



Antiques Chop

Barbara Allan

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"One of the funniest cozy series going." --*Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine*

Brandy Borne and her dramatically ditzy mother, Vivian, are stars of the new reality show, *Antiques Sleuths*. The season opens in a perfect location--a quaint old house echoing with the unsolved whispers of a 60-year-old axe murder. But when the show's producer meets a similarly grisly end, Brandy and Mother must chop around for clues, axe the right questions, and get the edge on a murderer's mysterious motives. Otherwise our sharp-witted sleuths may face cancellation--on the cutting room floor!

Don't miss Brandy Borne's tips on antiques!

Praise for Barbara Allan and the Trash 'n' Treasures Mystery Series. . .

"Thrills, laugh-out-loud moments and amazingly real relationships." --*Romantic Times Book Reviews*

"The characters shine with brassy humor." --*Publishers Weekly*

"You'll laugh out loud." --*Mystery Scene*

Antiques Chop Details

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Author : Barbara Allan

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From Reader Review Antiques Chop for online ebook

Lorrie says

Sometimes I wish I wasn't the kind of reader who will almost always finish a book (and series) even when they are bad or annoying as hell to read.

Just when I thought things were looking up with this series, and the incessant use of parentheses was toned down to that of a semi normal person of the last couple books rather than the insane fetish-esque use from the first couple. This book brings in an even more annoying habit of comedic asides where the characters are talking like they are the author to the editor. Think of trying to watch a television show with commentary, except that commentary is done by a ditzy bubble head who starts every comment off with a smack of bubble gum and 'like, you know...' It's not cute. It's not funny. It's annoying as shit is what it is.

I've just realised what one of my biggest pet peeves is about this series, as this book and the previous one have demonstrated. a murder mystery where the ONLY thing pointing to who the killer really is is that they had a cameo appearance is, well, perturbing. One of the hallmarks of a good mystery is the puzzle in trying to figure out whodunnit before the author does. These books is all cutesy crap them oh by the way, this person did it. Pat me on the head and give me a cookie now.

Pfaw...

Nora-adrienne says

Antiques Chop

By: Barbara Allan

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The quaint Midwestern town of Serenity is about to hit the small screen. Brandy Borne and her dramatically ditzy mother, Vivian, will be starring in Antique Sleuths, a reality TV show based on the duo's antiquarian adventures--and their troubling talent for solving deadly crimes. What better shooting set than a creepy old house, the site of a 60-year-old unsolved axe murder?

The location is perfect until Bruce Spring, the show's producer, meets a fatal axe-ident, mortally mauled just like the home's previous owner. The first suspect on the chopping block seems typecast for the role of killer--he was found at the scene of the attack, clutching a stained axe. But as Brandy and Vivian chop around for clues, plenty of other suspects stick out their necks...

It seems the show's cameraman clashed with Bruce--could he be the culprit? What about the acrimony between Andrew, the harried homeowner, and Bruce, whose dirt-digging documentary all but accused Andrew of the original unsolved crime? And who's driving that blood-red Toyota that keeps making unscripted cameo appearances? If Brandy and Vivian are going to get to the bottom of this mystery, they'll have to be extra careful not to wind up on the cutting room floor--in pieces!

No matter how hard she tries, Brandy just can't seem to divorce herself from her mother's escapades. This

time out even her son pleads with her to join in. It started out when her ex-husband Roger showed up looking for his runaway son, he was wealthy enough to worry that it might have been an abduction for ransom. Brandy explains to Roger that she'd spoken to Jake about her recently finding out who her real parents were and that Jake might be having a problem processing it. Jake just needed to talk to his grandmother and came to visit without benefit of his father's permission.

So Jake gets to stay for a few days, and Vivian drags the two of them into a new scheme... a reality tv show about Antiques and the buying and selling of them. Murder happens, possible revenge, possible long held hatred and much more... Ya gotta read the book to find out the rest of the story.

I love the series, especially where Brandy and Vivian are posting possible chapters for their next book. This is a series that will have you rolling in your seat, falling down laughing.

FTC Full Disclosure: I received this ARC from the publisher who requested a fair and impartial review.

Susan Webb says

I loved this book! I bought it in a bargain bin but enjoyed it very much. It was funny and I can't wait to read all in this series!

Laurie Way says

I have grown to like this series. Mysteries are pretty intriguing and the quirky characters do grow on you!

Vicki says

Easy read- fun story. I will read more from her series.

Lynn Campbell says

This is one of the funniest books I have ever read. The main characters have a no nonsense perspective that really resonates with me. And on the off chance that it matters to anyone, I really like the cast of characters list at the front of the book. It's not so much that I couldn't follow the charters or keep them straight. But it was an excellent introduction.

OpenBookSociety.com says

<http://openbooksociety.com/article/an...>

Brought to you by OBS reviewer JoAnne

Okay, Brandy and her mother do not have a new reality show; they are asked to start one, but before it can

even get off the ground, the producer is indeed murdered, so there's no question of cancellation at all. That being said, I will add the book is well-written, and the plot is nicely knitted together, in the fact that I wasn't sure who the killer was until the very end. This is what you definitely want in a mystery. I felt that there were really no clues to point to the killer until about then anyway.

