



LIVIA J. WASHBURN

Killer on a Hot Tin Roof

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In 'Frankly My Dear, I'm Dead' and 'Huckleberry Finished', Livia J. Washburn introduced indomitable Southern sleuth Delilah Dickinson. In 'Killer on a Hot Tin Roof', Delilah's literary mystery tour is underway again, and this time Tennessee Williams is the subject - but murder will steal the spotlight.

Killer on a Hot Tin Roof Details

Date : Published December 1st 2010 by Kensington

ISBN : 9780758225702

Author : Livia J. Washburn

Format : Hardcover 304 pages

Genre : Mystery, Cozy Mystery, Fiction

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From Reader Review Killer on a Hot Tin Roof for online ebook

Susan says

Delilah Dickinson is a travel agent who specializes in literary tours, mostly related to authors of the South. In this one, she is leading a tour of literature professors to the Tennessee Williams Literary Festival in New Orleans. Delilah is a little implausible as an investigator, but the setting and the tour group dynamics as well as the academic politics keep the story lively. I liked the appendix, which talks about some of the places that Delilah visits in New Orleans. I'll probably end up retracing some of her steps.

Jeannie and Louis Rigod says

Delilah Dickenson finds herself with a rowdy bunch of tourists that are Professors etc. The festival they are going to, Tennessee Williams in New Orleans, LA.

Delilah finds out that there is enmity amongst the group when one Dr. Frazier brings 'his discovery' along. An old wizened man in his 80's that instantly proclaims he was a lover of the esteemed playwright.

Problems commence from the announcement, couples hating each other, marriages going astray, and more. Delilah tries to distance herself from the unpleasantness.

When, Delilah is summoned to find Papa Larry, a play director, fond of the drink, she and June find a dead body as well. A member of the group is arrested and it is up to Delilah to solve yet another murder.

The tone of this book was far more somber than the others prior. Perhaps, it is because of Tennessee Williams, or just the unhappiness that most of the group exhibits, whatever the cause, I missed the humor.

Still it was a solid mystery and easy to read. A true cozy.

Nancy Bennett says

3.5 I didn't "really like it" but I liked it more than a 3 star.

This is a cozy mystery, #3 in the Delilah Dickinson series, and it delivers exactly what you expect. It was enjoyable, not too long, and not too messy. I read the first two books in the series and for me, those were better. I wouldn't say the endings were totally shocking, but there were some nice twists near the end that you didn't expect and revealed a killer you didn't think. This one, however, you could pretty much guess as to who the killer was. Not the "why", but definitely the "who".

I already ordered #4 in the series for my Kindle, but I hope the author adds more surprises like in the first two. However, I definitely can't complain about reading "Killer on a Hot Tin Roof" and did enjoy it.

Ana says

I loved the details about New Orleans and the hotel, and the plot line about who really wrote "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" was very interesting, but I knew the killer from the beginning and there was a (small spoiler!) TSTL moment. I've enjoyed the others in the series and I like the author's other series, so I'll keep reading her books, but this was not one of her best efforts.

Pat says

Saw this title after I read an old autobiography of Tennessee Williams so it seemed like a natural fit. Wrong!! Simplistic, predictable and uninteresting! Fortunately, it was short so I read it in one day, but I detest even one day of wasted reading! Reading a much better pick now - The Hypnotist!

Grey853 says

Delilah has a travel agency that specializes in literary tours. In this one, she's taking a group of professors who specialize in Tennessee Williams to New Orleans to a conference. The biggest jerk in the world has an old man with him who claims to have been Williams's lover. Later we find out that he also claims to have written STREET CAR NAMED DESIRE.

Guess the rest.

Oh, yeah, the old man gets killed.

The killer is an equally easy guess.

If you like a cozy where there's little or no mystery, this is for you. If you like more suspense, try another.

I did like Delilah, I just wish the mystery had been more of a challenge.

Angela says

In Killer On A Hot Tin Roof a travel agent, Delilah Dickinson, has put together a group of professors and takes them to New Orleans to the Tennessee Williams Literary Festival to do their presentations. All Delilah wants is for this trip to be a success and go off without any major drama or incidence. Well, Delilah doesn't exactly get her wish for a drama-free trip. One of the professors, Michael, has brought something with him for his presentation on Cat on a Hot Tin Roof that will blow the audience away...and ruin a fellow professor's career at the University. Michael has found a man that says he was the original author of the famous play and that Tennessee Williams took it from him to "improve" on, but never gave it back and then never put his name on it with Tennessee's. All of Michael's presentation and career future depends on this older gentleman and proof that he wrote the play and not Tennessee. They saying of "never put all your eggs in one basket" came to mind when I figured this part out. You are only asking for trouble if you place your career and reputation in one elderly man's word. Especially when that man could also ruin another professor

if he is right or telling the truth. If you ask me that is perfect ingredients for trouble, hard feelings, doubts, worries, and possibly even murder.

