



Single Malt Murder

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Abigail Logan never expected to inherit a whisky distillery in the Scottish Highlands. But in the first novel of an engaging new series blending fine spirits with chilling mystery, Abi finds that there are secrets lurking in the misty glens that some will go to any lengths to protect . . . even murder.

When Abi inherits her uncle's quaint and storied single malt distillery, she finds herself immersed in a competitive high-stakes business that elicits deep passions and prejudices. An award-winning photojournalist, Abi has no trouble capturing the perfect shot—but *making* the perfect shot is another matter. When she starts to receive disturbing, anonymous threats, it's clear that someone wants her out of the picture. But Abi's never been one to back down from a fight.

Arriving on the scene with her whisky-loving best friend, Patrick, and an oversized wheaten terrier named Liam, Abi seems to put everyone in the bucolic village on edge—especially her dour but disturbingly attractive head distiller. Acts of sabotage and increasingly personal threats against Abi make it clear that she is not welcome. When one of Abi's new employees is found floating facedown in a vat of whisky, Abi is determined to use her skills as an investigative journalist to identify the cold-blooded killer and dispense a dram of justice before he strikes again. But distilling truth from lies is tricky, especially when everyone seems to have something to hide.

Melinda Mullet's delightful Whisky Business mysteries can be read together or separately. Enjoy responsibly:

SINGLE MALT MURDER | DEATH DISTILLED

Single Malt Murder Details

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Author : Melinda Mullet

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From Reader Review Single Malt Murder for online ebook

Lynn says

Abi Logan inherits her uncle's small distillery in Scotland. The distillery has a very good reputation for producing quality single malt whisky. I thought it was interesting about the difference between single malt and whisky blends. The information about whisky production was one of the most interesting parts of the book for me.

Abi is a world famous journalist and photographer. She travels to Abbey Glen to look over the business. Her initial plan seems to be to sell the business and go back to her journalistic life. Some one is not happy with Abi being the new owner. Sabotage is occurring and eventually murder. The mystery portion was good. This was an interesting and somewhat edgy cozy read.

Tari says

Lots of suspects, a murder or two--seems Scotland isn't quite as peaceful as Abi would have thought!

Abi Logan has inherited her uncle's entire estate and distillery. Since then she's been getting weird threats. When she arrives in Scotland, the general consensus is that it's someone who hopes to scare her into selling the distillery. But finding a body in the washback after Ben's funeral was not on this photo journalist's agenda.

With the help of her friend Patrick she decides she needs to get to the bottom of the damage being done to Abbey Glen. Suspects are everywhere, including the handsome manager, Grant McEwen. While in Scotland, Abi decides to finish the book that Ben started which gives her a perfect opportunity to talk to a lot of people including those she suspects.

I have to admit that it took me a little while to get into the book because well, whiskey isn't really my interest but the book was highly recommended. I'm glad I stuck with it. There were lots of great twists so I didn't have a clue who the killer was till the author revealed it.

The ending/takedown/reveal was really exciting and Abi's dog, Liam, became an instant hero. The final ending was awesome and I'm looking forward to seeing how things progress in the next new book in this series.

NicoleG says

A good start to an interesting series! For me, it was in the vein of a cozy but much grittier. Maybe due to the theme (I'm not well versed on the subject of whiskey) so I guess I learned a few things along the way. It was a solid mystery and the characters were well developed. I hope to get to know them better in the next book in the series.

I received an ARC of this book from NetGalley.

Ian says

It's OK like a hundred other books are OK.
Books like this one will either fly or crash on how the setting is handled.

Unfortunately this book was an opportunity missed, the mystery wasn't good enough to fly on its own but it could have been saved by concentrating more on the whisky making process. If I walked away feeling like an expert on Scotch I probably would have enjoyed it much more. As it is, it's just OK.

Yvonne says

Photojournalist Abigail Logan is devastated when her uncle Ben dies. He's the only family she had left. Now she discovers her uncle left her his whisky distillery. She knows nothing about the whisky business, but she realizes she better learn quickly. Along with her best friend, Patrick, and her faithful dog Liam, they head to the Scottish Highlands to check things out.

Abigail finds herself faced with the task of selling the distillery and there are quite a few buyers in the running. It's not long before she finds herself the victim of sabotage. Not to mention she discovers a dead body in the distillery. She can't help but wonder who is behind all of these horrible events. Even her head distiller is a suspect, regardless of how handsome he might be.

