



## In the Drink

*Allyson K. Abbott*

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**Mack's Bar and its crime-solving clientele are quickly gaining notoriety for helping solve some high-profile cases. But Mack is learning the hard way that not all press is good press...**

By day, Mackenzie "Mack" Dalton is the proprietress of a popular Milwaukee watering hole. But after last call, she uses her unique cocktail of extra perceptive senses to help solve some of the city's most grisly homicides. Now, Mack and her barstool detectives are happy to help when Tiny, one of the bar's newest patrons, asks them to look into his sister's murder. Though the case has gone cold, Mack's heightened senses quickly put her on the killer's trail. But when a throng of reporters intrigued by her talents descends on Mack's Bar, her efforts are muddled as a real-life Moriarty begins putting her infamous skills to the test, leaving Mack feeling shaken and stirred...

**\* Includes drink recipes \***

## In the Drink Details

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Author : Allyson K. Abbott

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## From Reader Review In the Drink for online ebook

### sue says

This is the third book in this series [which I didn't realize at the time] but after saying that, I don't think it made a difference, well, not to me, I seemed to be able to pick the story up well. Maybe its one of those 'themed' series which have the same main characters but issue different story plots.

This is what you call a 'cozy mystery' its nothing too deep, bit like Miss Marples, or a 'whodunnit' you watch like a little drama on TV on daytime telly. The ending not being finished and you need to watch the next episode.

However, I read a lot of books and leaving cliff hangers can be awesome if you get the complete series at one purchase, however, realistically it may be a year before you get the next book, by that time, I would have read so many other books I would have forgotten and had to recap.

If you don't read many books, and just pick one up now and again on your bedside table to read lightly before going to bed, then I would say, go for it. By the time you read this then the next book may be released, but for an avid reader like me I was left hanging, and now I shall want to know who it was.....until.....another book grabs me and this one will fade into distant memory.

I would gladly read books by this author again and again, but with cliff hangers like this and having to wait ages for the next book, I would have to refresh my memory!

A first class Cozy Mystery.

\*Thanks to the author and to Kensington Books for my copy to read and review \*

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### Debbie says

3.5 stars. I really liked this book and the characters. Mack seemed like someone I would want to hang around with. However, she needs to drop that Duncan dude. The story was good and definitely kept me interested.

My biggest peeve is that the book ends without the man crime being solved. I can see why TV shows do cliffhangers, so you will tune in next week. But books? It's usually a year down the road when you get the next one. For me it's not a cliffhanger, it's a buzz kill. With as many books as I read, I will have forgotten about this one by then. For those who don't read so much, I guess it would be okay. So if your into cozy mystery series with the ending, "wait until the next book", this would be a good one for you.

Anyways, that's why I took off a half star because of the ending not being there. I'm not saying I wouldn't read this author again, I probably would, just wish I knew who did it.

I want to thank Kensington books and Net Galley for the opportunity to read and review this e-galley.

## Talia Colley says

This book was mainly interesting because the main character has synesthesia, a condition where her senses are cross-wired, so she sees colors when she hears music and tastes chocolate when she hears some voices. I wish I knew someone with this condition because it sounds fascinating. As far as the mystery in this novel, there were two. One was a child case that Mack and her friend were trying to solve. They meet regularly to work on solving unsolved cases. The other mystery was a serial killer/stalker taunting Mack with clues that she needed to use her synesthesia to solve or the killer would kill someone she knew. This book had an interesting format because it solves one mystery but leaves the other one to continue in the next book. I'm used to cozy mysteries wrapping everything up, so that was different. But overall I enjoyed the characters and will definitely be continuing with this series.

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## Jason says

A synesthete as the protagonist?! Absolutely brilliant! Such an interesting affliction, and explained so well and blended seamlessly into this Wisconsin cozy. The Capone Club is a great amalgamation of interesting characters and add an extra boost to the two main mysteries. Plot twists aplenty, great descriptions of Milwaukee and an innovative heroine make for an enjoyable cocktail!