How did I feel about this book? Eh, it was ok. It kept my attention throughout the book and had a humdinger of an ending I will give it that. However, this was a third book in a series, which I did not realize when I picked it up to read. I was still able to follow the plot of this book, but there were times that I could tell the author was trying to build on some relationship or event from her previous two books that made me wonder what it was that I missed. There was a lot of reference to the other two books events too. Like I said, I was able to make it through this book just fine and the plot wasn't really affected, but I could tell I may have gotten a better sense of the characters had I read the first two books (at least that is how it seemed). The characters were fun and easy to identify with in this book and fun.

I did feel though like it took a long time to get to the peek of the plotline. I understood why, because you had to get some background and build suspense, but I think when you get to over half the book read and the murder still hasn't happened, it makes the reader wonder about the book (seeing this is the main reason you may have picked up the book). Then I felt a bit deceived by the book description. When I read it, it made me think this travel guide is an amateur sleuth, which she kind of was, but she didn't really do a lot of investigating on her own like I picture an amateur sleuth to do. She basically just listened to what the detectives asked her and made her own decisions and seemed to just trip onto a possible solution. I think if I had read the other two books I may have felt differently about the book as a whole.

Carrie Donohue says

I feel like I'm missing some interactions here. The detective is way more surly and irritated with Delilah than their interactions thus far warrant. Also, I'm a redhead and no one ever calls me Red or blames my temper on my hair, (at least not aloud) but this is the 3rd book and she gripes about it everytime... and it happens often. It's a fast read, always something going on. I give it 4 stars but hope this hair color thing calms down cause it's annoying.

Judy Iliff says

Killer on a Hot Tin Roof is the third in Washburn's Literary Tour Agency series. Perhaps it help to be an English teacher to thoroughly enjoy these books, but I don't think so. Each book in the series has become more enjoyable. Every book in the series has interesting plot lines, well-developed characters, and fun, little known information about an author, in this case Tennessee Williams.

Delilah Dickinson, owner of the Literary Tour Agency, takes a group of college English professors to New Orleans to attend the annual Tennessee Williams Literary Festival. She looks forward to a peaceful trip because, after all, how much trouble can English teachers be? Quite a bit, as it turns out, especially when one of the professors brings along an elderly man, Howard Burleson, who claims to have been intimate with Williams and who claims to have actually written *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*. Needless to say, this causes all kinds of consternation among the professors. When Burleson turns up dead, Delilah knows she needs to find out who killed him before her business is ruined forever and before the wrong person is found guilty of the murder.

Be forewarned - if you read this on a Kindle, one every couple of pages two words are written as one. I'm finding more and more that there are many editorial/proofing errors in the Kindle editions of books. You can usually tell exactly when the proofreader quite doing his/her job.

The other thing that bothered me was when Washburn had an English professor make a statement using the nominative case "who" and ending the phrase with a preposition rather than using the objective case "whom". It wouldn't be so bothersome, perhaps, if I weren't an English teacher (retired!) or if another character outside the profession had used "who". No self-respecting college English professor would use the wrong case!

Kara Thorpe says

I liked Delilah in the beginning, but had a difficult time remaining "in the voice." At times it pulled me out of the story and I had to struggle to get back in. Perhaps the narrative style just isn't for me.

The entire literary tour idea is still wonderful and leads to a great, diverse cast of minor characters. At times they and their petty squabbles were the most enjoyable parts of the book. The book really hooked me at the end of the first chapter, but it the slow pace soon lost me.

It seemed like it took a long time to build up to the mystery and the details, while nice, detracted from the overall plot. I did not need to know about the floor and the countertops. They were good, descriptive touches, but I felt more time could have been spent on the mystery portion of the story.

As for the mystery portion: it was quite predictable. Now, I like cozy mysteries because I don't have to think too hard about figuring out "whodunit" but this one was a little too predictable.

I did find this book to be a quick, light read. If you're looking for a fast mystery with a distinctly Southern voice, then I recommend this book (and the rest of the series).

Disclosure: I received this book through GoodReads First Reads.

Patricia says

Delilah Dickinson owns a travel agency in Atlanta. Her agency specializes in literary tours. *Killer On a Hot Tin Roof* begins at the airport in Atlanta. The professors signed up to go on the tour are tending to act more unruly students than adults. The tour is headed for New Orleans and for the annual Tennessee Williams Literary Festival. Delilah is glad to have Dr. Will Burke along as a member of the group. Will is a professor and Delilah's current romantic interest.

Delilah breathes a sigh of relief when she finally gets the group to New Orleans and settled into the St.

