



## Snake in the Glass

*Sarah Atwell*

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When a nervous stranger appears at Emmeline Dowell's glassblowing studio begging to use her kiln for an experimental gem treatment, Em finds it a little odd, though nothing to be alarmed about. After all, the annual Gem Show is in town, and everyone in Tucson seems obsessed by it. Besides, Em's too worried about her missing brother Cameron to pay much attention, until a dead body found in the desert turns out to be linked to the stranger -- and to Cam.

## **Snake in the Glass Details**

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## From Reader Review Snake in the Glass for online ebook

### Michelle Randall says

Book three in the Glassblowing Mystery series is as well-written and interesting as the previous books, and I enjoyed the cast of characters that are central to the storyline.

Em, is flying home from Ireland. She and Allison had went on a short vacation to reconnect with Allison's family and to heal some of her old wounds, but much to the dismay of Em and the rest of the cast, Allison has decided to stay on a little longer, which sends Cam, Em's brother and boyfriend to Allison, off in a sulk.

Uncle Frank shows up to visit, which is a great addition to the book. He is a character within a character and love having him in the story. It's not all fun and games, he is here for a little work, being a diamond broker from Australia, he is in Tucson for the annual Gem show. Of course, there is a little something-something going on with Frank and Nessa, but it seems to work.

A strange looking professor shows up at Em's back door wanting to rent her furnace to try out some gem heating techniques he's read about. And that is where things get strange!

Allison comes back, having made her peace with Ireland and her mother's death years before, only to find no one has heard from Cam. So being the good sister, Em talks to her boyfriend, the sheriff Matt, and one thing leads to another, between Cam being missing and the strange professor, Denis, Em and Frank and knee-deep in a mystery that somehow leads them to a dead body in the desert! All in the line of duty for a glass-blowing sleuth!

This story was well-written, kept me entertained and guess at the killer until the very end. I loved learning more about the characters, and I really love the glassblowing information and tidbits. Also in this, there were added gem tidbits, that were fun and interesting.

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### Kimberly says

This is book 3 in the Glassblowing Cozy Mysteries. I liked them all.. What I liked most was that they take place in Arizona.

The author did a great job instilling what the main character, Em's glassblowing shop looks like and I would totally love to visit it even though it isn't real. Em lives in the upper portion of the shop and the downstairs houses her equipment for making glass items and where her classes are held. There is also a portion there where she sells her glass work, and so people come and go like in any store to purchase or just to look at her beautifully made glass items.

I enjoyed hearing about the glass making process, the equipment used and in the end feel totally enlightened on the whole matter. The mysteries were fairly good, but weak. I wasn't all that impressed with these books but I did appreciate them.

I did learn a lot in each book about different things, gems like Periodot, which are talked about in book 3. I had no idea the history and the true bits of info the author provided to us about the stone. By the end of this

book I wanted to rush out and buy some Periodot.

Before each chapter the author always listed an interesting fact about whatever the book is about, so in this one, each fact was about Peridot.

Book 3 is a little long, has more pages than it needed, and when a situation occurred it was explained to a variety of characters at separate intervals, leaving you saying, "Ok, I already know and have heard about this, "Lets move on please..." Not much is spoken on the Arizona landscape either, so dont expect to hear too much about that.

All of the books in this series so far are just 3 star reads to me. Nothing to get into a dither about and nothing to go rush and buy. They would be a good read for someone who is interested in glassmaking/blowing.

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### **Laurie says**

Fun, not complicated read. Loved the glass blowing information.

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### **Linda says**

I really enjoy these mysteries featuring a Tucson, Arizone glassblower who manages to get herself embroiled in a murder. This time it has to do with gems, specially peridot, and the Tucson Gem Show. With the help of her boyfriend,(who happens to be the police chief), and assorted friends and family, Em tracks down a killer and unravels a gem of a mystery.

