



# To Helvetica and Back

*Paige Shelton*

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**To Helvetica and Back** Paige Shelton

**The *New York Times* bestselling author of the Farmers' Market Mysteries and the Country Cooking School Mysteries introduces readers to Star City, Utah, and a little shop called the Rescued Word...**

Star City is known for its slopes and its powder. But nestled in the valley of this ski resort town is a side street full of shops that specialize in the simple charms of earlier eras. One of those shops is the Rescued Word, where Chester Henry and his adult granddaughter Clare lovingly repair old typewriters and restore old books. Who ever thought their quaint store would hold the key to some modern-day trouble?

When a stranger to town demands they turn over an antique Underwood typewriter they're repairing for a customer, Clare fears *she* may need to be rescued. A call to the police scares the man off, but later Clare finds his dead body in the back alley. What about a dusty old typewriter could possibly be worth killing for?

## To Helvetica and Back Details

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Author : Paige Shelton

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# From Reader Review To Helvetica and Back for online ebook

## **Teresa Kander says**

Amazing first book in a new series. I have a feeling this is going to be my favorite series from this author!

Star City is so thoroughly described that it feels like a place where I would like to visit or live. The nostalgic shops in Bygone Alley are places where I could spend hours, and the people are written so friendly and caring that I'd love to get to know them.

The Rescued Word is the focus of the series, as are Chester and Clare. In this story, an antique Underwood typewriter is at the center of the mystery--first a man wants to buy it and threatens Clare if she won't sell it to him, and then he turns up dead outside the shop. Obviously there is more to this typewriter than meets the eye, but can Clare figure it out before she becomes another murder victim?

As if solving that mystery weren't enough, Clare also starts a romantic relationship with Seth, who has a shady past which makes her friends and family leery of him. And Clare discovers that Chester has been conducting online searches regarding pancreatic cancer: is there something he needs to tell her, or is she overreacting?

There are lots of clues to the mystery throughout the book, but I could never quite figure out the entire solution until the reveal. I look forward to further stories to see the relationships continue to develop and grow.

**\*\*I received an advanced reading copy of this book from the author in exchange for an honest review. All thoughts and opinions are entirely my own.\*\***

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## **Linda says**

A fantastic, nostalgic debut! I found my eyes glued to every page. I was immediately drawn into this interesting story and didn't want it to end! Star City, Utah is a lovely mountain town setting and home of The Rescued Word, owned and run by Clare and her grandfather, Chester. The plot of this cozy mystery is original and unique and begins when Clare finds a code to a treasure map inside an old Underwood typewriter she's repairing. The chaos her discovery creates pounds out as many twists and turns as there are typewriter keys!

Paige Shelton has long been a favorite cozy author of mine, and this story is wonderfully enhanced by her talented writing voice. I enjoyed my trip down memory lane with the old typewriters. I felt the reverence and excitement as Clare restored rare editions of priceless, sentimental books for customers. I was saddened by the bitterness and blame in one of the characters heart.

The relationship between Clare and her grandfather is so genuine, and her childhood memories as he taught her the rescue business are Kodak moments throughout this unwinding tale. Their cat, Baskerville--will likely strike you as having an eerie intuition. I admired Clare's best friend, Jodie's, strength of character, and look forward to seeing how Clare's relationship with geologist, Seth, progresses. Cozy readers will ski

through the pages of this story, and many will find themselves still thinking about it long after they turn the final page. I know I am.

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### **Chris says**

Good cozyish mystery set in a typewriter repair/book restoration/print shop in a fictitious Utah ski town modeled after Park City.

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### **Brooke Showalter (Brooke Blogs) says**

To Helvetica and Back by Paige Shelton is the first book in a brand new cozy mystery series debuting in January 2016. We head to the picturesque town of Star City, Utah to the Rescued Word and meet up with Clare Henry and her grandfather, Chester Henry. When crime shows up on their doorstep, Clare finds herself as amateur sleuth (even without meaning it to happen).

