



The Darling Dahlias and the Unlucky Clover

Susan Wittig Albert

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It looks like the music has ended for Darling's favourite barbershop quartet, the Lucky Four Clovers—just days before the Dixie Regional Barbershop Competition. Another unlucky break: a serious foul-up in Darling's telephone system—and not a penny for repairs. And while liquor is legal again, moonshine isn't. Sheriff Buddy Norris needs a little luck when he goes into Briar Swamp to confront Cypress County's most notorious bootlegger. What he finds upends his sense of justice.

Once again, Susan Wittig Albert has told a charming story filled with richly human characters who face the Great Depression with courage and grace. She reminds us that friends offer the best of themselves to each other, community is what holds us together, and luck is what you make it.

The Darling Dahlias and the Unlucky Clover Details

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Author : Susan Wittig Albert

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From Reader Review The Darling Dahlias and the Unlucky Clover for online ebook

Shalini says

I generally do not read this genre of story, but to my surprise, it was quite interesting. A novel set in a charming town of Darling where even the time of Great Depression, cannot repress the people of this town. Then a murder occurs and the Sheriff investigates...

The story takes its own gentle twists and turns, down the pages. There is both suspense and humor, and that makes this an easy read.

Characters are from different fields of life and are well developed.

This is the 7th book in the Darling Dahlias series, but my 1st read. The author Susan Wittig Albert is quite the wordsmith. Her research into history is well evident in this book. It is wonderful to read a book where mystery and history go together.

On the whole, a fast, enjoyable read.

Pamela Priest says

I have been an avid reader of Ms. Albert's books for many years, and I am so grateful she decided to continue this series. I feel like I am right there in the book with her characters, because they are real, and her depression period facts are well researched. My parents were raised during the depression, so I've heard the stories, and these books continue to add details to the stories. There are many elements I love about this book, and Ms. Albert's books in general. She spins a good tale that you can't put down, and you don't ever want to end. I know times were tough, but it makes me want to live in Darling with the Darling Dahlias. The extras she gives us are amazing, too: the pie recipes and historical information on the various pies, along with Liz Lacy's Garden Gate column on lucky plants.

Aubree says

This was definitely my least favorite in the series so far. The first quarter of the book was just reintroducing the characters and their backstories, which I already knew. The mystery was uninteresting and very slow paced. Hopefully the next one is better.

I received this Kindle copy from Goodreads Giveaways.

Taryn says

I've read another series by this author which I enjoy immensely but this was my first foray into this one and I was very pleased with it. I love period mysteries and this one didn't disappoint. Set in the 1930's during the great depression you are introduced to a group of ladies in a gardening club who make the most of life no matter the times. Follow along as they deal with one piece of bad news after another. Even though times are hard they always find a way. This was a truly fun read, it was great to see how a mystery could be solved in a time without cellphones, and the internet. I loved the southern setting and the sayings, being from the south I

always get excited when hearing another person perspective of it. I look forward to going back to the beginning and catching up on everyone before the author comes out with another book. The characters were a treat to get to know.

Lynn says

I was very happy to see that Susan Albert wrote another Darling Dahlia Book. This was the seventh book. I have enjoyed all seven books that take place in Darling Alabama during the early 1930's. A prominent resident of Darling was found dead in his Pierce Arrow car. It had crashed down an embankment. Questions start to arise if it was really an accident or murder.

The book contains a roster at the beginning identifying the members of the Dahlia gardening club. I don't believe that one has to start at book one in this series. The author does a good job at not leaving the new readers to the series in the dark. However, if you are new, you will probably want to go back and read the previous books in the series after reading this book. I love this series-the characters and reading about their daily lives in the 30's. It is a series that is relaxing for me to read. It is also an automatic purchase for me when a new book is released. So glad a new Darling Dahlias book was released. Now waiting eagerly for the next book.

EuroHackie says

This was such an odd reading experience for me. I thoroughly enjoyed the original *Dahlias* series, and was ecstatic when I discovered there was a new one, but I came out of the reading experience mostly disappointed. None of the plot lines are really resolved, not even the cover mystery (not really - there is an explanation, but it is a suspiciously neat one, derived from the characters basically running into each other and gossiping about the accident). The mystery was most disappointing, and not what I've come to expect from this author.

Meanwhile, new plotlines have been introduced: Grady Alexander is suddenly single and looking to Liz as a mother for his son. Liz might be losing her job at Mr. Moseley's office, which suddenly makes Grady an attractive option. Her literary contacts in New York recommend her for an upcoming federal project. Charlie Dickens is suspicious of his wife Fannie's money management and conspires to go behind her back about it (in a plot line that goes nowhere). The other Dahlias make cameo appearances at best; Verna has one scene in the entire book.