This is the first book in the Whisky Mystery series. I loved every minute of the time I spent in the Scottish Highlands. The plot moved along at a fast pace. The characters are expertly crafted and realistic. I adored Abigail. She's a strong character that refuses to back down under the most dire of circumstances. It's especially hard when the only one she can trust is her dog Liam.

The ending totally caught me off guard. I didn't see it coming at all. I just love when that happens when reading mysteries. I couldn't put this one down. I can't wait to read the next one. Great way to start this series!

Mellie Antoinette says

That was quick (and an excellent audio performance by Gemma Dawson)! Let's start where all good mysteries should start - with a good dram! ??

For those familiar with this series, you'll know that Abigail Logan is very good at impressions - 3 carefully chosen adjectives that when read together like the interpretable notes of a Tarot card quickly pinpoint her findings. So, I give you my 3 favorite impressions of this book #1 in the Whiskey Business Mysteries:

1. I triple heart loved the concise notes on the distilling of a single malt whiskey. Never ever will I ever again

buy a single malt where the barley was dried over a peat moss fire. Smokin' hot but tastes of peat moss!

2. I love the competitiveness of the whiskey business underscoring the mysterious deaths. I never really thought about it, but handcrafted single malts are the result of small batch distilling that leads to competitive pressure for every glass to taste of something special. In Abigail's words, it's "a sea of quiet animosity" that greatly intrigued me!

3. Hello Grant MacEwan! I believe you are my first bookish boyfriend described as having "sexy knees" (kilts ... so yeah, guess that is a thing) and smelling of the oh so intoxicating aromas of "freshly baked bread warm from the oven" (drying barley will produce scents similar to a hops farm. Doesn't that sound totally luscious!).

I love that the romance was not the main point of the story and played out like the slow burn of a vintage 25yr aged Glenfidditch. I love that it didn't play out at all, remaining unresolved to carry us into book #2, where the proverbial rubber hits the road and we find out if this series has impressive fangs or long lasting teeth you can sink into!

As I'm already 10 chapters into book #2 of this series, I vote Whiskey On, Wayne!

Monnie says

Absolutely delicious! I'm speaking of the book, not the booze. I enjoyed every word of this one from beginning to end. And speaking of words, I must point out that you'll find no "e" in whisky here; the Scots, I've learned, spell it "whisky" while the Irish - and as far as I can tell, we Americans - prefer "whiskey."

It was the title, in fact, that prompted my initial interest; our son was a devotee of single malt Scotch. He shared a number of varieties with my husband and I, although to be honest, those more strongly permeated with peat - one of the distinguishing characteristics - to me tasted rather like drinking a pile of watered-down dirt. Still, because of his enthusiasm, the topic was intriguing, and now I'm delighted to say the book tasted far better than that earthy Scotch. The story moves along quickly and interestingly, and now that I've finished, I'm looking forward to the next in the series (which I believe is *Death Distilled*, set for publication on Sept. 5, 2017).

This story begins when award-winning photojournalist Abigail Logan inherits Abbey Glen, a distillery in the Scottish Highlands, from her late Uncle Ben. It's largely operated by head distiller Grant (yes, he's a single, hunky Scotsman and she's also unattached). When she takes a couple of weeks off from her job to check things out - accompanied by her Wheaten Terrier Liam and good friend Patrick (a whiskey lover if ever there was one), she isn't exactly welcomed with open arms. The locals, it seems, share a fervent belief that a woman has no place in a distillery. Even Grant, close friends with her uncle, seems to resent her presence; just about the only people who are happy to see her are trying to curry favor so she'll sell the distillery - which she has zero knowledge of how to run - to them.

But there's much more to the disdain than that; in short order, she gets anonymous threats - not the least of which is a still-dripping blood dead duck - and then a young male employee turns up quite dead in a large vat of whiskey. The suspect list is long - and, at least for a time, includes Abi herself. Not knowing who to trust, she puts her investigative journalism skills to work to try to identify the killer, all the while trying to decide what to do with the property (and the rest of her life).

It's a wonderful adventure, and short enough that it easily can be finished in a day or two. One of my favorite quotes, though, came after the book ended, to-wit:

"Happiness is having a rare steak, a bottle of whisky and a dog to eat the rare steak."

