



## Cast into Doubt

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## **Cast into Doubt** Patricia J. MacDonald

A gripping novel of domestic suspense - Shelby Sloan, a successful Philadelphia businesswoman in her early forties, has one child, a daughter whom she raised on her own. She gives her daughter, Chloe, and son-in-law, Rob, a Caribbean cruise as a gift, while she takes the opportunity to mind her four-year-old grandson. But life becomes a nightmare when Rob calls to tell her that Chloe has disappeared overboard. The police decide it was an accident, but Shelby refuses to accept the official verdict . . .

## **Cast into Doubt Details**

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Author : Patricia J. MacDonald

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# From Reader Review Cast into Doubt for online ebook

## Melissa DeHart says

A terrific whodunit! A mother's search for the truth in the disappearance of her daughter while on a cruise. Shelby Sloan gave her daughter and son in law a cruise vacation as a gift while she babysits her 4 year old grandson. Her son in law calls her to say that her daughter is missing and is feared overboard. After much searching, her body is not found. While trying to cope with her loss and help take care of her grandson, Shelby decides to probe deeper into the case and discovers a secret that her daughter had hidden. I highly recommend this to mystery booklovers!!

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## Olivermagnus says

Shelby Sloan gives her daughter an anniversary gift of a cruise, only to get a call from her son-in-law with devastating news. Her daughter, Chloe, has disappeared, and appears to have fallen overboard and drowned. Shelby can't believe Chloe would commit suicide, but there are things about her daughter that she was unaware of. Apparently, Chloe suffered from alcoholism, and hid it completely from her mother.

Since no one aboard the ship saw her fall, the ship continued on three hours after she was missed before turning back to look for her. Although there is little chance that she will ever be found, Shelby is more than willing to continue the search at her own expense. Prodded by a visit from a representative of Overboard, whose members have lost relatives to suspicious shipboard accidents, she starts to suspect everyone, including members of her own family.

The mystery wasn't too bad, although it contained a bit too many convenient coincidences for my taste. Shelby was an annoying character but who can blame her for wanting to find out what really happened to her daughter. This was my first Patricia MacDonald book but I would definitely try another sometime in the future.

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## Libby says

'Cast into Doubt,' by Patricia MacDonald is an intense thriller about a woman going overboard on a cruise. Shelby pays for her daughter, Chloe, and son-in-law, Rob to go on a cruise while she babysits their four year old son, her grandson, Jeremy. Several nights later, Shelby gets a call from Rob, telling her that Chloe is missing and likely went overboard from the ship cabin's balcony. Is it an accident or is it something more dark and malicious? Shelby follows the trail of events surrounding Chloe's last moments with dogged determination.

The plot is pretty seamless and readers are kept guessing. It's not an easy solve and I like the way MacDonald lines up her suspects in the reader's mind. While the drama and suspense make very captivating reading, I would have wished for Shelby to have had a romantic interest. Shelby's life was too sterile. It really did seem that all she had were her daughter and work. Even so, MacDonald makes her a sympathetic character that I want to learn more about. I would have also liked to know more about Chloe's alcohol

addiction. It did not seem credible that Shelby would have been totally sideswiped about finding out about Chloe's addiction. Shelby grew up with an alcoholic mother, so I would've thought her more suspicious and knowledgeable of addictive behaviors. I didn't buy into the fact that Shelby was so preoccupied with her work that she didn't know that Chloe had some issues. These were small issues that didn't detract from my interest in the story because MacDonald had no small expertise in managing the element of mystery.

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### **Fawn says**

#### **Excellent**

Started and never put it down. I definitely got the shock effect when all was revealed. Total page turner. Onto another.

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### **Kat says**

this book is really good so far. im trying not to read it too fast as i dont have any other books for this weekend.

a woman with a son goes on a cruise ship with her husband, leaving her son at home with her mother

she disappears on the ship, they claim she was drunk and fell overboard

her mom hired people to search for her, no one found anything

her son in law told her to go home, she cant stay at his house with the grandson

she hired someone to investigate when she heard other women were disappearing from cruise ships

thats as far as i got so far, but its good!

i was really disappointed, the idea for the story was good, but as i kept reading i didnt like it. i tried to figure out why, i think i didnt like any of the people. no one was nice, and it just didnt flow right. it was a good idea for a story though.

the husband of the first wife of her daughters husband was behind the whole thing, he hired one of his patients to kill her on the boat. he later kidnapped the grandma and was going to kill her but the police showed up at the last second.

update: read again nov 2014 and liked it better

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### **Pam says**

This is the first book I've read by Patricia MacDonald and I enjoyed it. I liked the main character, Shelby and the rest of the characters were interesting. A good, suspenseful story that had an unexpected (to me) ending.

Shelby's sister was odd but evidently very smart, one of those people who does not connect to other people. I was never sure about the son in law until the end. I could feel the loss and hurt Shelby felt when Chloe died and I liked that she did not give up in trying to find out what really happened. The book kept my interest and my next book to read is Missing Child by the same author.

