



# **A Ghost for Christmas**

*J.D. Winters*

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## **Be careful what you wish for**

Mele Keahi wasn't looking for excitement when she came to Destiny Bay. She'd just lost her man, her job and her self esteem, and she needed comfort. Instead, she found herself involved in a murder, sparring with a suspicious detective and coming face to face with a ghost from her Hawaiian childhood. Not what she'd bargained for--but then--sometimes you just have to deal with what the cat dragged in.

At 31,500 words, 178 paperback pages, A Ghost for Christmas is the first book of the series.

## **A Ghost for Christmas Details**

Date : Published December 19th 2014 by Doorknock Publishing

ISBN :

Author : J.D. Winters

Format : Kindle Edition 188 pages

Genre : Mystery, Cozy Mystery, Holiday, Christmas



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# From Reader Review *A Ghost for Christmas* for online ebook

## Krystyna says

**A welcome home to remember.**

A good read. Not great but still good. She has returned to the only family that she feels close too - her aunt - after a love affair turns sour. Only to find herself tripping over a dead body as she goes up the garden path. The body of the wealthy vineyard owner. Who killed him? The more she finds out about him the more she comes to despise the dead man. Not only was he a womaniser but he was trying to steal her aunt's business. With the help of two ghosts and the brusque detective she gets closer to the killer. Will she survive? Would have been better if there had been a bit more build-up and more ghost involvement. The characters feel a bit under done. A bit more depth would have made a large difference.

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## Teresa Kander says

I thoroughly enjoyed this book! The characters are very well defined, most of them are immediately likable, and the ones who aren't so likable are that way for a reason.

There is action, humor, romance and a bit of the paranormal to this story. I look forward to reading more of this series in the future, and hope it continues for a long time to come.

\*\*I received a copy of this book from the author in exchange for an honest review. All thoughts and opinions are entirely my own.\*\*

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## Sandy says

I liked this book and will read more.

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## Brenda says

The day Mele Keahi arrived in Destiny Bay to visit her Aunt Bebe, she had no idea she would suddenly be embroiled in murder. Opening the gate to her aunt's property, then tripping over a body wasn't her idea of a quiet arrival where she would receive love and sympathy – all the comfort that her aunt could provide.

When the detective investigating the murder showed his suspicion for everyone, including Mele, she was sure she should have stayed home. But it was the appearance of a ghost from her childhood in Hawaii which unsettled her the most. What was going on? Mele felt she was in over her head – and was she in danger as well? This wasn't the Christmas she'd envisioned...

*A Ghost for Christmas* by J.D. Winters is my first by this author and the first in the Destiny Bay Cozy series, and I was impressed. A light cosy mystery which was fun and entertaining – I didn't guess the identity of the

murderer either. I'll be checking out more work by this author. Highly recommended.

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## **Vicki says**

### **Fun murder mystery**

This book was such a fun read. The characters were interesting and having a ghost or two in the mix was a nice touch. I want to read the rest of the series.

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## **Jack says**

I took a vacation and hoped to be able to get some reading done. I picked this one for being light and easy to read. I didn't realize how easy to read it would be, about 1/3 of my typical reads in length.

Mele Keahi is going to stay a while at her aunt's house after a bad breakup for a chance to recover and eventually start over. When she arrives, there's a dead man on the walkway to the house. I'm sure that bodes well. Did her aunt do the deed? And the police want a decent alibi from Mele, too, because driving most of the day isn't going to cut it, right?

Easy to read. Characters are cute. Not severely taxing to read. A good airplane read (which is where I read it). Entertaining. I might be interested in reading further adventures if I knew there was a tad more complexity.

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## **Bette says**

When you have a bad break up with a man what do you do? You run home for comfort. So Mele Keahi heads to wine country to her closest relative, her Aunt Bebe. On arrival she spies the ghost who had haunted her in her teen years in Hawaii AND a body in the front yard.

If she wants to gain peace of mind she is going to have to clear her aunt of any possible part in the murder of Kyle Madronna, her neighbor and the body in her yard.

Simple cozy mystery with nothing to do with Christmas other than a time of year when she visits her aunt. Pleasant and easy to read.

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## **??Hannah?? says**

Overall this was a decent read. It was like a lot of other cozy mysteries. Cute and fun. However, I was a little disappointed by the lack of ghost in the story. I will continue this series because like I said before its not bad.

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## **Roger Hyttinen says**

A Ghost for Christmas is the first book in the Destiny Bay Cozy series and follows our main character Mele who, recovering from a bad romantic breakup, decides to visit her Aunt Bebe. She arrives, however, to find a dead body on her Aunt's doorstep.

As it turns out, the corpse was that of a wealthy vineyard owner who was pretty much despised by everyone who knew him. He was also trying to steal her aunt's business which made Mele suspect that her aunt may have had something to do with the murder. Then things heat up even more when a second murder takes place only days later. Mele, along with the help of two family ghosts and the local detective, gets closer to discovering the identity of the killer. Of course, Mele's meddling puts her own life in jeopardy culminating in a face to face encounter with the killer.

It was a fun, humorous, light little mystery with no real violence or gory bits. The protagonist was likable as were the secondary characters (except for the villain, of course) and I felt that the story was believable. I was a bit disappointed, however, because given the title of the novel, I thought it would be more ghost centric but this was not the case. There were two ghosts in the story: Aunt Jane and the handsome Dante but they played a very minor role in the story, appearing only a couple of times and all we really learn about them is that Dante was a ghost from Mele's childhood. The story also had little to do with the Christmas season so in this way, I thought the title was a misnomer; the title suggested that a ghost and the holiday would be central to this story, neither of which was the case.

A Ghost for Christmas was quite a quick read and really could have used some further character development, IMHO. But still, it was a fun, entertaining story though I'm undecided as to whether I'll be continuing on with the series. I don't mind a cozy mystery from time to time, but truth be told, I prefer my mysteries and thrillers a little more on the darker side.

This review originally appeared on my book review blog at [rogersreads.com](http://rogersreads.com)

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## **Nola Arganbright says**

### **I really enjoyed this cozy**

A fun new cozy for me. Fun paranormal characters to help the humans out and keep life interesting. Ready for the next one.

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## **Cathy says**

I enjoyed this book. Not really much of a 'ghost' story. Characters were likable. Ended a bit abruptly, I thought anyway. But was a quick and enjoyable read. Look forward to reading more from this author.

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## **Alma Conchas says**

### **Love this Cozy Mystery story!**

Wow, I loved this story so much even though it didn't have a HEA for Mele. I loved this story because of what Mele went through to find the murderer of the body she found as she arrived at her aunt's home and I can't wait to read the rest of the series to find out if she finds true love with a certain hunky police detective!

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## **Mystereity Reviews says**

A Ghost For Christmad Cute, likeable story. The ending was a bit too abrupt, but a real page turner. The characters could use a little more development, they were flat and one-dimensional. Overall, an enjoyable read and not bad for the first in a new series.

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## **Sandy says**

### **A ghost for Christmas**

I enjoyed this ghost story very much. It was fast reading and I love mysteries. Thanks so much, looking forward to the next Mele story.

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## **Darcysmom says**

Mele Keahi has come to her aunt's house on Destiny Bay to heal from losing her boyfriend, her job, and her sense of direction. Instead of the comfort she was looking for, Mele trips over a dead body as she walks up to her aunt's house. Mele is thrust into first one murder investigation and then another.

A Ghost For Christmas is the first book in the Destiny Bay cozy mystery series and suffers some from trying to find its place. I will likely try the second book before I give up on the series. I am hopeful the character development and storytelling will even out.

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