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## Tess says

I immediately fell in love with Mack and her story. As the owner of a bar in Milwaukee, most people are envious of Mack, thinking that she has it all. Sadly she doesn't. Mack lost her mother very early in Mack's life and she was raised by her father, who she had just recently lost. Not long after that Ginny, her dad's long time girl friend is murdered so I guess that Mack doesn't have it all. Assigned to the case is homicide detective Duncan Albright. Mack and Duncan soon become on again, off again friends with benefits. During the investigation it is discovered that Mack is a synesthetic, a neurological disorder in which the senses are cross wired, and she has been for most of her life. As Mack helps discover the murderer, it is soon leaked to the press that Mack has "special abilities", which puts Mack's life and her friend's lives at risk. After Mack receives anonymous notes in the mail, Mack's good friends and members of the Capone Club, which was previously formed as a crime solving team that would discuss real and made up cases and they decide to tackle this one. As Duncan can't be with Mack all the time, he asks Mal, who is an undercover cop, to keep an eye out for Mack. Becoming involved in not only the letter case, but also trying to solve the 12 year old murder of 2 young girls puts them all on high alert and at times being so stressed may push people to become strange bed fellows.

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

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## Betty says

Mac Dalton stared at the letter unable to believe what said. Is it a joke or true? Later she learns that a friend

is found MURDER. Mac can't asked Duncan to help her as the letter said not or someone would die. Mac is using her ability to since things to figure out clues in time. Members of the Capone Club are exploring the MURDER of Tiny, a bartender, of his sister that occurred several years ago. Will Mac be able to prevent another killing. This is the book in the series and I had no problem connecting with the characters. Disclosure: I received a free copy from Kensington Books through Netgalley for an honest review. I would very to thank them for the opportunity to read and review this book. The opinions are my own.

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### **Verity W says**

[There is no resolution to the mystery that is set up as the main point of the book. The secondary mystery is solved, but the principal, note-based mystery isn't - and that's a problem for me. The blurbo may give Tiny's sister's cold case as the main feature - but reading the book

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### **Dawn says**

Mack Dalton is a bar owner with a special gift. She possesses more than just the gift of hospitality; Mack is also gifted with synesthesia. The condition she once fought to hide from the world is now known throughout Milwaukee and Mack has used it to help solve murders. The bar is also home to a group of mystery lovers are happy to help Mack in her endeavors. They have decided to help Tiny look into the unsolved murder of his sister. Though the case is twelve years old, Mack's special senses quickly help her eliminate some of the old suspects. In the midst of one mystery a criminal mastermind is putting Mack's skills to the test while threatening the murder of someone close to her. Time is running out. Mack feels she is on the right track when an unexpected event takes her out of commission.

I loved this book. It is filled with suspense that literal made me a little nervous for the characters I have come to know and enjoy. The pace of the plot moves at a very good speed and I was engaged throughout the book. There is a new tension between Mack and her boyfriend that is very realistic. I think the author is very skillful in weaving together the latest addition to this series. I definitely recommend this book and can't wait to read the next book...there is a cliffhanger that leaves the reader wanting to know more.

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### **Laura Thomas says**

It starts out rather ominously.

Mack ( Mackenzie Dalton) receives an anonymous letter touting her claim to being a top dog in crime solving.

The person challenges her to prove it by passing a series of tests. As she passes each test, she'll move on the next one. A catch – each one is timed.

And there's a chilling warning:

“Fail it and I will leave a body for you somewhere here in the city...It will be someone you know, someone who is close to you...”

She must do this on her own, no police, including her kind of boyfriend Detective Duncan Albright.

The test starts now and the letter is the first clue.

First off, this is the third book in the series and I haven't read the others, so I worried about what I didn't know. The author quickly filled me in on past events and I had no trouble with this installment.

Mack assisted the police in the past, first with her father's murder and then with the murder of her father's girlfriend. She has no claims of being a master sleuth. She's a bar owner. She just wanted answers.

Mack's is a synesthete, it's a neuro disorder where the senses are cross-wired. An example is she can taste or see things that she smells. Also, her senses are extra acute, hearing things others don't, smelling things others can't. These things can be a great asset when trying to solve a crime. This can also help her sense when someone might be lying.

She's kept it to herself for a long time. You can imagine the taunting Mack got from her peers when she was young, when she mentioned "music is too green", or "apple is too loud".

Someone leaked Mack's ability to the press and her boyfriend, Detective Duncan was suspended for using her on a case. He eventually got his job back, but wasn't allowed to use her on new cases.

Their budding romance is on the back burner because he's been told to stay away from her or lose his job.

Mack knows she can't handle this by herself, so she uses her crime solving group, the Capone Club, at her bar. They use real and made up crimes and try to solve them. Kind of just for fun, but one man wants the group to help with the cold case of his sister's murder.

Now they have two real cases to solve.

Since Duncan can't officially help Mack, and the psycho warned her not to tell anyone, he has a friend, Mal, an undercover cop, pose as her new beau so she won't be left alone.

