



Gossamer Ghost

Laura Childs

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Carmela Bertrand knows that Halloween in New Orleans means a week of rabble-rousing, costumed craziness—and she can't wait to get the party started. But when a local antiques dealer turns up dead, Carmela suddenly finds herself in a real-life danse macabre...

An evening's work deciding on the class schedule for her scrapbooking shop has put Carmela in the mood to kick up her heels. But after some strange noises draw her into Oddities, the neighboring antiques shop, Carmela's night is abruptly put on hold when a bloody body falls out of a curio cabinet—and into her arms.

While shop owner Marcus Joubert was known for being an eccentric with a penchant for eclectic merchandise, Carmela never thought he was the kind of man who could inspire the passion required to kill. But when Marcus's assistant—and fiancée—Mavis reveals that a priceless death mask was also stolen, it becomes clear that murder wasn't the culprit's sole intention.

Carmela can't resist the urge to investigate the growing mystery, but as the list of suspects increases, she realizes it'll take every trick in the book to unmask the killer thief before there's another night of murderous mischief...

Gossamer Ghost Details

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Author : Laura Childs

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From Reader Review Gossamer Ghost for online ebook

Rage says

this book kind of lagged in the middle. I looooved all of the Halloween details - I'm usually complaining that there isn't enough Halloween, but this time, there was a ton of Halloween and almost no mystery. the characters were constantly doing things that seemed unreal and unbelievable, from breaking into some wealthy guy's house (not wealthy enough for a security system) to showing up at a funeral in a red motorcycle jacket and acting surprised that you're the only one not wearing black. the villain seemed obvious, but Carmela was oblivious... I didn't really connect to/like any of the characters except Jekyll, who barely appeared.

someone pointed out the trope of the amateur sleuth with the cop boyfriend who's her "in," and it really irked me in this story. 1. why is Carmela dating this guy, when he has no interest in the things she enjoys and never spends time with her? (which might be why he's "NOPD Babcock" in her phone) and 2. why is this guy dating Carmela, when she habitually breaks the law and/or lies to him? who leaves halfway through a play????

I'm really just giving this three stars because I am a sucker for Halloween stuff.

Anastasia says

Gossamer Ghost by Laura Childs is the 12th book in the Scrapbooking Mystery series. Scrapbook shop owner Carmela Bertrand hears strange noises from the antique shop next door, Oddities and investigates only to find owner Marcus Joubert dead and a valuable Napoleon Death Mask missing. It was nice to catch up with Carmela and her friends once again. She does seem to take too many silly risks and takes on too much of the investigation on her own though, and did not solve the case but rather only found the murderer when she was herself attacked for her meddling. Not one of the better books in the series. A bit repetitive. Carmela seems to have developed an exaggerated view of her abilities.

Debbie Lester says

Cozy mystery fans, scrap-booking fans and even fans of voodoo will enjoy Laura Childs latest book. Book twelve in the Scrap-booking mystery series, Gossamer Ghost finds heroine Carmela and her sidekick Ava in the middle of mystery with the Day of the Dead right around the corner. The New Orleans setting at Halloween is the perfect backdrop for a diabolical murder and some stolen property. Fans of the series will love Carmela's antics and relish in her latest adventure in the "Big Easy!"

What I liked:

As many of you know Laura Childs is one of my favorite cozy writers. She has such a knack for setting the scene and bringing it to life. Her descriptions of New Orleans at this wonderful time of year were riveting. There is so much history and mystery surrounding the city and Childs uses it to her advantage in every book in this series. If you never wanted to visit the "Big Easy" before, you will after you read this book! I can just

see myself visiting Carmela's scrap-booking shop and puttering around in Ava's voodoo store. I might even visit Joubert's antique shop. I think readers will find the setting exceptional as always with Childs books and having themselves wishing it was all real.

The mystery in each of the scrap-booking mysteries is always realistic and well thought out. In Gossamer Ghost readers are treated to a murder that may stem from a French mask that is worth a ton of money. The questions are... who murdered Joubert to get it? Did Joubert obtain it by illegal means? Was it worth killing over? I love it when Childs keeps me guessing and she certainly did with this one. The setting is always amazing but nitty-gritty of the mystery is what keeps readers coming back to this series and Gossamer Ghost does not disappoint in the least. I loved it when Joubert's body came flying into Carmela's arms, that was a nice touch! Having the mystery take place during Halloween was also a great plot device. Not much scarier than a murder in New Orleans, close to the Day of the Dead. *shivers*

Carmela and Ava make such a good team as well. Carmela tends to be a little on the more sedate side. She is controlled, although a bit snoopy. But Ava is spontaneous and vibrant. They compliment each other so well and their friendship is both dynamic and strong. Carmela's relationship with Babcock is also one of those relationship's that bring out the good things in each of the people. Edgar brings stability and strength to the table and Carmela tends to make him think outside the box. I love all of the personal drama, just much as the mystery in this series.

