



Calamity Jayne Heads West

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When Tressa "Calamity" Jayne Turner heads West to celebrate her grandmother's remarriage, she, along with a colorful cast of characters, are caught up in mystery and mayhem when someone steals "Kookamunga," a hideous fertility figurine.

Calamity Jayne Heads West Details

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From Reader Review Calamity Jayne Heads West for online ebook

Jen says

Despite the at times annoying voice of the main character, I really really liked this. It was funny and interesting, even though the plot was a little far-fetched....and kind of out of nowhere. But it was funny and a slightly satisfying ending.

Mehrunisa Salim says

Finally! Thank you! Jayne finally said what I had been waiting for her to say since book one! So far this is the best book in this series. I saw growth in characters and even in relationships, though I would have to read the next book to find out if it lasts. Like in most real situations gratitude only lasts so long, and things get back to square one. I'm hoping, that while a few things can get back to square one, I want others to move forward and develop more.

Laura says

Things are heating up for Tressa Jayne...not only because she's in Arizona, but Ranger Rick is making her temperature rise.

The Turner and Townsend families make their way out west to Flagstaff, Arizona to Tressa's Aunt Kay's for Hannah and Joe's nuptials. Little Nick Townsend, Rick's nephew, is a miniature Ranger Rick and driving Tressa crazy before they even make it to Arizona. He already knows all her buttons and is pushing them like a kid in an elevator.

Tressa needs to find a gift for her gammy and granpappy-to-be. When she sees the perfect fertility idol her gammy would love and Joltin' Joe would be mortified of, she snaps it up. Unfortunately for her, someone else wants the ugly little statue more than she does. And the craziness ensues.

No one believes Tressa when she says the statue is the reason bad things keep happening to them. Then, she and Nick figure out why the statue is so important. And the real "mystery" begins.

Rick and Tressa's relationship grows in this book more than any other. Tressa knows she wants Rick and he knows he wants her...only problem is that something keeps stopping them from taking the leap. I really like the progression in this book. Rick's revelations at the end show real growth on his part.

This book leaves off where you definitely need to read the next book...it isn't a "cliffhanger," but it does leaving a bit dangling.

One of the better in the series.

Brooke says

Seriously love this series. Tressa's character is very easy to relate to even if your not a blonde. This book was incredibly funny and it was very difficult to put down. As usual, "Ranger Rick" is quite a catch and makes you wish you had one in your life. Amazing read and I cannot wait to read the next (and final?) installment in the series.

Gayla Glass says

Yes, i have finally finished! I have a love hate relationship with these books. Yet I had to finish them! I like Calamity and Joltin Joe. I sometime like Rick and mostly find myself rooting for he and Tressa to get together. Yet, they have an odd relationship that Bugs me. Tressa needs to get her self together! I liked the way this series finished (if its actually finished) but not necessarily the way it finished.

Lissa says

Reviewed by Lissa Staley
Posted September 16, 2007

Mystery Woman Sleuth | Romance Contemporary

Tressa "Calamity" Jayne Turner is well-known around her hometown of Grandville, Iowa, because wherever she goes, a calamity seems to follow. When her granny gets engaged to Tressa's sometimes-boyfriend Rick's grandpa, the whole clan heads west for the Arizona wedding. Out in the desert near the Grand Canyon, Tressa finds a hideously tacky fertility figurine at a roadside stand and buys it for her granny's wedding gift. From purse-snatching to near hit-and-run accidents, trouble begins immediately, until Tressa wonders if her purchase may be cursed. With help from park ranger Rick, who's just as sexy out West as he was back in Iowa, she's sent on a scavenger hunt of clues to discover who wants the figurine and why -- before Tressa ends up getting hurt -- or worse!

