



No Mallets Intended

Victoria Hamilton

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TO THE MANOR DEAD

The Queensville Heritage Society is restoring the once-grand Dumpe Manor. While Dumpe relatives and society members use the occasion to dust off old grudges, Jaymie Leighton prefers to adorn the kitchen with authentic Depression Era furnishings. A collection of vintage wooden mallets found in the house is a perfect addition to her display, but one also offers a late-night intruder the perfect weapon to knock Jaymie unconscious before escaping.

Though the attack has everyone on edge, nothing is missing from the house. Perhaps it was merely a vagrant who thought the place was still abandoned. But when Dumpe Manor's resident historian is murdered with a mallet from the same collection, it's time for Jaymie to turn up the heat on the investigation before someone else becomes history.

Includes recipes!

No Mallets Intended Details

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From Reader Review No Mallets Intended for online ebook

Mary says

Victoria Hamilton has done it again. I absolutely enjoyed this book as much as I enjoyed the previous books in this series.

Again trouble seems to find Jaymie Leighton. While Jaymie is renovating the kitchen at Dumpe Manor she discovers a dead body. There were so many twists and turns in this book that I had no idea who the murderer was until the end.

Not only was there twists and turns in the murder investigation there were surprises in Jaymie's love life. I won't tell you what the surprises were though.

I would highly recommend that you read No Mallets Intended. I'm sure that you will enjoy it as much as I did. I'm looking forward to the next book.

James says

No Mallets Intended is the fourth book in the 'Vintage Kitchen' cozy mystery series written by Victoria Hamilton. I began reading it a few years ago and later got sidetracked, but after being approved for the latest 2019 book on NetGalley, I'm catching up this month. The series follows Jaymie Leighton in a small town in Michigan on the border with Canada where she has various odd jobs involving cooking, hospitality, writing, and vintage kitchen items. She ended a relationship with a cheater the year before and began dating someone not quite right for her way too soon. In No Mallets Intended, Jaymie's cataloging items at the historic Dumpe Manor where she's knocked over the head with a kitchen mallet and later finds a dead body killed by a different one. Who's after something hidden in the estate?

Along the path, we meet different members of the historical society and learn of a feud between past owners who claim a missing will caused an inheritance to be improperly carried out. Since the Dumpe Manor was then sold a few times to different people, there is lots of confusion and frustration over who really owns it, but the historical society is the one taking care of it. Eventually, the will is found, but it might be fake. As Jaymie uncovers all the clues, she finds herself directly in the line of fire with the killer who chases her in a very long scene into the arms of single father who ends up becoming important to the story. Jaymie also spends time with her sister and parents finding a bond that had been missing for years. She makes a decision about her current relationship and helps her ex-bf fix his new relationship, too. What a kind woman to do all that knowing it will backfire and hurt her in the short-term.

I enjoy the series. Often is the side characters which carry a plot or books series, but after 4 in this one, I'm more comfortable with the main character and think she has the potential to make the series stronger. The side stories aren't huge and haven't offered any truly strong sidekicks for Jaymie. Good thing I like her! Writing quality is good. The vintage kitchen items are fun to hear about. It's a typical cozy with a clever US and Canada style depending on where the action takes place. I look forward to seeing more about the writing column in the newspaper that Jaymie's taking on as well as the new potential romance that begins to stir up at the end of this book.

Wendy says

There are so many delicious reasons to read Victoria Hamilton's Vintage Kitchen mysteries. Each one, including this fourth in the series, is the perfect mix of ingredients for a great cozy read. I love the small Michigan town setting with all the similarities to the small Ohio town I grew up in. The main character, Jaymie, is someone I would love to count as a friend. She is real and clever and complex as are the supporting characters. The mysteries keep you guessing until the very end as well. And for us animal lovers (aren't all cozy fans animal lovers?) Jaymie's furry friends Hoppy and Denver add a warm touch.

