



Last Chance for Murder

Estelle Richards

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One last chance to get things right.

Too old for Hollywood at age 29, Lisa Chance leaves her failed acting career and a cheating boyfriend in LA and goes home to Moss Creek, Arizona.

The Folly, a stately 1870s mansion in the middle of her hometown, has always drawn Lisa like a magnet. She thought she was done with that place, but now she has the chance to turn it into the coffee shop of her dreams.

But when a dead body turns up on the property, she's the prime suspect in the murder. Can Lisa figure out whodunit, or will she lose her last chance at happiness?

Last Chance for Murder Details

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From Reader Review Last Chance for Murder for online ebook

Kirsti says

Although I did enjoy this one, I felt like it was a little simple. Most of the situations seemed a little odd, and the explanations for them were off. There were some good things, but essentially Lisa kind of fumbles around and hits an extraordinary lucky break to clear her name and get what she wants. Like, how did they not think of them earlier?

But there is a cat, and simple Mo is pretty cute. It IS different from other cozies. I'll have to see where this goes, but it's a promising start that might grow better. Three stars.

Donna says

This is my first book to read by this writer and I loved it. Kept your interest from page one. I love Estelle's writing style. Lisa Chance leaves Hollywood behind and an ex and heads home to Moss Creek, Arizona to decide what she wants to do. The Folly mansion is available so she decides to buy it and open up a coffee shop but between being swindled and finding a dead body things aren't going the way she had hoped they would. And on top of all that she is their number one suspect. The book is full of different characters with different stories but it all blends together so well but the murder is still top priority with the writer. Can't wait until the next book comes out in January (can't believe I have to wait that long). With the weather getting colder this is the perfect book to curl up in front of a fireplace with a cup of tea. Happy reading!!

Barbara says

This is a very cool cozy mystery. You might guess who the perp is right off the bat. But maybe not. There are a few good clues for a person who reads a lot of cozy mysteries. What I did like about the ending was that the book didn't end when you found out who did the killing. The author finished the story without leaving you wondering what happened to Lisa. I look forward to reading the next book in this series.

Teri Miller says

I have recently begun reading cozies, and this one is a winner!

With our current trying situation here in America I just don't have the stomach for grittier (or dystopian) reads. This book was perfectly keyed for my need for interesting characters, a good plot, kittens, and a fast paced story. I have already purchased the second book in this series.

Nancy Haddock says

Love finding great mysteries

Last Chance for Murder is my first Estelle Richard book and it will not be the last ! Excellent read!

Lynda says

Secondary

This is the first book in a series, and I have to say it seemed that the murder mystery took second place to setting up the setting and characters for the following books. Still it was a good mystery.

Eirlys says

A Cute Cosy Read

I liked Lisa and her family, especially how different it is. I loved the cat and her kittens who were enchanting. Lisa returns home after spending years trying to make it as a film actress. This was after finding her boyfriend in bed with another woman. Lisa has sworn off men and wants to open a coffee shop. Murder rears its ugly head and Lisa is plunged into trouble. I'm looking forward to following Lisa's further adventures.

Carol says

Lisa and Dylan left Moss Creek with stars in their eyes, hoping to become celebrities in show business, but like many who dream the dream, reality strikes and Lisa spent most of her time working as a barista in a coffee shop, sometimes serving up coffee for the famous crowd that she hopes to join. That was until she caught her boyfriend Dylan cheating on her. Returning to Moss Creek to nurse a broken heart and to try to start anew, Lisa decided that the one thing she enjoyed and was good at was making coffee and Moss Creek could certainly do with a decent coffee shop.

Putting all her money together with her aunt, Olivia, Lisa puts in an offer to buy The Folly, a large empty house in the middle of town, which she hoped to change into her cafe. It all seemed wonderful until the man who sold it to her turns up dead, right in the drive.

A good start to a new series. This mystery had a good plot and enough red herrings to keep me guessing as to who dunnit. I enjoyed Lisa and her parents as well as the friends who were there to help her. There were also several laugh out loud moments and some cringe worthy ones when her Mum tries to set her up with nice young men.