The tangled webs are woven.

Mack has a strong personality despite her insecurity about her disorder. I felt she was brave to expose herself to ridicule to help solve a crime. I liked her from the beginning.

It took a bit to warm up to Duncan. He was torn between his job and his attraction to Mack. You don't get much about him in the beginning, but once the story gets rolling, you learn more. And when Mack feels a strong attraction to Duncan's friend, Mal, things get really interesting.

Mack tastes chocolate when she thinks of Duncan. She savors the sweetness melting in her mouth. She also has the same sensation when thinking of Mal. Uh oh!

The plot is fantastic. So wicked. So twisted. This would be a great episode for the show Criminal Minds.

And the characters. I loved Mack and quickly became fond of Duncan and Mal. The secondary characters are too numerous to mention. I felt like I knew them, the bar employees, the regular patrons, and the Capone Club. I bartended for almost twenty years and I could see their faces, recognize personalities.

Now we've reached the end of the book. Obviously I can say a word about it. But, I can say two – No Way!

I love suspense, thrillers, and mysteries, the creepier the better. Add in a frustrated romance, a possible poacher on said romance, and one sick, twisted villain, and I'm hooked til the end.

I received this book for my honest review.

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### **Jenna says**

The fictional Mackenzie Dalton owns a bar in my hometown of Milwaukee, WI, a fact that only served to increase my enjoyment of this cozy mystery. I had so much fun puzzling out this story and it was really great to mentally follow Mack around town.

Nestled inside the larger murderous plot is a secondary story that the Capone Club at Mack's bar tackles - a cold case murder of the sister of a Club member. At times, I thought this plot overtook the larger story; however, once I reached the massive cliffhanger ending, everything made more sense. (And who knows? Maybe author Allyson K. Abbott has some more interconnected secrets for we readers in the next book!)

Allyson K. Abbott crafts a chilling premise - an unknown sender is leaving cryptic (and time sensitive) notes for Mark, challenge her to live up to the recently published image of super sleuth the local paper has thrust on her. The motivation for Mack? If she doesn't play along, the sender will kill someone near to her. As a recent orphan, it's a risk Mack can't - and won't - take.

In the Drink is compulsively readable and will leave you eager for more!

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### **Marcy says**

What a disappointment.

A book with no ending and that "ended" on a horrible and depressing note. I read cozies for light escapism and this wasn't it. When I want a depressing read I look for one. I don't appreciate being smacked with one from a cozy.

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### **Sandra says**

First Allyson K. Abbott book I've read. I enjoyed it, but with reservations. The main character, Mackenzie Dalton has a disorder called, synesthete. It basically gives her an ability when, say, she's talking to someone, she tastes their words. Like a voice tone will taste like chocolate or peppers, etc. She is suppose to be able to tell if someone is lying, etc. My problem with this during the book is that she'll say she tastes this or that, but it's never explained if every time she tastes, say, chocolate, it means someone is lying or telling the truth. You go through the whole book expecting this ability to actually help in finding a killer. It's very confusing and it's like one of the main themes of this series. I like the whole story line and all of the characters. I just think this bit with the "synesthete" just gets in the way of a good "who dun it". Be for warned. This book it set up, that if you want to know the answers to what this whole book was about, you have to read the next book to find out. A real deal breaker for me. Forcing me to read the next book to get the answers from this book turns me off authors.

## Shelley Giusti says

From the start of this book you get pulled into the story. Revisiting Mack and the bar is always a delight and if you add in a murder to solve it makes for the perfect book. The characters have grown so much they are like old friends waiting for a visit. The plot twist and story line will keep you so captivated that you will lose all sense of time.. I am eagerly waiting for the next one in this series.

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## Kim says

I have a real soft spot for American cosy mysteries and have found some great reads through Net Galley. Mackenzie runs a bar in Milwaukee and a group of customers discuss various crimes. She has a heightened senses skill set which is often helpful to solve murder cases 'after hours'! But the media have become aware of her and this makes things more difficult.

I loved the characters – a little murder group! One of them wants help solving his sister's murder. Will they be able to solve the crime? What danger might be unearthed?

This is part of a series and I am keen to read more. A selection of drink recipes is included at the back of the book.

With many thanks to the publisher and Net Galley for the chance to read this one.

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## Casceil says

[ At the end of the book, a new murder has just occurred, which the main character will believe is her fault and get all angry and guilty over, and the romantic triangle set up in this

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