



Mayhem at the Orient Express

Kylie Logan

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At a local Chinese restaurant, it's the owner who gets taken out...

Most folks aren't forced by court order to attend a library-book discussion group, but that's just what happens to B and B proprietor and ex-Manhattanite Bea Cartwright, hippy cat lover Chandra Morrissey, and winery owner Kate Wilder after a small-town magistrate has had enough of their squabbling. South Bass, an island on Lake Erie, is home to an idyllic summer resort, but these three ladies keep disturbing the peace.

The initial book choice is Agatha Christie's *Murder on the Orient Express*, and that sets their mouths to watering. The Orient Express is the island's newest Chinese restaurant. They might not agree about much, but the ladies all love the orange chicken on the menu. But their meal is spoiled when the restaurant's owner, Peter Chan, has the bad fortune of getting murdered. Now, with Christie as their inspiration, the League of Literary Ladies has a real mystery to solve...if they can somehow catch a killer without killing each other first.

Mayhem at the Orient Express Details

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From Reader Review *Mayhem at the Orient Express* for online ebook

LORI CASWELL says

At a local Chinese restaurant, it's the owner who gets taken out...

Ex-Manhattanite Bea Cartwright, hippy cat lover Chandra Morrissey, and winery owner Kate Wilder may be neighbors but they are definitely not friends. They end up in Community Court to voice their complaints against each other and the unusual ruling leaves them having to spend time together each and every week. Since the local library is about to lose its funding because it doesn't have a book discussion group, they are sentenced to start one. The League of Literary Ladies is born.

They choose Agatha Christie's *Murder on the Orient Express* as their first book. They quickly learn that they all love to eat the exact same thing at the new restaurant in town, The Orient Express. It may be the only thing they agree on. They all meet up there after their first book group meeting. Their appetites disappear rapidly when they arrive to find owner, Peter Chan, has served his last meal ever. Some one has permanently taken him out.

Now with detective Hercule Poirot for inspiration, The Ladies have a really mystery to solve. Hopefully they can catch the killer before they kill each other...

Dollycas's Thoughts

What a fun idea for a mystery series!! I loved it!!

These ladies are as fantastic characters. Quirky, bright, feisty, and engaging. Even Chandra who would rather watch the movie than read the book is someone I want to know better. A fourth woman, Luella, joins the group which is good because sometimes the other three need a referee.

Logan sets the book in a small tourist town that adds its own elements to the story. Where else would a book club be punishment for neighbors that just can't seem to get along? Then there is a snow storm that knocks out power and that brings all the women and their suspects together. Just like Christie's classic mystery.

A fabulous story unfolds with several twists that keeps the reader entertained and the pages swiftly turning. Plan to read this one all in one sitting.

I can't wait to see the book the League of Literary Ladies pick next!!

Melodie says

This is probably a 3.5 star read, but am going with 4 instead of 3 since I love this author's Pepper Martin books that she writes as Casey Daniels and I also enjoy her button series written as Kylie Logan. 3 neighbors who can't get along with each other are sentenced to be a book group. Sounds like a silly premise, but it really works. The first book they are to read is *MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS*. And a new Chinese restaurant has opened in town called The Orient Express. All 3 ladies, plus the other non-sentenced lady,

descend on the restaurant after their first meeting and find the proprietor stabbed through the heart. A great setup for a fun story. The book takes place on one of the Bass Islands in Lake Erie, which is a beautiful setting. Put-In-Bay is a great place that I would very much like to visit again now that I'm an adult. Great first in series! HIGHLY RECOMMEND!!

Yvonne says

New Yorker Bea Cartwright leaves the big city life behind when she opens a bed & breakfast inn in the small town of South Bass, an island on Lake Erie. When she gets into a legal battle with two of her neighbors, the judge orders the three women to attend a book discussion at the local library, which happens to be run by his wife.

