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B.B. Haywood

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In the quaint seaside village of Cape Willington, Maine, Candy Holliday has a mostly idyllic life, tending to the Blueberry Acres farm she runs with her father and occasionally stepping in to solve a murder or two...

Halloween is fast approaching, and preparations for the Pumpkin Bash, Cape Willington's annual autumn festival, are well underway. Candy is running this year's haunted hayride, in the hopes of making some extra cash. But when she discovers a real dead body near some fake tombstones, Candy's side job becomes a full-blown investigation to find out who turned a holiday attraction into a real horror show. Will Candy's keen eye for detail unearth buried town secrets? As her search leads her through old graveyards and a haunted house, Candy will discover that not all of the skeletons hidden in this small town's closets are Halloween decorations... **INCLUDES DELICIOUS RECIPES!**

Town in a Pumpkin Bash Details

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Author : B.B. Haywood

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From Reader Review Town in a Pumpkin Bash for online ebook

Chris says

1.5 stars - at least I finished it.

These types of cozy mysteries are always an iffy choice. There are some I enjoy, but a lot of them are just plain stupid. Guess which one this is?

There will be spoilers.

The story opens with a murder of a man stupid enough to agree to meet someone in a forest in the dark in late October. By the end of the book we will have only the slightest of ideas what he was killed for. The killer is not among even the slightly obvious suspects. Normally, I would say that was almost a good thing in a mystery, but in this one, there's no way anyone would have possibly guessed it. In fact, when the killer's name finally is mentioned, I had to go back through the book to figure out who the heck this person was.

Much of this mystery centers around a locked drawer in the writing desk of a long-dead woman, the matriarch of the richest family in Cape Willington, Maine (and perhaps all of Maine). People die for this key. Call me crazy, but if I were a member of the richest family in town, I would have called a locksmith. Or, given a description of the key at the end, at least tried picking it with a hairpin or nail file.

People seem incredibly blasé about murder and crime in general. Our heroine, Candy Holliday, spends all day traveling out to an island and comes back with two of the really big clues, only to have someone steal one right out from under her. She goes over to her best friend's house but doesn't tell her anything about it because she doesn't want to spoil the mood. Huh?

There are also a lot of references to past stories in this series. It probably would have been better to read them in order, but I'm quite sure I would never have gotten to #4. They all seem to involve an evil woman named Sapphire Vine who was blackmailing just about everyone at one point or another before she was murdered in her own home. Now there are rumors that the house is haunted. Every time the house is rented, strange things happen. But if that's so, why are so many of the dead woman's things still in the house? (Her clothes, purses, books, keys, furniture) Apparently, only to give Candy a place to go hunting for clues.

Time is very fluid in Cape Willington. Candy seems to accomplish in an hour or less an amount of work that would take most humans four hours or more. This happens several times throughout the book, and it really annoyed me, but this one put it right over the top:

It is Halloween night and also Candy's birthday. She has been invited to a masqued ball at the mansion, where she is also supposed to meet the "bad guy" at 9 pm. Her date picks her up "a little after eight." Then, instead of going to the ball, he announces a detour and takes Candy to the downtown area, where the annual Pumpkin Bash festival is in full swing. They spend time at the local inn sipping champagne, eating hors d'oeuvres, and being greeted by multiple people. Then they walk up and down both sides of the main street where trick-or-treaters are going from business to business. Then they walk through the park admiring all the pumpkin displays. Finally, they get back in the car and drive to the mansion. They stand talking with a number of people at the ball. Candy looks at her watch and "the nine o'clock hour was approaching." (All that in less than 55 minutes. Amazing!)

But it gets better. She then goes up the stairs, confronts the bad guy, has quite a chat with the bad guy before they finally get around to getting the key, opens the drawer, reads through the documents inside, and prepares to be shot to death by the bad guy. Fortunately back up arrives and the bad guy is arrested. Without further ado, Candy returns to the ball downstairs which has turned into a surprise birthday party for her. General birthday partying ensues. She looks at her watch. It's almost 10.

Wish I could have read this book in only an hour.

Annamaria says

The descriptions are too long and boring, the plot is not believable. Only the end gives some suspense but I won't probably read more from the author.

Eve Recinella (Between The Bookends) says

It's Halloween in Cape Willington and that means all things pumpkin for the town residents. Candy Holliday and her BFF Maggie run a local pumpkin patch and part of their services is giving tourist and locals alike a delightfully haunted hayride. Everything is running smoothly until a body is discovered under a pile of pumpkins. Now it's up to Candy to figure out the "who did it".

This was a fun little mystery. A small town feel and a cast of interesting characters. I haven't read any of the other books in this series, and this book contained a lot of references to the previous books. So you may want to keep that in mind when deciding to give this one a go.