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### **Carol says**

Or maybe one and a half stars. There are some things I like about this Glassblowing Mystery series - the characters, the sensible approach to solving the mystery, the glassblowing information. But I became very bored in the middle of this book and skipped ahead to read just the last few chapters. Then I decided I didn't need to go back and read the parts I skipped. I'm on the fence on whether I'll read the next book in the series, might give it the benefit of the doubt, but this one was not a good installment for me.

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### **Jeannie and Louis Rigod says**

I'm really at lost as to whether I like this series more than the "Orchard Series" by Sheila Connolly. I think I like them both equally. Very clever writing. I look forward to more episodes.

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### **Kathryn says**

Even though this is the third book in the series, and having not yet read the first two, I never felt like I was

missing anything. The story focuses around the semi-precious gemstone peridot. At the beginning of each chapter there is a tidbit of information about peridot which I found very interesting. I had a problem with only one plot point which I will not go into, for fear of spoiling the mystery. All in all a good little cozy mystery.

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### **Lynne says**

Another fun book by this author. This time you learn about gemstones--peridot to be exact.

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### **Linda says**

I really enjoyed this entry in the series. It was fun learning about peridot (my birth stone) which is what all the mystery centered around. I was right there with Em the whole time and didn't figure things out until she did. There were a couple of editing errors but overall a good story that was a lot of fun.

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### **Patty says**

Em comes home from a vacation in Ireland with some bad news for her brother Cam, Alison has decided to stay there instead of come home with Em.

Cam takes this very hard and takes off to be by himself for a while. Meanwhile, Em is trying to get back into her glassblowing business, her relationship with Matt and generally normal life.

When a strange man stops in and asks if he can rent some time with Em's glass furnaces life turns very strange. After about a week of being gone both Alison (who came back a couple of days later) and Em start worrying about Cam while Em is more and more concerned about Denis her odd renter.

There is a lot going on in this story with a dead body, gems that are so important to Denis and the disappearance of Cam. Not to mention the two relationships, Em and Matt and Cam and Alison.

I didn't figure this one out until Atwell wanted me to, so it was a fun read.

Not as much glass lore in this one, but plenty of information about Peridot gems, apparently found all over the world but in the U.S. the largest deposit is in Arizona, on the reservation and controlled by the Apache Tribe.

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### **Karen Calhoun says**

entertaining cozy.

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### **Christa says**

This is another series, where the main character, a woman, has some other profession, but solves crimes anyway. You also learn a little about glass blowing techniques and lingo.

Some added suspense to this book is her missing brother.

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### **Michelle says**

This is the third book in the Glassblowing series. Em has returned from Ireland without Allison, and has to tell her brother, who is moving to Tucson to be with his girlfriend, that she does not know when she will be coming back. Cam leaves in a huff to do a contract project prior to the start of his new job. In the meantime, a professor asks to use some of Em's equipment to try to heat treat peridot stones to change their color. When Cam disappears and a body is found in the desert with stones in his pocket, Em begins to investigate with the help of Allison's uncle and her boyfriend, the chief of police. The Gem Show, an Indian reservation with a peridot reserve, and a little bit of glassblowing all play a role in the mystery. Each chapter provides a tidbit on gems. This was a nice conclusion to the series.

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### **Vicky says**

This was a much better read than the previous two attempts. I enjoyed this novel,

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### **Jane Night says**

The characters in the book are interesting and the mystery was pretty good. I liked the interesting facts about peridot at the beginning of every chapter. I also was intrigued by Emmeline's job. She is a glassblower which was something I knew next to nothing about before I picked up this book.

The above points were the main reason I finished the book. I thought that the story was excessively long and that the pacing was much too slow. It felt like it took FOREVER for the story to actually start and there were times I thought about chucking the book instead of waiting. Once it did start, it was pretty good.

A few of my small pet peeves about the writing:

1) Character constantly came together to summarize the clues that they had found so far and I thought that really slowed down the story and didn't give the reader enough credit. I read lots of mysteries. I don't need a constant reminder of the clues thus far.

2) There was an overuse of "Em" the main character's nickname. It felt forced and tedious at times when characters kept unnecessarily using her name in dialogue.

Overall a so so book. I can't say I would recommend it but it wasn't a wasted read either.