None of the women are too thrilled with the punishment but they have no choice. Their first book discussion is about *Murder on the Orient Express* by Agatha Christie. Ironically, their favorite Chinese restaurant is called Orient Express. The only thing the women agree on is that the orange chicken is delicious. Things take a real turn for the worst when they go to pick up their order and find the nice restaurant owner, Peter Chan, dead. Obviously someone didn't think Chan was all that nice. Using their reading discussion as motivation, the ladies run their own investigation.

Their small island is hit with a huge snow storm leaving most of the island without electricity. The only place with any heat is Bea's B&B, thanks to her generator. It doesn't take long before her inn is full, including the very sexy local bar owner. However, the ladies can't help but wonder if they are snowbound with a killer.

I loved this book from page one. It starts out with a cat named Jerry Garcia and his bad bathroom habits, which are ruining Bea's pansies. How much fun to be sentenced to join a book club? This is a very clever idea for a mystery series which has huge cast of quirky characters. I love quirky :) The setting is perfect for a cozy mystery. It's fast-paced and the story took more twists and turns than a rollercoaster along with a touch of romance. I will definitely keep reading this series. I'm looking forward to the next one.

FTC Disclosure: The publisher provided me with a copy of this book to review. This did not influence my thoughts and opinions in any way. All opinions expressed are my own.

Aurian Booklover says

After something happened to her in New York, Bea Cartwright has moved to South Bass, an island on Lake Erie, where she has opened a Bed and Breakfast in an old mansion. Bea really does not get along with her new neighbours at all, and when the local judge has had enough of their endless fights, he sentences them to a weekly bookclub, to learn to get along. And to save his wife's precious library from losing their funding.

Bea is from New York, and is working hard to get her B&B ready for opening. Kate owns a vineyard, and really dislikes all the trucks coming and going to the B&B, making noise in front of her house. Also, the B&B is a monstrosity of a house, and she really would have preferred it to be demolished, and the land used

for her vineyard.

Chandra is some kind of New Age woman, burning incense, chanting, loudly playing music no one else likes. And Bea hates her because Chandra's cat keeps peeing on her flowers. So they all dislike each other and now have to play nice.

Their trio is augmented with a fourth member, who really does want to belong to a bookclub, Luella Zak. Their first item is to pick a book to read, and that choice is limited to books the library has 5 copies of, and books they all have to like. Bea is adamant about not wanting to read a thriller. And so they settle on the classic Agatha Christie – Murder at the Orient Express. Only Chandra does not want to read the book, she will watch the movie instead.

And so the ladies quickly leave the library again, intent to continue with their own lives. Somehow, they all end up at the Orient Express in the village, the new Chinese Restaurant. Where they find the owner murdered.

With the snow storm going on worsening, cutting power to big parts of the island, all four ladies and some other guests end up in Bea's B&B, where there is still power and warmth. They decide to figure out who killed Peter, using the book as a guide on how to go about it. The local police officer doesn't care much for their opinions, especially as he is Chandra's second ex husband.

Another new cozy mystery series, and unfortunately, another one that just did not work for me. There are a lot of hints about Bea's past adventure with a stalker, but nothing is just plain explained. I hate that. It has no bearing on the book either, so why not just tell us? The possible love interest for Bea does know her story as he recognizes her.

There were lots of clues in the book, and the ladies just overlooked them or jumped to the wrong conclusions. I did not foresee everything in the book, but I did see a lot coming.

There was nothing for me to like about Bea, Chandra or Kate. Only the hardworking fishing woman Luella, I did like her and how she sometimes took charge of the bickering trio.

The book itself is well written, and well paced, but for me it just lacks some things. I need to be able to connect with the main characters, and care for what happens to them. I won't be reading anything else by this author. If you are intrigued by this, just read some other reviews and give it a go.

6 stars.

© 2013 Reviews by Aurian

Jessica Andersen says

Kylie Logan is a pseudonym of Casey Daniels, author of the Pepper Martin mysteries. This is the first book I've read by this particular pseudonym though.