What I didn't like:

There were a few things in this one that didn't make a whole lot of sense in the overall story. That doesn't happen too often with one of Childs' books, but in this case it did pop up a couple of times. I like for each significant thing that happens in the book to have a rhyme and reason to it and there were a couple of things that didn't. It was still an excellent book and deserves the five apple rating!

Bottom Line:

I loved this one just as much as any other book in the series and I know that fans of Laura Childs will as well. The mystery was engaging and took a clear path. The setting was magical. New Orleans at Halloween... simply perfect! Gossamer Ghost is a great addition to the series and I can't wait for the next one. Carmela is one of my favorite heroine's!

April says

Carmella finds her neighboring shop owner dead. It throws her for a loop, which seems a bit odd given how often she has encountered dead bodies before. It is Halloween week in the Big Easy. The book is more about all the events she and Ava attend than solving the murder. I was a bit surprised by who the villain turned out to be.

Denise Taylor says

Why this book is terrible:

If I were to use a marker to highlight every sentence that serves exclusively to remind me that this book is set

in New Orleans, I would run out of ink within two chapters. Real people, no matter where they live, do not eat that many po boys and red beans. Even if they did, I would not want to read about all their meals. People who really live in tourist towns do not sit around talking about how much they love the influx of tourists at certain seasons. People who work for the NOPD do not begin sentences "The NOPD...." I would like to go on, but I won't.

The main character is not a good detective. She discovers nothing. She does not have any idea who the killer is until the killer pulls a gun on her in the last scene. She is literally naming the wrong killer when the real killer goes after her. Her boyfriend is less than one dimensional. He literally exists as a plot device.

People don't ooh and ahh because you showed them how to make a ghost out of cheesecloth. We all learned that in elementary school. (Some of the projects sounded cool. I concede that.)

So much of this book makes no sense. If you read the lines of the characters aloud, you would realize they do not speak like real people. Real people don't have their boyfriend's name in their phone as "NOPD Babcock" They have his name.

Lisa Ks Book Reviews says

When it comes to mystery, author Laura Childs is a master storyteller. GOSSAMER GHOST, book twelve in the Scrapbooking Mysteries is a perfect installment to a wonderful series. With an exceptional plot packed full of mystery and intrigue, plus the infectious personality of main character Carmela Bertrand, Ms. Childs has crafted a book impossible to put down.

The setting of New Orleans during Halloween was a perfect backdrop for this story. Ms. Childs managed to really creep me out during the discovery of the body. Page after page pulled me in deeper until I felt I was a part of this story all the way to the reveal where the who in the whodunit took me by surprise.

This was only my third book in this series, but I am now a solid fan, and I plan to go back and get myself caught up. (My poor TBR!) If the books that came before are even half as good, they'll be awesome! If you haven't read any of these books, you can feel confident that you can read GOSSAMER GHOST as a standalone.

At the back of the book you'll find scrapbooking, stamping, and crafting tips, delicious recipes, and an excerpt from PARCHMENT AND OLD LACE, the newest book in this series.

Sallee says

Laura Childs always writes a good mystery in all of her series. This one is just as good. Carmela, the main character is leaving her scrapbook store Memory Mine when she hears odd noises coming from the neighboring antique shop called the Oddities. Since she had a key for emergencies, she goes in and looking around. She trips on the edge of a carpet and grabs a nearby curio cabinet, rocking it and causing the door to open and dislodging a body right into her arms. It is the owner of the shop, Marcus Joubert, very bloody and very dead. This is the start of a rollicking story that takes place around Halloween so New Orleans is full of revelers. Art, antiques and priceless artifacts are all part of the story. Regular characters, Ava, her best friend, Carmella's love interest, homicide detective Babcock are involved in solving this murder. Lots of details

make for a very interesting and exciting story.

Lbaker says

Very light - helium like.

How can these women party every night, own small craft shops, never worry about payroll, bills, or rent. The eat in a glutinous manned, only exercise when running from bad guys (usually in high heels), feel free to break and enter suspects homes, have any time to solve a murder?

