



## Death, Snow, and Mistletoe

*Valerie S. Malmont*

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Murder in the holiday spirit

It was Christmas in Lickin Creek, and all through the town something was stirring..The borough council was quarreling about the color of the Christmas lights. A social worker wouldn't let a living baby be part of the town's living crèche. And some ladies were stretching the limits of their leotards in a pageant called the Nutcracker. All in all, former New Yorker Tori Miracle was basking in the quaint glow of her adopted Pennsylvania town, when suddenly the season went sour. A boy was missing. A thirty-year-old mystery resurfaced. And now two people have been murdered. With her boyfriend--the town police chief--out of town, Tori must help his befuddled replacement. And what she finds out, or should be finding out, is making Tori the next target--of someone only in the mood for murder....

*From the Paperback edition.*

## Death, Snow, and Mistletoe Details

Date : Published (first published November 7th 2000)

ISBN :

Author : Valerie S. Malmont

Format : Kindle Edition 322 pages

Genre : Mystery, Holiday, Christmas, Fiction, Cozy Mystery, Womens

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## From Reader Review Death, Snow, and Mistletoe for online ebook

### Shannon says

abandoned...wicca and psychics

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### Sue says

This was a cozy mystery with the main characters all part of a small home town . And they were characters! The heroine is a editor of a small paper and she solves crimes as a hobby/pasttime. I enjoyed the book, but it was difficult to feel the cold air surrounding the folks as it's been 90 degrees this last week.

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### Sarahanne says

This was an interesting book. Lots of elements - things that came together - or didn't come together. It was a little odd reading it since some bits were classic cozy fare, but others weren't. I enjoyed the various threads. I liked that some pieces fit together & others were red herrings - or background noise. The writing style was nice - no annoying phrases or habits. Even the cats (yes - there are cats) were fine. They didn't death yowl or reveal hidden clues. They were pretty much cats.

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### Allison says

I've read a couple in this series and always enjoyed them and this installment was no exception. There was some funny moments (channeling Monty Python for example) and some sad moments but a true to life story. I did figure out, towards the end, who did it but it took me awhile to get there. Set around the Christmas holidays I really enjoyed the descriptions of the activities taking place in and around Lickin Creek. The party at the Gochenauer farm AKA Greta's Fine Swine Farm sounded like so much fun made me wish I had been invited. I will read more in this series.

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### Jeannie and Louis Rigod says

This novel sounded intriguing to me as I saw an advertisement on social media. The plot was clever. A Reporter, Tori Miracle from New York, living in Lickin Creek, Pennsylvania finds herself trying to join in the community and getting the stories for her temporary job as an Editor of the weekly newspaper.

It is Christmas time. There are plays, parades, dinners, community functions, and murders. A child goes missing...a skeleton is found. How can that be? The child just went missing. A member of the pageant play is murdered. Why? Then another play actress is shot. Are all these things connected?

This novel is the fourth in the series. I couldn't find the first on Kindle. I'm going to have to go to the

paperbacks or Hardbacks to find them. However, I guarantee you the search will be worth the effort. The characters are three dimensional. The dialog will have you chuckling. The mystery will have you working to try and solve.

This author is new to me, however, I'm going to enjoy all she has written.

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### **Carmen says**

This book is entertaining but the contradictions, repetitive descriptions and exposition, and overuse of colloquialisms in dialogue are distracting.

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### **Barbara says**

Having grown up in Pa., I was really looking forward to this book. But there were too many strange names & too much of "you don't belong here". The story was decent. I really felt for her when her cat went missing & I really enjoyed Praxythea ( how the hell is that pronounced?!)- the psychic. I would probably read another in the series, but I'm not actively searching them out.

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### **April Wood says**

I never do this but I read other reader's reviews before writing my own. What I read from other readers didn't surprise me, and I'm glad I'm not the only person who was utterly confused by this story.

I borrowed Death, Snow, and Mistletoe from my local library to get in the Christmas spirit. This book had sooo much potential. It really did. The title and cover immediately grabbed my attention, and the synopsis of the story sounded interesting enough. Unfortunately, I think there was way too much going on, (Christmas light debacle, a live baby in the manger scene fiasco, Nutcracker pageant wardrobe malfunction, a psychic, a missing child, a cold case reawakened and a child's body who was missing for 30 years found, and two murders). If that sentence was annoying to read, imagine the book...