The mystery was really good and I really had NO clue who the "baddie" was going to turn out being. It takes A LOT to keep me guessing until the end of a mystery. I usually pride myself on figuring these things out ahead of the big reveal. So kudos to you author for stumping me. On top of that, you also get some VERY yummy sounding recipes at the end.

Who could ask for more, not I! Two thumbs up.

K.A. Davis says

I recently picked up TOWN IN A PUMPKIN BASH by B.B. Haywood, which is the fourth book in the Candy Holliday Murder Mystery series. I was immediately transported to the small town of Cape Willington, Maine which is preparing for the annual Halloween pumpkin bash festival. Candy Holliday works for the local newspaper but agrees to help her best friend, Maggie, run a pumpkin patch which in turn helps out an elderly farmer keep the pumpkins from going to waste.

Candy and Maggie also offer a Pumpkin Hollow Haunted Hayride for their customers with a few fun and

spooky things set up along the ride. Just as they are getting ready to start their tour a man, who only introduces himself as T.J., joins the group. As they enter their “graveyard” to check out the headstones they find someone has left a real dead body lying there...and it becomes apparent that the person was murdered.

It doesn't take long for Candy to find that the murder victim, Sebastian Quinn, was the same man who was supposed to meet with them that morning to rent a supposedly “haunted” house. To add to the haunt factor, they found his dead body in the same location where an unsolved and unnamed murder victim was found twenty years previous. Being a reporter, Candy is pulled into wanting to find out what happened to both Sebastian and the unknown murder victim. On top of that, T.J. turns out to be trying to lure her into finding an old diary missing from a prominent family. It's up to Candy to find the threads that tie an old diary, an unsolved murder and the dead body in her pumpkin patch together before another innocent person becomes the next target.

Even though I haven't read any of the previous books in this series this was still a very enjoyable book. It was easy to get to know the characters and a bit of their back stories without getting confused. There are a lot of twists and turns in the plot that kept me guessing and turning pages long after I should have been asleep... The author also has a “mystery” running through the series of books which intrigues me and I will certainly be reading them to find out more about the story.

DAISY DISNEY says

The only complaint I have is that this book references previous books in the series that I have not read so that was a spoiler. Other than that its a good book for the fall and the season it is this time of the year. Not bad for my first October 2014 read.

Anastasia says

Town in a Pumpkin bash by B.B. Haywood is the 4th book in the Candy Holliday Murder Mystery series. As part of the town's autumn festival, Candy is running the Pumpkin Hollow Haunted Hayride, and unfortunately unearths a murder victim during the inaugural ride. Another interesting mystery in the series, although it seemed a little drawn out. Definitely a series to be read in order as a lot of references to the previous crimes were made which were a bit confusing as it had been a while since I had read the preceding books. It seems that the crimes are all intertwined in some way.

Talia Colley says

This is a cozy mystery set in a small town in Maine. A dead body is found in a pumpkin patch by blueberry farmer and reporter Candy Holliday. The victim turns out to be a man who was supposed to be meeting her in the patch that morning to rent a house from her and her friend Maggie. Candy tries to figure out who killed him and delves into some old family secrets in the process. This is the fourth book in this series and I haven't read the previous books, so I did feel like I didn't get a good introduction to Candy, but the mystery was okay and did hold my interest. It was a fair book, and I might check out more in the series starting with the first book to get a proper introduction.

Sarah says

Ugh. Done with this series. Not even close to being believable, boring and the mystery within the mystery thing that the author keeps draggin out is just annoying. Amazed I made it 3 books into this series before I couldn't take it anymore.

Kate says

I really liked this book because it was festive and Halloweeny throughout the entire 300+ pages. It really got me in the mood for fall with the hayrides, a pumpkin patch, a haunted house and even pumpkin carving. I agree with others that if you haven't read any others in this series (especially The first book), you shouldn't read this book first. It references and draws from the other books in a way that might be confusing and boring for newcomers who don't know the background stories. Looking forward to the next!

Dharia Scarab says

I'd forgot that this series includes the murder prologue which I find annoying. And the vengeful plotting epilogue spoil the ending.

If not for those black spots the series would be much better.

This book was far better than book two though.

Since I don't normally write reviews unless I have something specific to say, here's the break down of how I rate my books...

1 star... This book was bad, so bad I may have given up and skipped to the end. I will avoid this author like the plague in the future.

2 stars... This book was not very good, and I won't be reading any more from the author.

3 stars... This book was ok, but I won't go out of my way to read more, But if I find another book by the author for under a dollar I'd pick it up.

