



## The Pint of No Return

*Ellie Alexander*

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No other festival compares to Oktoberfest in Leavenworth, Washington. The whole town is buzzing with excitement over this year's activities and eagerly awaiting Nitro's latest offering Cherrywizen, made with locally sourced cherries. But local brewmaster Sloan Krause is tapped out. Between trying to manage the pub, her pending divorce with Mac, and her mounting feelings for Garrett, she's fermenting in internal turmoil.

To complicate matters, dreamy movie star Mitchell Morgan and his production crew have arrived in the village to film during the authentic Bavarian brewfest. Mitchell has his eye on Sloan and a taste for Nitro's Cherrywizen. Sloan escapes his advances for good when she finds Mitchell slumped over the bar. Is this a case of one pint too many, or has Mitchell been murdered by microbrew?

## **The Pint of No Return Details**

Date : Published October 2nd 2018 by Minotaur Books

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Author : Ellie Alexander

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## From Reader Review The Pint of No Return for online ebook

### Tari says

This was a really enjoyable followup to the first book I read this year in this series. It was very hard to put down and moved at just the perfect pace.

It was Oktoberfest in Leavenworth, WA and a film crew was visiting to make a documentary. The director took a real interest in Sloan as a female brewer. When the host of the documentary ended up murdered, Sloan began to suspect the film crew members as well as one of the town's own people. Could she and Garrett help police Chief Meyers find the killer before the killer decided that Sloan was getting too close to the truth?

I'm enjoying the side mystery of Sloan's search for her birth parents. I had almost forgotten about it from the first book, but it goes into a little more detail in this book by introducing Sally, Sloan's old case worker. Sally thought something was off about the case when she was working it and apologized to Sloan for not investigating then. I do like that when all is said and done, Sloan is truly happy where she is now with her son and her Krause family. I'm still interested in finding out what comes of the investigation and why her parents gave her up when they clearly loved her.

I like the friendship that's developing between Garrett and Sloan. It's sweet and slow, and she's open to it too as she imagines herself becoming closer to him. The new character of Kat was fun too, and I hope she stays around.

I voluntarily read and reviewed an ARC of this book from the publisher via NetGalley. My thanks to both of them.

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### Amy says

The Pint of No Return is the second installment in this series. Sloan Krause is a female beer brewer living in Leavenworth, Washington and this book is set in the town's annual Oktoberfest. Sloan's brewery, Nitro, has just perfected a Cherryweizen beer, made from local cherries to introduce for the occasion. A documentary film crew is there to show the "inside world" of the community, hosted by a former child star. He is disliked by almost everyone due to his obnoxious behavior and outrageous demands. When the star is found dead outside near Nitro, Sloan decides to help the local police investigate.

I loved this book! I admit, I don't even like beer but the author did such a wonderful job artfully describing the brewing process. I felt like I could smell and taste the beer as I was reading. Sloane's character is well-developed and relatable. She is struggling to find herself amidst a painful split with her unfaithful spouse and unresolved issues from her childhood, which return in this book. The mystery had interesting plot twists and a hint of romance. I highly recommend this book and look forward to the next one in this series.

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Thanks to NetGalley and the publisher for an advance digital copy of this book

## **Lisa Ks Book Reviews says**

Fans of this series will like THE PINT OF NO RETURN. I enjoyed seeing the growth in the characters. I'm looking forward to the next installment.

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## **Cheryl says**

Sloan is part of a brewing company and getting ready for Octoberfest while trying to manage a pub, getting a divorce from her husband ,whose parents own the pub and company,missing her son, who is on a school trip, and managing her feelings for a new man. A former child actor comes to town with a camera crew to film Octoberfest. He is extremely unpleasant and makes enemies all over town, including the place he rented for which he leaves a poor review. He is found murdered. Sloan decides to take on finding out who did it at great risk for herself. Lots of interesting facts about making craft beer, even if some of the flavors sound odd.

