



# Iced Under

*Barbara Ross*

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*The snow is deep in Maine's Busman's Harbor and the mighty rivers are covered in ice. Snowden Family Clambake Company proprietor Julia Snowden and her mother, Jacqueline, are hunkered down for the winter when a mysterious package arrives—heating up February with an unexpected case of murder . . .*

Inside the mystery package is an enormous black diamond necklace that once belonged to Julia's great-grandmother and disappeared in the 1920s. Who could have sent it—and why? Julia's search for clues takes her on a perilous journey through her mother's troubled family history, from a squabble over the family fortune in "frozen water" to the recent unexplained death of Jacqueline's long-lost cousin Hugh—who'd been missing and presumed drowned for more than forty years. To protect her mother's inheritance, Julia must fend off a small army of feuding relatives, solve the mystery surrounding Hugh's demise, and get back home before the next blizzard buries them all . . .

## Iced Under Details

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Author : Barbara Ross

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## From Reader Review Iced Under for online ebook

### K.A. Davis says

Ever since I saw the cover of ICED UNDER by Barbara Ross, the fifth book in her Maine Clambake Mystery series, I've been on pins and needles waiting to read it! And when Barbara released her novella in the Christmas book, EGGNOG MURDER, featuring Julia Snowden in October, my appetite for this series was whetted even more. So it was with great glee that I poured a steaming mug of tea, curled up on the couch with a fluffy blanket, and lost myself in the snowy world of Busman Harbor, Maine and Boston!

Barbara weaves a tight tale of Julia's family history while unraveling the secrets the family has closely guarded for almost 100 years which culminates in the murder of a long lost cousin. The multi-faceted layers of the story kept me turning pages late into the night...that OMC syndrome ("one more chapter") was in full force. I so enjoyed getting to know Julia's mother, Jacqueline, more. In past books, Jacqueline has seemed exceedingly reserved and I never really warmed to her. However, in ICED UNDER, we learn the full story of what has made Jacqueline the woman she is and I now see her in a different light, and admire who she is. Julia is a strong character and it's from her dedication and love for her mother, that she involves herself in solving the mystery.

Both the setting and the plot are well developed, and Barbara's descriptive language pulls me in, making me feel like I'm right there with the characters. She includes an especially touching sentiment when the murdered cousin's caretaker tells Julia, "When you are needed most, that is when the work is most rewarding." I have seen that type of dedication first hand with the people who work with my special needs granddaughter. I am always astounded at their capacity for caring and it is definitely at the forefront this time of the year! Barbara manages to capture the emotional impact of that kind of dedication in the book, which adds to the strength of the story. She also utilizes true historical events as the basis for Julia and Jacqueline's ancestors building...and losing...their family fortunes. I was fascinated with the "Ice Kings" and appreciated the list of books the author provides at the back of the book for reading further on this subject.

As with the previous books in this series, Barbara also includes recipes in ICED UNDER. I tried her recipe for Vee's Beef Stew. Absolutely delicious, providing warmth and nourishment, this recipe will become a regular in my dinner rotation, especially during cold winter months!

I willingly reviewed this book after receiving a copy. All thoughts and opinions are my own.

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### Janet Robel says

I received a free copy of this book from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

One of my favorite cozy mystery series! This isn't like the conventional cozies where the murder takes place within the first few chapters. There's a lot of speculation with Julia and her mom trying to figure out who sent a mysterious package. In turn, the hunt leads to a murder far into the storyline where numerous suspects abound and no one is to be trusted. This is a series worth investing your time, starting with the first book. Julia is a solid protagonist and each book gets better and better. There are also mouth-watering recipes included at the end and you may want to try them all.

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## Rachel says

Heartfelt, well-written "cozy mystery." I really liked the main character. I haven't read any other books in this series, but I may check them out now.