It was nice to visit Darling again, but this felt like one that was definitely left at loose ends. Hopefully that means there will be more to come, but as its own entry into the line, this one's a dud, IMO.

Dawn Michelle says

I really enjoy this series; the characters are so very real and should you live in a small town [like I do], you can find variations of these characters all over. Therefore, when one of them does something COMPLETELY STUPID, it makes you just want to yell and harumph at them [which I may or may not have done when this happened in this book - no, I will not tell you, you will have to find out on your own]. Sigh. It was the only part of the book that felt...false?...is that the word I am looking for? I just am unsure that after

all this character has been through, that they would behave this way. But perhaps I am wrong.

You once again get to see Buddy in action and much more of his deputy Wayne. There IS a murder in this one....or is there? The ending leaves it very open for another book and in a way, that annoys me. I am not a big fan of the "cliffhanger" and while this isn't exactly that per say, it does leave it very opened ended.

This story was very close to my heart because my family has long been involved and in love with the Barbershop Quartet. My Grandfather and his brother sang, my Dad sang, a close family friend sang with my Dad and on and on. There used to be a big show every year near us and I used to wait in pins and needles waiting for that night. I wish there had been more about that in the book, but was glad that they used that format at all. It is a dying art form.

Those who have read the previous books will be happy with this story - it was very very good and I look forward to the next installment.

Jody Hamilton says

I've been a big fan of the previous Darling Dahlias books but this latest offering missed its mark. The resolution of the mystery was not complete so I can only hope it continues into the next book. Additionally, the newspaper publisher, Charlie, has a little mystery of his regarding regarding his wife's finances which was never resolved.

Much of the charm of these books comes from the Darling Dahlias interactions with each other but there wasn't much of that in these books. Most of the character's actions were independent of each other. Verna, one of my favorite characters, hardly appeared at all.

As usual, the book included very interesting facts about music, government programs, cost of living, recipes, etc, of the times. That part of the book was top-rate. I hope there's another book in the series to conclude the unsolved mysteries.

Heidi says

I was delighted to return to the people and setting of Darling but this book has no real ending at all. It's half a book.

Jennie Rosenblum says

This book is the seventh in the series but the first one of the series that I have read. The author writes in a couple of genres and shows talent in each. This series is based in the 1930's in a small town named Darling in Alabama. From the beginning letter to the reader to the ending recipes for pies this book made me happy. The main characters are mostly charming ladies from the Darling Dahlias, a gardening club. As always with this author the subject matter and time period are well researched. B

There is a bit of mystery and intrigue to the story line. The theme consists of good people in a community that works together to survive the national economy and the local situations.

Donna says

Another story in the delightful Dahlias and their era during the depression and in this case the new deal of President Franklin Roosevelt's presidency. There is a group of men who make up a quartet of singers who compete in a contest that they enter sponsored in their own towns. The Dahlias investigate when one of the singers disappears. Each Dahlia investigates after the missing member is found dead.

Magdalena aka A Bookaholic Swede says

After reading a couple of other books by Susan Wittig Albert (A Wilder Rose, Loving Eleanor and The General's Women) was I curious about her works. So, I was thrilled when I the chance to read The Darling Dahlias and the Unlucky Clover, book seven in The Darling Dahlias series.

As a new reader to this series can I conclude that I besotted in this series. Yes, utterly charmed and in need of the previous books. From the very first page was I intrigued by the story and engrossed in the mystery of one the missing man, a member of the Lucky Four Clover quartet. To be honest, I would have read this book without the mystery, I was so charmed by all the characters, their lives in the little town during the depression with bootleggers and a struggling telephone system. And then we have The Darling Dahlias, the garden club, the heart of this book and their digging into the mystery of the missing man and what happened to him.

I found that Susan Wittig Albert has really captured the 30s. The book is atmospheric and the characters are, despite being new to me, easy to remember and I found myself quite enjoying their everyday plight with money and relationship problems. The 30s is such a fascinating period and it's interesting to read about ordinary people's lives in a little town during the depression. Of course, with the addition of some mysterious events.

Joyce says

4 stars

What a charming novel. The book opens with a letter to the reader. This seems like a warm and friendly way to introduce Ms. Wittig Albert's new book.

It's 1934 in Darling, Alabama and we're in the middle of the Great Depressions. But the irrepressible citizens of Darling can't be kept down for long. The local barbershop quartet the Lucky Four Clovers are about to compete in the Regional Barbershop Competition.

The phone lines get messed up and Mr. Whitworth of the Lucky Four Clovers is killed. Although prohibition has ended, there are still moonshiners creating their own special brew. The local Sheriff is on the trail of one who is operating in the Darling area. He even suspects who it is.