My favorite part of this series is Jaymie's passion for the kitchens of yesterday. The author describes in loving detail the dishes and tools, the cabinets and the curtains and all the charm I remember from my childhood. Jaymie's appreciation for her home and the life she has created remind me of what's important to me.

This is a series to grab hold of and put on your "keep" shelf for sure.

Note: I received this book from the author in exchange for an honest review. However, I purchased the first three books in the series myself.

Tess says

How could anyone not love a series with titles like A Deadly Grind, Bowled Over, Freezer I'll Shoot and the latest one No Mallets Intended? These are the titles in Victoria Hamilton's series Vintage Kitchen Mysteries. The Heritage Society is renovating the old and once beautiful Dumpe Manor and they plan to sell tickets for a tour of the lovely old painted lady. Jaymie, our heroine has chosen to restore the kitchen with all period appliances and kitchen ware.

As Jaymie is working in the house alone, she is hit in the head with a mallet and knocked unconscious, by an unknown assailant. When there is a murder on the back porch everyone starts to believe that the house may be cursed and it takes Jaymie and her boyfriend Zack, who happens to be a detective, to help the police force put a stop to and discover who is behind the problems in Queensville.

I love Victoria's books and wait impatiently for the next one.

A copy of this book was sent to me by the author in hopes I would review it. However, receiving the complimentary copy did not influence my review.

Shelley Giusti says

No Mallets Intended by Victoria Hamilton

This is the fourth book in the Vintage Kitchen series and it is a great read! The heritage society is getting the manor ready for tours and it is Jaymie's job to restore the kitchen. When she finds a set of vintage wooden mallets in the house she wants to add them to her kitchen. They would be perfect. When the mallets are taken by an intruder and used to knock Jaymie out things go from bad to worse. People of the town believe that the

manor is haunted and when a murder takes place on the back porch and the mallet is the murder weapon everyone starts looking at Jaymie as the suspect. Now she has to show the town that she isn't the killer before there is another victim.

This is such a great book with strong characters who keep you going. The storyline is fantastic and you will never for a minute see the plot twist unfold. This book keeps you reading until the end.

Lisa Morin says

Jaymie Leighton is my favorite fictional character. Her personality and loyalty to friends, family and all things vintage make her a very special young woman.

In this book, the Thanksgiving holiday is approaching and the Queensville Heritage Society is busy restoring the charming Dumpe Manor.

Jaymie is thrilled to be decorating the kitchen in the manor and her ideas for her vintage themed kitchen are exciting. During one of her visits to the Dumpe Manor, Jaymie finds a box of vintage wooden mallets. What a score, they will be a great accessory to her kitchen, she may even be able to write a column for The Howler about the mallets.

Unfortunately for Jaymie, something odd is going on at the manor, and when she receives a harsh clunk on the head, she knows her instincts are right. Even though the injury has left her a bit scared, she is determined to keep on working at the manor.

As busy as Jaymie is, she is still trying to sort out her feelings for her boyfriend Daniel. With their agreement to re-evaluate their relationship at Christmas, Jaymie begins to question her feelings for him. When tempers flare at a Heritage society meeting regarding the ownership of Dumpe Manor, it comes as no surprise when Jaymie finds the body of Theo Carlson, the historian for the manor.

Jaymie has no choice but to begin asking questions and when her questions make someone nervous, her life is in danger as she finds herself face to face with the murderer.

As she runs for her life, her only hope is to knock on a stranger's door and fight for her life.

Will this be the end to Jaymie's snooping days?

Ms. Hamilton has turned me into a dedicated fan of this series. I love reading about all the vintage items in her book, they remind me of my childhood.

Picking up a Vintage Kitchen Mystery is like opening a letter from an old friend, it always leaves me with a smile on my face.

Fred says

No Mallets Intended is the fourth book in the A Vintage Kitchen Mystery series.

Another enjoyable addition to this series.

