



## Three Odd Balls

*Cindy Blackburn*

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A romantic vacation for...five? This wasn't exactly what Jessie and Wilson had in mind when they planned their trip to the tropics. But when Jessie's delightfully spry mother, Wilson's surfer dude son, and Jessie's rabidly hyperactive New York agent decide to tag along the fun begins. What kind of trouble can these three oddest of odd balls possibly get into? Take a guess.

### Three Odd Balls Details

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## From Reader Review Three Odd Balls for online ebook

### Mary says

In Book Three of the Cozy Cue Ball Mysteries series, we find Jessie telling her publisher about an upcoming Holiday Vacation in Hawaii. Somehow, the fantabulous Geez Louise (the publisher) manages to invite herself along for the holiday using the excuse about doing research and giving suggestions for the latest book that Jessie (aka Adele Nightingale) is writing. The next thing she knows, not only is her mother also joining them, but also her boyfriend's eighteen yr old son. Amazingly, they all manage to find rooms at the same resort.

The resort is somewhat deserted compared to the other nearby hotels and resorts, and it seems that they pretty much have the place to themselves. The first night, however, the bartender ends up with a knife stuck in him in Jessie's mother's room. The local PD are keen on pinning this on a tourist. The chef goes missing, and not soon after the resort's pet parrot also goes missing.

Wilson (Jessie's boyfriend) is out of his jurisdiction, but this does not stop everyone from trying to put together the pieces of the puzzle to solve the murders.

It's a quick, easy read and of course, the characters of the story will bring a smile to your face.

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### Kimberly Holgate says

Jessica (Jessie) Hewitt AKA Adele Nightingale and her Beau Captain Wilson Rye have planed a Christmas get away to Hawaii thanks to the ill gotten gains from the last murder, that surprisingly she was aloud to keep. But there plans are quickly interrupted by the addition of three to there party Jessie's mother Tessie and her agent Louise as well as Wilson's son Chris. Wakilulani Garden the hotel the group is staying at is the setting of most of the book.

On there first night there the Bartender stumbles into Tessie's room, where a shirtless Chris is also visiting, and dies. Unlike the other books the islands police officer is inept and only ever arrests tourists for crimes so as the lone guests at the Gardens, minus two annoying ukulele players, he tries to pin it on Chris and Wilson regardless of more obvious suspects. So off Jessie and Wilson go to investigate some humor ensues when Tessie and Louise also go off to investigate unfortunately the story is in Jessie's point of view not Tessie's which in my opinion would of made for a better story.

Pool really isn't a big part of this book they do learn how to surf though. Chris spends most of the book not there but when he is all his time is spent being rude to Jessie with not a word from Wilson on his behavior and worst than that not a word from Jessie. At least now we don't have to listen to Jessie wine about her age because Chris is doing it for her. Jessie dose have other things to bemoan though starting with wanting to know all Wilson's deep dark secrets and her apparent, although this is the first time we heard about it, fear of insects as well as harassing Wilson on his choice of shirts.

I had so many problems with the plot i really don't know where to start and at the end there were still unanswered questions. Like the first book you are not given enough information to actually solve the crime and even when the killer is unmasked you still don't understand the reasoning of the killer. The atrocity that is Adele Nightingails story's continues threw out the book but when put next to the rest of the story don't seam so bad. The story is still humorous and the closed door action between Jessie and Wilson still continues

but overall the story was a disappointment.

The book is again Narrated by Caroline Miller which was the only saving grace. She makes it easy to differentiate characters and i liked that she didn't try to use a males voice just her own in a different tone. She doesn't read excessively fast so its easy to listen to in 3X speed and still understand.

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### **elaine m. suda says**

#### **Vacation Plus**

I really enjoyed reading your story about Jessica and Wilson and their crazy vacation. I loved the different scenarios that they got involved with. The storyline was fast-moving and I really enjoyed all the many characters, especially Bee Bee. I look forward to reading more of your work.

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### **Karen B. says**

Jessie Hewitt decides to go to Hawaii with her boyfriend, Wilson, to get the atmosphere and begin her next romance novel. What started out as a little getaway for the two of them ends up with a trip with "three odd balls", her agent, her mother and Wilson's son. The bartender at the retreat is murdered and they are on the trail of discovering the murderer. Humorous, especially on audio with the agent's constant "fantastical". There is also a bird, Bebee. Enjoyable and recommended for anyone who enjoys cozy mysteries.

