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Lila Dare , Laura DiSilverio

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Audrey Faye sashays into Violetta's Salon looking for stylists for the Miss Magnolia Blossom pageant. Hairdresser Grace Terhune's opportunity quickly turns into a nightmare with anti-pageant protestors, angry mothers, frantic contestants...and then, a very dead Audrey. The murder weapon was a nail file, making Violetta's manicurist, Stella, the prime suspect. Now Grace must find the real murderer before she is polished off permanently.

Polished Off Details

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Vickie says

A fun southern humor cozy mystery series that I always look forward to reading since it means I get to visit with some of my favorite beauticians. (my abfab are the Texan stylists as written by Dixie Cash). The ladies at Violetta's salon are invited to take care of the contestants of the Miss Magnolia Blossom beauty pageant. Murder ensues and Grace needs to find the killer since one of her friends has been accused of the murder. There are protestors, changes in attitude, romance and lots of Southern charm. A definite recommendation.

Tofu Fairy says

Just as good as the other two I have read from this series and I can't wait to read the 3rd (have now read 1, 2, and 4!)! Love getting to know the familiar characters more and more thru the series too. I especially liked the beauty pageant theme of this one, because I am very against beauty pageants. LOL If you are a FAN of beauty pageants, you may want to skip this one, as it shows the truth behind the curtain so to speak! Other than that, I recommend it for any cozy mystery genre fan!

Jo (My House of Books) says

Grace Terhune has stepped in it again, and by "it," I mean murder. Or perhaps she just has an aura that attracts dead bodies. I don't exactly know, but whatever it is, it makes Polished Off a quick and entertaining read.

Ms. Dare has the ability to add a little bit of everything to this mystery: twists and turns, romance, suspense, as well as the commonality of Grace and the citizens of St. Elizabeth, Georgia. This could be your town, your neighbors. Then again, if the bodies began piling up in my town, I'd be inclined to move. Grace, however, never thinks in those terms. She wants to help Stella -- as she wanted to clear her mother's name in Tressed to Kill -- so she immediately goes to work. And let me say that dead bodies do not impact Grace's ability to do good hair or be an amateur sleuth.

Polished Off picks up immediately where Tressed to Kill ends, and Ms. Dare delivers another jam-packed ride. I cannot wait to see what will happen to Grace next.

Trish says

A cute cozy mystery. This is the second in the Southern Beauty Shop Mystery, and while Grace is on the case, the story drags a bit in places. Enough that I wondered for a few chapters if I'd read another one. It did pick back up, but the middle of the story-telling is slow going. It's almost as if it suffered from too many suspects. The author is also building a love-triangle of sorts with Grace and her two fellas. Not crazy about

that either. Still, it's cute and light-hearted and will probably never be reread, at least by me.

Amanda says

Fantastic novel! I love all the twists and turns in this novel.

I think that Grace is an awesome character!

I really hope that Marty takes that job in Washington, and that Grace and Agent Dillon realize that they belong together.

Marty seems reluctant to set down any roots, which is exactly what Grace craves. Plus Marty seems to want to keep moving up the ladder and when it comes to writing about politics that can mean moving around a lot, plus I think that if he continues with the Lansky he will drive himself crazy. Obsession is not healthy.

Agent Dillon already has some roots down, he seems to know what he wants in life and he is always there to catch Grace when she falls or to save her from the situations that she finds herself in... They belong together in St. Elizabeth. They could buy a house with some land and a small barn or stable and build a life together.

Plus I think that Hank would be more bothered by Grace settling down with Agent Dillon than he would by her settling down with Marty. Considering all that Hank put her through that is a huge plus in my opinion. It would serve him right.

Jeannie and Louis Rigod says

I found this book to be a 'Laugh Out Loud' mystery. The sleuth is Grace and she works with her mother in their 'beauty salon.' The murders surround a beauty pageant and all the trimmings that such an enterprise brings with it in today's world.

The humor revolves around the talent portions and other events. There are relationship problems as well as identity issues.

The murderer was not disclosed before it's time and I enjoyed the book a great deal.

Susan says

Actually, this is about a three-and-a-half star book, second in a series. Divorced Grace works for her mother's beauty salon. Grace and their manicurist Stella accept a job helping the girls in a local beauty pageant look their best. When Grace stumbles over a dead body, the main suspect is someone she thinks is innocent. The two men in her life--the detective for the Georgia Bureau of Identification, and an Atlanta reporter--are soon on the scene. Grace's unofficial investigation takes her through pageant politics, protesters, the local community college, and smack into danger.

