



Behind Chocolate Bars

Kathy Aarons

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DOUBLE, DOUBLE-BOIL, AND TROUBLE...

Best friends and business partners Michelle and Erica have a monstrous to-do list as they prepare for the annual West Riverdale Halloween Fair. Their shop, Chocolates and Chapters, will have a booth at the event, where Michelle will serve spooky delights while Erica displays an assortment of spine-chilling books. Thank goodness the teenagers from Erica's comic-book club are chipping in to help. But one of their volunteers winds up in trouble after a woman's body is found in an abandoned house—with the teen's superhero key ring close by.

The teen swears he didn't do it, but he's obviously hiding something—leaving Michelle and Erica with a witch's cauldron of questions. Soon they discover that the dead woman was tricking a whole bunch of people out of more than just treats. Now these two friends must go door-to-door if they hope to unmask a killer...

Behind Chocolate Bars Details

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Author : Kathy Aarons

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From Reader Review Behind Chocolate Bars for online ebook

Karen says

Behind Chocolate Bars, the third book in the Chocolate Covered Mystery Series. I found myself to be keenly interested and emotionally invested in this story of an unlikely sleuthing team of book store owner and chocolatier. I read book one but not book two in this series, somehow missing it and yet even though I had not read book 2, book three flowed very naturally and was I familiar enough with the characters to quickly fall into step. I like the concept of this series, the community involvement, the relationships that the duo Michelle and Erica, have with the local teens and with each other. I like the love interests, I love the mysterious relationships and I love the chocolate too! Kathy does an amazing job with the character of main character Michelle's brother Leo, who has a fantastic story line himself. He is a wounded veteran, who suffers from PTS and that story line feels very real and raw in this very emotional side of the story. It is a good story, it is an important story and this cozy mystery is a series to love and grow with.

Alise HARRIS says

I haven't read any of the other books in this series, but got this one because it had a Halloween picture on the front. It barely even mentioned Halloween, except for the sparse parts about the main character working at a haunted house/fall festival. The murder didn't even have anything to do with Halloween, or take place at the haunted house. The main character was so annoying. She falls into the category I call "Peppy Cheerleader Puke." She acts and talks like a 13 year old. She uses the phrase "make-out session" to talk about her previous date with her boyfriend. Adults don't say things like that. Make her grow up please.

Mark Baker says

Michelle and Erica are getting into the Halloween spirit by helping create the annual haunted house to benefit the Boys and Girls Club. But their time gets distracted when a murder happens out of town, and Dylan, a teen they know, becomes the prime suspect. Can the duo find the time to help prove he didn't do it?

It was fantastic to be back with these characters again. The series regulars are fantastic, and the new characters were just as good. This book was a little different because he didn't meet the victim before the murder, but that didn't hamper the plot at all with plenty of suspects and clues before we reached the logical end.

NOTE: I received a copy of this book in exchange for my honest review.

Read my full review at Carstairs Considers.

Donna says

This is the 3rd book in the series and again it is a great cozy. Michelle and Erica are trying to get ready for

the West Riverdale Halloween Festival but another body is found and one of Erica's comic-book club teens is in trouble. Michelle and Erica do what they do best, they try to help him out by finding the real killer. Turns out the woman killed was tricking several people out of their money and Dylan thought his father might be one of them and tries to help him out. Of course Detective Lockett keeps telling them to butt out but until they can find the killer and help Dylan they are not stopping. Great mystery and a small town with the usually quirky characters. Enjoyable read. Looking forward to the next one in the series.

Krissys says

Best friends and business partners Michelle and Erica have a monstrous to-do list as they prepare for the annual West Riverdale Halloween Fair. Their shop, Chocolates and Chapters, will have a booth at the event, where Michelle will serve spooky delights while Erica displays an assortment of spine-chilling books.

Thank goodness the teenagers from Erica's comic-book club are chipping in to help. But one of their volunteers winds up in trouble after a woman's body is found in an abandoned house—with the teen's superhero key ring close by.

The teen swears he didn't do it, but he's obviously hiding something—leaving Michelle and Erica with a witch's cauldron of questions. Soon they discover that the dead woman was tricking a whole bunch of people out of more than just treats. Now these two friends must go door-to-door if they hope to unmask a killer...

