



Postcards from the Dead

Laura Childs

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New Orleans is in the throes of another fantastic Mardi Gras celebration when the party gets crashed by a murderer...

Kimber Breeze of KBEZ-TV is broadcasting live from a hotel balcony in the French Quarter, interviewing locals and capturing the spectacle in the streets. But as Carmela Bertrand, owner of Memory Mine scrapbooking shop, waits to be interviewed next, someone sneaks onto the balcony and strangles Kimber with a cord, leaving her body dangling above the parade.

Soon after the murder, Carmela begins receiving strange postcards at her shop—signed by the late reporter. Now she and her friend Ava must risk their own necks to find out who's posing as a ghost and expose a killer...

Scrapbooking Tips and Recipes Included!

Postcards from the Dead Details

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From Reader Review Postcards from the Dead for online ebook

Dottie Pennington says

Fun easy read.

Susan says

Once again, Carmela, the owner of a scrapbook shop in the French Quarter of New Orleans, and her very annoying friend, Ava, investigate a murder. I couldn't decide what bothered me most about this book. Was it the way Carmela leaves poor, long-suffering Gabby to run the scrapbook shop? Or the frequent mention that Carmela was still under 30? Maybe it was how modest Carmela is in terms of dress when compared to Ava? The really inane way Carmela handles her investigation at the end of the book? How about the general lack of growth in these characters?

Danielle Gonzalez says

This story involved the murder of Kimber Breeze, the obnoxious reporter mentioned in earlier stories. Kimber is conducting interviews on the small 4th story balcony of a hotel. As Carmela is waiting for her interview, she senses something is not right, and goes out on the balcony to find Kimber dead hanging from the railing. Shortly following, Carmela starts to receive cryptic postcards signed by Kimber. As usual, there is a long list of suspects, but Carmela chips away at the names and finally discovers the killer. Carmela and her beau go through some difficulties, since he, as usual, is bothered with her meddling. I enjoyed the story and trying to figure out the killer as well as the motive.

Marge says

I have read this entire series and enjoyed it. This one let me down. The characters do the same exact thing in every book. Go to a funeral, go to a party at Baby's, drive out of town to a scary location, confront Glory, roll over for Shamus etc.

The selling of the garden district house will continue for books, just like the divorce did. Carmela and Babcock only talk about the case. They have limited time together, never go on a date and when they do meet for a drink Carmela pumps him for info on the murder. She does not trust him, he is always mad at her, how is this a growing relationship. Poor Ava tries to have fun and loosen up Carmela, but when Carmela is done at an event its time to go, no respect for her friend's feelings.

Both this series and the tea shop series are disappointing lately. Owner of business states these will be busy days for the shop then proceeds to run all over town investigating leaving her staff to handle all the work. How about fulfilling your owner roll during business days and investigating on off hours.

The proof this book was lacking, it took a week to read, normally its 2 days.

Eli says

A few notes on the audio version...marble-mouthed narrator combined with strangely timed & unnecessary pauses. I thought it would be white noise as I worked, but it didn't work.

This is the 2nd of the series I've read and perhaps not knowing the back story has colored my opinion of the story & the characters, but the story is weak & I do not like Carmela. She lacks most qualities heroines tend to have, except for impetuosity and lack of consideration for others.

I characterized the previous book as "Lucy & Ethel Solve Crime". It's unfair to Lucy & Ethel, but accurate. Carmela has no deductive skills that help her solve the crime. Everyone is suspected. Readers are repeatedly told Carmela is under 30. This is necessary because she and her friends converse as if they're 187. What under-30 individual in the 21st century has never heard of "rufies"?

Additionally, there's no chemistry between her and her supposed boyfriend, Detective Ed Babcock. The dating status must be qualified as "supposed" because Carmela spends more time with her ex-husband than with Babcock, whom she meets sporadically for drinks or coffee. She uses time with him to try to pry information out of him, while sharing none of her own information with him, in this case her receipt of several postcards referencing the crimes. Lucy ruined Desi's performances, but Carmela blows a drug bust & is contrite because she may never go on another date with Babcock, not because she interfered with his job.

Weak story, unbelievable main character.

Mason Canyon says

New Orleans and Mardi Gras have long since been the setting for murder mysteries, but author Laura Childs puts a different spin on the concept with amateur sleuth Carmela Bertrand and POSTCARDS FROM THE DEAD.

Carmela, owner of Memory Mine Scrapbooking, is awaiting her turn in the camera spotlight when something goes terrible wrong. KBEZ-TV reporter Kimber Breeze is conducting interviews on the fourth floor balcony of a hotel in the French Quarter overlooking the Mardi Gras parade below.

Just as she's about to be interviewed, Carmela sees Kimber's terrified face in the waiting room's live feed monitor. When she rushes out onto the tiny balcony, Carmela finds Kimber's lifeless body dangling by a cord over the floats below.