My main negative reaction has to do with the MC's boyfriend, though. She needs to dump him! :D

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## Sharon says

Winter has come to Busman's Harbor, Maine and to say it's cold and snowy would be an understatement. Julia Snowden and her family run the Snowden Family Clambake Company which takes tourists on a clambake cruise to Morrow Island where everyone enjoys a real Massachusetts clambake. But a clambake is out of the question during a Maine winter so Julia and her mom, Jacqueline, are spending time together waiting for Julia's sister, Livvie, to finally give birth. It's been a long pregnancy.

One day, Jacqueline receives a package in the mail and when she and Julia unwrap it they find a 70 carat black diamond necklace worth \$2 million dollars. Jacqueline knows that it belonged to her great grandmother but it went missing in 1920. The necklace was named "The Black Widow" and rumor had it that a maid stole it during a large party. Who possessed it all this time and why was it sent to Jacqueline?

Julia did some research and discovered that her mother had family living in Boston. After making sure that the necklace was safe in a deposit box at Busman's Harbor, Julia drives to Boston to try to meet her relatives and figure out who sent the "Black Widow" to her mother.

In Boston she meets her newly found cousins and finds out a lot about her family's history including cousin Hugh, who died just before Julia's arrival. Hugh and Jacqueline were very close when they were younger but Hugh mysteriously disappeared during Jacqueline's 21st birthday party. The police were called and there was search for Hugh but he was never found. Everyone believed that he drowned. But now it's decades later and Julia discovers that he was alive all this time and never contacted his favorite cousin, Jacqueline.

Making things even more upsetting is that the police think that Hugh was murdered and did not die from the sickness that was killing him. But who would have murdered him? Hugh was in the house with the rest of his family and had been ill for a while and was dying so why would a family member want to murder him? Julia thinks the "Black Widow" might be a part of it all. There are too many questions that need answers and Julia plans to find those answers even though her life might be in danger.

"Iced Under" is the fifth and the best in the incredible Maine Clambake Series by Barbara Ross. I've been a huge fan of Ms. Ross since I read the first Maine Clambake book and I'm constantly looking for the next one in the series to be released.

Usually the books take place in Busman's Harbor or Morrow Island where the clambakes are held but here most of the story is in Boston and not in Maine and I liked that. Don't get me wrong, all the characters and stories that Ms. Ross has in Busman's Harbor are wonderful but I enjoyed seeing how Julia handled herself away from the people and the area she feels most comfortable in.

I'm not sure what genre the clambake series belongs to. I'm going to say that maybe it's a cozy but much more than a cozy. I put Susan Bernhardt and Susan McBride's books in the same category because their books aren't really cozies either. These three authors write a story with some meat on them, something you can sink your teeth into. These women are true authors. Don't get me wrong, I'm a cozy lover from way back. There are times I need a fun book involving a baker who turns into a private investigator in between baking donuts. And there are some wonderful cozy writers out there but there are also times when I want a good book that doesn't rely too much on, for a better word, fluff.

Barbara Ross's books are different. Like Ms. Bernhardt and Ms. McBride, Ms. Ross has some "meat" in her stories. You can tell that a lot of research goes into the plot lines and her characters are not two dimensional. They are very solid and well thought out. I'm not just talking about Julia, the protagonist, but every person we meet in Busman's Harbor are real people. I appreciate all the thought that the author puts into this series. The stories are filled with thought and Ms. Ross directs her characters to exactly where she wants them to go to create a great page turner.

Barbara Ross is a true writer and storyteller and definitely should be read by all book fanatics. "Iced Under" is a gem in this wonderful series. I cannot wait until the 6th installment comes out and I hope that Ms. Ross includes some, if not all, of the new family members in future books in this series.

Find all my reviews at <https://sharonreadsblog.wordpress.com/>

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## **Nicole says**

Iced Under (A Maine Clambake Mystery, #5) by author Barbara Ross takes Julia Snowden from Busman's Harbor, Maine to Boston, Massachusetts, as she follows the path of a priceless diamond necklace and discovers long-lost family members. Julia must solve the mystery, and get back to Busman's Harbor before her sister Livvie's baby arrives, all while trying to secure the inheritance the family needs to restore its family home. Engaging story that was a quick read, and nicely written. I'm looking forward to book 6! :-)

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## **Dawnie says**

This is cute and perfect if you are in need of a very mellow easy to read and just overall winter-y cozy feeling little family mystery book.