Many thanks to the publisher, via NetGalley, for the opportunity to read an advance copy in exchange for a review. Highly recommended!

James says

4 stars to Melinda Mullet's Single Malt Murder: A Whisky Business Mystery, the first book in the new "Whisky Business" cozy mystery series. I stumbled across this book on NetGalley as a pre-release opportunity to read and review. I'm so glad I did! It was a fantastic new cozy with all the Scottish charm you'd come to expect... and now I may need to take up whisky drinking (*even more than the Jack Daniels I already enjoy too frequently!*)!

Story

Abi Logan's a semi-famous photographer in London, whose parents passed away in a car accident when she was 8 years-old. Her father's brother, Uncle Ben, raised her in his flat until she joined a newspaper and traveled the world for a story. He retired to a small town in Scotland where he purchased a single malt whisky distillery and made a core group of new friends and family. When he passes away from cancer, she inherits the distillery and heads to Scotland to find a buyer and say goodbye to him. But she quickly learns the old-fashioned whisky team don't take too kindly to a woman trying to run things. She finds a few friendly souls and begins to find someone to help her run the place until she can sell it; however, she receives several threats to get out quickly, later finding the dead body of the son of her late uncle's girlfriend drowned in a whisky barrel. More threats and a few additional deaths fall across her path... leading her and best friend Patrick to try to solve the investigation before she ends up a victim herself!

Strengths

1. The description and coverage of the whisky-making process is delectable. I've never been much of a straight-whisky drinker... the occasional glass over ice on a cold night has been known to occur. I have been a long-time imbiber when it comes to a splash of ginger ale and lime wedge. Delicious! But now I've learned so much about the process, I want to try good whisky -- and on its own! Go into this read lightly, you might become an addict quickly.

2. Patrick and Abi have a great relationship. She's smart, no nonsense and independent. He's witty, business-savvy and a good listener. He's also gay, so no worry about any relationship-type issues. I hope he finds a couple of good paramours... it'd be fun to see how the writer handles it in the small Scottish town. Abi's already got one suitor based on her interactions and it's got the potential to steam up the pages. Just think "what's under that kilt?" and you can leave the rest to your imagination.

3. The story is clever and has several different paths. Lots of characters and suspects without over-doing it. A good amount of red herrings. A fair hustle of danger. I read it almost entirely in one sitting, as each new chapter covered a different angle.

Suggestions

1. One concern is the breadth of future stories... how much can really occur in a whisky distillery after the debut is all about who will end up owning it? One option which the author seems to be considering is that Abi won't live in the Scottish town as she ends up back in London at the end of the book, undecided about next steps. Perhaps that's just to carry us to book 2, but I'd like her to stay and see how the story could combine her world travels as a photographer / reporter and as a distillery-owner.

2. Some of the supporting characters were a little too similar. I will remember 1 or 2, but the rest blended together enough that I may forget when I start the next book. I think some time may need to focus on bringing forth a stable of 4 or 5 core supporting characters, each with clear and distinct personalities. It's minor and easily addressed.

Final Thoughts

Give this new series a chance. It's a non-traditional setting (at least for me) in a small Scottish town. It's got a girl with no family left, so it'll be interesting to see how she handles life "on her own" and assembles a new family. Patrick will definitely make the series stand out. And the writing is clean and interesting, especially with hints of Scottish brogue thrown about!

Linda Baker says

Award-winning photojournalist Abigail Logan is grieving the death of her uncle Ben, who raised her after the death of her parents in an auto accident. Fifteen years prior to his death from cancer Ben sold up his London holdings and purchased a small whisky distillery in the Scottish Highlands. Abby is now the owner of the distillery but has no plans to continue. She loves her globe-trotting career and has no intention of taking up distilling single malt and settling down in a small village. But Ben made a success of the distillery and she wants to make sure that any buyer will preserve his vision for the business. Abi takes her wheaten terrier, Liam, for a stay at Abbey Glen in order to sort things out. The village and the distillery staff are far from welcoming and a series of petty vandalisms culminate in murder and fire at Abbey Glen Distillery. Someone wants Abi gone, but who is it, the various prospective buyers, someone who works at the distillery or someone in the village itself? Abi must use all her investigative skills to find out the culprit and perhaps save her own life.

