



If Books Could Kill

Kate Carlisle

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Murder is easy-on paper.

Book restoration expert Brooklyn Wainwright is attending the world- renowned Book Fair when her ex Kyle shows up with a bombshell. He has an original copy of a scandalous text that could change history-and humiliate the beloved British monarchy.

When Kyle turns up dead, the police are convinced Brooklyn's the culprit. But with an entire convention of suspects, Brooklyn's conducting her own investigation to find out if the motive for murder was a 200-year-old secret-or something much more personal.

If Books Could Kill Details

Date : Published (first published December 17th 2009)

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Author : Kate Carlisle

Format : Kindle Edition 293 pages

Genre : Mystery, Cozy Mystery, Fiction, Writing, Books About Books

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From Reader Review If Books Could Kill for online ebook

Cait S says

I'm still loving this series. I didn't enjoy this one quite as much as the first but it was still quite good.

I think the main problem I had with this one was that it felt very repetitive. Her days, other than the Big Plot Moments, were all much the same. Wake up confused, eat french toast, flirt with Derrek, PLOT HAPPENS, drink a lot of Scotch, go to bed, repeat. The whole book sort of plodded along that same set course.

But so it goes. Hopefully the third will be as good as the first.

Apoorv Moghe says

If Books Could Kill | Kate Carlisle | 03Jan2016

Bibliophile Mystery #2

Published/Pages : 17Dec2009 | 290 pages

Location : Edinburgh (Scotland)

Time Frame/Season : 2000s | Summer

Genre : Mystery, Books about Books, Contemporary, Amateur Sleuth

Characters : Brooklyn Wainwright, Derek Stone, Robin Tully, Angus MacLeod, Minka LaBoeuf, Helen Chin, Martin Warrington, Perry McDougall, Kyle McVee, Serena McVee, Royce McVee.

Rating Analysis

Premise : 7/10

Introduction : 7/10

Number of Characters : 7/10

Character Development : 6/10

Backup history for the story : 7/10

Fiction Quality : 7/10

Pace of the Story : 7/10

Dramatic Effect : 6/10

Climax : 6/10

Impact it made : 7/10

TOTAL : 67/100 (6.7 Stars = 3.35 Stars = ★★★)

Review

Now then, after *Homicide in Hardcover*, I was engaged with the series.. and the series does have a very interesting background of mysteries revolving around books (now c'mon, who doesn't like mysteries and books ? Combine them together and I am sold).. but *Kate Carlisle* slightly went off on this one. Not bad, but not too promising either.

As I mentioned, the whole book-binding and book-restoring focus of this series is a prime highlight and *Homicide in Hardcover* did dwell a lot on that fact prominently. However, I missed that a bit in this book. This one after a point started to veer into Brooklyn's romantic fantasies more than her fascinating work and I would have preferred reading the latter more than the former. Although, I give it to the author for keeping the narrative crisp and the dialogue natural, thereby wanting the reader to keep turning the pages. The pages of *If Books Could Kill* literally invite themselves to be turned quickly because they possess a quality that has too often fallen out of favor: they are digestible.

The book did have its laugh-out-loud moments but overall it sort of followed an obvious, established set pattern. The main characters of the series are a hoot and the author deserves an applause for creating them the way she has. It is no surprise that this would remind you of Janet Evanovich's *Stephanie Plum* and her antics but kudos to *Kate Carlisle* to still hold her ground with Brooklyn Wainwright.

The murders and their investigations were not too shocking (and given its a cozy, I dont expect much on that front either) but my biggest grouse though, was the climax of this book. It was a downer for me and very anti-climactic in nature given the build-up. I will leave it at that, without giving out any more spoilers.

Any which way, this is a fluffy, keep-your-brains-aside kind of series and it indeed serves the purpose of passing on a few laughs. I will certainly continue with the series purely to learn about the book restoration process and see where Brooklyn finally ends up at.

Reaction Section

Patrizia says

Bel libro, con un buona storia gialla e una soluzione in parte inaspettata. Ma la cosa che ho apprezzato di più è stata l'ambientazione a Edimburgo: l'autrice è riuscita a rendere perfettamente l'atmosfera di quella città.

Roberta says

This isn't so much a bibliomystery as it is Stephanie Plum goes west.

The star of the show is a young woman with loony parents. She is involved with a handsome hunk who is connected to law enforcement and with another drop-dead gorgeous guy who operates outside of the law. She has a female sidekick who is noticed for her physical attributes. If you like Janet Evanovich's books, you've come to the right place.