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## **The Lit Bitch says**

I only recently discovered Ellie Alexander when I read the first Sloan Krause mystery last year. Since then I have read one of her Bake Shop Mysteries and I absolutely adore her mysteries.

There is nothing like mixing food (especially pastries!) with murder. Being from Oregon myself, I have a soft spot for all things Pacific Northwest as well as local authors. I got in on the Sloan Krause series from the very beginning and I was thrilled to be asked to read the next book!

One of the things that drew me to this series was the small town of Leavenworth in Washington. That little town is famous in the Pac NW for its Christmas activities.....it's basically a small German winter wonderland. I really only think of Christmas when I hear about this town, but Oktoberfest makes sense too. We have a large German population in Mt Angel who is also famous in Oregon for their Oktoberfest so it makes sense that this book would feature that lovely festival devoted to beer and sausage.

Unlike the Bake Shop Mysteries that Alexander first started writing, this one revolves around beer. So many cozy novels focus on baking or cooking but this one sets itself apart with beer and I am totally ok with that.

Alexander writes with a practiced hand and crafts a novel that is not only easy to follow but keeps readers engaged and moving at a moderate pace. It's not so fast that readers are racing toward the end, but it's not a slow burn either. It's perfectly balanced, just like the beers!

I love Sloan as a protagonist. In the first book I felt like she had an edge to her that made her not quite fit in with the other characters or townspeople, but yet she wasn't a completely odd duck. In this book she still has the same edge but yet is coming into her own and trying to sort out her life and what she's going to do once her divorce is final. She's easy to like and I enjoyed her just as much this time around as I did before.

This book is packed full of details. Alexander does an excellent job describing the town and the festivities as well as the whole beer culture. Sometimes the details about beer and the beer industry seemed to be a little much, and I remember thinking the same thing in the first book. It was interesting to a certain degree, but then if you aren't really into beer, then you will probably feel a little bored with the additional details. I felt

like it was ok, but then again I like beer and here in the Pac NW, the craft beer industry is big so I didn't mind it too much.

I loved the mystery itself. Again Alexander's experience shines in this new series. She knows how to leave enough bread crumbs for readers to follow and she lets the reader investigate along with the protagonist.

This was a fun one to read and it went fairly quick. It makes an excellent fall read as it's harvest time and beer festival time here in Oregon so this book held a special place in my heart for that.

See my full review [here](#)

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### **Gloria says**

The Pint of No Return is a great read with a lovely setting and interesting topic and plot. I did not read the first in the series but did not have a problem understanding and following the series in this one. The setting of Leavenworth, Washington sounds like a great place to visit and maybe I will get to one day since I have relatives there. The small town is in the Northern Cascade Mountains and has the theme of a Bavarian village. It is Oktoberfest and the town is gearing up for several weekends of festive partying. Sloan Krause is a brewer and married member of a family originally from Germany. Growing up in the foster care system, she didn't have her own family but the Krause family parents, Otto and Ursala, love her and welcomed to their family even before she married their son, Mac. They moved to the town from Germany years ago and started their own brewing company. Sloan is still part of their family and company even though she and Mac are separated after he cheated on her. With close ties to the family still, she is working with a new brewery in town, Nitro, owned by Garrett who has moved to town from nearby Seattle. A filming company is town doing a documentary on beer brewing and both breweries and others are part of the documentary. When one of the crew is found dead, Sloan and Garrett are keeping their eyes open to see who might be the killer. The dead man, Mitchell, was obnoxious and many were unhappy with him. Thankfully, Sloan and Mac's son, Alex, is in the Seattle for the weekend.

This was an enjoyable read that, to me, was a little meatier than some cozies and quite interesting with a mystery that had different suspects who might want Mitchell dead.

I received a complimentary ARC from Minotaur Books and St. Martin's Press through NetGalley. The thoughts expressed are mine only.

