



This Old Homicide

Kate Carlisle

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From the *New York Times* bestselling author of the Bibliophile Mysteries and *A High-End Finish* comes the second Fixer-Upper Mystery...

Contractor and part-time sleuth Shannon Hammer specializes in improving the quirks and flaws of the Victorian homes in Lighthouse Cove, California. The quirks and flaws of their residents are another story....

Valentine's Day is approaching, and while Shannon is delighted to be friends with not one but *two* handsome men, not everyone in town is feeling the love. After her elderly neighbor Jesse Hennessey fails to make his daily appearance at the local diner, Shannon swings by his place to check on him. Not only does she find Jesse dead—of an apparent heart attack—but she also realizes that his home has been ransacked.

Someone suggests that a thief was searching for a priceless necklace Jesse claimed to have retrieved from a capsized sailing ship, but Shannon doesn't believe it. Everyone knows Jesse had a penchant for constructing tall tales—like the one about him having a hot new girlfriend. But his death is soon ruled a homicide, and shady suspects begin popping out of the woodwork. When another victim turns up dead, Shannon is convinced she must find the killer before someone else gets nailed....

This Old Homicide Details

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Author : Kate Carlisle

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From Reader Review This Old Homicide for online ebook

Melodie says

I love Kate Carlisle's Bibliophile series. It's near the top of my list, but this series? Not so much. When I picked this one up off The Pile I didn't realize it was #2 in the series. I have #1, but now I don't think I'll read it. This has the dreaded "triangle" and that is a plot point that just ABSOLUTELY sets my teeth on edge. I HATE it!! It's a lazy way to tell a story and Ms. Carlisle is better than that. This wasn't a bad story, but Shannon seems a bit clueless to me. She tends to not want to suspect people just because they come across as nice. I think I'll leave this series alone after this one. I like Juliet Blackwell's Haunted Home Renovation series a lot more and like her characters more, too. Love you Kate Carlisle, just not this series!

Jonathan says

Really 4.5 stars, but I rounded up.

I put off reading this book for so long, and I honestly don't know why. I had gotten the first chapter read and then set it down and never picked it back up about a year ago, so when I saw it at my local thrift store for a quarter I picked it up. I am so glad I did! This book was the perfect cozy; laid back, lots of clues and suspects, and a wonderful cast of characters.

The characters were an absolute pleasure to read about. Shannon was funny, normal, and realistic enough that I genuinely liked her, even if she was a bit too serious in her 'detecting' for my taste. Mac, Jane, and Eric were also wonderful supporting characters. I really hope Eric takes a bigger role in the next book and we learn more about his past, however. There's a small love triangle brewing but Shannon's not in an actual relationship with either man, so it works.

The mystery was wonderfully plotted; I was 99% sure I knew who the killer was and then I was taken aback by who it actually was. The setting was also riveting; I love the fact that the entire town is a historic landmark.

Overall a superb mystery; I will be reading the next one. Highly recommend!

LORI CASWELL says

Dollycas's Thoughts

Kate Carlisle has constructed another awesome mystery in the second installment of the Fixer Upper Mysteries.

Shannon Hammer is a very strong protagonist with job that keeps her on her toes managing several different construction work sites all at the same time. The life of a General Contractor means a lot of time traveling

between sites, a heck of a lot of paperwork and a slew of phone calls but Shannon also has her own set of pink tools and she is not afraid to use them. Mystery writer, Mac, has moved into one of the suites above Shannon's garage and they are becoming a little more than chummy. Police Chief, Eric, is getting to know Shannon better too and doesn't accuse of murder this time, but he does try to tell her to keep her nose out of his investigation. This is a cozy mystery so you know that is not going to happen. Neighbor Jesse must have been quite a character with his tall and not so tall tales. Jesse was her best friend's Uncle and she had known him much of her life and he has a special place in her heart and that just drives her to find out who killed him and why.

The author does any excellent job of storytelling. She drops a clue here and a clue there, hammers in a twist or two or three, and an extra little ghostly element along the way too, all to keep the reader guessing and fitting things together to solve the mystery right along with Shannon.

We also get vivid descriptions of the house being renovated and having worked in home construction and remodels I love those parts.