I never used to be very fond of food/pet mysteries but the older I've gotten the more I've grown to like them and understand what makes them so likable.

Of course with Halloween being around the corner who can resist a sweet holiday related read filled with both tricks and treats?

I really feel like readers of any age can enjoy Behind Chocolate Bars. From teens to adults this book has it all for all ages.

I was happy that Aarons makes it easy for first time readers of the series to follow along, I love her town and her cast which are fun and fantastic I love her writing and personality.

Aarons has a great way of bringing a scene together that keeps you plenty entertained. Behind Chocolate Bars is a fun quick witty mystery filled with bounds of fun for all of us.

A great book choice for one of my Halloween reads!

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Krissy's Bookshelf Reviews received a digital copy in exchange for an honest review. All thoughts, comments and ratings are my own.

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If any of Krissy's Bookshelf Reviews has been helpful please stop by to like or let me know what you think! I love hearing from followers! Thank you!

Patrizia says

Confessione: ho preso 2 kg solo a leggere questo libro! Con tutti quei cioccolatini dai nomi invitanti e dalle

descrizioni appetitose...

Detto questo, solito bel cast di personaggi: stavolta giocano un ruolo fondamentale i ragazzi del gruppo di amanti dei fumetti americani. Alla fine, ma proprio alla fine, sono riuscita ad azzeccare il colpevole, anche se per gran parte del libro mi ero orientata altrove.

La mia linea (reale e immaginaria) ne risentirà, ma spero di leggere un altro libro di questa serie.

Kimberly says

This book was so bad and so hard to get into, I ditched it. I did not start with book one, so I came in on this one out of the blue. I was so confused. There were so many characters, so much going on, I could tell I was missing a great deal.

The author did not bother with back "storying", so I was left in the dark. I've read many cozies leading up to Halloween and came in on them without reading their book ones, and had no problem. The authors gave you enough to know what was happening between characters, settings and situations. Just a sentence or two.

I saved this cozy for last, leading into the week towards Halloween. That was a mistake. This book was terrible. I could not get into it. Too many conversations and too many people. Not for me. No excitement. The murder occurs in the first chapter or so..No mystery here.

One star for the great cover.

Readaholic Jenn says

An excellent book. I truly hope there are more books coming in the future for this series.

Moondance says

"We need more zombies," I said, sliding a latte across the counter.

Michelle and Erica are working on the annual West Riverdale Halloween Festival when a body is found at a nearby abandoned housing site. The only clue is a keychain belonging to a teen from the Comic Book Club. The two friends immediately jump in to free the young man from jail and prove his innocence.

Although I am not a chocolate fan, I love the idea of a bookstore with a chocolate shop attached. I enjoy the interaction of the two friends that run the stores so well.

Dylan, the youth accused of the crime, has had a rough year or so following a nasty divorce between his parents. Things get really messy when we discover that his dad, Oscar had dated the victim.

The victim, Faith, is quite something. We quickly learn that she has lots of secrets and has ticked off a huge number of people who would want to kill her.

The secondary story of Michelle's brother, Leo is well done. His regression into PTSD is sad and you want to

reach out to help him. I love the deep feelings between the two of them and their code phrase to make sure that the other is ok.

Michelle's relationship with Bean is moving along nicely. As well as Erica's with officer Bobby. Bean is more involved in the investigating this time around much to Bobby's chagrin.

Detective Roger Lockett has some secrets of his own that are intriguing. That aspect of the story was handled nicely too.

And you can't forget Coco and her litter of kittens. She is not around as much this time but her kittens play a nice role. I'm also happy that the foster mom had her spayed when the kittens were weaned.

I somehow missed the second book in the series but it did not distract from my enjoyment. I will go back to read it just to catch up with everyone.

A nice afternoon read that kept me turning the pages.

Chanel Sharp says

Oh my dogness, mom and I loved this book. It was a nice cozy mystery, and by number three it felt like you were sitting down with a long time friend, to a good cup of tea and maybe some nice chocolates on the side. The mystery it self was good. The characters and the relationships in them were amazing. It was fun seeing them move around a lot more. It is definitely a fun read and we tell the series is worth your time.

