



# Antiques Fruitcake

*Barbara Allan*

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"A hilarious team of snoops." —Joan Hess

During the dress rehearsal for small-town Serenity's festive Christmas play, star Madeline de Morlaye topples over—on stage!—after a bite of prop pastry. Since the frosty actress had earned plenty of enemies through her offstage dramatics, the cast of suspects is longer than Santa's "Naughty or Nice" list. Prop mistress Brandy Borne and her diva-turned-director mother, Vivian—assisted by their savvy shih tzu, Sushi—must solve this fruitcake fatality before it's curtains for anyone else.

**Includes A Tasty Recipe!**

**Praise for Barbara Allan and the Trash 'n' Treasures Mystery Series**

"Plenty of tongue-in-cheek humor." —*Library Journal*

"A humorous cozy that teems with quirky characters." —*Booklist*

"Top pick! Thrills, laugh-out-loud moments and amazingly real relationships." —*Romantic Times Book Reviews*

"You'll laugh out loud." —*Mystery Scene*

21,000 Words

## Antiques Fruitcake Details

Date : Published September 30th 2014 by Kensington (first published January 1st 2014)

ISBN :

Author : Barbara Allan

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# **From Reader Review Antiques Fruitcake for online ebook**

## **Maureen says**

Cute read, odd writing style

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## **Mary Schildman says**

### **Too short**

Good mystery, but a short story not "book" mystery. Very fast read, good characters , and healthy puppy !  
Hoping next story is a BOOK. Have pre-order it

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## **Steven Vaughan-Nichols says**

it's a silly mystery novella, but hey it has a shih tzu in it and it's set in a small town theater. works for me!

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## **Diana says**

### **Short story but okay read**

One of the shortest stories I've read, but the characters were cute. Fast read. Not great, but good enough if you're just looking for a cute little book to pass the time.

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## **Linda says**

In this short Christmas novella, Brandy Borne is glum because she let her mother, Vivan, talk her into helping with the annual Christmas play at the Playhouse. Living in beautiful Serenity,Iowa, Vivian has written and is directing this years play, The Fruitcake That Saved Christmas, and tonight is dress rehearsal. The leading lady, Madeline, is a drama queen, and about to run everyone else nuts. Vivian has baked two fruitcakes for the run through, and when Madeline eats a bite of cake; it's her final curtain call. As Vivian helps the Sheriff solve the murder, they retrace the evenings timeline and all the player's moves until they have their killer behind bars.

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## **Colleen says**

### **Short and to the point**

This book was cute and a little funny, but not my favorite of the series. I'm always glad to read the next book in the series.

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### **Bridget says**

I read this yesterday on my lunch hour at work. Apparently it is part of a series where the main character runs an antique shop. This is just a short (~60 p.) story about a year when the main character, Brandy Borne, is recruited to help her mother, Vivian Borne, with a local theatre production that the mother has written, is producing, and directing. In spite of the fact that it is Christmastime, Brandy agrees to help, because she doesn't feel like fighting with her mother about any of it.

When the leading lady drops dead during the dress rehearsal, seemingly from eating a piece of a fruitcake made as a prop, Brandy and her mother have to determine what happened, and of course the show must go on.

This was entertaining for a lunchtime read. Not engaging enough for me to want to run out and read any of the other in the series, but a nice short amusing story.

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### **Cathyann says**

Great little Christmas story with a flavor of little theater. Barbara Allan tells her stories with a touch of humor which I find enjoyable.

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### **Erlyne says**

Short but sweet mini-mystery featuring the mother/daughter Borne ladies and the always adorable Sushi. A must-read for fans of the series.

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### **Lena Harper says**

The construction/organization of this story was unique. I enjoyed the format and the story had a nice twist. It's difficult to make a compelling mystery in so few pages but the way this story was laid out lent itself well to that.

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### **Meg says**

This was a very good, quick read. Not a lot of Christmas, despite the cover, but a good one, anyway.

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### **Paula Ratcliffe says**

I love this series so much it is filled with everything humor, mystery, drama. This book follows Brandy and her mother Vivian as they are working on a play to help benefit people during the holiday season.

Early on in the this book Madeline winds up dead and there really are no shortage of suspects could it have been her understudy or a few of the men she had tyrsts with? Or could it be a costume designer she threatened to report? Or is the culprit someone else who had been abused by Madeline?

While this is a short novella it still held the whole murder/mystery aspect and I have to say my favorite part is what we find when Brandy/Vivian/Editor go at it never leaves me without a mad case of the giggles.

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### **Laura Landis says**

A fun, quick novelette. Glad I got to read this on my Kindle!

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### **Linda Smatzny says**

Cute short novella. Read on a kindle. It is a Christmas story about a play written and directed by Brandy's mother. Of course a murder happens but is solved and the play goes on. It was a quick easy read.

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### **Daniell says**

I do enjoy these silly books. The characters crack me up they always create their own soap opera. They live and love in their own special way which is quite entertaining. A fun little read that is perfect for,the holiday season.

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