



Booked for Trouble: A Lighthouse Library Mystery

Eva Gates

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The author of *By Book or By Crook* returns to the Outer Banks and the Lighthouse Library, where Lucy Richardson must shed light on a shocking murder...

Lucy has finally found her bliss as a librarian and resident of the Bodie Island Lighthouse. She loves walking on the beach, passing her evenings with the local book club, bonding with the library cat, Charles, and enjoying the attention of not one, but TWO eligible men. But then her socialite mother, Suzanne, unexpectedly drops in, determined to move Lucy back to Boston—and reunite her with her ex-fiancé.

To make matters worse, Suzanne picks a very public fight at the local hotel with her former classmate Karen Kivas. So, when Karen turns up dead outside the library the next morning, Suzanne is immediately at the top of the suspect list. Now Lucy must hunt down a dangerous killer—before the authorities throw the book at her poor mother...

Booked for Trouble: A Lighthouse Library Mystery Details

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From Reader Review Booked for Trouble: A Lighthouse Library Mystery for online ebook

Liz Caldwell says

A lighthouse, a library, a new life ... and then Mom shows up for a visit. What could possibly go wrong? Lucy has just started taking control of her life. She is an optimist and just a little naive, charmingly so. Her mother, who had fled the Outer Banks at the end of high school, has come to see her daughter and try to get Lucy back to Boston. Then a theft occurs in the hotel, and an old nemesis with whom Lucy's mother had words is found murdered outside the lighthouse library. When Lucy's mother becomes the prime suspect, Lucy can't just sit back and do nothing!

Author Eva Gates has created a wonderful community with delightful residents. You can feel Lucy's love for her aunt, uncle and cousin, as well as her growing feelings for both the mayor and a police officer. Her work family is also nicely drawn, from the library director to the library cat.

This is the second in the Lighthouse Library mystery series. I hope there will be many more to come. I received an advanced reading copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Yvonne says

I had the chance to read the second book in the "Lighthouse Library Mystery Series" right after I finished the first. This is unusual for me since so many books end up languishing in my TBR and it winds up being too long before books. I tend to forget things when there is so much distance between books. This time, it was so refreshing to go right to the next one and still have everything be fresh in my mind.

In this one, Lucy Richardson is still coming up against opposition to the library and, in particular, to her being the librarian. To give her even more headaches, her mother is in town and she's not very supportive of Lucy's job. Mainly because her mother, Suzanne, wants Lucy to move back to Boston and marry the man her parents handpicked for her. Lucy's personal life is even more complicated with the attention she is receiving from two very handsome men from the Outer Banks.

Suzanne grew up in the Outer Banks, but she doesn't have many friends still there. In fact, one of her former friends – Karen Kivas – is still holding a grudge from their school days. They publicly fight and the next day Karen is found dead near the library. Suzanne is the number one suspect. Lucy doesn't trust the police to do their job, even though one of them just asked her out on a date. So, Lucy sets up her own investigation to prove her mother's innocence. When a stolen necklace turns up in Suzanne's bag, Lucy's job is even more difficult but she doesn't let that stop her. Her family is on the line.

I'm loving Lucy even more with this book. She's really coming into her own as a character. We learn more about her family life and her rocky relationship with her mother. Both men in her life are quite likeable and it's difficult for readers to choose just one.

After I finished the first book, I immediately checked to see if my library had this second book. Luckily they did and it was available. I found this book even more captivating than the first one and I had a harder time trying to figure out who the killer was. There were so many ways to go and I never really suspected the true culprit. This is written very well. I'm ready for the next one!

Erika says

This is the second book in the Lighthouse Library Mystery series, but you can jump right in without feeling like you have missed anything. I loved the lighthouse / library setting – it feels cozy and calm, at least until a murder takes place right outside. I also liked the cast of characters in this one. Lucy has believable problems, and the supporting cast are a likable bunch. The mystery itself was fast paced and not too obvious. I will definitely go back and read number one in the series.

With a home perched above a library full of books, a lighthouse, a murder, and a library cat – this was a perfect cozy read!