Nancy H says

This is another good entry in the 'Chocolate Covered Mystery' series. In this story, Michelle and her friend Erica have to solve a mystery that involves one of the teens from their Chocolates and Chapters' comic book club. The boy is suspected of murder when a woman his father had been dating ends up dead, with his keychain nearby. Michelle, Erica, and the rest of the teens put their minds to work figuring out who the real suspects are, of course all fueled Michelle's yummy chocolates as they work.

Kim Reads (Read Your Writes Book Reviews) says

Kathy Aarons takes readers back to Chocolates and Chapters with best friends and sleuthing duo Michelle Serrano and Erica Russell, with Behind Chocolate Bars, the third book in her Chocolate Covered Mystery series.

I read the second book, Truffled to Death, and immediately fell in love with the characters from West Riverdale, Maryland. I couldn't wait for Behind Chocolate Bars to come out. I was definitely not disappointed. Picking up the book was immediately like sitting down and indulging in a nice mug of hot chocolate.

Behind Chocolate Bars finds Michelle and Erica doing everything they can to prove their sixteen-year-old

intern, Dylan Fenton isn't charged with murder. With the help of Bean, Erica's brother (who happens to be Michelle's boyfriend), Zane (Erica's computer expert) and other teens who are part of Erica's comic book club, they set out to discover all they can about the victim.

It seems there's more to the victim than meets the eye. The more information they uncover, the greater the suspect pool becomes. Just when it seems like they will be unsuccessful in their quest, the killer puts Michelle and the teens in their cross hairs. It's going to take paying close attention to catch this killer before they strike again.

Behind Chocolate Bars was simply a perfect cozy mystery. I found myself enjoying the journey Kathy takes readers on as opposed to singularly focusing on figuring out all the clues before Michelle and Erica did. I loved watching the relationships between Michelle and Erica's significant others progress. I wish I had my hands on the next book in this series.

****Received a copy from the Penguin ~ Berkley Prime Crime and reviewed the book voluntarily.****

Christine says

This is the third book in the chocolate covered series. Michelle and Erica are preparing for the annual Halloween fair, where their shop, Chocolates and chapters, has a booth set up. One of their volunteers gets into trouble when his superhero key ring is found near a dead body. Michelle and Erica believe he is innocent and try to prove his innocence by catching the real killer.

I like this series. It has been a while since I read the first book and somehow I missed book two so that threw me off a bit since reading out of order drives me crazy, and I think I was missing major plot points. The mystery was good. I enjoyed Michelle brother, Leo, story about his PTSD regression. I thought it was very well done. I liked the characters of teenagers in this book and hope we see them again.

Cynthia Austin says

Michelle and Erica are best friends and business partners. Everything in their small town is going perfectly, until a local high school kid gets accused for murder. Then, the dynamic-duo throw on their detective cap, and jump into action to uncover the real murderer.

Initially, the book was hard for me to get into, especially with the bountiful cast of secondary characters, all with odd names such as Bean, Star and Kona. Eventually, I got my characters straightened out, but I still could not understand why two adult women continued to insert themselves into the lives of local teenagers.

Overall, this just wasn't my type of book. While the plot held my interest, I developed no emotional ties to any of the characters. Perhaps, the book was just a little below my desired age range. I would definitely recommend the reading age to be about 12-16 years.

Lisa Ks Book Reviews says

Another delectable treat from author Kathy Aarons!

Halloween is the theme of this mystery. Series leads, Michelle and Erica are taking part in the Halloween Festival where they will have a booth offering chocolate creations and scary books from their shop, Chocolate and Chapters. Seriously, is that not the name of a store where you could spend all your time? Brilliant!

Of course, you won't read many cozies without a body and investigation, and BEHIND CHOCOLATE BARS doesn't disappoint! With writing as smooth as expensive milk chocolate, author Aarons tempered this tale of intrigue and mayhem, until it became the recipe for a perfect cozy mystery.

Between the covers of BEHIND CHOCOLATE BARS is a tasty center of Halloween, murder, and chocolate that you're going to devour!

Make sure to check out the back of the book for yummy chocolate recipes!
