



## Slay in Character

*Lynn Cahoon*

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**Slay in Character** Lynn Cahoon

**Staying in character can be murder when Cat Latimer and the members of her writers' retreat head for a ghost town . . .**

Cat and the members of her writers' retreat have just arrived in Outlaw, Colorado, an "Old West" tourist town complete with inhabitants dressed up as famous figures from history. But this authentic slice of Americana takes a murderous turn when a college student masquerading as a 19th-century saloon girl becomes history herself.

Was she the intended target? Or did she take a hit meant for someone else? With a cast of suspects to choose from--including some notorious gunslingers and the sleazy town founders--Cat must unhorse the real culprit before a real-life ghost story is given a killer twist . . .

## Praise for Lynn Cahoon

**"Better get your flashlight handy, *A Story to Kill* will keep you reading all night."**

**--Laura Bradford, author of the Amish Mysteries**

**"Lynn Cahoon has created an absorbing, good fun mystery in *Mission to Murder*."**

**--Fresh Fiction**

## Slay in Character Details

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Author : Lynn Cahoon

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## **From Reader Review Slay in Character for online ebook**

### **Karen says**

I was so delighted to receive and advanced reading copy of Lynn Cahoon's book Slay In Character. This is a series I love, simply because the idea of this type of a writers retreat really appeals to me, the setting is so plausible and the characters are all so likeable. I love that something big is always happening and something fun is always being discussed during these writer retreats. I think Cat the main character is well written. Divorced, and left the marital home she shared with her ex husband, she converted the home into an amazing writing retreat. Cat , is no nonsense and hardworking, yet has a creative and caring side that you cannot help but love. At times I think she is really coming into her own, solving her own mystery, the mysteries surrounding the retreats and learning to live again. In Slay In Character I loved the mystery surrounding the student who was selected to attend the retreat. It was well laid out and I did not guess the killer correctly. This book at so many touching moments for me as well. I loved it. This book is out November 27th from Kensington.

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### **Carol says**

A fast paced, action packed Murder mystery in Outlaw Town, Colorado.

Cat Latimer is hosting a writer's retreat in Aspen Hills, Colorado. Cat has her crew which consists of Shauna, her boyfriend, Seth and Uncle Pete, the town law officer.

The writer's group consists of a group of five experienced romance writers from Connecticut and Jessi Ball. Jessie is a student at Covington College. She has earned the right to attend this session.

Cat takes the group on a tour to an old mining town in Outlaw, Colorado which sets the scene for a Western town in the 1800's. There is a saloon, an old time photo shop, a gift shop and gunfighter battles.

Jessie and some of the college students work in the town to earn extra money.

What a shock when Jessie's roommate dressed in Jessie's saloon girl costume is found strangled in their room! Was Jessie the real targeted???

Come along with Cat and the group as they decide to investigate the situation. The cast consists of cleverly, crafted, mischievous, well defined and interesting characters. Murder, robbery, run away cars, danger, intrigue and suspense add to this well written fast paced adventure.

The reader will feel as is they are with this

group due to the author descriptive flair.  
Come join the fun and read this story.  
This is book # 4 in the Cat Latimer Mysteries series.  
It can be read as a stand alone as the author mixes  
the past and present together effortlessly.  
I volunteered to read Slay in Character. Thanks to  
the Cozy Mystery Review Crew for the opportunity.  
My opinion is my own.

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### **Peggy R says**

This is one of my favorite Lynn Cahoon series. When I pick up a Cat Latimer mystery I know I am in for hours of enjoyment. Slay in Character if the 4th book in a series I hope is around for a long time. What I enjoy most is the theme. I think the writer's retreat gives Ms. Cahoon the ability to bring her readers a regular cast of characters with a rotating cast of secondary characters that can be different and diverse each time. Cat, Shauna, Seth and Uncle Pete all are at the center of another suspicious death that happens during one of Cat's writer's retreats. This time, it's a retreat for a group of romance authors who are actually a writer's group in their hometown. The guests this time were fun, mischievous and actually wanted to help Cat solve the murder of a young university student. There are plenty of twists and turns and as each new clues is uncovered I was not sure exactly who I thought was the killer or why. Toward the end of the book I started to get a strong suspicion which turned out to be correct, but it was not long before the reveal in the books so the fact that I was right for a change didn't take away from any of the enjoyment of the reveal.

This is a series that I return to over and over again because it is well written, with strong, developed characters that have real chemistry, the setting and the terrific mysteries.

I voluntarily read a digital ARC provided to me by the publisher, Kensington, through Netgalley.