Kate says

This book was just as great as the first in the series! I love how the author comes up with unique, dangerous situations for the main character- things you haven't seen in other books! For example, in the last book she came in contact with a poisonous snake and in this book there is a feral cat, among other things! Very fun!

Kaye says

Grace Terhune is working at her mother's salon Violetta's as a hairdresser, and loves working there. She works with great people including Stella Michaelson, the manicurist and Althea Jenkins, the aesthetician. It's seldom boring at Violetta's, but August is a little slow and even Rachel Whitley, the shampoo girl has asked for the week off, so when Audrey Faye came in and asked for help with the Miss Magnolia Blossom beauty pageant, Grace jumps at the chance. Audrey is paying \$300 a day for Grace and Stella to work the pageant. When she arrives she find anti-pageant protestors, angry mothers, difficult contestants and a very unhelpful Audrey Faye. Rachel turns out to be one of the contestants. However, Grace finds Audrey Faye dead, with a nail file in her neck and there are accidents occurring to the contestants, and to make matters worse Stella's husband was having an affair with Audrey, Althea's dating one of the protestors. Grace needs to find out who has it out for the pageant and who killed Audrey. I love this series, and the characters.

Rachel says

This was a truly fun southern cozy mystery with a great cast of entertaining characters. I thought it was well written and quite hilarious at times; it was a good, fast read. I look forward to reading more of this series.

Amy says

This second book is a great addition to the Southern Beauty Show mysteries series. All of the usual suspects, I mean characters, are back! Grace and her mom, Violetta who runs a hair salon, Althea, GBI Agent, John Dillon, who Grace calls "Marsh" (think Marshall Dillon from the old TV series Gunsmoke) ...

This mystery takes place at a beauty pageant and things aren't what they seem. Even when you think you have the mystery solved, things change and again, you see that things still aren't what they seem.

A great story! And, at the end of the book are a couple of recipes for taking care of your skin (organically).

Caroline says

Fun second entry in the Lila Dare series. I enjoy Grace's town and the characters in it, and appreciate the relationship between Grace and her mother. (Since my own mom passed, I always tell folks who still have their parents to appreciate them while they're here!) Lila Dare has a good sense of humor and a nice way of describing the people and settings. The mystery was good - several folks who I thought could have "done it" and nice twists at the end so I really enjoyed this book. Recommend to all who enjoy cozy mysteries.

Michelle Randall says

In the second book of the Southern Beauty Shop Mystery series we travel back to St. Elizabeth for an area beauty pageant.

We find Violetts's the same as always, and Grace thinking about changes, maybe buying a house, when the chance to style the contestants in the beauty pageant presents itself and the extra money is a big draw for Grace with the thoughts of a house in her mind.

This time neither Violetta or Grace are the suspects in a murder, but it turns out Stella, their manicurist and her husband are, and of course Grace can't just sit back and let Agent Dillon do his job, she has to meddle and try to figure it out herself.

We get to experience a beauty pageant, protestors against the pageant, extra-material affairs, greed, jealousy and so much more. There are twists and turns and it turns out that the murderer is not the one you think. I loved the complex nature of the mystery, which kept me guessing till the very end.

I also really enjoyed meeting all the characters again. We get to know a little more about each person, all the favorites from the first book are there, including Marty the reporter and Agent Dillon, the only person we see very little of is Hank, and that is probably a good thing.

It is really a good, quick read, something to relax you for a bit and fun. I loved it and am looking forward to another book in the series.

Grey853 says

Grace is a hair dresser who's working at her mom's shop. When the opportunity to do the hair for a local beauty pageant comes along, she jumps at it. However, protestors, sabotage, and then murder make it difficult to care much about beauty queens.

Actually, I liked this book a lot more than I thought I would. Grace had the right mix of clever and nosy without being obnoxious. The story had enough twists to keep it interesting.

The only thing I didn't like was that there are two men who want her attention and she can't seem to make up her mind which one she cares about. That seems to be an annoying formula these days, a woman gets dragged into a murder investigation and there are two suitors instead of one while she's dodging bullets or being kidnapped.

I'm not a fan of romance in a cozy, but I can handle it if it's not too intrusive. I think the book was pretty good, but would've been a lot better if Grace could've made up her mind about who she was really attracted to instead of playing games.

Christine says

"Polished Off" is the second book in the Southern Beauty Shop series. I enjoy reading about the main character, Grace Terhune, and her adventures as an amateur sleuth. She works with her mother Violetta as a hair stylist, and in this book, Grace is hired to style hair for a local beauty pageant. I love the backstage look at the pageant, as well as all the interesting characters in St. Elizabeth. Fans of Anne George will appreciate the characters and humor in this series.