The book is filled with charming "Southernisms" to make the reader smile and chuckle. It is both well written and plotted. It is an easy read with little mayhem or violence. It's just a gentle journey through a

small Southern town. While there is tension in the story, it is not a stomach-clenching kind. Rather, it is a presence in the mind so the reader knows they are perusing a mystery. Sufficient background information is given about the major characters to flesh them out (and for those of us who haven't read the entire series), but not so much that it intrudes on the story. I am almost embarrassed to admit that this is my first Susan Wittig Albert novel, but it won't be my last. I truly enjoyed this little book.

I want to thank NetGalley and Persevero Press/Independent Book Publishers Association (IBPA)/Members' Titles for forwarding to me a copy of this charming little book to read and enjoy.

Fred says

The Darling Dahlias And The Unlucky Clover is the seventh book in the Darling Dahlias series.

I've read all of the Susan Wittig Alberts mystery series books and the series written as Robin Page and wonderful books they all are. Albert is one of the truly great wordsmith writing today. All of her books are all very well-plotted and all have a well-developed cast of believable characters.

I'm so glad that this series found a new home and that there will be more to come. This series just makes it into my criteria for a historical series, being that it takes place before I was born. Granted it is only ten years. Albert's descriptive writing in this series is probably the thing that I like the most. As I read this book, I feel that I am transported back to the 1930's and walking through the interesting community of Darling, Alabama. The story has been well researched and I particularly enjoy reading the prices of food items, listening to residents provide the views on prohibitions and moonshiners. Albert even provides some political views of residents as to how the upcoming election of FDR and Huey Long.

It's 1934 and the Darling Dahlias are busy canning and baking pumpkin pies for the Darling Blessing Box and the Dixie Regional Barbershop Quartet competition. The Lucky Four Clovers get some bad news when the lead singer is ordered by his doctor to not sing for a while. A replacement, Mr. Whitney Whitworth, is found things look good for the Lucky Four Clovers. Liz Lacy's gets a phone call from Benton Mosely, asking her to go over the Regina Whitworth's and see why she is in such a panic-stricken state. Liz soon finds out that Whitney hadn't come home last night. At about the time that Liz is heading to see Regina, Charlie Dickens, editor of the Darling Dispatch gets a phone call and rushes to the scene of a car wreck on a narrow county road. The body in the car is identified at Whitney Whitworth. Dickens is making notes at the scene of the accident scene and notices some damage to the car that appears that it was no accident. Dickens then provides Sheriff Norris. Sheriff Norris with the help of several residents begins to investigate and soon discover that Mrs. Whitworth was planning on filing for divorce and three businesses that Whitney was a "silent partner" in had gone to him for additional capital and he had turned them down. Could one of them have gotten even, rather than getting madder?

Delicious sounding recipes are also included with the book.

I'm hoping that there will be more books coming in this series. I so look forward visiting Darling and learning what the colorful residents have been up to since the last visit.

Linda Zagon says

My Review of "The Darling Dahlias and the Unlucky Clover" by Susan Wittig Albert

I appreciate the intriguing way that Susan Wittig Albert, Author of "The Darling Dahlias and the Unlucky Clover", weaves her charming, delightful and mysterious story and colorful characters together.

The timeline of this story is around the depression in Darling, Alabama. The genres for this story are mystery, cozy mystery, fiction with some historical fiction.

The author describes her characters as quirky, likeable, neighborly, nosy, and flawed. This is the seventh book in the series, and the first book that I am reading and reviewing. It can be read as a stand- alone, and I would be interested in reading the others.

Alcohol is now legal, but bootlegging still exists, and is a big business by the swamps, and prison. It is fascinating to hear reference to Party phones, the automobiles of the time, and the way people had different complications. Although times were less complex, there still were hardships. There were financial hardships after the Depression. There is talk of a "New Deal" that promises more jobs. There is news of Kidnappings for money. Since money is hard to come by, there is an old broken- down phone system, and some businesses might have to close. One of the limited partners in these businesses doesn't want to provide the monies necessary to improve and keep these things running.

To top it off, the "Lucky Four Clovers" the town's winning quartet is having problems of its own. The Women's "Darling Dahlias", the local garden club helps boost the morale, by making pies, and being a support system to one another.

In addition, the town is faced with a murder. There are a few characters that could be suspect. In a small town, it is hard to keep secrets and information from getting out.

The women of this town are hardworking, resourceful, enterprising , and creative with the lack of funds. I appreciate that the author discusses the roles of women during the depression, family, friendships, neighbors, and community.

I would recommend this cozy mystery to readers that appreciate mystery, and fiction. I received an Advanced Reading Copy for my honest review.
