everyone on the plan, because they're fearful that it would mean hiring the undesirables, undesirables who they'd never hired on their own. But, unfortunately, it would also mean having to work with a guy she knows all too well after a few interactions, Ted Hendricks.

However, soon he is found dead in his car, in front of the police office station; and while her hot detective boyfriend thinks it's a suicide, Jill, like Jessica thinks a murder has taken place and sets out to prove it. If this isn't enough, a ritzy blonde wants to sue the city for causing the heel on her shoe to break, interfering with the investigations to find the truth.

And like Jessica in Murder She Wrote, Ms Cahoon does a wonderful job in keeping the "surprise" murderer a secret to the end of the book. For this romantic mystery, I must now reveal my feelings for this book, which is 5 STARS.

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### **Sylvikb says**

Before I begin, I must admit that I started this novel with a biased perspective. This is due to the fact that I had already read the previous novel, "Guidebook to Murder" by Lynn Cahoon and had immediately grown smitten with the story. So when I started the next installment of Tourist Trap Mystery series with, "If the Shoe Kills" by Lynn Cahoon I had high expectations. I am happy to admit that some of my expectations were met while other aspects of the story exceeded my own imagination.

Holidays are right around the corner, which is usually the highlight of this small tourist town. Unfortunately instead of days being filled with warmth, smiles, and pumpkin pie this little community is too busy trying to find a murderer. Someone has successfully sucked the jolly out of this year's holiday season and even though the person that winds up dead had been a bit of a Grinch himself people are left depressed and a bit shaken. I had already fallen in love with Jill Gardner the owner of a little Book and Coffee shop in a residential tourist town in South Cove in the previous novel. She is your down-to-earth nosy neighbor that can't help but get involved with all the town's mysteries and take charge. This story isn't any different. We get to see Jill meddle in another town murder despite her friends' warnings.

Now add a handsome detective, Greg King who has also fallen in love with Jill Gardner and even though their relationship has become more serious he still tries to keep a strict line of separation between his personal and professional life. It isn't Jill's fault that her curiosity can sometimes blur those lines for him, but it is fun to read. I love watching the love grow between these two and unlike other romances this couple actually takes things slow. I like to think that Greg and Jill can represent a couple that could be found in reality. This realistic love story is one of the reasons I am attached to the series. The story isn't about them as

a romantic couple but you can't help but love the little moments the couple shares in-between finding killers and outrunning them.

This mystery novel was light, fun, and kept me thoroughly engaged. I only wish it was longer because even though the author did a good job in keeping the killer a mystery when the truth was revealed I was left with some questions. Overall a good book with a cliffhanger ending that is going to keep me on my toes.

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### **Gary Sundell says**

Another really good entry in the Tourist Trap series. This one was a bit lighter on the investigation than the first 2. Probably 4.5 stars. The towns cast of characters grows a bit in this book. Jill, the main character, seems to be a trouble magnet. She discovers a dead body on her way to see her boyfriend at City Hall. So who killed the scumbag director of the work fare program? Was it a suicide or a murder.

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### **Amanda says**

Great easy, fun read! There were several suspects and I didn't guess the culprit before it was revealed. Though the story doesn't take place during the holidays, Jill's shop and the rest of the town are preparing and decorating and getting into the holiday spirit. I really like the elements of giving to those in need and helping others in this book! Looking forward to reading #4 as soon as I can get it.

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### **Judy Collins says**

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

Lynn Cahoon is back with **If the Shoe Kills** (*A Tourist Trap Mystery #3*) with Jill, Aunt Jacklie, Greg the hot detective and love interest, and the gang at South Cove Merchant's association.

**This time when they try** and do the right thing, all sorts of mischief and happenings as they prepare for the Christmas season; from small town dirty politics, murder, a not so pleasant mayor, a work program which turns deadly, an ex-wife, Santa, and a new store owner, Marie Jones of The Glass Slipper.

**Set in South Cove, California**, Jill runs the Coffee, Books, and More, and heads up the merchant association. A lot of small town business owners who like to have their nose in everyone's business, from the antiques shop, book shop, the winery, the B&B, the shoe shop, and the café.

**This season, the mayor** kind of pushes her to support a work program (interns) as a way to help out delinquents and store owners during the holiday season. (*not a bright idea if they are into stealing or killing*), or perhaps have ideas getting boozed up at Darla's winery.

