



Christmas Carol Murder

Leslie Meier

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"I like Lucy Stone a lot, and so will readers." --Carolyn Hart

It's Christmas in Tinker's Cove, Maine, and Lucy Stone is excited about her acting debut in the town's production of A Christmas Carol. But a real life Scrooge has everyone feeling frosty, and with a murderer on the loose, Lucy will have to unwrap her sleuthing skills faster than she can say, "Bah! Humbug!"

Lucy normally loves planning for the holidays, but this year, Tinker's Cove has fallen on hard times. With so many residents struggling to make ends meet, Christmas festivities are a luxury some can't afford. But the story's not so bleak at Downeast Mortgage, whose tightfisted owners, Jake Marlowe and Ben Scribner, are raking in profits from everyone's misfortune. Half the town is in their debt, so when the miserly Marlowe is murdered, the mourners are few and the suspects are many. . .

"Engaging. . .a satisfying conclusion." --*Publishers Weekly*

"Longtime Lucy Stone readers will be happy to catch up on life in Tinker's Cove in this cozy Christmas mystery." --*Library Journal*

Christmas Carol Murder Details

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Author : Leslie Meier

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From Reader Review Christmas Carol Murder for online ebook

Suzanne says

Lots of real world problems affect the town of Tinker's Cove - it was a good mystery.

Brigette says

I read Cosy Mysteries as an escape from every day life. I have read much better books than this one. This was full of health issues, politics and nasty name calling, something I can honestly do without, especially since it was a Christmas Cosy. I don't think I'll be reading any more of her books. I also just sent a message to the author telling her that calling us redheads "freckle faced carrot tops" was uncalled for. Bah Humbug! 2 Stars

Kathy says

Looking at the title, you know what this is going to be about, another trite story paralleling the lives of its main characters to those in the Dickens classic. In this case, the story centers around the modern economic recession. While I applaud an author for branching out and taking on such events and issues, this simply doesn't work well for this author or these characters. I must say, I've often found Lucy Stone annoyingly immature and naive. (I mean, how many times can an adult woman use the term "tummy" without seeming ridiculously childlike.) I've been waiting for her to grow as a character, but even as she ages and her children move into adulthood, she continues to devolve and regress. Trying to take on such a complicated issue using a lead character with the emotional development of an eleven-year-old just doesn't work. The issue and the plot become oversimplified and annoyingly self-righteous. Wrap that in yet another dull reissuing of "A Christmas Carol" and this story just becomes one boring and truthfully silly mess of a story. If this is the way the Lucy Stone series is going, then this will more than likely be the last I will bother to read.

Linda says

I really like Lucy Stone, she is a very real character (could be that she and her family are aging in real time like the rest of us). This was a fun story that is like Lucy's own version of A Christmas Carol, complete with her acting in a stage version of it. The mystery was good and this was just a good enjoyable Christmas story.

Romancing the Book says

Reviewed by Crystal B
Book provided by the publisher
Originally posted at Romancing the Book

I jumped at the chance to review Christmas Carol Murder by Leslie Meier. I have read other Lucy Stone mysteries and I always enjoy them. Ms. Meier has a way of telling a good mystery story with some humor

thrown in. That is my favorite kind of mystery. I like to sit on the edge of my seat but yet get a good laugh or two along the way. Leslie Meier was very successful doing that with this story.

I love Lucy Stone, that woman can find herself in the middle of more trouble than she knows what to do with. However she always finds a way out of the mess and maybe finds a clue or two along the way.

One other thing I really liked about this book is that it shows the economical hardships that are happening everywhere. It really puts the spotlight on some of the rough decisions people are having to make. Should they pay their mortgage or their health insurance? I like that this story really hits on some tough subjects.

I have a special fondness for Christmas stories and I enjoy reading them any time of the year. So that this is a Christmas story was just a bonus for me. Leslie Meier has done a great job of putting a different kind of twist on the Christmas Carol story.

If you have read Ms. Meier's work in the past and enjoyed her Lucy Stone series I think you will enjoy this book as well. If you have not had a chance to read her work but enjoy a nice mystery story with some humor then I would suggest you give this one a try. I think you might like it. I know I certainly did.