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### **Peggy R says**

This is the second book in the Sloan Krause Mystery series and I found I enjoyed it more than I did the first book in the series. What I really enjoy about a series by Ellie Alexander is that they are very character driven. As a reader you get to really connect with the characters and become invested. Sometime though, I have felt that the mystery became secondary to the characters instead of on equal footing in a book. That was not the case in this one. I enjoy the character of Sloan and reading about how she is rebuilding her life and trying to move on after her husband cheated. She still has a great relationship with his family and they are terrific secondary characters. In this book, I thought the mystery was up front and flowed throughout the book. There is also a secondary mystery that I think will flow through the rest of the series and that is the identity of Sloan's birth parents.

This was a fun and enjoyable read and I will definitely be back for more. I voluntarily read an advanced reader copy provided to me by the publisher through Netgalley.

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### **Kristina says**

The Pint of No Return by Ellie Alexander is the second book in A Sloan Krause Mystery series. The town of Leavenworth, Washington is busy preparing for Oktoberfest. It is a three week long event that has tourists flocking to their Bavarian looking town. Nitro owner, Garrett Strong with Sloan Krause have been working on a new brew titled Cherry Weizen which will be unveiled that night. April Ablin approaches Sloan regarding her attire. A documentary film crew is in town to film Wish You Were Beer and she would prefer Sloane to dress in costume (not going to happen). The crew shows up at Nitro that evening to try out their new brew and, hopefully, get some good footage. Their host, Mitchell Morgan leaves a lot to be desired with his arrogant attitude and large ego (I'm surprised his hat fits). Sloan is heading home at the end of the night and hears a woman screaming. Mitchell Morgan is dead in the town square with a growler from Nitro broken around him. Lisa Balmes is accused of murdering Mitchell by his biggest fan, Kat Kelly. Sloane knows Lisa did not kill Mitchell and starts nosing around the crew for suspects. Sloan must also deal with her estranged husband, her search for her biological mother and Mitchell's biggest fan, Kat. Join in on the Oktoberfest fun in The Pint of No Return.

The Pint of No Return is an engaging cozy mystery. I thought it was well-written with a nice steady pace. Ms. Alexander's conversational writing style makes The Pint of No Return easy to read and enjoy. I like Sloan, Garrett, Hans Krause, Alex Krause as well as Otto and Ursula Krause (such a sweet couple). April Ablin, while not a character I like, does provide comic relief. I am amazed that Sloan married someone like Mac. I fail to see his appeal (the cheating louse). It was nice to find out more about Sloane and her relationship with the Krause family. I appreciate the author's descriptive writing style which makes the book come alive for me. I can picture Leavenworth with the Bavarian style buildings and people walking around in costumes with beer steins in their hands. There are two mysteries in the book. The murder of Mitchell and Sloan's search for her biological mother. I thought Mitchell's murder was straightforward with a simple solution. Unfortunately, I identified the killer before Mitchell went belly up. Sloane's quest to find her birth mother is the more intriguing mystery. It looks like it will play out over the course of the series with new information revealed in each book. I wish the murder had been more of a focus in this book. The story concentrates on the characters (mainly Sloan) and the town. While I appreciate getting to know the characters, I do read a cozy mystery for the mystery. I am baffled by the food that they serve in Nitro. I do not understand why they do not hire a chef and offer real food instead of meat and cheese trays (it seems odd). They could at least offer tapas. Overall, The Pint of No Return is a pleasure to read. I thought it was an improvement over Death on Tap. My rating for The Pint of No Return is 4 out of 5 stars. If you are looking to capture the feeling of Oktoberfest, visit Leavenworth in The Pint of No Return.

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### **Sabine says**

5 stars

I love Ellie Alexander's books aka Kate Dyer-Seeley and read every mystery she publishes.

This is the second book in the Sloan Krause mystery series and even though it can stand alone I would recommend reading the series in order if you plan to read more than one.

There are two background stories, one being the separation of her cheating husband Max and the other one is the mystery of her unknown family which gave her away and left her to grow up in foster care.

A film crew is coming to Leavenworth to film a documentary about the local beer scene. The actor and host of the documentary shows up at Nitro, drinks too much and behaves like a jerk. He is found dead next to one of the Oktoberfest beer tents later that night. Sloan is worried they may have over served him.