The distinctive, quirky writing style of author Kathleen Bacus combined with Tressa "Calamity" Jayne's outlandish monologues deliver a story filled with riotous laughter, along with the occasional snicker, giggle or grin. Tressa Jayne's adventures are funnier than Stephanie Plum, smarter than Bubbles Yablonsky and jam packed with hip references to keep the reader wanting more. In her fifth contemporary mystery, Tressa Jayne Turner is sure to amuse and entertain, and guaranteed to find calamity along the way. Get on board as CALAMITY JAYNE HEADS WEST!

Mary Z :) says

What a fun story! Calamity Jayne is a hoot, and I love her asides to the reader as she tells the story. Witty, clever, self-deprecating, and a bit of a screwball... my kind of friend. I'll be looking forward to reading the entire series!

Shirley Worley says

Tressa and family heads to Arizona to witness granny and Joe tie the knot. Rick's nephew becomes a thorn in Tressa's side, Tessa and Rick's relationship is taken to a new level, and Tressa has trouble following her ever since she bought granny's wedding present from a roadside van. The present, a statue of a fertility god with a glorified 'organ' that would give any normal man an inferiority complex, comes with hidden secrets and clues that Tressa is determined to follow.

Fun read. Glad Tressa is beginning to confront her feelings about Rick. Granny is a hoot and Nick is a typical brat that the reader learns to love.

Nancy says

Really cute.

Jennifer says

More like 3.5*. I liked this book much more than the previous one. Shelby Lynne is still irritating and I have just about had enough of Aunt Mo. Manny needs to just tell her already. I am closer to believing and cheering for the Rick-Tressa relationship than I have been. But Rick is still so dumb sometimes! How does he not see that she is like a little deer; any sudden moves and she will run away. And then flirting with other women and giving them his number in front of her? That is not likely to make her trust him and move the relationship forward! UGH! I hope this back and forth gets a resolution in the next book.

Sara says

The fifth book in a series about a quirky blonde who seems to be a magnet for trouble. If you haven't read the first 4 books -- this book probably isn't worth the time. If you've read the previous ones and enjoyed them, this is a quick read that provides continued adventures for a character you're already familiar with.

This series has been compared to the Evanovich Stephanie Plum works, and I can see the similarity. Unfortunately I think this series falls short in comparison to the early Plum books (That series itself has gone down hill).

Clearly I've enjoyed the character and cozy mystery plots enough to get book 5, but I seem to find myself on the fence about whether I can actually say I liked them. It has the ingredients for a modern cozy mystery - spunky female sleuth, humor, mystery, love-interests. I think my issue has been with the latter. I don't like the characters intended love-interest and by book 5 I'm somewhat over the back and forth between them. I will likely read the next in the series -- I've come this far and it's ok for a fast cozy.

Steph says

calamity travels to flagstaff for gramma helen's wedding to joe townsend. tressa buys a fertility god as a wedding gift then has her cake stolen, her cousin's purse and her uncle's house broken in to. she discovers a clue in the statue that leads to several others and pieces of authentic jewelry and artifacts. the people who want the stuff back take ranger rick's nephew. calamity exchanges the finds for nick. she's able to help the cops solve the crimes and find out who is behind the thefts. rick buys her a dress and they talk a/b having fun on the cruise. they aren't officially together.

Sesa38 says

In this book Jayne and her family head to Arizona where she gets involved in a treasure hunt involving native artifacts. I didn't find this book as funny as the earlier books in the series. Jayne's cousin Soophie is a new character that is somewhat entertaining. We don't see as much of Hannah and Joe, although the trip is for their wedding. Overall just an ok read.

Valerie Cooper says

While I enjoy this series of books, I think this one in particular could have been left out. Not that it wasn't good, but since I'm done with the series I don't see the point of this one.

Margaret says

Definitely a little more over the top than *Ghouls Just Want to Have Fun*. The characterization became broader and a little trite and the plot seemed just a little out of control regarding the number of iterations we went through before the conclusion. Saying all that, it's not the worst book I've ever read, I think the author was just trying a little too hard with the wrong things on this one.