I am a fan of all things Scots (except haggis, perhaps) but I have never developed a taste for single malt and knew absolutely nothing about distilling. Single Malt Murder is packed with information about the methods, history, and lore of Scots whisky. It's never boring and woven seamlessly into the story. Many interesting and intriguing characters, especially Grant MacEwen, Ben's right-hand man, appear and I did not figure out who the murderer was until the end.

I highly recommend Single Malt Murder and am looking forward to the next in the series. Thanks to Random House Alibi and NetGalley for an advance copy. The opinions above are my own.

RATING- 4 Stars

Anastasia says

Single Malt Murder by Melinda Mullet is the first book in A Whisky Business Mystery series. Photographer and journalist Abigail Logan inherits a whisky distillery in Scotland, but finds herself in the middle of threats and sabotage and then murder. An interesting cozy mystery with engaging characters and an unexpected ending. Being a non whisky drinker, I enjoyed it much more than I thought I would and I found the information on whisky informative and interesting.

Rane says

When Abigail Logan's Uncle Ben dies and leaves her a whiskey distillery, the world traveled photographer is at a loss in what to do with a whiskey distillery?! With her best friend and whiskey expert Patrick and her wheaten terrier Liam in tow. She goes to see what her Uncle Ben's life was like in the small Scottish Highlands village and this old distillery. Even before she can set eyes on the place, she starts getting odd and strange threats. Thinking it was just a bit of misogyny on a woman running a whiskey distillery, that thought is blown outta the water when a dead body of an employee is found dead in one of the vat. Now Abi is trying to find out who is trying to close down the distillery and untangle everyone's hidden motives..

Finding a new cozy mystery series that catches you right at the start is like finding a new favorite dish or drink? I was quickly wrapped up in the world Melinda Mullet created in Single Malt Muder.

I enjoyed the cast of characters, in Abi you have someone whose witness and seen much through the lens of her camera. This gives her an different perspective with people and places. This is a huge strength that helps her with all the clues thrown her way. Abi is in no way some perfect person. She can be hard-headed and a bit blind to those around her. Much like her Uncle Ben and his love for the distillery, something she has to overcome in her jealousy of her only family member, and see how much Ben wanted her to be a part of. The rest of the cast of characters are slowly touch upon but nothing to concrete which I think is an opening for the rest of the series.

Abi does have a future suitor in the work (maybe) and I did like the interaction between the two that starts off pretty rocky and ends up with a great understanding of one another and a little bit more?

I enjoyed the mystery of the story, when you think it was going one way, the clues would point another direction and while I had my suspicion on who was behind it, I was still surprised when it all came together in the end.

Along with the distillery, the village is very rich with characters and even more places to explore, I can't wait to see more from this series!

LORI CASWELL says

Dollycas's Thoughts

This series is off to a spectacular start!

Photojournalist Abi Logan lost her parents early in her life in an auto accident. She was then raised by her

Uncle Ben. She has been traveling around the world to some pretty dangerous places while Uncle Ben retired to Scotland and opened a single malt distillery. Sadly Ben passes away and leaves his business to Abi. She and her friend Patrick, a wine and whiskey aficionado, travel to Scotland along with Liam, Ami's Wheaten Terrier to look the place over and decide its future. No one seems happy to have Abi around. They expect her to sell the place and move on because the whiskey business is no place for a woman.

Before bids for purchase start to flow in Abi starts to receive threats and there are several mishaps at the plant, clearly sabotage. The threats become more blatant and then one of the employees is found floating in a vat of whiskey. That isn't the last malicious act either. Abi knows it is up to her to find the killer and stop the madness. She hopes her keen sense of observation will help her solve the case quickly but she has too many suspects and they have too many secrets. Tightening the lid of this keg may be more than she can handle.

Whiskey is my alcoholic beverage of choice but I am not savvy in the way it is made and my sense for taste is far from refined. This story taught me quite a bit but the mystery is what kept me positively glued to these pages.

Abi is a fantastic protagonist. Strong and feisty and when she finds people's biggest problem with her is her gender it really gets her dander up. She has something to prove. Patrick is a great friend. He has her back and is great sounding board. He notices things she misses and gives valuable advice. They make a great team. The author has created a great supporting cast too. They are all very real and believable. Liam is a great canine companion and is smart as a whip.