Although her boyfriend, Homicide Detective Edgar Babcock, tells her not to get involved, Carmela can't help herself. When she begins receiving unnerving postcards apparently from the dead reporter, Carmela enlists the help of her best friend Ava Gruix to uncover the truth.

As Carmela and Ava search for the killer, they take the reader on a journey through New Orleans, its culture and its landscape. There is a nice blend of mystery, murder, mayhem, humor, a dabble of romance and even a second crime to solve. In addition, Childs incorporates friendship, loyalty and a bit of gossip involving the Scrapbooking gang.

With each new installment in this series, Childs continues to develop and enrich her characters. Following along with their progress enhances the reading experience making the characters more realistic.

Childs slowly pulls you in with each line. As she paints a picture with her words, she places the reader in the heart of the action with her characters. Before the reader realizes it, they're spellbound unable to put the book down not wanting to leave the scene for fear of what will happen next.

POSTCARDS FROM THE DEAD is the 10th installment in the Scrapbook Mystery series, but can be read alone. There are subtle references to prior events, but they are done in such a way as not to confuse or lose new readers. The book also offers delicious New Orleans recipes, Scrapbooking tips and a preview of the next installment in Childs' Cackleberry Club Mystery series, STAKE & EGGS, slated for release in December.

Scrapbooking doesn't have to be in your blood to enjoy this story, only the love of a good mystery.

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FTC Full Disclosure - This book was sent to me by the author and publisher in hopes I would review it. However, receiving the complimentary copies did not influence my review.

Julie P says

Alright, this book was better than some of the previous ones, but suspense? Zilch. There was more mystery and anticipation with the creepy postcards than there was with Carmela solving the actual murder. All-in-all, there was about one entire page towards the end where I thought Carmela might be in danger, but in her cozy mystery damsel in distress style, all was saved. We get it, Carmela, it helps when everyone loves you and you're pretty. We do go to a lot of parties in this book, and we do get to hear from everyone how hot Carmela is when she wears tight pants courtesy of that minx, Ava, and we do spend a lot more time working in Memory Mine, but one thing became quite clear in this book: I certainly wouldn't want to work for Carmela. She routinely takes time away from her shop, she randomly schedules appointments and leaves her store at all times throughout the day, she shows up whenever she wants and leaves Gabby running the ship, and she's really not a good shop owner. Take this quote for example, "Because Gabby seemed to be handling the onslaught of customers just fine, Carmela sat down with Tandy and decided to do a scrapbook page herself." (227) Carmela, you'd better stop phoning it in and keep your eye on Gabby because she's turning out to be a bit wacky, and you sure don't treat her very well. In addition, Carmela, it's time for some introspection and lifestyle changes. When your reader starts to sympathize with your crazy ex-sister-in-law, Glory over you, and is mentally encouraging your boyfriend, Babcock, to dump you because you really are a crappy girlfriend, then I think there's a problem with you, and not with them.

della says

Another great Carmela and Ava adventure. Can't wait for the next one!

Brenda at MyShelf says

I live through Carmela and Ava... New Orleans, French Quarter, Mardi Gras, parties, dress-up crafts, and mayhem... The ladies give Detective Babcock, a run for his badge as they play detectives on their own...

I'm not a scrapbooker and it doesn't matter, I enjoy following this series...

Susan Cook says

Carmella Bertrand has been my favorite character of Laura Child's. I read all three of her series. But the last few books in this series have brought a change in Carmella that I don't like. She is not as sweet and nice as she used to be. She goes to the parties and clubs with Ava all the time now, even though she is supposed to be a homebody. She treats her boyfriend badly. I don't know if I want to continue reading the series because I am disappointed in the direction the character is going. I hope the following books bring Carmella back to the heroine I admire.

Anne - Books of My Heart says

I read this very quickly, almost skimming. The whole cast of Carmela's friends and the NOLA aspects are quirky and I'm bored with them. I didn't care about the victim or who killed her. I am more interested in Carmela's relationship with Babcock. Since it is not a romance series, but mystery, I doubt it will ever be satisfying to me.

Cindy says

Eh. Too much scrapbook crap. Too much Mardi Gras.

Sheila says

Fun read . . .better then some of her other books.

Jennie says

Ugh. I like murder mysteries. I also enjoy scrapbooking. I think this is the tenth or so book in a series, but it's the first one I've read, and I had no desire to read any of the others. The story dragged, the romance between the protagonist and one of the officers...it wasn't there and not realistic at all. Additionally, while reading, I was disappointed with the dated scrapbooking material. The author must have written the book in 2006, because that's when the techniques she described in detail were really popular. Will not be looking for more, and that's kind of harsh from me. Two stars only because I was able to finish it and didn't want to toss it across the room.

Susan Webb says

I love Carmela and Ava!! Not a fan of Babcock the detective and I think Carmela's assistant in her Memory Mine scrapbooking store is annoying, but I love reading about New Orleans and Mardi Gras and seeing what kind of trouble Ava and Carmela can get into while trying to solve a murder.