I have decided that it is an advantage for my reading pleasure to believe that, in the world of fiction, all

ordinary girls are pursued by multiple incredibly gorgeous men who are great kissers. But some things sent my suspended disbelief into a nose dive. No professional bookbinder would ever be seen in public with a priceless rare book in one hand and a Cadbury bar in the other. Brooklyn slobbers food all over her own projects and dealers' books at the book fair. In this book Brooklyn wins a very prestigious bookbinding contest with a project that she worked on for "hours." And how did she get all those knives past homeland security without getting yanked out of line and detained for a rubber-gloved strip search?

Shonna Froebel says

This is the second book in this serie, but the first that I've read. It's a light mystery, but not a cosy. Brooklyn Wainwright is a bookbinder and rare book dealer. She is in Edinburgh to attend the city's book fair. She is doing a couple of workshops herself, and hoping to meet up with some old friends. After stopping for a quick refreshment to help her with the jet lag from her trip from the west coast of the United States, and a disappointment at the end, she meets up with a friend she hasn't seen in some time, Helen Chin. Helen and her were close until Helen's marriage to another book dealer, Martin. But now Helen says the marriage is close to over, and she's back to her old self, and involved seriously with someone new. They agree to get together later.

Brooklyn meets up with another previous acquaintance, but a less friendly one when she stops for a snack, and decides to get some fresh air. On her walk to reacquaint herself with the city, she is stopped again by another old friend, Kyle, who wants a favour. He has a rare book in wonderful condition, and wants her to help authenticate it. But the book is controversial and someone has already threatened him over it. Brooklyn agrees and takes the book.

When she and Helen stumble across Kyle's body on their tour that evening, Brooklyn can't help but connect it to the book he gave her. But she has more to worry about than the book, as it looks like Kyle was killed with one of her own bookbinding tools.

As the plot thickens, Brooklyn's parents and best friend Robin arrive, and get involved, as does the British man she is beginning to be involved with, Derek. Brooklyn can't help doing some sleuthing of her own as she tries to defend herself against the police's suspicion. But is she putting herself in even more danger? Her family is quirky, but loving, and she has some interesting friends. Brooklyn is skilled at her profession, and that likely threatens some of the people who have taken a dislike to her. There is a lot going on her, and as Brooklyn gradually eliminates some suspects, she finds there is more to this than a historical scandal.

Christina says

Overall, this was an enjoyable, quick read. It had a lot of the things I've liked about cozy mysteries- not too deep but entertaining, a resourceful MC with a funny cast of characters, a mystery with some good red herrings. Oh and book binding is facinating!

I dinged it however, because the MC makes fun of her recurring nemesis by calling her fat in so many words and other references to her weight. Didn't care for that at all. I hope that doesn't continue in the next book.

So I gave it a qualified 3.5 stars.

Mary says

The mystery was pretty good, but the romancy-elements annoyed me. How can every man she meets be gorgeous? No, not actually all of them, some are murder victims/suspects. All the others are outrageously good looking. Meh.

Chibineko says

When I read the first book in the series (Homicide in Hardcover), I knew that this was going to be a series that I would follow for quite a while. Not only does Carlisle manage to weave a good mystery, but she also includes one of my favorite subjects: books.

After the events from the previous book, all Brooklyn wants is to have a nice time at the Edinburgh Book Fair. However, her plans for a relaxing weekend are interrupted by her nemesis Minka as well as an ex-lover showing up claiming that he has a book that is proof of a royal love scandal. When his dead body is discovered on a local ghost tour that Brooklyn is attending, she knows that she might be in danger. When the police discover that one of her book restoration tools was the murder weapon, Brooklyn knows that she has to uncover the truth & clear her name!

I will admit that while I loved this book, it did take a while for it to really get started. Don't get me wrong- I love reading about Brooklyn, especially since she's so intelligent & really knows what she wants. It's just that the opening set up for the mystery took a while to unwind. It isn't bad or boring, just a little drawn out.

I liked that our heroine's hunky love interests return in this book & that her fantastic parents make an appearance as well. (Hey, her mom is a hoot to read about & it is nice to have a story where the mom is nurturing & not overbearing, as some mystery moms tend to be.) The mystery is nicely done & I have to admit, I was a little surprised at the end. As always, we get a nice dose of book love as well as book reconstruction- something that is surprisingly interesting. (Actually, I wished that there was a little more book reconstruction- I love the way Carlisle describes it!

If you haven't read the previous book then rest easy- you don't have to read it to understand everything that is going on in this book. While the previous book is referenced quite a bit, Carlisle does do a bit of explanation about everything that has gone on before. Not so much that it interrupts the book flow, but enough that a first time reader can go through the book with ease. I do recommend picking up the first book, though...