I would categorize the plot as very complex. More twists and turns than your average mystery. It seemed that each chapter introduced something new that sent things in a totally different direction. The author really keeps the reader on their toes. She immerses us right into the story giving us the feeling we are on the shoulders of these great characters. Stories like this are so much fun to read.

The setting is unique. Scotland is beautiful and Uncle Ben has built a distillery doing things the old fashion way. There are several buildingS and a unique operation. The "cabin" has also been beautifully updated. It is a place I would love to visit.

I absolutely loved this story, beginning, middle and end. The suspense ratcheted up in all the right places but never crossed the line from cozy to thriller. The characters continued to evolve and romance just started to bloom. I was unable to put the book down. I read the whole thing in one day.

Melinda Mullett has set the bar extremely high for herself. This is going to be a story that is tough to top. Another Best Read for 2017. I cannot wait to our next trip to the Scottish Highlands and Abbey Glen.

Brenda says

When Abigail Logan's Uncle Ben passed from cancer, she was devastated. He'd been her surrogate dad since her parents had been killed in a car accident when she was a child; his death was a dreadful loss. But the shock she received when she inherited Abbey Glen, a single malt whisky distillery in the Scottish Highlands had her wondering what on earth she would do. Abi knew absolutely nothing about whisky and the making of it – she decided to take a couple of weeks off work to sort through the estate and work out what to do.

But when Abi started to receive nasty threats she was a little disturbed – what was it all about? Why was she being targeted? And when she decided to investigate, as well as honour her Uncle Ben's name and love for Abbey Glen, the threats became much worse. Did someone want her out to the way?

With best friend Patrick and her loveable dog Liam by her side, Abi dug her heels in and tried to make friends with her new employees. Suddenly a young man was found floating in a vat of whisky – was it an accident? Or was it worse? Abi was determined to find answers – but was she in serious danger?

Single Malt Murder by Melinda Mullet is a light and entertaining cosy mystery which I thoroughly enjoyed. The beginning of a new series, I might just have to look for the second book when it's published! Twists, turns, intrigue and a nefarious plot – *Single Malt Murder* is highly recommended by me. (And I had no idea who the “bad guy” was until the reveal!)

With thanks to NetGalley and the publisher for my digital copy to read and review.

Autumn Is Azathoth The Haunted Reading Room says

Review of **SINGLE MALT MURDER** by Melinda Mullet

I totally loved this engaging, intriguing, and delightful debut mystery, first in a series. I read it in one sitting because I couldn't turn away from it. Some years ago I read a Deborah Crombie mystery whose setting included a woman's inheritance of a Scottish distillery [NOW MAY YOU WEEP], so when I found **SINGLE MALT MURDER** available for review, I leaped to it.

Abi (Abigail) Logan is a photojournalist of war and misery, documenting the evils humans do to each other. Based in London, she is also an orphan at a young age, raised by Uncle Ben, a well-to-do financial analyst who fifteen years ago purchased a whiskey distillery in Scotland. Ben's demise from cancer leaves Abi his heir, and before she can even travel to Scotland, she is besieged by threatening notes. Once she is on the ground in Scotland, sabotage commences at the distillery—at first what could possibly be accidents, but soon escalates to death and arson. Meanwhile Abi is offered several different buyout plans for Abbey Glen, the distillery, and there's much tension between her and some of the employees and townspeople, which only intensifies with the death. Throughout, author Melinda Mullet subtly increases the tension and mystery, but never gives away the plot, so that the denouement is both amazing and for Abi, quite terrifying. I found not a single fault with this mystery and eagerly anticipate further mysteries in this series.

Rima Aiello says

A strong first installment on what seems to be a promising new series. We are introduced to Abi, an award winning photojournalist, who inherits her uncle's whiskey distillery after he succumbs to his illness. Not knowing the first thing about the day to day running of the distillery, Abi trudges through her grief and with her friend Patrick and furry companion Liam, travel to Scotland.

Its not easy being a female owner in a predominately man's business, and Abi cannot decide if she even wants to. After threats trying to scare her off and then the murder of an employee, the story takes off.

This was definitely a good start to an interesting series. The premise of it being based on a whiskey distillery definitely caught my eye as something different, and I was not disappointed. The writing was strong, characters developed, and a decent plot line. I cannot wait to see where this series goes, especially once it gets its full steam.

I reviewed an advance copy of this book via Netgalley and the opinions are my own honest review.