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### **Patty says**

Slay in Character by Lynn Cahoon is the 4th book in the Cat Latimer Mystery series. Let me start by saying I am a big fan of the authors Tourist Trap Mysteries, and I love this series too. It also helps I was born and still live in beautiful Colorado. Cat Latimer is a successful author of a teen witch series who inherited a large Victorian home from her ex husband. Cat has opened a writers retreat in the home, and the group of guests take a trip to Outlaw, Colorado to tour the old west town. When one of the retreat members roommate is murdered in the town, Cat is determined to find the killer. What a great book, I was sucked in from page one. There are twists and turns around every corner. I found this book to be a quick read, with a well developed plot and characters. I am looking forward to reading the next book in the series. I strongly recommend this book, and the authors other series, to any one who enjoys a well written cozy mystery.

I received this book in exchange for a fair and honest review.

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### **Tari says**

I've read all the previous books in this series and knew this one wouldn't disappoint. I wanted to read it more non-stop than I was able, but maybe it helped me savor it more until the next book comes out. This one releases November 27. I volunteered to read an ARC paperback of the book. My opinions are my own, but I absolutely loved this book!

Cat's writer resort group was an already-established group of writer friends from CT who quickly embraced the Covington college student, Jessi, who was assigned to the session. Jessi worked at the local old West reality town of Outlaw. When her roommate was killed there, speculation was whether the hit was meant for Jessi, who had family ties and whose mother was friends with local mob family member Dante. Cat promised Dante she'd keep Jessi safe, and now she was worried if she would really be able to keep that promise as a couple more attempts were made on Jessi's life.

I had sort of guessed who did it, but I wasn't sure why. The showdown was the good, safe kind, and the killer was taken away. I really liked this group of writers. One of the ladies was like a mother hen to Jessie, whose own mom wasn't really part of her life very much. As a side story, Seth was working on a nice surprise--it definitely was awesome! You'll have to read it when it comes out to see what that was! There's also been a couple of other fun additions to the resort family, something else you'll have to read and see. As always, I'm already anxious for the next book! I wouldn't mind seeing Jessi as a recurring character like Dante is.

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### **JoAn says**

Slay In Character by Lynn Cahoon is book four in the Cat Latimer series and I was pulled in from the first chapter.

Another writer's retreat in Aspen Hills with a group of women writers who actually have a writing group in their home town. As much as I enjoy visiting Aspen Hills, Cat, Shauna, Seth and Uncle Pete, I really enjoyed meeting the women at the retreat. They were all supportive of each other and seemed to genuinely enjoy spending time together. Ms. Cahoon's descriptive writing is vivid and allowed me join the group as they not only went on outings but began to help investigate a murder. Poor Uncle Pete.

The plot moved quickly, there seemed to be more than just one mystery to be solved, and there were only a few suspects to consider. For once, I actually did figure it out before the reveal but was glad to read that my reasoning was spot on. I am eagerly awaiting the next book in this series.

I voluntarily reviewed an Advance Reader Copy of this book from Kensington. All of the above opinions are my own.

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### **Maggie says**

Slay In Character is the 4th book in Lynn Cahoon's Cat Latimer Mystery series. This is the first book I've read in the series and the first book by this author that I've read. Cat Latimer runs a writer's retreat workshop in small town Colorado. This workshop seems to be running smoothly when one of her guest's friends is murdered.

I liked the story line itself alright, and the characters were all likeable. However, I felt like this book picked

up in the middle of the previous book. I didn't really know the cast of characters or the town. They would bring up something that happened before, but you never find out what it was. A lot of the characters names were similar, without much description of them, making it difficult to follow along at first.

I know when reading a series, you don't want a lot of recap from previous books in the series, but I think you still need some or you can really confuse readers.

Like I said, I did like the story line, and I actually didn't figure out who the killer was ahead of time (which seemed pretty obvious after the fact, but I still missed it!).

I received this ARC for my honest review.

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### **Anne says**

I really enjoyed this cozy mystery - the premise of the series itself is definitely unique and contains a multitude of intriguing juxtapositions: a woman who inherits a home from her dead ex-husband and turns it into a writers' retreat in a quaint college town -- but where most people have secret mob connections!!). I was so excited to read this as I definitely know that truth is stranger than fiction and was interested to read how the author makes all of these threads come together in the series! I related immediately to the protagonist, Cat, as she is likeable and I easily understood her emotions and motivations. The mysteries that arc through this series are really fantastic cliffhangers - who are the good or bad guys?? As a reader, I am definitely hooked! This being said, as a reader coming in to the series without having read all of the prior books, I was a bit lost or confused as to who all the characters were and their relationships. Several characters were introduced but not explained and there was no information to explain their relationships. I think this series is fascinating, but the books should probably be read in order to get the most out of it!