I am originally from Germany and love the setting and beer theme. The brewing process and ingredients for the special beers are so much fun - I wish I could try all the craft beers.

I requested this book from NetGalley and am thankful that Minotaur Books/St. Martin's Press and the author provided me with an advance copy.

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### **Melodie says**

First off, thanks to #NetGalley & #Kensington for the chance to read this one. I love Ellie Alexander's Bakeshop cozy mystery series, so was a no-brainer to try this series, too. Ms. Alexander is very good at establishing place as her settings are as "alive" as her characters. She does such a good job at describing Leavenworth that I'd love to visit the town! Characters are very well drawn and I really liked Sloane.

However, I fail to understand how such a smart & savvy woman could have fallen for a creep like Mac and how people as delightful as his parents could have raised him! That aside, there are actually 2 mysteries in this one. The murder of movie star Mitch and Sloane's search for her birth mother. The murder mystery may have gone begging somewhat with the other side story seeming to take center stage more often, IMHO. Also, much, if not MOST, of the beer talk was completely over my head, not being a beer connoisseur, but that was easy to skim over when it got to be too much for me. I'll definitely read another of these. Recommend!

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### **Elle's Book Blog says**

**Release Date:** October 2, 2018

**Genre:** Cozy Mystery

**Actual Rating:** 4 stars

The Pint of No Return is the second book in the Sloan Krause cozy mystery series. What I like about this series is that it revolves around brewing beer which is really original in my opinion. I can't think of any other cozies that have this as the main attraction (besides the murder of course). Even more, the characters are pretty cool- very relaxed and laid back- and have a lot of "smarts" which seems to be missing from many cozies these days. So overall, it's a great book. If you aren't a beer drinker, no worries! You can learn a lot about the product and what it takes to actually brew it through this book. The author clearly did a lot of research in the area and now I feel like a beer connoisseur myself.

Fans of cozy mysteries aren't going to want to miss out on the latest Sloan Krause mystery! In this one, she is helping the local PD find the killer of a movie star who happened to be filming during Oktoberfest!

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## Shelly says

I am a big fan of Ellie Alexander. I have thoroughly enjoyed her Bakeshop Mystery Series. When I saw she was writing A Sloan Krause Mystery series too I had to check the series out - and I am glad I did! Ellie pens fun, engrossing and interesting cozy mysteries with likable characters and well-crafted plots. In Pint of No Return Sloan Krause, a brewmaster in beautiful Leavenworth, WA, is preparing Cherrywizen, a brew made with locally sourced cherries, for the local Oktoberfest. A production crew has come to town to use the idyllic Bavarian village and its festival as a backdrop for a new film. But soon the movie star is found dead-as-a-doornail in Sloan's pub. Who did it? How? Why? You will have fun reading to find out the answers.

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## Courtagonist says

The Pint of No Return is the next installment of the Sloan Krause Beervaria Mystery Series. I loved every single aspect of this book. From learning about the brewing process, to understanding more about Sloan's childhood, and falling in love with the different characters within the story.

Ellie has an uncanny ability to teach her readers about what her protagonist is passionate about. This brings a hint of realism and probability to what she writes. Having a Cozy Mystery or a Mystery in general be believable is the first step in getting the readers to fall into the world and be open to the murder and the 'whodunit' aspects of the storyline.

In this book Sloan is still trying to figure out her feelings for her soon-to-be ex-husband, her new boss, and what she wants to do with her life after the divorce happens. This however has to be put on hold as Oktoberfest has now come around and this is the biggest and more important time for the town.

An added pressure is the fact that there is a film crew who are there to make a documentary about the brewing process, how the brewers interact with each other, and everything in the World of Beer. Of course with most documentaries you have to have a host. And a host they have. An old child star here to revamp their stardom. He is a pompous jerk who everyone seems to hate.