NOTE: I received an advanced review copy of this book from the author in exchange for an honest review

Kimberly says

I did not like the first book in this series and was so disappointed in that. I really wanted and needed to love this series about a Lighthouse Library with a cat! I am so glad I went on to read book 2. I really enjoyed this book.

It had the right amount of back story, character development, very light romance-hints more like, suspense and setting description(relatively). I could use a bit more in the setting description but was pleasantly pleased with this book over all.

I had no idea till nearing the end "whodunit". I look very forward to reading book 3 as I am already invested in the characters! Bravo Eva Gates AKA Vicki Delany!!

Daniele says

Lucy has left her comfortable life in Boston for an assistant librarian position at the Lighthouse Library in the Outer Banks area of North Carolina. She is settling in nicely in her apartment at the top of the lighthouse and has two potential suitors. She is quite surprised when her mother Suzanne arrives unannounced for a visit. Suzanne grew up in the Outer Banks and could not get away fast enough when she was young, and Lucy does not appreciate her mother's incessant efforts to coerce her to come back to Boston and marry. Things get off to a quick start when Suzanne has a very public exchange with her former high school friend Karen. When Karen is murdered right outside of the library after a book club meeting, Suzanne immediately lands at the top of the police's suspect list. Also, a necklace stolen from a hotel guest shows up in Suzanne's bag so, in addition to murder, she is suspected of theft. Lucy knows that her mother is innocent, but can she convince the authorities and find the real perpetrator(s) before it is too late?

Booked for Trouble is the engaging second installment in the delightful Lighthouse Library Mystery Series. I think it could easily be read as a standalone, but if you have not read the first book, By Book or by Crook, you will definitely want to do so. Both books are a great deal of fun.

Lucy is a likable protagonist but a bit naïve. She seems quite immature about some aspects of her life, mostly

personal matters. She is good, however, at observation and following the clues. Her family, coworkers, and friends are all interesting and varied, adding much local color to the story. I must confess that I never warmed up to Suzanne, and I felt like Lucy spent most of the book trying to convince the reader that her mother was not that bad. She was snobby and condescending throughout the story. Louise Jane is a recurring character that I just do not like. I understand that she is out for Lucy's job and thus dislikes her, but I do hope she mellows a bit in the future. The Outer Banks location is a character in itself, and the setting, along with the concept of working lighthouse as library, is what makes this series so special. How awesome would it be if the Lighthouse Library was real, and we could all visit? Finally, no cozy mystery is complete without a featured animal, and the resident library cat Charles is a hoot.

The mystery itself is compelling, and I was left guessing until almost the end. The list of suspects is somewhat small, but everyone had plenty of motives. There is mention of a local ghost story, "The Lady" who is said to have been held captive in what is now Lucy's room and haunts the lighthouse, and she may play a part in the climax of the tale, but this is by no means a paranormal mystery. And be warned – there is a love triangle brewing.

I greatly enjoyed Booked for Trouble and look forward to many more trips to the Outer Banks and the fabulous Lighthouse Library. I recommend it to fans of bookish cozy mysteries.

I received an ARC in exchange for an honest review.

Heather Cook says

I enjoyed the second book in Eva Gates Lighthouse Library Mystery series. Even though I read the first one a while ago, the background information provided was more than enough so that it could stand alone. A memorable setting that encompasses two of my favorite things, a library and a lighthouse, makes me want to find and visit this idyllic place. Lucy's Mother, Suzanne, comes across as unlikable and her own worst enemy - it's no wonder she's the main suspect. It doesn't appear that there are many other likely suspects, but you really end up rooting for Lucy to succeed in proving her mother's innocence. All in all, reading Booked for Trouble is a pleasant way to spend an afternoon. I'll be looking forward to the next installment for Lucy, Charles and company.

I received an ARC copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Abby Fabian says

Booked for Trouble is the second book in the Lighthouse Library series, but the first that I've read. That said, I had no problem following along with the story. I especially liked Lucy and her small group of coworkers. The mystery was very well written. I didn't figure out whodunit until right when the author wanted me to. I absolutely loved the library. I mean come on who doesn't love a lighthouse turned library/ still operating lighthouse!!! Oh and the last paragraph was a real hoot! I will definitely be returning to Bodie Island for the next book!