There is so much about this story that I love. The characters are well-developed and you can't help but be pulled into their story. Clare is easily liked and I fell in love with the setting. I would love to visit Star City, especially Bygone Alley. Star City seems like the perfect small town where nothing happens....until a whole lot of stuff happens all at once. I really enjoyed the idea of the Rescued Word. It was a fun aspect to the story to read about book and typewriter repair. Clare's grandfather Chester is spunky and I liked him right away. The story line, the quirky characters, the romance and the well-plotted mystery kept me staying up a bit later than I should. :)

To Helvetica and Back by Paige Shelton is a great first entry in what promises to be a wonderful new cozy series. I'm already anxious for the next book to come out. I can't wait to catch up with Clare and all the other Star City characters.

I received an ARC of this book for review purposes. I only review books I am interested in reading, and I was not required to write a positive review. This review contains my honest opinions.

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### **Laura Thomas says**

I do love a good cozy and I'm always looking for a new one. The clever title and whimsical cover caught my attention immediately. I thought this could be a fun one.

Claire works with her grandfather at their shop, The Rescued Word. I love that name. It's a typewriter repair shop and they also restore old books and sell paper supplies. Sounds like a place I could spend time in. And the location for their shop is fun too, Bygone Alley. We have some side streets like these in the town I live in and they have such unique little shops hidden in them.

When a man comes in demanding a typewriter be given to him that was earlier dropped off for repair by someone else, he gets irate and the police are called. They take a closer look at the typewriter and something is strange about it. Later the man is found dead and the mystery begins.

I enjoyed visiting Star City. Who doesn't want to spend time in a ski resort. The isolation made the mystery more intriguing too. Lots of strangers to add to the suspect list.

Many of the characters were a joy to meet and I loved the friendship between Claire and Jodie. Jodie's her friend but also a cop and she could be one or the other as needed.

A fun, frisky cozy with genuine characters and a good spin on a mystery, I'm glad I read *To Helvetica And Back*. I'll be back for more.

I received a complimentary copy. My review is voluntarily given.

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### **Peggy says**

Cute cozy mystery featuring several of my favorite things--a clever cat, a heroine who wears glasses, vintage typewriters, and rare books. Oh , and I forgot stationery.

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### **Meg says**

Really loved the setting, even tho I'm not a snow and ski person! Loved the shop. Really liked the main character; good mystery, as well. Am planning to get the next in the series.

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### **Richard Mann says**

FAIR WARNING: Before I get into a discussion of the story and its merits, I will be indulging in some wandering personal thoughts and ideas. You can skip down to the part called "Actual Review Starts Here" if you don't want to bother with any of the preliminaries.

I started reading Paige Shelton's books when I discovered that she lived in Utah, where I live. (She has since moved to Arizona, which is a close second best to Utah....) She had two series of cozy mysteries going at the time. One involves a young woman in the South who runs a permanent farmer's market. The other is set in Broken Rope, Missouri, at a cooking school run by a feisty grandma and her granddaughter. Interesting historical ghosts turn up in these stories. Of the two, I like the Missouri series the best. The ghosts are not over the top or involved in the sorts of things some other woo-woo mystery authors use, such as wars between factions of ghosts or witches or zombies or whatever. These are well behaved ghosts that give us an interesting glimpse into their times and present a single historical problem to be solved along with the present-day murder that always seems to occur.

Then Ms. Shelton started her third series, this one set in Star City, Utah, which is really Park City Utah, in an almost completely transparent disguise. Park City is an old mining community with Wild West roots. It's now one of the world's premiere ski resorts and a year-round tourist mecca. This is perhaps the only city in Utah that does not descend from strong Mormon roots. It's a unique place of pristine mountain scenery with an Old West look and feel. In one of Louis L'Amour's western novels, a character is well known for the time he single-handedly tamed the wild, brawling boom town. Over the years, I have spent a lot of time there in week-long timeshare condo stints and at multi-day conferences and seminars. To know Park City is to love

Park City. Oh, yes, dozens and dozens of movie stars, billionaires, and other public figures have vacation homes there.

I had to read this book immediately. I have to admit that, due to my relative poverty, I get most of my books through PaperbackSwap.com or from Amazon after the price for used copies goes down to a penny (or \$4 with shipping). That means I'm usually reading books that are one to three years old. This time I paid full price at Amazon.com for the privilege of getting this one hot off the presses.

#### Actual Review Starts Here

The story involves Clare Henry and her grandfather Chester, who owns a combination typewriter repair/printing/book restoration shop called The Rescued Word. They have an interesting history that we learn about in bits and pieces as we go; I found that history to be endearing.