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### **Amanda says**

This was a gripping tale from start to finish! Author Cat runs a writers' retreat from her Colorado college town home along with her boyfriend Seth and her BFF Shauna. This retreat's guests include a local college student and a writers' group from Connecticut, a mix that seem to all get along and support one another well but also know how to make some time to relax on their working vacation. When someone connected to the group is found dead, some of the ladies find themselves drawn to investigating. This was a fun group of guests to read about and the mystery was a little tricky! Though I suspected the culprit, I kept second-guessing myself until the very end. Aside from the mystery, we get to hear a little more about Shauna and her troubles. There was a great new setting in this book, an Old West town nearby, where some of the book's scenes are set. *Slay in Character* is a great entry in this series, though I feel it stands alone quite well for those who haven't read any others in the Cat Latimer series. If you read this one first, you may find yourself wanting to back and start at the beginning! I'm hoping this series will be around for quite awhile!

I received an advance copy of this book. This review contains my own honest thoughts and opinions.

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### **Betty says**

The 5 writers from the current Writers Retreat along with Jessica Ball who is the current student from the college are gathered in Outlaw, Colorado, a ghost town that will give them an experience of a Western town in the 1800's. The writers are all penned romance and are from the same town. One of the actors, Jessi's roommate is found strangled to death in the saloon.

Later the group went to check out the area where the body was found. Cat finds it necessary to drive back to Outlaw as the writers need a ride back to the town. As the investigation deepens it seems that Jessi's roommate was not a friend of hers. She was wearing Jessi's clothes and working her shift at the town when she was murdered. Was Jessi the intended victim?

I HIGHLY RECOMMEND THIS BOOK AND SERIES.

Recipe for blueberry coffees cake is included.

Many thanks to NetGalley and Kensington for a review copy. The opinions expressed are my own.

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### **LadyJBookishNook says**

Thanks so much to author Lynn Cahoon and The Cozy Mystery Review Crew for providing me with a copy of this book to review.

I loved the cover art for the book. This was my first read by Lynn Cahoon and this particular book is number four in the Cat Latimer Mystery series. I was able to read this as a stand alone but there were things from some of the characters past that were mentioned and were probably explained in previous books. It wasn't necessary to know the information but it did make me want to go back and read the series from the beginning.

The story begins with Cat Latimer holding a writers retreat in the Old West town of Outlaw, Colorado. The writers group takes part in different workshops and they get to do research around the town to possibly help them with future novels. A friend and roommate of one of the participants is found murdered in the Old West town but was she really the intended target?

The characters in the story were likeable. Cat and the participants of the retreat work at solving the mystery. The author does a wonderful job describing the setting. It makes me want to go for a visit. This cozy mystery had plenty of twists and turns to keep the reader interested. I would recommend this book to cozy mystery lovers who enjoy a well-written story line with descriptive setting and a great who-dun-it. \*\*\*\* 4 stars \*\*\*

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### **James says**

Release Day! I've wanted to read a novel by Lynn Cahoon for years, but it never crept high enough in my TBR-- no clue why, perhaps I was just overwhelmed with options in the cozy world. Then I was given an opportunity to read and review her latest book, *Slay in Character*, in the Cat Latimer mystery series. Yikes, why did I wait so long! 4.25 stars to this fantastic story. To start with, the premise of the series is about a writer who runs a writing group where various authors visit and conduct workshops. It's a great concept as different characters can easily come and go without feeling too overwhelming. But there's also a bevy of recurring ones who appear in all the books which keeps the series grounded in its sub-genre. I like the

balance and opportunity for future plots.

In this caper, one of the girls in the writing retreat is being stalked. Her friend and roommate is murdered in a similar way a few girls have been in the past ~10 years at an Old West town that's mostly for tourists. Are they connected, is someone playing games, or is it just a coincidence? As the plot unravels, we learn more about the other writers, the girls at the college who knew the victim, and the townspeople who keep the Old West image running. Something seems quite unusual, but it isn't clear until the end. Along the path, we meet the girl who was supposed to die! :O And that throws a monkey wrench into all the suspicions and investigations.

Cat and her crew are likable. At first, I was a little thrown off because it's the type of series where it's much better to read in order. Some don't require you to, but I feel like this one is a lot stronger if you do read in order. Once I got past that aspect (my fault, not the writer's), I had a few other small items that made it hard for me to connect with some of Cat's friends, but it didn't distract from the story. I have a feeling the other books might easily earn 5-star ratings from me, but this one as my first intro wasn't totally there yet. Overall, the plot was strong, the setting was very elaborate and interesting, and the characters had lots of personality in a positive way.

I look forward to reading more from the author, and I plan to read this series from the beginning and order the first in one of her other series at the end of the year. Oh yeah, she might also win the poll on my blog's upcoming November readathon for cozy mysteries. Come check it out and maybe we'll be reading a Cahoon series together!

