



A Finder's Fee

Joyce Lavene, Jim Lavene

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The mayor of Duck, North Carolina, Dae O'Donnell, is a woman with a gift for finding lost things. Sometimes it leads her to lost keys or earrings—and sometimes it leads her to murder...

DIRTY CAMPAIGNING

?

Two weeks before the mayoral election, Dae gets sidetracked from her political aspirations by a spirit in need of rescuing. An antique amber necklace allows Dae to connect with Maggie Madison, a witch who wants Dae to rebury her bones so she can rest in peace. But digging leads Dae to an even bigger mystery, a forty-year-old murder with ties to Randal "Mad Dog" Wilson, her mayoral opponent.

?

Dae wants to run a clean race, but town sentiment is mixed about whether she's using her abilities to get the election to go her way. And when she learns that her own grandfather—the former sheriff of Dare County—might be mixed up in the long-buried tragedy, Dae will have to uncover the real killer and put Maggie to rest, before her political career ends up six feet under...

A Finder's Fee Details

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From Reader Review A Finder's Fee for online ebook

Marseydoats says

I really enjoyed this! As usual, I'm reading out of order. I had read the first book in the series and liked it. I genuinely like Rae. Her adventures are fun to read. This book touched on a lot of things. The rich asshats with their million dollar houses who think they own the beach... The Banker ponies who have been there for centuries, and need to be protected.

I look forward to reading more of the series and hope the authors write for many more years!

Debbie Lester says

Mayor Dae O'Donnell is once again up to her ears in trouble in the latest Missing Pieces mystery from Joyce and Jim Lavene. This writing duo has produced some great cozy mysteries over the years and A Finder's Fee does not disappoint. Readers will enjoy the psychic abilities of the lead character as well as a ghostly presence in this one. A witch from the 1700's is tapping Dae's ability to find missing things and this time it's not car keys or a missing piece of jewelry. It's her bones! Readers will love the campaign trail with Dae and the gang from Duck, North Carolina as the election looms and her opponent might be the murderer!

A Finder's Fee is a great addition to the Missing Pieces mystery series. Husband and wife writing duo, Joyce and Jim Lavene have found a good niche with these psychic related cozies. I like the fact that Dae's abilities are a bit uncommon even in the psychic community. She can find things. Your every day items as well as long lost heirlooms, but this gift usually leads her to murder. The Lavene's use humor and wit to bring A Finder's Fee to life. The townspeople from Duck are quite eccentric and some are even every bit as psychic as Dae herself. The dialogue is always comical and gives a lighthearted feel to the story. This is just one of the ingredients that make this a great series.

The addition of witch Maggie Madison to this installment in the series will provide a lot of fun moments for the reader. Maggie seems to take over Dae's personality at the oddest of moments and provides humorous, as well as, frightening moments. I liked the fact that through Maggie and the rescue of her bones, readers are able to learn more about the past of several of Duck's inhabitants, including Dae's opponent for the upcoming election, Mad Dog and Dae's grandfather. The back story in these novels is always interesting and informative. It gives a lot of credibility to the story and engages the readers interest.

Finding a skeleton in a race car, might seem a little odd to some readers, but it's typical of this quaint little North Carolina town. Duck is fun place to be and readers will find themselves wishing they were citizens in this very eclectic place. Townspeople like Kevin and Shayla, Dae's friends and partners in crime, have become like old friends to readers of the series and it's always fun to go back and visit them. But new additions to the series are always appearing. The Lavene's know how to keep the readers interested and turning those pages.

The mystery aspect of this one was well thought out and planned. Each clue was positioned to take the reader off on a different tangent. Keeping the killer elusive, but right in front the reader as well. I like the fact that Joyce and Jim Lavene tantalize the reader by keeping the murderer just out of site until the end. I had some trouble figuring this one out until the last couple of chapters. I finally settled on who I thought it was and ended up being wrong. LOL! It happens. This is a great addition to the series and readers will be left wanting

more.

Fred says

A Finder's Fee is the fifth book in the A Missing Pieces Mystery series. Another delightful book from the Lavene's

The election is just around the corner and Mayor Dae O'Donnell is has been missing for three days. It seems that Dae's father had sent her an amber necklace and when she put it on, she met the original owner, Maggie, who lived during the late 1700's. But for Maggie to rest in peace, she wants to be buried next to her lover and asks Dae's helping in making this happen. The problem that Dae faces is not knowing exacting where Maggie's bones or those of her lover are.

Dae soon finds that Maggie house was located where the new Town Hall is being built. With the help of Kevin they begin excavating one evening and before they can find Maggie's bones, they find an old race car with a body in it. Unfortunately the car was her opponents, Mad-Dog, car. He hadn't seen it since the evening of the crash with Lightning Joe. As it turns out the body in the car is Lightning Joe. More disturbing to Dae is that there is the possibility that her grandfather or the current sheriff might have something to do with the burying of the car.

Time is definitely of the essence with election coming up soon. Red-Dog's supporters are saying that Dae made this discovery so that she could be assured of being reelected.

Most of the characters from previous books are back to help Dae sort through the case Lightning Joe's murder. And Maggie is an enjoyable addition, what with her speaking her mind through Dae's mouth.

Definitely looking forward to reading about the next adventure in Duck, NC.

Tess says

A Finder's Fee

I cannot give enough praise to Joyce and Jim Lavene regarding this book. Without a doubt it is the best book I have read so far this year. I hated to see it end, and kept hoping for so many thing to happen now, but I finally realized that if they included everything I wanted to know about, there would be no more books. Reconnecting with Dae and Kevin is always a pleasure, and I am a huge fan of Gramps. Was very glad to meet Shayla's grandmother in this one. I love the way that our senior citizens are woven into the Lavene's books. After reading all the books in this series, I feel as if I know all the townfolks in Duck, and think that I would like to live there and become one of them.