4 stars... I really enjoyed this book and will definitely be on the look out to pick up more from the series/author.

5 stars... I loved this book! It has earned a permanent home in my collection and I'll be picking up the rest of the series and other books from the author ASAP.

LORI CASWELL says

Autumn in Cape Willington means the annual Pumpkin Bash. Candy Holliday and Maggie Tremont decide to make a little extra money from their farm stand by adding a haunted hayride through a pumpkin patch. When they discover a real dead body among the fake tombstones Candy's side job becomes a full time investigation. But in her effort to catch the killer she may unearth some long buried secrets. Maybe all those skeletons in the residents closets are not all Halloween decorations.

Dollycas's Thoughts

These stories are all unique as they all take place during a Cape Willington event like the Annual Pumpkin Bash. The whole town is transformed by the festivities. Carved pumpkins line the street, costume parties, a biggest pumpkin contest, and even a bus tour of the local cemeteries.

Candy's birthday also falls on Halloween and everyone pulls together to try to surprise her. The day will end up having more than its share of surprises.

Candy Holliday is smart and super observant, the perfect amateur sleuth. Her newspaper skills and resources help unearth some crucial information to tie things together. She ends up visiting a few cemeteries herself as she tracks down clues.

Every sleuth needs a sidekick and Maggie fits the bill perfectly. Candy also has her dad and his friends to help out in a pinch.

What I really love about this series is that each installment connects with the last. There is a lot more to the story of the history between Pruitt's and the Porter-Sykes families and each book gives up another piece to that evolving puzzle. For that reason I recommend reading the books in order.

Town in a Pumpkin Bash is a wonderful entertaining mystery I highly recommend. It's the perfect time for you to visit Cape Willington.

Peggy says

Disappointing. Repetitive. Could have been 1/2 the pages and still got the story across. Not sure I'll want to read the rest of the series.

Marcy Graybill says

I didn't like this one nearly as much as her last one. Maybe I'm not in the right mood for her books, I was kind of disappointed.

Debbie says

"Town in a Pumpkin Bash" is a cozy mystery. This book is the fourth in a series, but the whodunits of the

previous mysteries weren't spoiled in this one. While you can easily understand this book without reading the previous novels, the author is linking the murders in a way that the characters vaguely suspect but haven't discovered yet. As in, why are there suddenly a lot of murders in a small town? There is a reason, but it's not the focus of this mystery. To follow the overall mystery, you'd probably want to start with the first book in the series.

The characters were engaging, and they reacted realistically to discovering a dead body. I liked that Candy (who is also a reporter) helped by uncovering background information that the police might not have connected to the current murder rather than Candy trying to do their work for them. The suspense was mainly from wondering whodunit and from unknown people periodically scaring Candy or stealing her work.

This was a clue-based mystery but not a puzzle mystery. I could piece together the possible relationship and motive along with Candy as she uncovered information, but there were no clues pointing to a specific character in the book until the very end.

I was confused by occasional references to a minor character who is not always visible but who isn't treated like a ghost. (In the next book, I learned that he's a man who has some people convinced that he can become invisible.) There was a very minor amount of explicit bad language. There was no sex. Overall, I'd recommend this enjoyable cozy mystery.

I received a review copy of this book from the publisher.

Fred says

Town In A Pumpkin Bash is the fourth book in the A Candy Holliday Murder Mystery series.

While Cape Willington is getting ready for the annual Pumpkin Bash, Candy holiday and her best friend, Maggie Tremont, have agreed to help Mr. Gumm by taking over his pumpkin patches and selling the pumpkins from a roadside stand. They are also planning a hayride around the area and have set up some humorous headstones for everyone to enjoy.

Candy and Maggie are getting ready for their first day, but a scheduled meeting with a Mr. Quinn doesn't happen. They are getting ready to the hayride when a gentleman, who identifies himself as TJ, becomes a last second addition to the hayride. Their first stop is a special Halloween graveyard, where Mr. Quinn is found dead and covered with pumpkins.

Soon it is learned that TJ is T. J. Pruitt, the nephew of Helen Pruitt, a wealthy resident of Cape Willington and a lady who Candy has met in the past. Candy meets with Helen and TJ for lunch and is told that Helen's grandmother's personal journal has gone missing and would like for Candy to find it.

Candy also learns that years ago, the body of a young female was also found near where Mr. Quinn was found. Her identity was never learned and it seems no one knows exactly what happened with the body. As Candy begins to search for the missing journal, she has a feeling that they might be related.

There is a sub story that has been going on in this series, dealing with the Pruitt's and the Porter-Sykes family and the reader gets another piece of the story. I would suggest starting with the first book in the series.

Certainly looking forward to the next book.