Kevin says

A fine mystery with interesting characters, but for me the real draw is the setting. I just love the idea that Lucy can work all day at the library, walk up to the 4th floor and be home in the same lighthouse with a window seat to read in facing the ocean. Finish a book in the middle of the night, walk down to the library and take your pick. What a dream!

Jonathan says

Booked for Trouble was a good, albeit slow, second in this series. Filled with murder, new fun characters, and a wonderful setting, this book was a solid second.

I think the Outer Banks is one of the most widely used cozy mystery setting there is; I can think of at least three other series besides this one that take place in this same area, and though that may seem repetitive, it isn't. Each author does a wonderful job of spinning their series it's own way and not making the series sound the same. Eva Gates has proven that she, also, has the talent to take an existing setting and make it entirely her own, without sounding like a broken record.

The characters are wonderful; Lucy is the perfect cozy MC. However, there is a love triangle. Why, oh why must authors add love triangles? Especially ones like this one where both love interests are equally good. It's frustrating and really annoying. The mystery was good. It dragged towards the middle, but by the end it picked back up. I had no idea who the killer was, and I was surprised at the end.

Overall a good book. There were a few minor problems, but I'll be reading the next one!

Cathy Cole says

I'm still enjoying both the popularity of this fictional lighthouse library and its setting, but I have to be honest and admit that I picked up *Booked for Trouble* with a bit of trepidation. It's a quirk of mine, but I do not care for high maintenance parents in the cozies that I read, and that's exactly what Lucy's mother is. I am happy to report that although Suzanne is not the type of person to ever become my BFF, that angle of the book was not as bad as I'd anticipated. Whew!

Lucy continues to be an interesting main character, but too many of the secondary characters are two-dimensional. Take Charlene for example. It would appear that her sole reason for existence is to annoy everyone with her passion for rap music-- and she's the only one who really stands out in my mind. The rest are a kind of blur, and I hope book three is the "breakout" book for them. Speaking of breaking out, Lucy's two love interests need to stop spinning their wheels and start making some moves.

Although I enjoyed reading how Lucy finally found the killer, I knew the person's identity early on due to a certain peculiarity in the dialogue. I can be strange that way sometimes. And have any of you noticed that the latest thing in cozies seems to be cross-marketing-- that is, mentioning books by other cozy writers? At least it fits in here because Lucy is a librarian, but I've been noticing it in several books lately. I realize that things like this place a book clearly within its timeframe, but I prefer my books without branding, marketing, or suggestive selling.

Booked for Trouble is a good solid mystery with a winning main character and a perfect setting; however, it needs some of its other components to be fleshed out more so this series can shine the way I know that it can.

Trish says

A decent next in series, albeit it times it seemed to have editing oddities that didn't quite tie up with what had been said previously.

Celia says

This book is the second in the Lighthouse Library series by Eva Gates. Lucy Richardson has left her ex-fiance behind in Boston and is working as a librarian at the Bodie Island Lighthouse Library in the Outer Banks of North Carolina. She loves her job and has the added perk of being able to live in an apartment at the top of the lighthouse. She also has two attractive local suitors. Lucy is surprised by a visit from her socialite Mother, Suzanne, who is acting a bit odd and is set on convincing Lucy to move back to Boston to get back together with her ex-fiance. Suzanne grew up in the Outer Banks, and has family still living there, but wants to keep her youth in the past. However, a very public argument with a former classmate in the lobby of her hotel makes Suzanne the prime suspect when that classmate is murdered outside the Lighthouse Library after a book club meeting both had attended. Lucy is determined not only to prove her mother's innocence, but also to protect the reputation of the Library. This book has a great cast of characters, from Lucy's co-workers and charismatic cat at the Library, to a politician hoping to capitalize on the murder. There is also a local legend of a lighthouse ghost called The Lady. Booked for Trouble leaves you guessing until the very end and is quite an enjoyable read. Although this book is the second in the Lighthouse Library series, it can stand alone and does not contain any spoilers from the first book, By Book or By Crook, which I now want to read!