I guess it would be fair to say Kate Carlisle has nailed this story right on the head. I am looking forward to see what she has planned for the next Shannon Hammer project. I am sure she is already checking over the blueprints and getting the permits to bring us another wonderful mystery.

a perfect escape

Ian says

After Shannon's elderly neighbor Jesse dies in suspicious circumstances she and her best friend Jane investigate. It soon becomes apparent that the murder and a spate of burglaries all centre on priceless jewelled necklace that Jesse has hidden somewhere in the house. Shannon needs to catch the murderer before they turn their attention to her and her friends.

There are some fairly rigid rules for cozy mysteries and you break them at your peril. So yeah, *This Old Homicide* pretty much follows the same pattern of a lot of cozy mysteries. I guess where it distinguishes itself is in the quality of the writing which is honestly a lot better than most of the cozy mysteries I've read. It's not quite as good as book 1 in the series, but still amongst the better cozy mysteries I've read.

Jackie says

Rating: 4 out of 5 stars

I liked being able to continue right on with the series. Again, I really enjoyed the light feel of the story and liked seeing the same characters again. This story also had more action than the first, both on the mystery front and the romance front. The pacing in the story was also better than the first, but still not perfect. That said, I did find myself being really intrigued at times. The small town feel of the story was still there from the first, but was expanded upon by the author's descriptions of the town and some of the events that went on there. I do hope that romance situation sorts itself out in the next book as I'm a sucker for romance in these types of mysteries and cute stories.

Overall, I really enjoyed *This Old Homicide* and will definitely be continuing with the series.

Terry says

Shannon Hammer is great! Head of a construction company with her pink tools and pink hardhat, she is a friend to all but also somewhat of an adorable flake. She is just as comfortable ripping off shingles and pounding nails as she is stumbling over dead bodies. Enter the delicious Sherriff Eric and famous mystery writer Mac and the story begins to get real interesting. One wants to throw her in jail, the other wants to help her investigate. Both want to hang around her. This time the victim is her elderly ex-Navy neighbor Jesse, who may or may not have found a priceless necklace and who may or may not have been murdered.

Now come the suspects - two ex-Navy buddies who might know about the necklace, two men visiting town asking too many questions and romancing Jane(Shannon's BFF and Jesse's only living relative), a girlfriend no one knew Jesses had, and a shady antiques dealer named Cuckoo. I have to say that even though I read a lot of mysteries, I totally missed the murderer here. The red herrings were effective.

I read someone else's review and have to agree that there are too many extra characters in these books. Emily, Lizzie, Marigold, Hal -- these people are distracting and hard to keep up with. Since their involvement is slight, I have trouble remembering who they are in the story. This is very confusing.

Kate Carlisle has a gift for the quirky mysteries. When will number three come out?

Vickie says

This is my first time with this series. I saw that this was made into a television series on Hallmark Mystery channel and thought I'd give it a try. I am glad I did. I like the premise of Shannon Hammer owning and running her own house building/renovation contracting business. She inherited it from her father and she's doing a superb job. Her work on the houses and running the various crews fits in nicely with her life and the amateur sleuthing she does when her neighbor dies under mysterious circumstances.

The setting is nice, the characters are well-developed and the mystery is well done. I look forward to reading more in this series and watching the show on Hallmark Mysteries.

Definitely recommend.

Rosanne Henson says

Really enjoying this series (Fixer-Upper Mysteries)

Dawn Michelle says

I really need to trust my judgement more!! I was pretty sure I knew who the killer was [though not the why, not at first anyway], but dismissed it as WAY too easy. Yeah. I should listen to my gut; I read WAY too many cozies to not guess correctly once in awhile! LOL

I am enjoying this series; I like Shannon and the group of friends that she has and would love to be friends with them as well. NOT crazy about the potential love triangle that may or may not be brewing, but I am hoping they nip THAT in the bud, because I don't want to have to stop reading this series [but I will over a love triangle. I mean, seriously? They are total UGH]. And I would like to have someone slap Whitney in the face. :-)

Really good read and a series I would recommend to anyone.

Paul Falk says

Enter the coastal community of Lighthouse Cove, Northern California. This is a warm and cozy place to live. In fact, most people remain there their whole life. The author casually introduced the reader to all its peaceful and pleasant surroundings. There were several supporting characters in the story, however, center stage belonged to Shannon Hammer. She owned and operated her own construction company. It's specialty was renovating fixer-uppers.

Shannon's next door neighbor and long time friend Jesse was murdered. He was more than just a neighbor; he was a good friend. It was Shannon's unfortunate luck to be the one that discovered his lifeless body.