Emilon Hotel located in the French Quarter. However, for Delilah the trouble was just beginning. Dr. Michael Frasier, one of the professors, has brought Howard Burleson as his guest. Burleson is an elderly man who shocks everyone when he announced that he and Tennessee Williams were lovers. Burleson also claims that he actually wrote *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, not Tennessee Williams.

Each member of the tour group has his or her opinion as to whether Burleson is telling the truth. Frasier is upset that Burleson has let the cat out of the bag regarding his past but when Burleson is found murdered, things get even more complicated. Frasier accuses Dr. Tamara Paige of murder and the police buy into Frasier's theory.

The entire literary tour consisted of interesting characters, each with their own unique story. When Delilah finally gets her fill of lust, greed, murder and emotional turmoil, the highlights of the literary tour, she makes up her mind to find the murderer and get the remainder of the group back to Atlanta.

Livia J. Washburn has written a mystery full of humor and some interesting bits about New Orleans and Tennessee Williams.

Versel Rush says

Once again, a Livia Washburn's literary travel agency mystery left me smiling.

Taking place in New Orleans (not one of my favorite places, sorry) during a conference on Tennessee Williams (one of my favorite authors), Washburn presents well thought out characters without sacrificing a good murder mystery plot.

Delilah has gotten a bit of a reputation (and who wouldn't when people keep dying in her tours and she keeps helping the police solve the murders) that does not necessarily help her with the local police. Her relationship with Will MAY be growing (Delilah isn't really sure) but, unlike some other series, the "will they or won't they" doesn't take over the book.

I don't like to include much about the plots in reviews since those are readily available elsewhere; however, without giving anything away, the plot in this one is a fascinating "what if" that is uniquely suited for this particular series.

The only characters that seemed a bit cliche were the NOPD--I couldn't help but think that they had watched one too many old tv cop shows (I'm thinking "Dragnet" or "Kojak") and had become the epitome of a good-cop-bad-cop team.

Even with that small glitch, this is a 5 star book--tight plotting, wonderful dialogue, interesting twists and colorful characters.

(I actually read this on my NookColor, but there wasn't an option for that on the list--maybe Goodreads needs to make some changes.)

Kathy Hiester says

Delilah Dickinson is a single woman who owns her own travel agency in Atlanta, Georgia that specializes in tours focusing on popular Southern literary writers. Her tours, featuring attractions and events from Mark Twain's and Margaret Mitchell's classics have been spoiled by shocking occurrences of assassinations and chaos. Delilah has become a novice investigator, though she doesn't realize or acknowledge it, and she has the aptitude for solving these crimes. She does realize that too much infamy could destroy the small travel agency she runs with her family.

Delilah contracts to lead a group of professors to New Orleans to attend the annual Tennessee Williams Literary Festival, she thinks the tour will be relaxing, reasoning that professors were unlikely to be too much trouble also, her friend and possible love interest, Dr. Will Burke, would come along. But Delilah's soon realizes that the professors are not too easily handled. They drink and get drunk, they have affairs, they guard family secrets that would ruin them if they were exposed; and more than a couple of them appear to hate each other.

When a key figure turns up dead, and Delilah is the one to have found the body, she has to work diligently to prove her innocence to the police and to find the killer before she herself turns into his victim.

I won't give away the ending but I will say this was a fun read!

4 Stars

Beth Peninger says

I like Livia J Washburn. She writes a good murder mystery, not intense like my fave - Mary Higgins Clark - but good nonetheless. She is another one of those themed series writers. This series is based around literary works and the main character, and of course sleuth, is a literary tour guide. Washburn inserts some real facts about each literary work and author the book centers on for its theme so that's a bonus. Especially for someone like me who loves reading, etc.

In this particular mystery Tennessee Williams is the featured author and every year (for real) there is a festival in honor of Williams in New Orleans. The main character, Delilah, who is the tour guide has taken a group of English and Literature Professors to New Orleans for the festival, several of them are on speaking panels and such during the festival. One Professor is out for a career boost by trying to discredit Williams, "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" and you can imagine that this is causing quite a bit of drama and arguing amongst the Professors and Festival attendees. Someone ends up dead and Delilah conducts her own investigation even though she claims she doesn't want to. Of course the mystery gets solved by the end of the book.

I like Delilah, she's funny and real. In this book I couldn't stand one of the investigating cops and I'm sure that was the point but boy did he tick me off! :)

The other books in this themed series are on my "to read" list and I won't remove them but I will read them, it's a good, easy read.

Susan says

Delilah Doolittle is a travel agent specializing in tours connected with literature. It's a natural for her to bring a large group of university professors--including the man she's been dating, Will Burke--to New Orleans for

the Tennessee Williams festival, where many of them will be speaking. One of the scholars has an old man in tow, a man who claims to have been a friend of Williams himself. As usual, there are disruptions on the tour, and soon Delilah finds herself once more trying to protect tour members from unsympathetic policemen.