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### **Melissa Dinwiddie says**

#### **Great fun!**

A cozy murder mystery in the style of a screwball romantic comedy, evocative of classic films of the 1940s. As improbable as it is entertaining, I can't put this series down—an utter delight!

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### **Jeannie and Louis Rigod says**

I can summarize my feelings about this third novel in the Cue Ball Mystery series as "Fantastical, Fantastical, Fantastical!" With about another hundred ones thrown in for good measure.

I laughed from page one until the very end and then realized that there isn't a fourth book out yet. I will continue to search the booksellers until one gets published, not to mention, books five, six and well you get the idea.

Romance Fiction writer (and boy is she,) Jessica just wants to go on vacation with her love interest, in real life, Detective Wilson Rye to Hawaii. Plans immediately go astray with the addition of three odd balls that get added to the trip, Geez Louise, Jesse's agent, Tessie, Jesse's 82yr old Mother, and Christopher Rye, Wilson's Son who up to now has refused to meet Jesse. If you think this is going to slow the couple down, think again.

When a murder occurs at the almost empty hotel that early (2:15am) night, all are brought into the investigation with hilarious results. There are suspenseful times, there are shocking crimes, there are missing chefs and more, but what was the highlight to me, was the humor running throughout the novel.

So, I suggest you sit back with one of the 'pink drinks, also known as a Pele's Melee complete with gold umbrella,' and relax with a lovely pupu platter and settle in for a non-stop reading session. I couldn't put the book down. Enjoy!

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## **April says**

### GUEST REVIEW FOR EARGASMS - BY KIMBERLY HOLGATE

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Disclosure - I received a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

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## **Marja McGraw says**

Three Odd Balls by Cindy Blackburn was an absolute delight.

When romance writer Jessie Hewitt, who writes as Adele Nightingale, plans a romantic getaway Christmas to Hawaii with her love interest, Wilson Rye, things don't go so well. Her outrageous agent, her aging mother and Wilson's son (who doesn't care for Jessie) decide to tag along.

It's not very long until they discover a murder at the hotel where they're staying, and the only witness may be a parrot named Bee Bee, while the main suspect is Wilson's son, Chris. Jessie and the gang make it their job to find the killer to clear Chris, and to keep the local police from arresting all of them. They also need to find the one witness, Bee Bee, who's apparently been kidnapped.

Interspersed with snippets from her latest romance novel, this story is face-paced and funny. Loved the characters and the storyline and I'll be reading more by Cindy Blackburn. I highly recommend this story for anyone who wants a good laugh and who wants to get away from it all through a humorous book.

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### **Terri says**

Another funny hit!

1st let me say I read / listened to this book in audio format via audible.com. If you get a chance to try an audiobook, go for it as it makes the story even better, along with accents, excitement & proper pronunciations. It's like listening to a movie!

This is book 3 to this series. The setting is Christmas time. Jessica & Wilson are going to the tropics for some alone time. However things don't work out as planned and Jessica's hyper editor Geeze Louise, Jessica's Mom Tess & Wilson's surfing son tag along to Hawaii with them.

While vacationing, a murder happens & they are the suspects. My favorite character is Beebee the talking parrot! While this book & series is cozy mysteries, there is loads of comedy in them too! Each book in the Cue series had lots of tongue twisters & loads of fun. I really enjoyed the 1st 3 books so far & going to read book 4 next. The farther into the series I get, the more fun I find in them as I can relate to the characters! The author, Cindy Blackburn doesn't disappoint! The narrator, Caroline Miller does one heck of a bang up job reading these books too! Listening to her tell these stories just makes them so much more exciting & fun! Kudos to both of these ladies for a great job!!!

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### **Denise Zendel says**

Jessie Hewitt, successful romance writer by day, pool shark by night, and mystery-solver when the need arises, is going on a romantic Hawaiian vacation with her copy boyfriend Wilson Rye during the Christmas holidays. Crazy circumstances have them bringing her elderly mother, her annoying hyperactive New York book agent, and his hostile son along for the ride.