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### **Kim says**

Cat Latimer is hosting another writers' retreat this time with a group of historical romance writers from the same writers' group. This group quickly adopts the local college student attending the retreat into their group so the getting to know one another part of the retreat is not necessary. Cat thinks that because of this group already is so close to one another that she might have a peaceful retreat for once. Quickly she is proven wrong when the college student learns someone close to her has been killed. The whole group of writers jumps into their own investigation.

I love this book, I think it's the best in the series so far. There is a very strong plot with great pace and several red herrings to throw you off solving whodunit right away. The characters both primary and secondary are full of personality. I really enjoyed Cat being on the other side of the investigations this time. It was kind of funny seeing Cat having to go get her guest because they were nosing in on a police investigation this time instead of it being Cat nosing into things. The ghost town setting of Outlaw is a wonderful addition to the already cozy setting of Aspen Hills. In addition to the wonderful mystery and humor, this book made me a little emotional near the end of the book with Seth's surprise (I will not say any more so I will not give away any spoilers.) Bonus if you like to cook there is a great recipe for Easy Blueberry Coffee Cake.

I recommend this book to fans of the series, Author Lynn Cahoon, and all cozy mystery lovers. I was given an ARC of this book in hopes I would give a review. All thoughts and opinions are my own and have not been influenced in any way.

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## LORI CASWELL says

### Dollycas's Thoughts

Who knew a little trip to a ghost town would lead to murder? The latest group of writers have arrived for their week-long retreat and a day out to Outlaw, Colorado, a tourist attraction dedicated to the Old West is the destination for a day trip. One of the writers, Jessi, a college student, works there along with her roommate for extra cash.

The next day the roommate is missing. She is later found dead in one of the rooms at the ghost town saloon. She went missing while working one of Jessi's shifts – so was the killer after Jessi? or her friend? Cat tries to stay out of the investigation but her guests have other ideas and lie to her about where they are going. Twice she gets them out of hot water with police. She soon finds herself trying to solve the case to help Jessi, but also to keep her guests out of trouble. What she uncovers changes the course of the investigation and reveals a shady side of certain individuals.

Cat actually had a few months go well, no murders or police investigations, so this book takes place in the following summer after the last book. Shauna is still getting over Kevin's death but is doing better, Cat and Seth's relationship is moving along nicely. Uncle Pete and Shirley are handling a long distance relationship. Dante is still popping up unexpectedly. The writers for this retreat all belong to the same writing group and are historical romance writers with the exception of college student Jessi, but they quickly pull her into the group. If it wasn't for that doggone murder things would be great.

One of the things I like about this series is that for each story we add a new group of characters to the core cast we have come to know so well over these four books. Ms. Cahoon does an excellent job at introducing this new group with great detail so readers can quickly grasp who they are, how they fit together, their similarities and differences. The character development of both the old characters and new is stellar. I appreciate the dialogues too, whether a quick quip or a full conversation. I also loved the writing drills, a little behind the scenes look at how writers get the word count in every day.

The mystery plot line was full of twists and I found it to be very interesting the way old cases that were similar were brought to light. Having Cat stay out of the investigation at first was a fun twist. Seeing her tell her guests how dangerous it is to get involved in police matters almost made me laugh out loud. This group of retreaters was absolutely delightful. I loved the way the wanted to snoop to help their new friend.

A subplot throughout the story was a project Seth was working on. A secret project. Almost every day he went out the back door and through the woods to the back of the property. He asked Cat and Shauna to not venture back there until he was finished. Both women were curious and had their own ideas what he was doing out there but stayed away until the big reveal. What a reveal it was, special, moving, heartwarming and perfect. I will not give any more details, it is a surprise you need to read about all on your own. Seth truly is a great friend and boyfriend.

Until this story, I would have said each of the books in this series could be read as stand-alone, but I believe I enjoyed this one so much because I had read the others first and got to experience the characters growth in quick succession. The things they dealt with, the way they handled the previous murders, the relationships that grew stronger. Because I was behind on this series I read the last three books in this series almost back-to-

back. I remembered little details without having to tax my memory. The character's progression was vivid in my mind. It is not often I am able to do that with a series. I am usually a stickler about reading series in order so I was so happy I could catch up before jumping into this book. That being said don't be afraid to grab this book and start reading. You can always go back and catch up too, just like I did, and be ready for Sconed to Death coming in May 2019. ?

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### **Kim says**

I received an ARC to read and give an unbiased review.

While I really liked this book, I felt a little lost at times because I hadn't read the some of the previous books in the series.

The characters are likeable, and interact well together. The locations are nicely described, and the plot was well thought-out. A few twists, but no big surprise ending, at least for me. I figured out whodunnit and why, and even Seth's surprise project for Cat & Shauna.

Overall--I liked the book, it was a nice, quick cozy mystery.

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