I can't wait for the next book (The Lies That Bind) to be released in February of 2011- if it keeps up the trend with the previous two books, it promises to be a real treat!

Missy says

Terrible. I had a very difficult time finishing the book. THE first in the series was good, but this was bad-very bad. It should not be classified as a mystery, but a romance with a tiny, silly mystery. I will not continue the series and I am very disappointed, as I am a bibliophile and love reading about books-this hardly touched on book lore.

Gerry says

A series of bibliophile mysteries, what could be better than combining two such themes? If this, the second in the series, is anything to go by, the answer is 'very little'.

Brooklyn Wainwright, a book restorer, is attending the Edinburgh Book Fair and is shown a supposedly rare volume by a colleague, who happens to have been a lover of hers.

She is perplexed by the volume and decides to investigate its authenticity but when she encounters dead bodies at almost every turn she realises that something is not quite right!

A cast of characters, who all add to the charm of the fast-paced, saucy and amusing mystery, emerge and any number of them could be the perpetrator of the crime(s).

But the main police officer involved pronounces, 'Nobody kills over a book.' But do they? Is it the scarce Rabbie Burns volume that is the catalyst for murder? And who is the secret person who eventually takes the copy of the book?

To find the answers, 'If Books Could Kill' is out there to be read ... and believe me, as bibliophiles, readers won't be disappointed.

Margaret says

Fun and flamboyant, the author makes the most of the main character's loopy parents with their granola colonics and matching kilts, a cast of mostly stunningly handsome lovers, and even a few glimpses of the uniting theme for the series, the bookbinder's art.

Ellie says

If Books Could Kill by Kate Carlisle is a fun mystery. I liked the heroine, Brooklyn Wainwright, and her eccentric family. I liked her friends. I liked her job as a book binder and restorer and learned interesting stuff about a subject I find interesting.

Although the characters and plot are sketchy as genre characters often are, I enjoyed the sketches and felt that Carlisle added sufficient telling details to make each character seem alive. I was grateful that the characters were likable and I look forward to reading all the books in this series.

If you like cozy mysteries, I'm sure you'll enjoy this book!

Carol says

If Books Could Kill by Kate Carlisle

Bibliophile Mystery series Book #2

3.5★'s

From The Book:

Murder is easy-on paper. Book restoration expert Brooklyn Wainwright is attending the world- renowned Book Fair when her ex Kyle shows up with a bombshell. He has an original copy of a scandalous text that could change history-and humiliate the beloved British monarchy.

When Kyle turns up dead, the police are convinced Brooklyn's the culprit. But with an entire convention of suspects, Brooklyn's conducting her own investigation to find out if the motive for murder was a 200-year-old secret-or something much more personal.

My Thoughts:

In spite of my continued avoidance of the cozy mystery genre I found that I did rather enjoy this one. Again I have to confess if it had not been for the sub-genre challenge on the Mystery & Suspense Extra group on LibraryThing I would never have picked the book up and would have missed this well written mystery that is populated with lots of devious suspects, daunting detectives, and a few humerus Scots. I even learned some very interesting information about book restoration.

Holly Kench says

Gosh. OK. So here's the thing. I sort of, vaguely, really, quite a bit, maybe enjoyed the first in this series, Homicide in Hardcover. I mean, it was a fun, trashy chick-lit-detective story that made for a relaxing read. The hero, Derek, rescued and patronised a little too much for my liking, and the heroine, Brooklyn, fainted more often than I could bear. Yet, despite the occasional stereotype, minority representation was good in this book, and it was basically a fun read.

However, the second in the series, If Books could Kill, became simply ridiculous. Although the protagonist was visiting Edinburgh (from San Francisco – the setting for Book 1), nearly the entire cast from the first book, randomly turned up again in the second. The plot turns made next to no sense, and by the end of the story I just wanted to punch Brooklyn hard in the face. I had been a little confused in the first book by some of her decision making processes, but by half way through the second book, I began to presume she had suffered brain damage during one of her fainting episodes – she couldn't be naturally so stupid, surely?!

Also (and I really can't believe I need to bring this up), in what world are enemas and colonics considered cause for repeated discussion in any novel?

JoAn says

If Books Could Kill by Kate Carlisle is one of those books I didn't want to put down. Brooklyn, her quirky family, Derek and Robyn made this one a fascinating read from beginning to end. The mystery kept me

totally in the dark until the reveal. On to the next one.