While at the resort, Wilson's son, Chris, becomes Suspect No. 1 in a murder, and her mother, Suspect No. 2. The local police officer is known for blaming everything on "the tourists", so Chris is a likely target. Jessie isn't too sure about Chris, but she knows her mother is the last person on earth to kill anyone. Jessie has helped Wilson solve other crimes, so steps in to get Chris and her mother out of trouble.

This was a light, easy, fun read. I could have done without Jessie's agent, "Geez Louise" being along for the ride. She's loud, rude, self-centered and abrasive. And! She! Speaks! In! Exclamation! Points! In fact, I was

kind of hoping she was the killer so she could go away permanently. I thoroughly enjoyed everyone else, however.

I have always liked Jessie; she's in my age group and is someone I could see hanging out with. I enjoyed watching her relationship with Wilson progress. Their dialogue makes me laugh out loud. I also like the running gags between them. I even liked the in-between chapters, where Jessie's alter ego, author Adele Nightingale works out the details of her romance novels. In most books, I tend to page past stuff like this, but Adele's writing is pretty entertaining.

This is the third in the Cue Ball series. You could read them out of order, but I think they are better read in order.

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## **Roy Murry says**

THREE ODD BALLS  
A Cue Ball Mystery

Cindy Blackburn

Reviewed by Roy Murry, Author

I keep on coming back to Blackburn's novels because they are fun to read with an underlying theme of mystery that may or may not be easy to unravel. The characters are well defined and compliment Jessie, author, and amateur sleuth.

In this book, the bartender of enticing pink drinks is found dead in Jessie's mother's Hawaiian vacation bedroom. How Jessie's close inner group gets to Hawaii and the antics that follow are hilarious.

Everyone in Jessie's group gets involved with an original investigation which does not go along with the Official Police conclusions which are that one of her tourists committed the crime.

The events leading to solving the crime are funny, and near the end, deadly. As in all of the Blackburn's stories, Jessie is the center of an unusual conclusion that is exciting.

I think this is my fifth of the Cue Ball Mysteries. I'll be back for more fun.

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## **Judy Rehm says**

### **Great next adventure**

I really enjoy the antics from Jessie and all the characters, including her mom. This was a story of what was two people going on a vacation that morphed into five with a murder thrown in.

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## **Tammy J Rizzo says**

### **This was such an enjoyable read!**

This series is shaping up to be a favorite. I can't get enough of Jessie and her group. The murder mysteries might be simplistic, but the stories are just so FUN, leaving me reading even the most far-fetched plot twists with a grin on my face. The scenery in this book was certainly lush, and the characters quite entertaining. I give it four stars for my silly grin!

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## **Jo-Anne says**

Romance author, Jessica Hewitt is going on vacation with her boyfriend, Detective Wilson Rye. But before they can leave for Hawaii, they have three others joining them. First, Jessie's hyper publisher, Louise, invites herself along, then Jessie asks her 82-year-old mother, Tessie, to join them so that she won't be alone for Christmas. Then, Wilson's son, Chris, has his Christmas plans fall through, so Wilson invites him, too. So much for a relaxing vacation for 2.

When there is a murder, relax is the last thing they are going to do. The Hawaiian police are handling the investigation, but not very well. The officer always blames tourists for any crimes that happen on the island so he is sure Chris is the killer. Since Wilson is out of his jurisdiction, he can't investigate. But, Jessie is a really good amateur sleuth and shows him how it's done. They have to figure out who the killer was before Chris is arrested.

This is a terrific mystery with wonderful characters. Tessie was so cute when she was learning how to "hang ten". She was determined to help with the "sleuthing" and was pretty good at it. It was surprising to see Tessie and Louise become so friendly. What a pair! They shouldn't have been left alone. It was hysterical when Tessie was driving (like a speed demon), then let Louise drive. The problem was that Louise didn't know how to drive. Then there was Chris. He was quite nasty to Jessie. He thought very badly of her and rarely spoke to her. I loved Jessie! Not only is she a romance writer but also a pool shark. She actually put herself through college playing pool. She is THAT good. How Wilson kept his patience with everyone is a mystery in itself. What a wonderful man.

This is a fun mystery with some surprising twists. If you want a humorous cozy mystery that will keep you wondering whodunit, this is the book for you.

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