I received an ARC of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Lisa Ks Book Reviews says

I enjoyed my return visit to the Outer Banks and The Lighthouse Library so much I didn't want it to end!

Author Eva Gates has written a wonderful second installment in the Lighthouse Library Mystery series. Book one, BY BOOK OR BY CROOK, was absolutely delightful, but Ms. Gates has kicked the mystery and entertainment up a few notches with, BOOKED FOR TROUBLE.

From the moment I opened this book I was drawn in and didn't want to be disturbed until I had finished. The setting, the people, everything about this book was well written. A library in a lighthouse? Does it get much cozier than that?

Perfectly paced and well plotted, BOOKED FOR TROUBLE was excellent from cover to over. If you are limited on the books you can, make sure this wonderful mystery is one of them!

Don't miss the excerpt for READING UP A STORM, found at the back of the book

LORI CASWELL says

Dollycas's Thoughts

This cover is absolutely gorgeous!!

We return to the Bodie Island Lighthouse Library shortly after the last book, *By Book or By Crook* ends. The Jane Austen books are still on exhibit but the crowds have died down and the Lucy has had time to really settle into her new job. That is until her mother, Suzanne, shows up for a surprise visit intending to convince Lucy to leave the Outer Banks and return to Boston. Her mother's plans get sidetracked when she runs into a couple of former high school classmates. One seems to forget she is married and wants to date her and another has a few terse words for the socialite. Karen Kivas is now a hotel maid and their little argument just happened in front of a bunch of witnesses. They do make up just a bit at a book club meeting but then the only witness is Lucy. So when Karen's body is found outside of the library the next morning, Suzanne is the prime suspect. Not one to sit idly by, Lucy checks out every other person that could have wanted the maid dead trying to catch the real killer before her mother is forced to check in to the state prison.

I am so happy I was able to read this book within a week of reading the first book in the series. I had hated for the last book to end so it was pure pleasure to jump right into this one.

Lucy is enjoying her job, but not everyone is still convinced she should have the job. There is even someone that wants to shut down the entire library. The last thing Lucy needs is a surprise visit from her mother, but she will make the best of it and try to get it through to her mother that she is not leaving her job. I loved the addition of Suzanne to this mix of characters. She is really not a friendly woman. She holds herself in very high regard and cannot fathom that she is a murder suspect. Her interactions with Lucy's friends, co-workers, and other people in her sphere really drives this story in several directions. Some had me scratching my head and others had me laughing out loud. Oh, and, Suzanne is not a cat person, but Charles was not holding back any of his kitty attentions ?

The mystery portion of the story had several twists that drew me deeper and deeper into the story. There weren't too many suspects, but I just couldn't pin the real culprit down until it was spelled right out for me in the text. Just the way I like it.

Again, the setting of the library in a lighthouse means the reader has to stretch their imagination. The author admits that with an Author's Note at the beginning of the book, and I had no trouble with that at all. She has created a wonderful masterpiece in the Bodie Island Lighthouse Library.

Even with Suzanne's efforts to curb and romantic notions for Lucy, the romantic triangle between Lucy, the mayor, and the detective continues to press forward. In fact, on the final page of this book, Lucy realizes something that could have her needing to make a big decision. Luckily, the next book, *Reading Up A Storm* is on my TBR shelf and I hope to be reading it soon.

Another delightful cozy mystery from Eva Gates! I loved it!

Mystereity Reviews says

I'm actually only about 60% done, but I've read enough to write a review.

The problem with this book (and with the first book in the series) is that the plot was not fully developed, and as such, was not able to span a whole book without adding a bunch of inane interactions with minor characters that serve only as an obvious attempt to pad the book.

Which is a shame because the plot (minus all the inanity) is actually pretty good. It's a shame that so much filler is stuffed in the book that I lost interest.

So a 2 star review, mostly because I love the idea of a lighthouse library but that's being generous because Louise Jane, the overbearing mother and the love-triangle-in-the-making made it just impossible to get through.