Jaymie Leighton is helping the historical society restore the Dumpe Manor to its previous beauty. Jaymie has found a collection of various mallets that were used in cooking, losing track of time and as she is leaving late one evening, she is knocked unconscious by one and culprit gets away. Then, when Prentiss Dumpe begins to make statements that there is another will and that there is no way the family would have been written out of their inheritance. Jaymie begins to wonder if her attack was just a random occurrence. When Theo Carson,

the historian that has been hired to write the history of Dumpe Manor, with another mallet from the kitchen collection, it is time to get serious about finding the murderer and assailant.

Most all of the enjoyable characters from the previous books are back to help Jaymie sort through the various clues. Jaymie is able to work closely with Bernie, lady cop and fellow collector, and the police chief to get this mystery solved.

A recipe is also included.

Looking forward the next book in this delightful series.

Kristi says

Unexpected and Interesting Mystery

Jaymie Leighton is thrilled when the Queensville Heritage Society decides to restore Dumpe Manor. She cannot wait to bring the Depression Era kitchen back to life. However, everything is not as it seems at the historic home. First, Jaymie is attacked. Then, a local historian is found murdered. What secrets are hidden in Dumpe Manor? Who is behind the attacks?

I only recently found this series, and I am reading the books in order. I was completely surprised by the twists and turns in this book. The mystery was interesting. I thoroughly enjoyed the character development in the book.

I only rated the book four stars instead of five because there were a lot of characters in this book. I had trouble keeping everyone straight.

Marty says

The historical society had just purchased the old decrepit Dumpe Mansion and had plans to restore it to its former glory. Jaymie Leighton specialized in old kitchens and was in charge of bringing the kitchen back to its 1930s time period. As she was looking over some wooden kitchen mallets, someone hit her over the head with one. This started a series of strange events at the mansion including one death, yes, by mallet. Could Jaymie and her fellow antique lovers get the mansion ready or would the nephew of the previous owner be able to reclaim it for his own.

Kim Reads (Read Your Writes Book Reviews) says

Reviewed for Read Your Writes Book Reviews
by Kim

This installment of the Vintage Kitchen Mystery Series finds Jaymie Leighton restoring the kitchen of the Dumpe Manor, which was recently purchased by the Queensville Heritage Society. Jaymie wants to make the kitchen truly vintage with items from days of yore. The story starts out with Jaymie being so entrenched in looking through vintage items that she loses track of time. Thus, setting off what seems to be a

meaningless chain reaction but is so much more.

Rumored to be haunted by ghosts and with secret treasures inside, the Dumpe Manor starts to receive numerous uninvited guests. Unfortunately, one of those guests ends up paying with their life for trespassing. Once again, Jaymie and her friends put on their sleuthing hats to figure out who the killer is and why. New alliances are formed, revelations are made, and Jaymie's life is changed.

Victoria Hamilton definitely brought surprises with No Mallets Intended. I will admit that I was a little upset at first. Okay, a lot upset. But, by the end of the story, she had me smiling. I'm really looking forward to seeing what happens next for Jaymie and the people of Queensville, Michigan.

Received a copy from the author in exchange for an honest unbiased review.

* Jennifer says

The only character I cared about, Detective Christian, has been written out of the series and with his departure when any interest I had left in this series. I read to page 77 and stopped, so I'm not rating. It's just not for me.

Full post: <http://jenn.booklikes.com/post/104026...>

Barb says

I loved this book. It took me back to my grandmother's Depression-Era, green and cream kitchen. Jaymie Leighton, an expert on antique kitchen accessories, is helping her local Heritage Society restore a lovely Queen Anne manor house fallen into disrepair. Who could imagine that this venture would lead to murder and mayhem? This is the fourth volume in Victoria Hamilton's Vintage Kitchen Mystery Series. (Victoria Hamilton is a nom de plume for Donna Lea Simpson, herself a collector of vintage kitchen cookware.) The setting is a small village in Michigan, across the river from Canada. The characters are extremely well drawn and seem like familiar folks, both friendly and not so much. The plot is what sets this cozy apart. Deliciously convoluted, with fiendish red herrings; I certainly never figured it out early. For readers of the previous offerings in this series, Jaymie's personal life takes some unforeseen and very interesting turns. Highly recommended!