I never read a cozy mystery before but wanted to give them a try and while I did enjoy this and it was good, I also didn't really fall in love with it.

What I noticed throughout this book -and that is a very personal and specific to the reader thing!- is that I need a bit more action and thrilling parts to keep me actually interesting and wanting to continue on reading. Which this book just doesn't have. Which is fine! But for me personally it was just a tad boring and not what I need in my mysteries.

That's fine.

Not every type of book is for everyone.

It is a very nice book.

The writing is good, the characters nice and the mystery okay even if I personally found it a bit too out there for what it was.

Still it's a nice cutesy little mystery and rather perfect for a nice afternoon on a cold winter day! So **definitely recommended!**

\*thanks to NetGalley, the publishers and the author for providing me with a free ebook copy of this book in exchange for a free and honest review!\*

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## **Mark Baker says**

It's a cold, quiet February in Busman's Harbor until Julia's mom gets a mysterious package in the mail. Inside is a necklace, a family heirloom worth seven figures, that disappeared in the 1920's. What happened to it all those years ago? And who sent it today?

This is definitely a different plot for a cozy, but I really loved it. Yes, there is a murder, but it comes in later and the mystery of tracking down family and the story behind the necklace takes center stage. Honestly, I like the break from the familiar formula. The characters are fun as always, especially the new ones. And I might have cried (in a good way) through the last couple of chapters. Fans of the series will appreciate this one best, but they will love it.

Note: I received an ARC of this book.

Read my full review at Carstairs Considers.

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## **Subashini says**

This fulfilled all the requirements for a cosy, undemanding mystery. This is the fifth book in the series and I haven't read any of the previous books, but this works as a standalone. The storyline from the previous story were gracefully incorporated into the narrative and the characters were well-developed. The mystery involves missing jewels and family members and lost connections, so there's nothing remotely brutal or violent in here. There are some delicious descriptions of food and recipes are included at the end. Soothing and comforting, for when you need the pleasures of an entertaining quick read.

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## **Lea Wait says**

I love mysteries in which an event in the past influences characters' lives today ... and Barbara Ross' ICED UNDER fits that category perfectly. Although I figured out "the mysteries" pretty easily, I loved the reading journey with the interesting characters until they figured it out ... all in all -- an excellent read.

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## **LORI CASWELL says**

### **Dollycas's Thoughts**

It may be winter in Busman's Harbor but Julia still has a mystery to solve. Her mom received a package containing a wonderful family heirloom, one that disappeared back in the 1920's. The problem is they have no idea who sent the package. Julia's investigation leads her to connect with family she didn't know she had and she arrives at their door just in time to find out the person she hoped to meet died recently. Shortly after her arrival the family learns that the death was not from natural causes, it was MURDER!

I really love these stories. So much happens in addition to the main mystery. In a subplot Julia's sister, Livvie, is due to give birth any day and the snow coming could make getting to the hospital an adventure. This mirrors my daughter's experience almost exactly 4 years ago. Her dad drove her to the hospital in the middle of a blizzard following a snow plow all the way. Babies seem to want to make appearances in reality and fiction at the most inopportune times.

In the main mystery plot the author introduces many new characters enabling Julia to meet and learn about family members she and her mom didn't even know existed. She also learns the truth about an event in the past that happened very differently than her mother thought. I enjoyed the history research and the stories told by these family members almost more than the mystery and it is a great mystery full of twists and surprises.

The author provides enough background to allow this book to be read without reading the previous stories but I encourage you to read them all in order. The characters really grow and become more distinct throughout the series and each includes a stellar mystery.