I can't think of enough words to tell you all how I felt about this book, but just a few are amazed, delighted, excited, and always grateful, for having the friendship of the Lavenes, through social networking, and for the chance to review their wonderful books.

Betty says

Another find story from the Missing Pieces series. Dae is missing for several days. When she turns up a ghost is attached to her. Dae convinces Kevin to help find Maggie's bones. Instead of bones the find a car with a body in it. The body is that of mayoral opponent and he accused of the murder. Dae has several problems in this book. They will keep your turning pages to how she solves them. The ending will be a surprise.

Jess says

This is my first read in the series and while I wanted to love it, the many directions it went in made it hard for me to. Dae O'Donnell (the main protagonist) subsides from the paranormal in order to take on the supernatural and it feels anything but 'natural'.

With beaches, antiques, and ghosts in the mix - this story should have blown me away. All I got was a pitter patter of passing excitement. The beginning had me but as I progressed through the story, I couldn't help but get lost in confusion. There's several subplots that are followed throughout the story and it was hard for me to keep up. Most of these didn't add to the overall story though so I don't really understand what their necessity was. My biggest disappointment was how Dae was used. She comes off as a strong character and yet she only gave a mediocre, at best, performance in this book. Surely she holds more of a convincing role in the rest of the series? She gets kinda-sorta possessed and that felt weird for such a story. The supernatural element felt really out of place and so I think that's the main weak point of the whole plot. Picking this up, I was expecting a typical Southern, beachy read. What I got was a tumble of lost and confused with a dash of disappointed.

The ending was rather abrupt and I was left unsatisfied. I can't judge the whole series based on this one so perhaps this was just a 'bad seed' in an otherwise awesome lot..?

Again - it wasn't horrible..it just wasn't what I wanted it to be. Next time, I'll go in with no expectations.

Valerie says

This series is one of my favorites by far. Each one seems to grow and gain a new incite to Dae's gift and the impact it has on her life and those around her

*** Jennifer says**

I actually really like this series. Or at least, I did. My enthusiasm has waned although I'd still call them well-written, well-plotted stories. This one though, went a bit off the reservation for me, with Dae's sort-of-

possession. I'll definitely keep these books around, but I don't think I'll buy the 6th one.

Full review: <http://jenn.booklikes.com/post/114053...>

Wendy Cantu says

I really liked this series, but this time I think the authors had too many good ideas for plots and, sadly, decided to throw them all together in one book.

I felt like the book started midway through one plot (it took forever for me to figure out what was going on) and then, as soon as I started to feel a little less confused, they switched streams and were chasing down a different mystery. To add to that, there were several other asides that were thrown in there that didn't add anything to this particular story.

The ending came out of nowhere and was so abrupt and pointless...I just don't know what they were thinking! As I said, I really liked this series, but this book was just a miss for me.

Angela Porter says

I have loved this series from the first! This duo bring to beach life to life in these books and show how a small town can come together and solve the mystery! A definite must read!

Sandie Laughner says

Wow!! After reading 5 books in this series, I like the OBX area more than I did when I vacationed there two times. This is fantastic ongoing cozy mystery series.

Mary says

I'm sorry to say that I found this 5th entry in the Missing Pieces series to be a disappointment. Based on the teaser at the end of the last book I was anticipating another hit. Not so. The story meandered aimlessly until the murder mystery finally kicked in about halfway thru the book. As for Dae, there were times when I shook my head and asked myself how she could be so foolish. And the whole Maggie story was nothing more than a distraction as far as I was concerned. Finally, the resolution to the murder seemed hurried and fell flat for me. I will probably read the next entry in the series as I would like to know what's on the horizon for Dae and who won the election. I just hope the writers take Dae and her talent in a more believable direction.

Linda says

I really love this series and couldn't wait to read this book. However, this one was not as good as the others

in the series. Actually, I found it creepy. Dae O'Donnell, the mayor of Duck, NC, has a gift for finding things. This has made for some really good books. But it seems that her talents are increasing and in this book her body becomes inhabited by a 17th century woman who was known as a witch in her time. I think that the story could have been told without this part since the main event in the story is the finding of a buried race car- with the missing body of a man buried 40 years ago. Dae attempts to solve the murder but is often sidetracked by the woman inside her who wants Dae to find the grave of her missing lover and bury her bones next to him. Of course Dae is assisted by Maggie when she is at the most dangerous climax and about to be killed too. I found that part creepy too, though.

Elaine says

Although I enjoyed the first book in this series as a nice light weight cozy, the authors have now taken us into a strange realm of "cozy" possessions and talking to animals...well, not yet, or maybe? (and this from a woman who reads Charlaine Harris and her type books). Maybe I have issues now because I knew what you were getting into with Charlaine Harris and this series was originally sold as a cozy mystery whose protagonist (Dae) can find lost things and now the whole center of the story is the bizarre way her gift changes.

Not giving anything really away...in the first book, the protagonist (Dae) has the ability to find lost things. The story begins with her owning an antique store and introduces us to the town. Now, 5 books later, she is hearing voices, becoming possessed by cozy mystery style "ghosts" and possibly, did this book hint at her communicating with animals? I am not sure that is where book 6 will go, but really?!

Also, we are introduced to two storylines, one of the arrest of Dae's opponent for mayor and the other of Dae's "possession". Both plots were too much for this simple story, and at the end, everything was resolved with a pretty bow...well, particularly the "possession" story. It left me questioning if I missed something.

Perhaps if I hadn't read the whole series over winter break, I would like the books more. But the town's folk seem undeveloped, the other storekeepers (mostly women) especially. Not on my must read list.

Cathey says

Stepped over the line and off the edge with this one.
