



Antiques Fate

Barbara Allan

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Brandy Borne's exceedingly eccentric mother, Vivian, has been invited to perform her one-woman interpretation of "the Scottish play" (sometimes called Macbeth)--with different hats for different characters--at the neighboring town of Old York's annual fête. The weekend festival celebrates the quaint village's English flavor. Brandy, sensing a possible theatrical disaster, and savvy shih tzu Sushi, sensing possible doggy treats, tag along with the scene-stealing septuagenarian.

As soon as they arrive in the cozy hamlet, tragedy strikes: the theater owner drops dead onstage while giving Vivian the grand tour. That wasn't in the script and before they know it, Brandy and Vivian are entangled in a progressively perilous murder plot. Besides the cream teas and Chippendale chairs, it seems there are skeletons lurking among Old York's charming pubs and enticing antiques stalls ...

When a second victim turns up mysteriously murdered, the dynamic duo knows they've got to step into the spotlight. But the remorseless killer seems to be well rehearsed for the Borne girls...and won't leave even the smallest detail of their demise to fête!

Don't miss Brandy Borne's tips on antiques fairs!

Antiques Fate Details

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Author : Barbara Allan

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From Reader Review Antiques Fate for online ebook

Lynne Tull says

I checked this book out on a whim. I love Shih Tzu's (cover picture tempted me). I thought I had read a Barbara Allan several years ago and thought I liked it. I was in the Trash 'n' Treasures business. However, I think this is one of the silliest stories to which I have subjected myself. What's really irritating is that I finished reading it. Arg! Not recommending.

Lisa Morin says

The Borne ladies are at it again and this time they are deep in the middle of a bizarre murder spree. Vivian Borne has been invited to perform her one man (one lady?) act at the neighboring town of Old York's annual fête. Of course Vivian is thrilled beyond belief to have been invited, in her humble opinion, it is about time someone has seen her for the true drama queen she truly is.

Brandy and her pooch Sushi are tagging along, after all someone has to keep things somewhat normal and this time Soosh has her paws full. In this quaint yet eccentric town, the vote to go modern is split, 3 for, 3 against. When certain members of the town committee begin to die, Vivian is determined to investigate and has no problem sticking her nose into everyone's business, creating havoc wherever she goes. Is Vivian right, can she really stop the murders and give her most challenging performance ever? Tune in to this fabulous addition to find out just how good of a performer the talented Vivian Borne truly is!

I received an ARC of this book in exchange for my fair and honest review.

Haven says

I wish I could give this book half a star.

This is the first Trash 'n' Treasures mystery I've ever read, and if this is how they're written it'll also be the last. I picked it up because the cover looked interesting, and I enjoy a good mystery. You know what they say about judging a book by its cover.

Vivian, the mother, is one of the worst characters I've come across in a long time. she doesn't function well as a person; she's so unlikable that she comes across as unrealistic. If a real human being acted the way she acts, nobody would interact with them! Her reactions to people around her dying are either nonexistent or over the top, and she has all the tact and social grace of a rampaging elephant trampling through a crime scene. I feel bad for every character who has to interact with her (or I would, if those characters weren't also flatter than cardboard).

Beyond being a terrible character, she's even a bad literary device! There are certain chapters that are "written by her", meaning written in Vivian's voice, and they are INSUFFERABLE to read through. It's as if the authors actually want to punish you every few chapters or so for trying to read the book. She'll use "big words" followed by their definitions in parentheses, which slows the pace of reading to a crawl. There are also, in parentheses, "conversations" between the mother, the daughter, and "their editor" in which basically everyone is telling Vivian to shut up. This is supposed to be funny, a bit of humor between the writer(s) and the reader, but really it just comes off as obnoxious.

There was even a scene in the book in which characters in the book come up to Vivian, tell her what a huge fan they are of her writing, and say she should have more chapters to herself. I almost gagged.

Vivian, while by far the worst, is not the only bad thing about the book (But considering that she's one of the main two detectives and the driving force behind the novel, she's more than enough reason to avoid this series like the plague). All of the other characters were flat, boring, caricatures of real people. You find yourself not even caring how many people die or how, because they're expendable and uninteresting. On top of this, the clues might as well be presented to you in flashing red text; some of them are just told to you with a straight face by some characters. As if to say, "THIS IS A CLUE. PAY ATTENTION. DID YOU CATCH THAT?"

The most likable character in the whole thing is the actual policeman, Rudder. And I think the only reason for that is that he seems just as tired of all this garbage as I am. This book may have been trash, but it sure wasn't a treasure.

Susan Csoke says

Brandy Borne and her mother Vivian are co-owners of an antique shop. They are also involved in putting on a Scottish Play. >>> Millicent Marlowe, theater owner was showing Vivian around her theater when Millicent suddenly collapsed and died. Believing her death to be suspicious, Vivian and Brandy decide to investigate along with Brandy's boyfriend Tony Cassato, who is a chief of police, and chief Rudder who believe an autopsy would be prudent.>>> Was it an accidental overdose, a heart attack or was it murder? >>>Included are mothers "Trash and Treasure Tips" and two recipes. One for cheesecake and one for shepherds pie!!!! THANK YOU GOODREADS FIRSTREADS FOR THIS FREE BOOK!!!!