Brandy and her mother are approached with the idea of a reality show based on their past experiences with solving murders. The producer decides the best place to host the show would be an old murder house in town, which they can turn into an antiques shop and use while the show is not filming. It sounds ideal to Vivian, and Brandy, as usual, just goes along with it. When the producer is murdered practically the next day and a friend of theirs is accused of doing it, Brandy and Vivian feel the only way to clear him is to find the killer themselves.

Actually, it was Brandy's son Jake who found the body, dismembered; and what I don't get is the fact that he's like 'it's no big deal,' through the rest of the book. He's not traumatized; he has no bad dreams; he acts like it's an every day occurrence to see this and just goes on with his day-to-day life. I know kids are resilient, but really? Not even one teeny tiny nightmare? Nothing? Just go on a picnic and go hiking?

I didn't like the fact that the book read like you were watching a documentary: Brandy, her mother, and her son Jake are all narrating as if we're sitting in a room with them and they're telling their story to a police detective or something. (Right along with notes from their editor). Some people might enjoy that, but I don't. I also wasn't too pleased with the ending. Brandy's choice in men sucks, and she needs to get a dating service or something. I don't like Brian at all, and he doesn't really even seem to like Brandy all that much, so I couldn't figure out why he was even dating her.

But in the end, if you enjoy this series, please read, because as I said before, the plot is tight and well-written. I myself just don't really care for the style in which it is written, nor the ending, and that is why I felt I could only give it three stars.

Debi Emerson says

Didn't like book 1 in series, so didn't read this one, even though I had purchased it.

Katherine says

A very lighthearted murder mystery with humorous characters. Though this is a series, it was just as enjoyable reading out of order. I will pick up more in this fun series.

Nancy Narma says

“Chop, Chop—Who’s There??”

I'm so glad to wander back to Serenity, Iowa and be re-acquainted with Brandy Borne and her super-

sleuthing Mother/Grandmother Vivian. (Oops! Can't leave out Brandy's beloved blind Shih Tzu, Sushi!) The Author provides us with some history of a murder which happened locally in the 1950's and was the theme of a documentary, much to some dismay. Brandy always has a lot "on her plate", thanks to Viv's never-ending adventures, so when ex-husband, Roger arrives frantic and frazzled looking for their 13 yr. old son, Jake, who has run away, Brandy panics as well. She discovers their son nonchalantly chatting with Grandma in the dining room. Roger agrees to let Jake stay for a week—provided there is no sleuthing! We all know this is like asking the sun not to rise! So when a renowned producer approaches Vivian and Brandy about being the hosts of a reality show, Jake sides with Grandma and Brandy reluctantly agrees, knowing she has to keep an eye on both of them. The first item on the list (besides the name for the show—"Antiques Sleuths") is to find a prime location—and "The Murder House" seems to be an ideal fit. Vivian talks old friends into letting them use it and all seems to be going well—until.... You guessed it—a horrific murder occurs there, springing Vivian into her sleuthing action with Brandy by her side. Vivian never ceases to amaze me with her antics, and you'll love the passage where she's hypnotized! The Author has gifted us with another easy, enjoyable cozy and I want to extend my thanks for two items that have also been included—a list of characters and a map of Serenity, both great additions. I recommend you add this to your TBR list and I'm already looking forward to going back to Serenity in the future.

Nancy Narma

Eleanor Jones says

Really, no matter what mood I'm in, I can always count on a Trash 'n' Treasures mystery to make me laugh, over and over. This latest installment is no different. I enjoyed the plot and characters tremendously, as usual, and the addition of Rocky as a supporting character is terrific. My only complaint (if I had one) is that the use of multiple parentheses as a humor device in the earlier books seems to have been mostly beaten out of the authors, perhaps by an editor or even by (heaven forbid) fan mail. I urge anyone reading this to pick up the first book, Antiques Roadkill, and read them in order. You'll be doing yourselves a real LOL favor. I treasure each book and own them so I can read them over again when the mood strikes.

Jennifer says

Brandy and her ditzy mother Vivian are going to be stars in a new reality TV show about antiques. They finagle their way into leasing a house where a gruesome murder was committed 60 years ago, and guess what - someone associated with the show meets a similar fate, and Vivian (and a reluctant Brandy) are sleuthing again.

First off, you have to like a somewhat Monty Python approach to writing to love this series - and I do. Sometimes we read in Vivian's words, sometimes in Brandy's...I've read a few reviews of the series where folks found this style a bit off putting. I think it goes with Vivian's somewhat ditzy and eccentric character so I don't mind it a bit. As far as the mystery itself goes, it was neatly tied up at the end.

RebeccaS says

I love these books because they make me laugh. The little quirks throughout the book add a different a lighthearted touch. This time it was Brandy and Vivian arguing about things in the narrative using parenthesis, while their editor wants them to pencil in the margin. I felt like Vivian really spearheaded the sleuthing (more than usual) in this investigation, probably because this new murder was somehow linked to one of her childhood and it involved many of her childhood friends. I was slightly surprised by the culprit and think this was definitely one of the creepiest of the series, but I enjoyed it and thought the ending was great.

Glen says

The Borne girls are filming the pilot for their TV series. Vivian comes up with the perfect location for their store, the location of an ax murder!

Brandy's son, Jake is in town, and finds an ax! Then there's another murder, and the Borne start sleuthing again.

Pretty good, but to be honest, I don't understand what all these guys see in Brandy.

Trin says

Could not get into it at all I had high hopes for this book/series and it all came tumbling down once I read the first few chapters I was really annoyed and disappointed