His death had first been ruled a suicide. There were no apparent signs of a struggle. It didn't make any sense why anyone would kill a peaceful, elderly man. What could have possibly been the motive? He had no known enemies. But he did have something of value stashed away that it was feared, some people wanted. Soon though, there was a second murder. This raised suspicion in this once quiet community to a high alert. Now the possibility of homicide was on the table.

To me, this story presented one drawback in particular - a ghost. On site, at one of Shannon's restoration projects, strange things happened. Light switches turned off and on all by them self; then chairs moved, a can of paint was tossed against a wall and howling had been heard. So little time was given to this ghostly encounter for the remainder of the story that it seemed like an afterthought on the part of the author. It had no place in this book. A supernatural thriller, yes. This book no.

The action of the story progressed well throughout the reading. There were enough twists and turns to hold your attention. The cozy part was a little watered down and didn't really go very far. It was a Cozy Lite.

Susan says

Shannon Hammer runs her family construction business, and her friends all do something or other in quaint Lighthouse Cove, CA. Shannon finds her next door neighbor--uncle of her best friend Jane--dead, and also promises to rehab the haunted old Victorian another friend has just purchased. Then there's the local festival committee, which Shannon chairs, and which is plagued by the two high school mean girls who still hate Shannon for--what? being in high school with them? Add two hunky guys--one the new police chief and one the handsome best selling author who is living in the apartment over Shannon's garage until she can get around to rehabbing his Victorian--and you can see that Shannon can't take time to google the murder suspects or the increasing number of victims, until it's almost too late. Another sleuth who doesn't want to suspect characters who are likeable.

Helen says

I am continuing my read of this series I have discovered. In this book Shannon investigates the mysterious death of her next-door neighbor Jesse. He was an elderly gentleman well liked in the community that was well known for his tall tales. I really enjoyed the cast of characters and Shannon's detective skills. The love interests in this story are also very interesting to me and I hope she ends up with one of them. I look forward to seeing who she picks and how the relationship progresses. I will be picking up the next book in the series very very soon.

Julie says

I wasn't as pleased with this story as much as the earlier one and her other series. I kept noticing all the repetition - telling the reader the same thing again and again and again. Generally it seemed more tedious of a tale, less interesting to want to read and characters that that didn't really connect. The main, Shannon, is still appealing but her friends and some of the others aren't really bringing much to the table. Best to relegate them to a single scene per book. There is a full palate of characters that can be introduced in each book - father, uncle, absent sister, employees, clients; ditch the girlfriends and Whitney; a screeching bimbo with erratic hate is a tired cliché.

Alyssa White says

The sound I made when this book was over was amusing really! The next one is needed now. This series is just so wonderful and every page is better and better. Jesse was so dear hearted and this book made my heart sad, but I grew more into Jane which I loved. The different stories with each of the characters is just so wonderful. I can't wait to read the next one! #itishammertime

Lisa Ks Book Reviews says

I really enjoyed this story. Although I didn't read the first book in this series, A HIGH-END FINSH, I never felt lost or like I was missing anything.

THIS OLD HOMICIDE was fast paced and entertaining. A good, tightly written mystery with plenty of suspects to make you wonder "whodunit".

Ms. Carlisle is a superb storyteller. Her descriptions of the quaint town of Lighthouse Cove, CA, and the beautiful Victorian homes it is known for, were very vivid and truly drew me in.

My favorite part of this book is protagonist, Shannon Hammer. Her chosen occupation, a building contractor, is very refreshing. Don't get me wrong, I love lead characters who own shops and restaurants, but this is a fun change. And while Shannon is a woman doing a "man's" job, she keeps the girly alive by using pink tools, hard hats, tool belts, goggles, the works. Too fun. (No, she doesn't make her male workers wear pink

;~))

There is also a fun secondary story for fans who like a bit of a paranormal twist. I look forward to seeing how this will play out in future books.

The only drawback in this book for me, was the over use of curse words. H*ll and a*s made several appearances, but the over use of the word d*mn became very distracting to me. One of my favorite things about cozies is the lack of cursing. I only bring this up because I know a lot of people who read my reviews feel the same way and I thought you would want a heads up. However, if you can look pass this or it doesn't make a difference to you at all, then please do get yourself a copy of **THIS OLD HOMICIDE**.

You can pre-order your copy now for the January 27 release!