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### **Paula Phillips says**

Cast Into Doubt takes us one step further into the world of missing children with this one being focused on someone's Mum and somebody's daughter. Shepley has always wanted the best for her little girl Chloe, so when she gets a promotion at work and a chance to do something she decides to purchase two tickets for a cruise ship tour for Chloe and her husband Rob and she agrees to pull Nana duty and babysit Chloe and Rob's four-year old son Jeremy. All goes well for the first week until that dreaded phone call arrives, the phone call that all parents hate and wish will never come. It is Rob calling with bad news - Chloe has disappeared and they believe her to be fallen overboard. So soon will become the search for Chloe and with no help and dead ends Shepley will do everything in her power to discover what happened to her daughter. As secrets are revealed about her daughter Shepley worries that things and stories aren't adding up. Was Chloe killed by someone on the ship and her death made to look an accident overboard? Did Chloe stumble into something deep or was her death - the horrible case of mistaken identity or something more sinister? Find out in Cast into Doubt by Patricia MacDonald, a story that might make you think twice to A) opening your doors to strangers and B) going on a cruise ship into the middle of nowhere.

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### **Shazza Maddog says**

Shelby Sloan is a mother and a grandmother. She pays for her daughter and son-in-law to go on a cruise, only to get the worse possible news - her daughter, Chloe, has disappeared, and appears to have fallen overboard and drowned. Shelby can't believe Chloe would commit suicide, but there are things about her daughter she didn't know - that Chloe suffered from alcoholism, and hid it completely from Shelby, due to Shelby's estranged relationship with her own alcoholic mother.

The story is further complicated when Ron, Chloe's husband, is involved in a horrible accident. Were both he and Chloe targets for someone's rage? And if so, whose? And why?

An interesting story about families and their own particular hell, added on to the absolute horror of losing a child, and possibly your own mortality, as well. If you like cozies with a dark background, this would be a book for you.

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### **Sheila says**

A mother investigates when her daughter goes missing on a cruise.

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## **Laeti says**

Je l'ai lu vite, sans même m'en rendre compte. J'étais à fond dans l'histoire !

Tout commence tranquillement, l'auteure nous présente ses personnages et paf : le drame ! Chloé a disparu en pleine mer et les enquêteurs sont pessimistes. Mais comment convaincre sa mère, Shelby, qu'il n'y a plus d'espoir ? Comment la convaincre qu'il s'agit d'un accident ? D'autant plus qu'on lui apprend que sa fille était alcoolique alors qu'elle la connaissait en miss perfect ? Dur à avaler. Et de là, la paranoïa va s'installer. Evidemment, moi-même maman, je me suis demandé ce que j'aurais fait à sa place et je la comprenais parfaitement.

Et si Chloé avait été assassinée ? Après tout, jeter un corps en pleine mer c'est le crime parfait. Mais à qui profiterait-il ? Au mari de Chloé ? A l'ex-femme de ce dernier ? A la compagnie ? A d'autres encore ?? Shelby va mener l'enquête et nous entraîner dans ses prises de tête. Franchement, ça faisait longtemps que je n'avais pas vu le pot aux roses avant le héros ! J'ai adoré ça !

C'est un très bon thriller, avec une héroïne à laquelle on peut s'attacher ou même s'identifier. En plus de l'enquête on découvre sa vie qui n'est pas toute rose et il y a des claques qui se perdent ahah  
J'ai très envie de lire d'autres romans de cette auteure.

Bisous !

Casting ? <http://lireoudormir.blogspot.fr/2017/...>

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## **Ariana says**

Just okay for me. Pretty predictable. Had a very small amount of language.

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## **Carol says**

Really liked the book but the ending sort of fell down.

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## **Sue says**

"Cast Into Doubt" by Paricia MacDonald was an amazing mystery thriller. I couldn't put this book down, and I didn't suspect whodunit until the very end. The well-written and easily-flowing story didn't give much hint of whodunit. Shelby Sloan's daughter goes missing on a cruise with her son-in-law. Was it an accident or something more? Shelby gave her daughter Chloe and husband Rob a cruise for Christmas. She would be looking after Jeremy, her 4 year old grandson at their house while they were on holidays. But then she received notice that her daughter had accidentally fallen overboard. They had sworn statements from a number of people on the cruise, who saw her drinking heavily. They proceeded on the assumption that her fall was a result of extreme intoxication. But Shelby cannot believe this story and takes it upon herself to investigate what really happened. It was her love for her daughter that drove her to take drastic measures. This

was an amazing murder mystery with plenty of suspense.

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### **Estelle says**

A weak motive for a murder is what tries to hold this plot together but ultimately fails, leaving the reader in a merry go round sense of fiction and a waste of time.

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### **Karenj says**

I read this as a condensed book and I think that maybe that was part of the reason that I didn't really like it. The writing seemed very clipped without much development. Things happened too fast to be realistic. Also, I just didn't like anyone in the story. The daughter's husband was very nasty to Shelby, the mother. Shelby's family was nasty to her and didn't add much to the story. Many of the characters and interactions just didn't ring true to me.

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