Mayhem at the Orient Express is the first book in the League of Literary Ladies series. A group of women is

ordered to participate in a book club for a year, by the local mayor/judge who is tired of their bickering. The first book they decide to read is *Murder on the Orient Express*. It just so happens that a murder occurs on their small island, when the island is locked down due to a snow storm, which definitely reminds the ladies of the book they're reading.

Mayhem is written in first person in the voice of Bea Cartwright, the new-to-town owner of a B&B. I think Logan/Daniels does a good job of writing in first person, her voice is very conversational. This is a good start to the new series and I will definitely be looking for the next one. And maybe re-reading *Murder on the Orient Express* too.

Erin ? *Proud Book Hoarder* says

"What's left to say after you've found a body with three of your not-best friends?"

As cute as the synopsis promised it would be. A funny, great group of eccentric people are forced to join a book club to save the judge's wife's ailing library grant. When they're all pushed together during a snowstorm in the main character's newly bought and renovated Inn, they work together to solve the mystery of the local restaurant owner.

There are plenty of nods to Hercule Poirot since the club decides to read the Christie Classic *Murder on the Orient Express*. Okay sure, one just watched the movie and can't pronounce the detective's name to save her life, which just makes the whole thing funnier.

Several suspects with convincing reason to be behind the dastardly deed come to light, making it a layered mystery that kept me wondering. There aren't red herrings but there are plenty of convincing trails to follow. There's a neat twist with the culprit that I never saw coming either. I can't complain any about clues left, suspects introduced, or crime scenes explored in their amusing ways.

There's a potential and actually non-boring love interest brewing too. Many times in cozies there's something missing without a possible love interest, but usually the future boyfriend is rather bland – not the case here. They have the sarcastic exchange thing going on so I'm curious.

I love the main character too. She's a bit self-absorbed but this was supposed to be another funny trait. Being flawed helps keep her interesting enough to connect with. The nutsy neighbor with the incense and chanting music was the funniest of the group, but the entire group worked together well.

Throw in a Bed and Breakfast, small town, books, Agatha Christie, parties, and cats peeing on flowers – will definitely be considering this series. If I enjoy the others as much as this one, it will be a top favorite cozy mystery series.

Kimberly says

I love the cover of this book. A cover will sell me on a book before I even know what it is about. This one is

a huge winner!!!

I loved it. The author did a great job and I am now a fan! I loved the characters, all likable and relate-able. I laughed out loud several times throughout the story.

Loved the humor, the descriptions of the town, the Bed and Breakfast that the main character owns and runs. I loved re-visiting the old Agatha Christie, "Murder on the Orient Express", in this book.

Take a few women, who get on each others nerves for various reasons, throw them together in a reading discussion group, not only that but push them even closer together when they have to stay at the bed and breakfast because of a snowstorm and they have no choice but to try and get along. Add a bit of murder, shut off the power, light a warm fire in the hearth and you've got an awesome recipe in what I call, "A Great Cozy"!

One of my favorite types of a read.

Kirsti says

Just a few days ago I claimed to have found my favorite cozy read of the year, but I think this one equaled it. I absolutely adored all the characters, all the Agatha Christie references, the setting, absolutely everything. The humour absolutely made this, and the set up for the rest of the series is just fantastic. I only ordered book one, but now I need all of them!

Highly recommend this cozy series for mystery lovers, five stars!

James says

Mayhem at the Orient Express was a good start to the League of Literary Ladies #mystery series. I stumbled upon this through a Goodreads recommendation based on the other cozy serial mysteries that I often read. I certainly wasn't disappointed but I also wasn't amazed by the debut.

I eventually began liking the main characters, the setting and the overall style. From this first in series, it appears there will be 4 leading female characters -- perhaps 1 lead and 3 supporting female characters may be more appropriate. Kate and Bea were a little too similar for me, at least in their attitude and dialogue but I suspect over time they will get more distinct. Chandra brings the comedy and levity to keep the wheels turning, but it's the addition of Luella as the one who rounds out the group who makes them seem more like a family. The 4 come together in an unusual way which I'm not sure I am too fond of, but it eventually works enough to get the relationships started or on a different course depending on how much credence you give to the squabbling at the beginning of the story.