Sandie Laughner says

Reading this 4th book in the Vintage Kitchen Mystery series was like going back home to visit with family and friends. I loved it!! Jaymie Leighton is doing her part to help the Queensville Heritage Society restore the Dumpe Manor to its former glory. She is naturally doing the kitchen in Depression Era fashion. Jaymie finds some old and interesting mallets that she intends to use in her decorating. Unfortunately, a few of those mallets get used for something else.

Follow Jaymie unravel clues and twists to solve this latest "who done it" Murder, mystery, love interests, antiques~~ this book has it all !!

Jeanie says

No Mallets Intended is an awesome 4th in a series known as A Vintage Kitchen Mystery. Victoria Hamilton shows her passion for cooking – rather, preparing foods in time-honored traditions with vintage tools that often surpass our electronic gadgets – in this series! I only wish that I had a talent to take a little of this and a pinch of that and come up with something that would wow those eating it! One doesn't have to be a cooking specialist, however, to appreciate the newest Vintage Kitchen Mystery. I enjoy eating, at least! And I love hearing about various implements used in the past, as well as the collectible dishes, cooking tools and vessels and related serving pieces.

If you haven't already read any of the first three books in the series, this can stand alone due to how well each character or relationship is introduced without the feeling that the author is starting from scratch or humoring the new reader. Jaymie Leighton, our intelligent and personable protagonist, is working to restore the kitchen of the new Queensville Historic Manor, formerly known as the extraordinary Dumpe Manor. This once elegant Manor was owned by the Dumpe family in the little hometown Queensville, Michigan on the St. Clair River.

Working alone one evening, Jaymie and her sweet 3-legged Yorkie-Poo, Hoppy (Hopalong) hear someone enter the mansion. If only Hoppy could talk – as he alone is witness to her being hit on the head and knocked out. To add insult to headache, Jaymie learns later that the weapon used was one of the antique mallets in a collection that she was going to display in the kitchen. Only days later, Jaymie finds the dead body of the historian hired by the Society to prepare a pamphlet with the history of the Dumpe family and the mansion – killed by another mallet from the collection.

Cozy mysteries based in hometown towns of Michigan have a warm place in my heart, as I grew up in a somewhat larger hometown city there. To be reminded of a place where most of the homes are older than me is a delight! And to have characters who appreciate the treasure of an antique of any kind adds to the texture of the tapestry of the tale.

The characters are delightfully well-developed, folks that one would anticipate being involved in small town gatherings. Jaymie has ups and downs like all of us. Her friends and family complement her personality. Jaymie's understanding of others is shown in her relationships. Her love of animals is also seen with her pets, the precious pup, Hoppy, and the formerly grouchy puss, Denver. And here's to Becca, who shows me that there IS a place in modern literary circles for someone who will seek success in yet another marriage... this time will be the charm!

The plot is tightly-woven, a tale as well-planned as any renovation project would be. It holds many surprises, especially those related to the "who" and the "why" of the murder and attacks as well as the reasoning, and the convoluted resolution. Victoria Hamilton has my complete admiration for the well-crafted penning of this cozy mystery, the setting, and the characters!

I highly recommend No Mallets Intended to adults of all ages who appreciate a well-written cozy mystery and find the setting, cooking, and antiques appealing, and to fans of Victoria Hamilton's other series – it is a sure thing that it will delight the readers, keep them on their toes and their hair standing on end until the conclusion! And if you are a great cook, you will appreciate the classic recipe included.

With a grateful heart, I received a copy of this novel in exchange for an honest review. Opinions expressed are my own.

Dawn says

I enjoy these books, even though I find it just a bit much that she always dares a bit too much, survives, but doesn't really learn.