**The worst part is the guy**, Ted who heads up the welfare to work program, Work Today. Of course he quickly creates plenty of enemies and winds up dead. There are many who would like to see him dead and the investigation begins as to whether it was suicide or murder? A whodunit begins. Of course there is

always drama when you get this group together with a capital D. In addition, Jill is the president of the I Hate the Mayor-Baylor Club.

**If you enjoy a little murder** mystery with your eggnog and the cozy small town charm, would recommend The Tourist Trap Mysteries.

JDCMustReadBooks

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### **Linda says**

Jill Gardner owns Coffee, Books and More, and runs it smoothly with the help of her Aunt Jackie and part-time employee, Toby. The town is participating in a work program headed by an overbearingly rude man, Ted Hendricks. All the work program employees seem happy in their placements, but are uneasy and afraid around Ted. Then, Ted turns up dead. Jill's boyfriend is a detective, Greg, who continually tells her to leave the investigating to him, but Jill's curious nature keeps her sleuthing instincts always on alert. The mayor's wife is causing trouble. Greg's ex-wife is causing trouble. Plus, Aunt Jackie has volunteered the shop to sponsor a book drive for the Bakerstown Children's Center. The cast of regular characters is strong, but the mystery is lacking compared to the first two books in The Tourist Trap Mysteries. The story is fast-paced, and an easy afternoon's read.

NetGalley and Kensington provided a complimentary copy of this book. I voluntarily posted an honest review.

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### **Ruth says**

This series just gets better and is fast turning into one of my favourites. I love Jill and all the other characters, and really enjoy reading about how she is developing her business and becoming part of the community. I like the fact that the murder mystery is intriguing and kept me guessing, but doesn't dominate the story completely.

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### **Mary Brown says**

If The Shoe Kills by Lynn Cahoon is the third book in A Tourist Trap Mystery series. I have read all three in the series and I have enjoyed all three.

It is Thanksgiving time in South Cove, California. The business community is participating in a work program where interns will help in their shops. Many of them are not happy about this because they are afraid that the interns will be trouble makers and delinquents. And most of them do not like the man in charge, Ted. He is unfriendly and obnoxious and only worries about himself. Someone disliked him enough to kill him.

Jill Gardner owns a coffee shop and bookstore in town and she is also the business liaison with the city. She is unfortunate enough to be the one who finds Ted's body. Although she did not like Ted, she cannot keep herself from investigating the murder. Her boyfriend, Greg, who is a detective, wants her to stay out of it and

leave the investigating to him. But that is not something that Jill can do, so with the help of her friends, she sets out to solve the mystery.

Jill is also planning on hosting a big Thanksgiving dinner for her family and friends and she is stressing out about it. She is also stressing out because Greg's ex-girlfriend is back in town and trying to get him back. And did I mention that her coffee shop/bookstore is hosting a children's Christmas book party for the less fortunate children in the area? Will she be able to juggle all of it or will everything come crashing down around her?

The characters are well developed, well rounded and three dimensional. Since I have read all three books in the series, I can see the growth of all the main characters. They are people that you can relate to and care about. The friendships seem real and they are people I would like to know.

The mystery is carried on throughout the entire book. There are many twists and turns and a lot of possible suspects to consider. Although I was pretty sure who the killer was, I did not figure out the reason behind it. There is a bit of surprise concerning the reason.

The writing style flows smoothly and this book was an easy read. The writing was descriptive and I felt like I was right there watching the action instead of just reading about it.

I would recommend this book (and the other two in the series) to anyone who enjoys a well crafted cozy. Although this book could be read as a stand-alone, to enjoy it even more you should read the first two books. They are all very good and I'm glad that I found this author and series to enjoy.

I received a free copy of this book from NetGalley in exchange for a honest review. I would like to thank NetGalley and Kensington Books for the opportunity to read and review this book.

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### **Ann says**

This is a nice Christmas story in the Tourist Trap Mystery series. This is a cute cozy book with re-occurring characters and a great little California town setting. Jill and her Aunt Jackie are having a Christmas party for the Children's center and in the midst of the planning a man is murdered. Between the party and the investigation, Jill is busy keeping out of Greg's official police probe. Can't wait for the next installment.

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### **Vanessa says**

Very Very good. Like this whole series. Good story. Mystery I can't figure out right away. Write more!!!!

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