I'm hopeful that if this will be called the League of Literary Ladies, their interest in books will become more apparent. Chandra's preference to see the film versions rather than read is cute, but if you are going to call them the League of Literary Ladies, I think they will need to be more literate!

I greatly appreciate the story's narration or point of view coming from Bea who is the most logical on most occasions. I'm very fond of the author dropping in a little sarcasm directly calling out that there are readers or an audience to the book's hi-jinks. It only appears a few times, just enough to make you chuckle, but not enough to pull you out of or away from the actual story.

The B&B backdrop is strong. It will bring easy snooping, lots of new characters, and reasons why the protagonists are so often close to murders and mysteries. The most fascinating mystery is actually what brought Bea to this island from New York. In the first book we learn a few of her secrets and personal tragedies, but there are definitely strong direct and indirect hints at even more things we really need to know about her.

The relationships with the male characters throughout the story are slow to start but have potential. I'm not sure they are too critical to the story when you have 4 females already playing off one another in the suspense and clue-tracking escapades. It'll probably serve up good fodder for backdrop in helping the protagonists have more personality and feel more connected to the reader.

I'll give book 2 a chance to see where it's going... curious what others thought?

About Me

For those new to me or my reviews... here's the scoop: I read A LOT. I write A LOT. And now I blog A LOT. First the book review goes on Goodreads, and then I send it on over to my WordPress blog at <https://thisismytruthnow.com>, where you'll also find TV & Film reviews, the revealing and introspective 365 Daily Challenge and lots of blogging about places I've visited all over the world. And you can find all my social media profiles to get the details on the who/what/when/where and my pictures. Leave a comment and let me know what you think. Vote in the poll and ratings. Thanks for stopping by.

Kendrea Parsons says

I really loved this book. The characters were so well-developed and likeable - even with their many personality quirks. Kylie Logan really does a great job of crafting the story, and mystery, as well as giving the reader an interesting back story for the main character, Bea. I will say that, by the mid-point of the book I had guessed who the killer was, but it wasn't disappointing as there's a huge twist that didn't even occur to me so it was still a surprise. I loved this book so much that I went ahead and ordered the rest of the series so far. I can't wait until they get here so I can see what happens next to The League of Literary Ladies!

Mary says

I enjoyed this book. It was enjoyable and a quick read!

Bea was new to the island where she was planning to open a bed and breakfast. The name she had planned on was Bea and Bees! But she did have some problems to work out before the summer season started!

She needed to get her neighbors to stop complaining about her to the courts. They found themselves in front of the judge, too many times. Bea complained about the noise from Kate because of her music all the time and she complained about Chandra's cat peeing on her flowers all the time. Kate and Chandra complained about the traffic of the trucks Bea had going back and forth because of the remodeling of the B and B she was trying to get ready for the summer season.

While they were in court complaining about each other, the librarian came in to tell the judge that she was losing her money for special programs because they were losing interest in people interested in book clubs.

As a way to solve all the problems of everybody, the judge tells Bea, Chandra, and Kate that they have to start a book club at the library. They decide to read *Murder on the Orient Express* for one reason, there is a new Chinese restaurant in town that they all love named The Orient Express.

One Monday night after a rather bad snow storm and an even worst fight at the library, they all end up at the Orient Express to get some orange/peanut chicken that they all love. They can't seem to find the owner, until someone looks over the front counter and finds Peter (the owner) dead with a knife in his chest. When they can't get the food, they call the police, in the meantime the weather is getting worst outside. The electricity is going out all over town. They decide to go to Bea's B N B. She has a generator. They all get stuck there for the next few days along with several guests that Bea was expecting and some that just showed up in the storm!

They decide to read the book and realize that some of the things that are going on are similar to the book. It is a very well written story with many people to keep track of and keep your mind going throughout the book. All in all very good! I am going to get the next one to find out how they decide to get along or not.