\*Big sighs\*

This is what would have made this story better, if one of the above things was focused on solely. I didn't know what I was reading half the time. Of course I read this book till late in the night and was tired, but still. I normally love these holiday mysteries so I was totally disappointed that it didn't meet my expectations.

I gave Death, Snow, and Mistletoe 3 stars because like I said, it really did have so much potential, I liked the protagonist, and I enjoy Holiday mysteries in general.

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### **Laura D says**

Dumb story.

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### **Josephine Hawkins says**

#### **Mistletoe**

Book kept me interested yet did not reveal who did it or reason until last possible moment. Incorporated several events that led up to why murder was done without spoiling end.

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### **Susan says**

Cute, funny, lighthearted little murder mystery. I liked it and I think I will read some more of the Tori Miracle stories. This book was a quick read and wasn't a heavy, downer of a story like some murder mysteries can be.

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### **Dharia Scarab says**

Since I don't normally write reviews unless I have something specific to say, here's the break down of how I rate my books...

1 star... This book was bad, so bad I may have given up and skipped to the end. I will avoid this author like the plague in the future.

2 stars... This book was not very good, and I won't be reading any more from the author.

3 stars... This book was ok, but I won't go out of my way to read more, But if I find another book by the author for under a dollar I'd pick it up.

4 stars... I really enjoyed this book and will definitely be on the look out to pick up more from the series/author.

5 stars... I loved this book! It had earned a permanent home in my collection and I'll be picking up the rest of the series and other books from the author ASAP.

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### **Xanthi says**

This is the first book I have read in this series. I have mixed feelings about it. How does one take this book? Is it a parody? A rip-off? The similarities between this and Lilian Jackson Brauns 'Cat Who' series, are strong. Both have a protagonist who is an 'out of town' living in a small town, who has two cats, and solves mysteries. The names of the people and the locales in the town are odd, and the authors of both series aim for

a bit of humour. Braun's books have more 'charm' and humour is gentler. Malmont's book, generally speaking, has a better plot - more red herrings, suspects, etc. Braun's feline characters play a bigger role than Malmont's. If I was feeling cynical, I could just say that this author picked a formula (cats + small town + some humour = cozy mystery) that has sold millions for others and so jumped on the bandwagon. If I was feeling more generous, I would say this author wrote a homage of sorts, to the feline whodunnits. All aside, I still enjoyed this book as some light, entertaining reading. Just wish it had more cats. ;) I may even try reading another in the series.

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### **Ann says**

This is another cat inspired cozy. It was pretty well written and the story kept my interest. Tori Miracle moved to Pennsylvania to be near her boyfriend and to take over publishing the local newspaper. Just after she arrived, Garnet, the boyfriend, left for a year abroad so she is trying to be accepted in a strange town when half the town blame her for his leaving town. A very young child is missing and the town bands together to search for him. Tori is covering the story for the newspaper and also trying to assist Lucious, Garnet's deputy who is trying to fill very big shoes with little confidence in his abilities. A body is found but it has been dead for over thirty years and this opens up a lot of past history. Tori is likable and the cast of "characters" in the town make this a good read.

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### **Kiera Healy says**

A letter to my future self:

Dear Kiera,

You need to not read these so-called "cosy mysteries" anymore, because they're stupid. You read one before, remember? And you thought it was terrible, because, well, it was. It basically focused on an unlikeable female protagonist with exposition-heavy thoughts and no mystery to speak of other than which musclebound hunk she'll be kissing/holding hands with (these things are more chaste than Nancy Drew) in the next chapter.

Well, this one was even worse. I think it's supposed to be funny, but the alleged humour mostly comes from characters with dumb surnames, and people getting the protagonist's name wrong. The main character keeps cats, has been abandoned by her boyfriend, and keeps thinking about going on a diet. Read in a certain way, it's a modern tragedy. Supporting characters include a host of wiccans, crazy children, and a famous TV psychic. The protagonist claims to be a newspaper editor, but she expresses confusion as to why people want to buy more papers after prominent locals start getting murdered. Um. Because...news?

The "mystery" is laughably dumb. Basically one character appears a lot at the beginning, then disappears suddenly from the narrative and you think "Oh right, she must've done it". Meanwhile there's a host of inane suspects being dismissed, and the villain doesn't appear again until right before the end, when she confesses and all is okay.

Really, the only mystery here is why the protagonist has a female cat named Noel.

Seriously, Kiera, don't read this kind of tripe again. You'll thank me when you win the Nobel Prize for Not Reading Stupid Books.

Cheers,

Present-Day-Kiera

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