



Books of a Feather

Kate Carlisle

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Brooklyn's friend Ian runs the Covington Library, which is hosting an exhibit featuring John James Audubon's massive masterpiece, *Birds of America*, currently on loan from an Arab sheik. During the gala celebrating the book, she is approached by Jared Mulrooney, the president of the National Birdwatchers Society, who urgently needs Brooklyn's skilled hands to repair a less high-profile book of Audubon drawings that's fallen victim to spilled wine.

At the same party, Brooklyn is flying high after she's asked to refurbish and appraise a rare copy of *Poor Richard's Almanac*. But everything runs afoul later that evening when Mulrooney's body is discovered in the library. Rumors fly about a motive for murder. Perhaps Mulrooney wanted to sink his claws into the pricey Audubon book, but Brooklyn believes the man died fighting off a daring thief.

Soon more troubles ruffle Brooklyn's feathers. Her parents pop in for a visit with an unsavory friend in tow, and there's a strange man on her tail. With danger beginning to circle Brooklyn's every move, it's clear she must find answers before things really go south . . .

Books of a Feather Details

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Melodie says

EDIT: CHANGED IT TO 3 STARS, and begrudging that now! I have gone back & forth SO many times on how to rate this one! The mystery itself, I thought, was a good one. However, when did all of the characters get so stupid??? I'm used to Brooklyn pulling TSTL stunts, but when did Derek get so stupid he'd let a homeless stranger into his home and then leave said stranger there alone while the whole freakin' family went out to pickup breakfast?? I know Brooklyn's mom is a ditz and I have my doubts about her dad, but to bring a guy they "think" is someone they knew from their old Deadhead days into their daughters home like it's no big deal and expect everyone will be cool with him spending the night? "Here's Your Sign"...for the whole lot of them!! Then some more stupid for Derek at the end. Also, Brooklyn's constant mental rhapsodizing about Derek and the preponderance of "darlings" was annoying. I did like the bookbinding info in this one, and as I said, the mystery was actually a pretty good one. Going 4 stars rather than 3 on the merits of the series as a whole. We'll see if everyone gets their good sense back in the next one!

Hilary (A Wytch's Book Review) says

Brooklyn is in the thick of it again - she suddenly has book repairs and then some to do (including one from Detective Lee), one is Poor Richard's Almanack and the other is an Audubon bird book both of which she was given clandestinely whilst at the Covington Library, shortly afterwards someone tries to break into Brooklyn and Derek's apartment. Oh and add to the mix an old school friend of Derek's has turned up and everything seems to be spiraling out of control!

Debbie says

I enjoyed this book as I do the series. There were a couple things that bothered me such as the story started one way but the author changed her mind and took it in a different direction, it seemed rather abruptly dropped and mentioned in the end. Also a body is not who they think but continue to refer to it as the presumed person. I do love reading about the book binding although this book seemed to have more than usual. These were minor and probably wouldn't bother most, this is just my opinion. The mystery was good, there was one twist that I didn't see coming. I love Brooklyn and Derek they are strong characters, I do like most of the characters. Loved the descriptions of the birds, I could almost picture them. There doesn't seem to be as much humor in this book as earlier ones and hope there is more in the next. On the whole a very enjoyable and interesting read. I will definitely continue on with this series.

Mona says

As one of Kate's raters, I received a complimentary copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Prior to this, I had read her Crowned and Moldering(Fixer-Upper Mystery #3). I found her writing style to be very readable and enjoyed the humor scattered throughout to lighten the mood.

In this tenth book in Carlisle's Bibliophile Mystery series, book binding/restoration expert/artist and amateur sleuth Brooklyn Wainwright returns as the narrator. She, along with her security expert fiancée, Derek, are attending an exhibit that the Covington Library is hosting. She is in high spirits, having recently been given several valuable volumes to restore. But, her happiness is short-lived when the dead body of her client is found in the library later that same evening. Then...a "friend" Brooklyn's parents bring in during a visit meets an untimely end. These deaths, along with a couple break-ins, leave everyone scrambling to find a connection and a culprit.

Being a bibliophile myself, I appreciated Brooklyn's reverence for all things bookish. Although interesting and enlightening, I found the restoring/book-binding descriptions to be overly technical at times. Also, before reading this book, I was only vaguely familiar with the name Audubon. I also thought, mistakenly, that birding/bird-watching/ornithology were synonymous(<https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Birdw...>).