After being as to leave Nitro from drinking too much Sloan finds him dead in an alley way. Hoping that it wasn't alcohol poisoning from their bar Sloan calls the police to get to the crime scene. Sloan is asked by the chief of police to keep an eye out since they are shorthanded due to the Oktoberfest going on.

Sloan wants to make sure that Nitro doesn't get a bad name and she makes it her duty to figure out what is going on with the film crew, who doesn't seem too distraught about their star's death, her estranged husband, and keeping everything together when she learns about her past.

This is a wonderful addition to the Sloan Krause Beervaria series and I highly recommend it if you love Cozy Mysteries!

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## **Samantha says**

Summary from Goodreads:

"No other festival compares to Oktoberfest in Leavenworth, Washington. The whole town is buzzing with excitement over this year's activities and eagerly awaiting Nitro's latest offering Cherrywizen, made with locally sourced cherries. But local brewmaster Sloan Krause is tapped out. Between trying to manage the pub, her pending divorce with Mac, and her mounting feelings for Garrett, she's fermenting in internal turmoil.

To complicate matters, dreamy movie star Mitchell Morgan and his production crew have arrived in the village to film during the authentic Bavarian brewfest. Mitchell has his eye on Sloan and a taste for Nitro's Cherrywizen. Sloan escapes his advances for good when she finds Mitchell slumped over the bar. Is this a case of one pint too many, or has Mitchell been murdered by microbrew?"

My Thoughts:

Last year I read and enjoyed the first book in this series, Death on Tap, so I jumped at the opportunity to read this book! Let's be honest - this book has been on my TBR list since I finished the last page of the first book. There is just something about Ellie Alexander's cozy mysteries that I can't get enough of. And while this is completely different from her Bakeshop series, it has enough of the same characteristics that I love from that series to make this one a real winner for me as well. She has a real knack for creating characters that feel real and complex. In both of her series, the main character is struggling with something major going on with their life that just comes across the pages as so real. In this book, Sloan is still trying to deal with her new "normal" after finding her husband cheating on her. She's working on figuring out what she wants in her life and how she moves on from here. That struggle to figure out what she wants in life next and how she is getting to get there just comes across so perfectly. Add in that a mystery to solve with lots of great secondary characters and you have a winner. What makes this book a four star read for me though is the added mystery of Sloan's past. In this book, we get the chance to see Sloan search a bit more into her unknown past searching for the reasons why she was placed into foster care which was just hinted about in book one. I'm so intrigued by this storyline that I cannot wait to get my hands on book three! I really found this to be a compelling read, and I breezed through the pages on my kindle. It's going to be a long wait for that next book, that's for sure!

Here's why I think that you should read this series in general (there's only two books so I definitely think it is worth it to start with the first book): it's the perfect palate cleanser because it just feels so fresh and original! Been reading a bunch of mysteries and dark thrillers? This series will break that up perfectly with a more light hearted mystery. Need a different type of cozy that isn't focused on food or books? (I'm horribly generalizing there but you get the idea). Read a mystery that talks about beer and the different kinds to make you want to try a few different types of beers yourself. LOL! It sounds funny when you put it like that but it really was the perfect change of pace for me. With great characters and questions that keep you wondering long after the book is finished.....well I couldn't ask for more to be honest. This is one of my favorite cozy mystery authors and for good reason. I can highly recommend!

Bottom Line: I loved this book just as much as the first book!

Disclosure: I received a copy of this book thanks to the publisher and NetGalley. Thoughts are my own.

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**Patrizia says**

Adoro questa serie con tutte le notizie sulla birra che fornisce! C'è un buon cast di personaggi, anche se un paio sono davvero odiosi... La storia secondaria sulla vera famiglia della protagonista continua a dipanarsi da un libro all'altro e non vedo l'ora di sapere come va a finire. L'autrice è stata brava a fornire indizi che puntavano a colpevoli diversi nella storia principale, anche se per me è stato abbastanza ovvio capire chi fosse l'assassino. Quando uscirà il prossimo?

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