Joann Williams says

It feels like you've had a visit with a good friend when you finish a Lucy Stone book. I always look forward to the next one.

Kate says

Predictable mystery plus bad writing plus lazy, broad characterization equals a mystery I didn't enjoy at all. I can forgive one or two out of the three in a mystery, but not all of them. This was my first Lucy Stone and I don't see myself picking up any more; admittedly, I am not much of a domestic mystery reader. I do like cozy mysteries, but prefer them more in the vein of Louise Penny and Agatha Christie.

Robert Schneider says

I did like this one, only the second of the series I have tried. It was the book version of the 80's sitcom socially relevant episode. It is difficult bringing real world problems into fiction because you can't really solve anything in story terms. You just put a spotlight on it and then have to move on with the story knowing you can't fix the problem or it will throw the readers right out of the story because it didn't get fixed that easily in their world. Which makes it a slightly depressing story with the "recession" having made life difficult (cut hours, layoffs, housing crises, general bad economy) for just about every character in the book. The only problem I really had with all the preaching Lucy did about how people could help make things better for each other was when she made the comment that she did all her Christmas shopping online. Great way to practice what you preach about supporting the local economy.

I did like most of the characters and writing enough that I will try another in the series.

Leslie says

[decides to enter the building with a crazed townsman armed with a home-made bomb *because she doesn't want her old car which is parked out front blown up!!!* (hide spoiler)]

Kyrie says

It loosely mimed Dicken's book.

The author went off on bunny trails at moments when all I wanted to know was what was going to happen next.

At one critical point, the potential murderer's thoughts were attributed to his victim. (The editor missed it?)

For a reporter, Lucy didn't seem to actually investigate the back stories of people much, except for the one time she decided to snoop into papers belonging to her husband. Apparently she never heard of facebook or google to search people?

I could have done without the pontificaton about mortgage loans, student loans and health care. It was a bit like being trapped in a news talk show.

I wanted to like this book and it just kept falling flat for me.

Claudia says

This was my first Leslie Meier book. I probably won't read another. It seemed more a way for the author to air her political grievances than write a mystery. It just wasn't for me.

Michelle says

I usually like the Lucy Stone mystery series. This one had too much politics. The mystery almost seemed to be an excuse for Ms. Meier to air her views about foreclosures, health care costs, student loans, and the economy in general. If I want to read about that I will read the news. I expected a cozy mystery like the others in this series and was generally disappointed. The book was hard for me to get through and a bit depressing.

Lorraine says

Easy to read, clean cozy mystery. Set in Tinker's Cove, Maine a small town that is slowly dying due to numerous foreclosures by an unscrupulous mortgage company. One of the owners is murdered which sets the nerves of the whole town on fire. Lucy Stone, a small town newspaper reporter, is determined to discover what caused the victim's death. I loved the ending and how the suspected culprit had a change of heart and

helped out the town.

Angela says

My least favorite of the series. Too much of a downer and the lame Christmas Carol parallel is really bad.

Eleanor Jones says

I've enjoyed this series tremendously and this latest installment doesn't disappoint. I thought the plot was very clever in drawing parallels with Dickens at Christmastime and I always enjoy a visit to Tinker's Cove. I won't say that this was the easiest book in the series to read as economic reality has found our beloved small town in Maine and it's not easy on its denizens. In fact, the whole book has an uneasiness to it that doesn't really jibe with the rest of the coziness of the series--don't take that as a negative. It actually makes for an entirely new approach to the way the town's residents interact and think of each other, and I feel as if I know the long-time characters, major and minor, even better now. Add to that the drama centered around around Lucy's participation in the town Christmas play, daughter Sara's growing pains, and on-the-job stress that surely reflects accurately what small-town newspaper employees are experiencing today, and, of course, murder most foul, and you've got an intricately woven Lucy Stone tale that is actually very memorable. The ending is quite satisfactory in resolving some of the story's unease and I liked it very much. Great job by the author in tying it all together. As usual, looking forward to the next installment--especially seeing what happens with Sara.