As the story progresses, characters are introduced or re-introduced, as the case may be. The backstory of returning characters and past events are interspersed smoothly so this book can serve as a standalone.

Overall, I enjoyed this book. I loved the writing style, humor, and even the puns. A couple times, I thought I had solved the mystery and fingered the culprit. I was wrong on both counts and loved that the ending was unpredictable, yet satisfying. I look forward to reading more in this and other series by Carlisle.

Tina at A COZY GIRL READS AND WRITES Blog says

Brooklyn Wainwright is a bookbinder specializing in rare book restorations. Her good friend, Ian is now the head curator and president of the Covington Library and Museum where there is to be a new exhibit of an Audubon book masterpiece "Birds of America" an exciting event that the national Bird Watchers Society are waiting for.

Jared Mulrooney, president of the National Bird Watchers Society spills wine over the valuable book about birds at the exhibit and asks Brooklyn to repair it. Jared is soon found murdered and between Helping friend Gen, take inventory of her bookshop, Taylor's Fine Books and Gen suspecting her cousin, Billy's dirty dealings with a book collector and her mother and father's stay at Brooklyn and fiancé, Derek's home and the murder of their house guest, Goose after someone broke in.

Brooklyn wonders if there is a connection between everything that has been happening and with the help of new found friend Inspector Lee whom she is also repairing a rare book for wants to stitch together the clues and find who could possibly kill over a book....again.

Books, dead bodies, suspect lists police investigations and an intriguing mystery and beautiful birds is what made Books of a Feather a great read. The Bibliophile Mysteries are my favorites and I am working on reading them all. Filled with suspenseful and complex villains and Brooklyn and her passion for books and

her job as a bookbinder is something I love about her. It's always a treat reading when Brooklyn is in her workshop repairing the books, it's a fascinating art that I love learning about with every new book.

FTC Disclosure Thank you to the publisher and/or author or Net Galley for providing us with a copy of this book for review. This did not influence our thoughts in any way. All the opinions of the book are our own

Andy says

I get that this is mind candy, but I just don't like this flavor. I found the style annoying, with redundant repartee along the lines of "We're where we were an hour ago. -Wow! We're right where we started." The people and plot are all preposterous but I couldn't tell if this was trying to be funny. For silly murder mysteries in San Francisco, I prefer the Monk books.

Lesya says

I'm not sure which is my favorite Bibliophile mystery, but it just might be *Books of a Feather* by Kate Carlisle. Maybe it was the combination of all the bird books and an Audubon exhibit, along with Brooklyn Wainwright's happiness. Whatever it is, I really enjoyed this book. (And, Dan Craig's cover is gorgeous.)

Brooklyn Wainwright is a bookbinder specializing in rare-book restoration, but she's also an artist who creates books, and an expert in the field. All of those traits come into play in the latest mystery that follows several storylines. She's helping her friend Genevieve Taylor of Taylor's Fine Books inventory the collection there. There have been recent thefts of rare items, and Genevieve worries that they might be tracked back to her cousin.

Brooklyn and her fiancée, Derek Stone, a security consultant with his own international company, have just moved back into their renovated apartment. It's there they entertain one of Derek's lifelong friends, Crane, a businessman from China. When Brooklyn and Derek invite him to attend an event at the Covington Library, the opening of an Audubon exhibit featuring Audubon's *Birds of America*, Crane tells them an unusual story of an ancestor, an artist, who worked for Audubon. It's at that event that Brooklyn receives two small books to restore. But, she also stumbles across the body of one of the people who gave her a book. Once again, Brooklyn and her books are at the center of a murder investigation.

In the midst of all this, Brooklyn's parents are the first guests in the newly expanded apartment. But, only her parents would bring home a guest from a Grateful Dead appreciation concert, a man they barely know. Although Derek and Brooklyn are always tolerant of her parents' kind gestures, this one seems a little unusual. And, it proves to be even more unusual in the light of day.

Kate Carlisle's books are always filled with unusual facts about books, history and book repair. But, it's the interesting characters that draw me back time and again. Is there anyone more delightful than Brooklyn's mother with her cleansing ceremonies? (At least she's delightful unless you're her daughter participating in them.) Brooklyn continues to stumble across dead bodies, but she's learned to accept it as her role in life. "Somehow I'd been chosen to speak for the dead. To find justice and closure for their families." And, the series is filled with handsome men and good-looking, independent women.