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## **Kristina says**

*Iced Under* by Barbara Ross is the fourth book in A Maine Clambake Mystery series. It is February in Busman's Harbor, Maine. Julia Snowden is on her way to her mother's house and stops to pick up the mail. There is a package for Jacqueline, Julia's mother. Upon opening it, they discover a beautiful necklace inside with a note that states "For Windsholme" (the old family summer home that recently suffered fire damage). The necklace is called the Black Widow (contains a rare black diamond) and has been missing for almost a hundred years. There is no return address on the package and, as far as Jacqueline knows, she has no other family. Julia starts delving into her family history (hoping to find family for her mother) which sends Julia on a journey to Boston. It turns out that Julia and Jacqueline do have family, but one member just passed away. Jacqueline is to receive a nice inheritance from this lost relative (Hugh) but others are not happy about this revelation. Julia gets to meet new relatives, find out one of them is deceased, her sister is about to have her baby, a big snow storm is about to descend upon the area, and then the police show up. It turns out that Hugh did not die of natural causes. The suspect list is limited to the people inside Hugh's home. Which one of them did in poor Hugh? Then an attempt is made on the matriarch's life just after she stated she was going to change her will! Julia needs to flee and then find the culprit before the killer strikes again. Will Julia be successful? Join Julia on her latest escapade in *Iced Under*.

Iced Under is my favorite book in the series. I enjoyed Julia's search into her family history and how the Black Widow disappeared in the 1920s. I wish the mystery behind the matriarch's attempted murder had been as puzzling (easily solved). Hugh's death is also easily figured out (one question will give you the answer). Iced Under is well-written and has a good pace. While Iced Under is the fifth book in the series, it can be read alone. The author provides the needed information on the characters and previous books for the reader to catch up. I liked that we get to know more about Julia's ancestors and her mother's history. I found the history of ice very interesting (did not realize that it was such a cut-throat business). I found Iced Under a nice change of pace from the other books in the series. It was nice to get away from the family business. I give Iced Under 4 out of 5 stars (I liked it). I did feel that the ending was too abrupt. There needed to be a little more to the last chapter or an epilogue. I will be reading the next book in A Maine Clambake Mystery series.

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### **Robin Leslie Coxon says**

Iced Under by Barbara Ross is the 5th in the Maine Clambake Mystery series. As in the previous mysteries in this series the story centers around family but not the Snowden Family Clambake Company. The story is centered around the blustery cold winter of Maine, the pending birth of Julia's sister and the anonymous package delivered to Jacqueline. I found this book just as entertaining as the previous ones in this series. Although it is part of a series, it can be read as a standalone. The characters are believable and you will find yourself drawn in with each page.

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### **Mystereity Reviews says**

See this and all of my reviews at [Mystereity Reviews](#)

It's winter in Busman's Harbor, and Julia has settled in for a quiet winter. The restaurant she runs with Chris is shuttered for a few weeks, and Chris has gone to Florida to help out a friend. When Julia's mom received a package containing a very old and expensive necklace that has been missing for several years, Julia tracks down the sender and uncovers her mother's long lost family with secrets someone will kill for.

I always enjoy a visit to Busman's Harbor, even in winter. The intriguing plot was a refreshing change of pace from the usual stumbling-over-a-body type of plot, and I read it in one afternoon, I just couldn't put it down! The mysterious necklace sent by a mysterious relative and the relative's mysterious death made for a riveting story. I liked that more information was added to the family history, and the "lost" family added a great new dimension to the series.

Overall, the Iced Under is a great cozy read for a cold winter's day by the fire, I definitely recommend it to cozy mystery fans. This book can be read as a stand alone or as an entry into the series, but I definitely recommend reading all the books in the series.

*Thank you to Kensington Books and Netgalley, who provided an advance copy in return for my honest review*



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### **Amy says**

Another excellent book in this series. A mystery package leads to more questions than answers. After researching her maternal family history, she finds a lead and decides to go to Boston to find who sent the package and why. Her quest connects her with relatives she never knew she had. Unfortunately for one of them, they are murdered. While Julia tries to find out who would want to kill and why, she and another relative find themselves in danger as well.

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### **Meg says**

Great addition to the series. But brrrrr, I freezing while reading the book, at least the parts set in Maine. And that's saying a lot, considering I was reading this in 90 degree weather. My hat is off to you who live in icy climates during the winter.

I've actually already read the next in the series as I already had it. I'm looking forward to the release of the latest addition.

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