Also, regarding the boyfriend/cop - he looks good, dresses in designer clothes, hires limos, puts up with a girlfriend who ignores him or flaunts laws, how dumb is he? And, where does he get his money?

I don't think I'll be reading any more of this series - when I want to read fantasy, I'll read books about fairies, dragons and trolls, not crime busting women who are generally busting out of their clothes. I like to have clear lines between fantasy and mysteries. Honestly, why don't these characters ever have to worry about taxes, zits, or gaining weight?

Catherine says

All I can say, is if you enjoy a good mystery, then read this series. You won't be disappointed. I have only read two, and out of order and still was able to understand the connection between characters. Just read for yourself.

Denver Public Library says

If you like cozy mysteries, you can't go wrong with Laura Childs and her various series. Gossamer Ghost, part of the Scrapbook series, is set in New Orleans. Carmela, the main character hears a noise in the shop next door and ends up getting involved with solving the murder of the shopkeeper. Childs follows a formula for all of her mysteries – there's the primary protagonist and their friends, they own a business and there are recipes and resources at the end of the book. Quick reading and comfortable, the reader knows what they are getting – that's why they're called cozies! Recommend her Tea Shop series which are set in Charleston, S. C.

Get Gossamer Ghost from the Denver Public Library

- Lisa B

Sunsettowers says

I love cozy mysteries, and I love Childs' cozy mystery series, so picking this one to complete a category for the Popsugar Reading Challenge worked out perfectly! This is another great entry in the scrapbooking mystery series. Childs makes New Orleans come alive, as well as making me want to take up scrapbooking

again, and the mystery is a good one, with a really surprising twist at the end.

Ed says

Breezy and fun cozy set in New Orleans during the Halloween season. Lots of insights about scrapbooking hobby.

Patrizia says

4 stelle e mezza

È sempre un piacere tornare a New Orleans da Carmela e amici. Anche se trovo che a volte è un po' troppo sopra le righe, soprattutto Ava, l'amica del cuore. Bella la storia gialla, con tanti possibili colpevoli veramente odiosi, tanto che spero abbiamo in futuro quello che si meritano. Il vero colpevole mi era subito risultato sospetto in quanto lo sentivo falso e non per veri e propri indizi contro di lui.

Smitten says

Originally posted on Smitten by Books Blog

For fans of: Leslie Meier

When New Orleans scrapbook-store owner Carmela Bertrand finds Marcus Joubert dead in his shabby old antiques shop, she assumes he's the victim of a random act of violence; it's not like the man stocked anything worth killing for. But when she learns that Joubert recently came into possession of one only four masks cast of Napoleon at the time of his death, and that the mask has now gone missing, she starts to wonder if the antiques dealer's death was an act of premeditated murder.

If you've ever read any of Laura Childs' books, you've got a pretty good idea of what to expect from Gossamer Ghost, the twelfth in her Scrapbooking Mystery series. Gossamer Ghost has the potential to be a high-stakes, action-packed tale; the book's setup is intriguing and efficiently managed, and ?Napoleon's death mask makes for a grand MacGuffin. Unfortunately, though, Childs never capitalizes on either, instead pushing the mystery to the background and focusing almost entirely on the trappings (Halloween in New Orleans, y'all).

The sense of place is strong (Childs' New Orleans is decidedly Disney-fied, but still comes to life on the page) and the book is bursting at the seams with Halloween-themed craft and costume tips (most of which are actually quite clever and creative), but the pace is languid, the prose is purple, and the characters are vapid and two-dimensional. Childs fails to provide Carmela with a legitimate motive to investigate either the mask's theft or Joubert's murder, resulting in a total lack of narrative drive, and her attempts to create tension and suspense are half-hearted, at best. If you're looking for a light and fluffy yarn that'll get you in the Halloween spirit and will help you embrace your inner Martha Stewart, go out and get yourself a copy of Gossamer Ghost by Laura Childs; if you prefer books with a bit more substance, though, you should continue your search.

Reviewed by Kat

Sandie Laughner says

What could be better than Halloween in New Orleans?? Solving a murder with scrapbook shop owner Carmela and her Voodoo shop owner friend Ava, that's what!! This 12th book in the scrapbook mystery series didn't disappoint this reader. I thoroughly enjoyed this book. I could almost believe that I was back in NOLA, eating beignets and gumbo.