Betty says

Three neighbors are not able to get along and find themselves sentenced to attend a reading discussion group for a year. The first book is *Murder On The Orient Express*. The group's finds they all agree that orange-peanut chicken made by the local diner Orient Express is, the best meal they can have. All meet at the dinner to find the owner stabbed to death. An unusual spring snow storm strands them all together. The characters are different and describe well. At times it is funny. I like Ms Logan style and look forward to more from her. The Button Box Mysteries by her are 5 stars.

*** Jennifer says**

I ::Loved:: this book! I never say that about firsts-in-series; most of them are a bit clunky and awkward, as the author is getting to know their characters on paper for the first time. This book was just excellent and I felt like it took off from the first page.

I love the setting - an island 12 miles into Lake Michigan. That just invites quirky characters and eccentricities. And the location allows for weather of all kinds - a spring blizzard in this book, allowing the setup to work perfectly.

The POV is first person, but it's set up in a way that's a *bit* like Bea is talking directly to you - not irritatingly so - just enough that her personality really comes through, and I love her personality. She's smart, accomplished, wealthy AND she has a past. But instead of dumping it all out on you right at the beginning, there are just small comments; reactions to things that hint at bigger things and again, not in an irritating fashion; the action is fast paced and interesting so you aren't feeling like you're being teased (too much) or led around by a hook. I'm pretty sure I know what her former career was, and she comes right out and eventually shares what brought her to the island and a new life, but there's still so much to learn!

The other characters are all introduced almost at once, but each is so unique I didn't have any trouble keeping them straight. I like Kate's character; Chandra is just a wee bit too much of a caricature at points, but she

shows a streak of mischief I really like! And oh my heaven, Levi. Ms. Logan's other series (which I genuinely like a LOT) has a sweet romance sub-plot that you find yourself cheering for. But this series and Levi - HOT! Love the banter between him and Bea; the author does an excellent job making the tension between those two vivid. And he just screams "man with a past!" to me - I hope I'm not wrong. Kate has a possible love interest as well who intrigues me - I want to know more about him as well - and Chandra is too busy having fun looking back. ;)

Finally, the plot - well done Ms. Logan, well done. I never had a clue who the villain was - lots of suspects, disparate clues - and when it was revealed, well, I read a lot of cozies, and I'm not saying it's never been done before, but this is the first time I've seen it.

I can't wait to read more about these three. Ms. Logan has set the bar high for herself with this one; I hope it's a sign of things to come. I found this book to be a breath of fresh air in a genre that's been threatening to stale for some time now. I'll be eagerly awaiting word of book two!

Julie Durnell says

Entertaining and a light cozy read, a bit too contrived but all right for a cozy. I really enjoyed the setting and the snowstorm trapping so many characters in the old house, now a bed and breakfast, though!

Fred says

This is the first book in the A League of Literary Ladies Mystery series.

Bea Cartwright, Chandra Morrissey and Kate Wilder all live in the same neighborhood on South Bass Island, OH and they are always being drawn into Magistrate Court because of it. The judge finally orders them to form a book club at the local library. This is easier said than done, but finally agree on *Murder On The Orient Express* by Agatha Christie. What helped make this decision, is that Peter Chan has recently opened a new restaurant, The Orient Express. A gusty snow storm has started and they decide to cancel the meeting until the next week. Surprisingly enough they all have stopped by The Orient Express to get their favorite, Orange Chicken. When they arrive, they find Peter dead. they end up going to Bea's B&B to discuss what they have just found.

By the next day, the snow is still falling and no is going in or off the island. By now Bea's B&B is full over flowing and that can only mean that the murderer is there too. Bea, Kate, and Chandra put the past aside and work together to find the murderer.

I enjoy Logan's other books, but something just didn't click for me with this one. I'm thinking that I thought too much time was spent setting the story up. I will be reading the next one to see if I was wrong and can get into the series.