Books of a Feather, with its copies of unusual, rare books is another treat. In fact, despite the murders, Brooklyn Wainwright's world sort of reminds me of Lake Wobegon, "where all the women are strong, all the men are good-looking, and all the children are above average." It's a pleasant place to dwell in for a day or two. But, be forewarned. Carlisle leaves a hint of future trouble.

Annie (Under the Covers Book Blog) says

In the tenth book of the Bibliophile Mystery, San Francisco book-restoration expert Brooklyn Wainwright is in trouble a body is found in a library. But this isn't just any old library, it's the Covington Library which is currently exhibiting John James Audubon's Birds of America. It looks like Brooklyn has her hands full to find this killer.

Brooklyn is easily my favorite thing about this series. It's quite the easy-going person but at the same time, she holds so much passion for her work. You can definitely see it when she talks about the books. I also liked that Carlisle keeps the romance strong between her and fiancé, Derek. It makes a Romance reader like that appreciate it a whole lot.

I also like that you can learn a hell of a lot of things while reading these books. Not only is your mind trying to figure out who the killer is but there's also a lot of rich history here that I'm sure will interest a lot of people. So all around it's a really great book.

Even though this was my first book I've in this particular series by Kate Carlisle, I didn't have a problem of jumping in. I think that's what's so great about mystery series is that they standalone really well and it's not so difficult to catch up and figure out what's going on. And with a series this long-standing, I thought that was important to note. I will definitely keep reading this series as I'm sure it'll become a favorite very soon!

Laura says

It had potential. The descriptions of book repairs were nice.

Kevin says

[an art mystery at it's core. I just love Brooklyn, it was so good seeing her defend herself and kick the butt of the larcenous husband. I hate to see the heroine need to be saved in every book, and it was great that she and her parents are the people that wind up saving Derek this time. (hide spoiler)]

Mary says

The book mending/binding process is interesting; but, the characters are too sweet, too handsome, too beautiful and too perfect.

Aisling says

What a great read! I love it when I can learn something while I'm being entertained. I jumped in this series with this book (#10) but can assure everyone it is a standalone book. I quickly felt the characters come to life. Brooklyn Wainwright is a book restorer and book artist. Reading about her craft and the mysteries that trail her, as well as her love interest, friends and family, was like visiting San Francisco and having this novel come to life around you. The mystery was engaging. There was humor, thoughtful reflections, exciting drama. I think I have a new reverence for old books. Certainly for bookbinders. Looking forward to going back and reading all the other books in this series. I received a free copy from Goodreads wins and this is my honest review. Honest!

Cheryl says

Antiquarian Bookbinder, Brooklyn Wainwright, finds herself, once again, with a pile of dead bodies and rare books in need of her expertise. She, and fiancé Derek, along with Inspector Lee work to solve the murders before Brooklyn is added to the count.

I love this series for all the biblio knowledge shared and tips on book restoration I'll never use, but fun to know just the same.

It's template cozy and while I always enjoy them, I think they would be just as enjoyable were there other than murders to solve. Book theft? Forgery? Simply seeking a certain volume? Murders get tedious and lose their drama.

Still, it's nice to follow along as this series continues, evolving in many friendships, book restoration knowledge and, alas, ways to die.

Betty says

An exuberant and exciting visit with Brooklyn and Derek who have returned to their remodel home. The Coventon Library is holding an open house to open an exhibit on Audubon's BIRDS OF AMERICA. There Brooklyn is handed two special books BIRDS IN THE TREES and a POOR RICHARD ALMANAC for repair. That evening event began to go wrong with the death of the owner of one of the books. Several attempts are made to enter their new home. Brooklyn's Parents are there first visitors who offer a homeless man a night's shelter. The next morning he is found with a knife in the stomach. Derek increases the security, but still, attempts are made to enter the place occur. Who wants what books Brooklyn has is a mystery? An answer must be found before there are more deaths.

Disclosure: I received a free copy from Berkley Publishing Group through NetGalley for an honest review. I would like to thank them for this opportunity to read and review the book. The opinions are my own

Carolyn Thomas says

Very thin plot. The story was padded with lengthy descriptions of how Brooklyn, the protagonist, went about her job as a book restorer - which might be interesting in itself but had nothing to do with the "mystery" of the two murders.