Kristina says

Antiques Fate by Barbara Allan is the tenth book in the Trash n' Treasure Mystery series. Brandy Borne is enjoying some quiet time with her boyfriend, Tony Cassato (Chief of Police in Serenity) when they are interrupted by Brandy's mother, Vivian. Vivian is excited because she was just hired to perform her one woman MacBeth (with hats) at the Old York annual fete (the play is as ridiculous as it sounds). Vivian will perform at the New Vic Theater (replica of Old Victorian Theater in England) in Old York. Of course, this means that Brandy will be going to Old York with her mother. Brandy is the one who hands her mother the various hats and her designated driver (Vivian had her license taken away). They arrive in Old York and meet with the New Vic Theater owner, Millicent Marlowe (prefers Millie). Millie gives them a tour of the theater and they meet her grandson, Chad Marlow (Artistic Director for theater). Then Millie drops dead. Vivian uses her phone to contact Sheriff Rudder (who Vivian has on speed dial). Was Millie's death accidental or intentional? Turns out that there is a controversy in the town. Millie was on the Boards of Trustees for the town which has six members. Half are for keeping the town quaint and old-fashioned (which draws in tourists). The other three members want to allow changes (modernization) to the town. With the vote always 3 to 3 nothing gets done. Is someone trying to change that outcome? Unfortunately, Millie's death is just the first (three more to follow). Vivian decides she must investigate and insists that Brandy help her. Can they find the killer in time? Will people enjoy Vivian's rendition of MacBeth?

Antiques Fate was just too ridiculous (daffy) for me to enjoy. Vivian's character is extremely over-the-top (daft) and annoying. It is her way or the highway. The book is told from a first-person perspective mostly from Brandy's point-of-view, but Vivian is allowed a few chapters to rant (mostly about herself and how she

is right). Brandy comes across as a lackey doing her mother's bidding. The mystery was the best part of the novel. It was complex with twists and turns (I loved it). It is a shame that the rest of the novel was not of the same standard. I just did not enjoy the ridiculousness (it just seemed farfetched). I give Antiques Fate 3 out of 5 stars (because of the mystery). I have tried to like this series, but it is just not for me (other people will love it). Antiques Fate can be read alone. The author does a good job of filling in the readers on the characters and what has happened previously (the main details). The ending leaves us with a clue on the sparks that will fly in the next novel.

I received a complimentary copy of Antiques Fate from NetGalley (and the publisher) in exchange for an honest evaluation of the novel.

Stephanie Griffin says

When I need a break from non-fiction and fiction that addresses issues, I like to read a cozy mystery. This series is good because it throws in tidbits about antiques, which I adore.

Rebecca says

love the characters, the story was fun and unique- witty and charming..definitely one I will share m=with friends.

Lisa Tollard says

Funny and Entertaining

This is the first book that I have read written by Barbara Allen, and I can say I'm looking forward to reading more. Love the humor between mother and daughter. Not to mention recipes and antiquing tips!

Cheryl says

Brandy and her eccentric mother Vivian each write chapters of this book with notes from their editor in it so it makes a different kind of story. In this one Vivian has been invited to reform a one-woman show of Macbeth an the annual fete. There is an unexpected death on stage and later a second victim so Brandy and her mother set out to find the murderer.

Lia Jones says

Perfect Combination

An exciting multiple murder mystery set in a quaint and intriguing little English village themed town. The mother daughter heroines and their cute and insightful dog kept me wanting to read more by their funny dialogue and colorful vocabulary. To top it all off they have thespian roots and antique dealer know how. For the cherry on the cake this story offers simple yet delectable recipes you can actually try at home. Since this book has everything it came as no surprise the love interest of the story was the strong, supportive type who enjoys a snuggle by the fire after the excitement of the mystery is solved. Bring on more of the same. It was just what I needed to occupy my mind and relax after my long and demanding day of real life.

Meg says

Vivian and Brandy are at it again! A very good addition to this oftentimes humorous series.

Lori Donnester says

These books are a fun read. The characters are very creative and quite distinctive. Enjoyable escape!!

Amanda says

I love a good cozy mystery. That was not this book. Overly descriptive, unfocused, and too much "product placement" of other books in the series that had nothing to do with the current plot. Would not recommend this book to anyone as there are so many better things out there to read.

Regan Smith says

Have been reading through the entire series via my library. I like the variety of characters in each story; even though many of them turn up in each book, they are not at all static, which would be boring. I'd really like to see Vivian's one-woman "Scottish play," which would have to be hilarious, especially with Brandy's oh so reluctant assistance. The story takes them out of Serenity for a nice little change, into another location that is, itself, a major character. Of all the books so far, I like this one the best.

Linnea says

I love these books. It is always fun to read a light hearted mystery.