Kater Cheek says

I haven't read cozy mysteries for a while, but this one is set in my home state of Arizona, so I thought it was

worth checking out. It's about a woman who is in love with a very old house. Okay, so that's maybe not how most people would describe the story, but that's the part that resonated with me.

Lisa Chance has just been betrayed by her long-term boyfriend and her agent, a betrayal that precipitated Lisa's quitting the acting business and L.A. to return to her parents in the town she grew up in. Richards captures the small town vibe very well (I'm guessing, not having lived in a small town myself) where everyone seems to know everyone else's business and keeping up appearances is a very important matter.

Like most cozy mysteries, this one leans heavily on the setting and the secondary characters. Lisa isn't just another pretty face. She's dealing with the repercussions of betrayal and trying to embark on a new dream. She's also trying to come to terms with the fact that her parents aren't the happy couple she wanted them to be. Everyone in this story has a life outside their scene. Even the barn cat has a couple of secrets. There's also a romance aspect to it, not just with Lisa, but with other people in town as well. Like most cozy mysteries, the murders are presented merely as an interesting puzzle, and Richards doesn't dwell on the actual deaths. In fact, one of the dead men's cause of death wasn't even really mentioned, I don't think. Don't expect a detailed paragraph on exactly what the crushed skull looked like. This isn't that sort of murder mystery. If Agatha Christie is as cozy as a tweed coat, this is as cozy as a full-body microfiber snuggie. The author spends more time describing pastries and coffee than she does on the cause of death. It's a good book for those who are allergic to ick.

While it was a charming book, I'm not giving it a full five stars because it didn't go as deeply as I would have liked. If it were maybe 20% longer we would have had more time to develop a relationship between Lisa and Mo, and the cat's secret past could have been hinted at earlier so it didn't seem so random. Some of the plot points happened quickly and were told by the characters instead of being revealed gradually, which makes it easy to read and easy to understand, but not as satisfying. Also, while endemic to this sub-genre, the conceit of "I have to find out who the real murderer is to clear my name" bugs me, since I've read too many real-life police cases to have any confidence that such an undertaking would turn out so well for the would-be investigator. I also prefer a bit more gritty realism. But I suppose if my major complaints are that this was too light-hearted and fast-paced, that will tell you if this book is your cup of tea or not.

Nadine says

An intriguing mystery

Lisa's life is in shambles. Her career, her relationship... and now she finds herself back in her home town with her hard-to-please mother. Just when things seem to take shape, Lisa finds a dead body. And Lisa is the main suspect! It was a good mystery. An intriguing case. And a little bit of romance! Pleasant to read. Some quirky bits of humor in there. I loved it! Only thing:

minor spoiler alert

why the lawyer? I can think of a reason, but it's nice to have that in the book instead of just in my head. And I would love the recipe for the Good Morning Muffins!

Jet says

Last Chance For Murder is well-written with few grammatical errors to distract one from the story. Lisa is very immature for being 29 years old and having lived and worked in the Hollywood scene, but that's just the way she is, and we have to take her as she is. After leaving Hollywood, Lisa returns to her home town, only to discover a murder and then have to solve the crime in order to clear her name as a suspect. There were a few quirks in the story that made me ask myself, "Wait... what happened here?" However, overlooking the quirks, I enjoyed this book and would recommend this to all as a comfortable cozy mystery.

Lynn says

Truly Cozy!!

I really liked this book. I always try to read a book that looks like it might have a cat in it and this one didn't disappoint. This was my first book by this author but I know it won't be my last. I enjoyed all the characters and am hoping this is a series that continues for a while.

Jackie says

Excellent story. At 29 yrs old Lisa is too old for Hollywood, so she leaves a cheating ex boyfriend and moves back home. Fast paced, entertaining.

BarbaraH says

Very Good Cozy Mystery. Back home after breaking up with her long time boyfriend it's time to decide what to do next. A big old house leads to ideas of a coffee shop. many things stand in her way not the least is a dead body.

Mary Pummill says

Last Chance for Murder(Lisa Chance Cozy Mysteries Book 1)

Cute mystery with a touch of everything in it. You get involved in Lisa's life and hope everything works out for her and her business. You can see the personal problems she has trying to please everyone and still try to get her business off the ground while trying to prove she didn't kill the conman who took her money. Nice story