One day, old friend and professional novelist Mirabelle Montgomery brings in her trusty old Underwood #5 typewriter for repair. Soon a leather-clad biker dude comes into the store and demands that Clare sell him Mirabelle's typewriter—now. Not some other typewriter; specifically that typewriter. As he becomes increasingly demanding, then threatening, a quick call to the Clare's best friend, a woman police officer, scares away the would-be thief. Thus starts an intriguing chain of events that includes a murder (of course), and suspicion thrown on all and sundry, but mostly on Clare's friends.

Include a new-to-town geologist as a love interest for Clare, the revelation of a similarly new girlfriend for aging old grandpa Chester, and complications from Clare's prior relationship gone sour with her best friend's brother, another local cop, and we have a nice simmering stew of uncertainties to keep Clare on edge through the book. It's fun.

I enjoy today's standard cozy mysteries with their fairly formulaic elements, but at times the formula features that publishers seem to require descend into unnecessary situational clichés. For instance, the amateur sleuth has to have a contact in the local police department. They vary from boyfriends to best friends, from exes of various degrees of distastefulness to actual nemeses. Here, Clare's lifelong best friend Jodie is a local cop. Jodie's brother is Clare's ex-boyfriend, but he's not a complete jerk. Their relationship is not clichéd; it's realistic and it's interesting.

There's a cantankerous cat that lives in the store—all shops in cozy mysteries must have a cat or two. I really get tired of them. This one, however, does not play too big a part and seems natural rather than being there because the reading public demands there be a lovable cat present.

Clues are deftly strewn about the story with a comfortable ease that avoids calling attention to them. There are enough red herrings to keep us happily guessing wrong about what's really going on, but they are understated and arise naturally from the flow of events. I enjoyed the real mystery here, which is that we have no idea for a long time why someone would want to buy or steal an old typewriter. When the reasons slowly come into focus, they have a natural feel while yet being different from anything else I have ever read. That's the product of an author with talent, imagination, and a refreshing creativity. It must be that clear, crisp, high-altitude mountain air up there in Park City that brings out such a wonderful story.

There's one more frequent feature of many mystery novels that is missing here—to my everlasting delight. There is no moment when the sleuth suddenly knows the solution to the mystery but coyly refuses to share it with us, the readers. Those books go on for another chapter while the main character toys with us, not revealing what she now knows. I hate that—and I'm overjoyed that Ms. Shelton did not do that to us in this refreshingly different book.

I guess you can tell that I liked the book. I loved its setting. The characters resonated with me. The events rang true with a solid logical progression. One little aspect of the final solution seemed a bit off to me, but I was quickly willing to suspend my disbelief and get on with the story. I was having too much fun to let a little thing like that get in the way.

If, like me, you are tiring of all those mysteries set in small southern towns, charming New England townships, and Atlantic seaboard cities, come on out west and hang around in a real historical western town in the Rocky Mountains. You'll like it.

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### **Jenni Schell says**

What can I say? I have, many times, written about how Paige Shelton started my love of cozy mysteries. This is the 1st book in her 3rd series and I could not be happier. If you have never read a cozy mystery, this is the perfect book to start with. It's fantastic. First the characters are endearing from the start and then the story is amazing. I hope there will be many, many, many more to come for Clare and everyone in Star City!!!

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### **LORI CASWELL says**

#### **Dollycas's Thoughts**

This theme is a really unique twist for a cozy series. Chester Henry owns The Rescued Word and his granddaughter Clare has been truly learning at his knee her entire life. Today they fix old typewriters, restore old books, and sell every kind of paper and pen imaginable. Set in an area of Star City, Utah, called Bygone Alley, The Rescued Word and other shops bring back the days of yesteryear. The Rescued Word also has a resident cat named Baskerville. He is a pretty temperamental feline who watches from a shelf high above the wares for sale. If he likes you he may hop down to say "hello".

The alley is popular with both the locals and the tourists in town to hit the slopes. We meet Clare's best friend, Jodie Wentworth, and her brother, Clare's ex, CJ. Both are Star City police officers. We also meet local residents, Homer Mayfield, former newspaper editor and Mirabelle, typewriter owner and author. Seth Cassidy, who hales from my neck of the woods, is a geologist and new to Star City. He wants to get to know Clare a lot better.

This story has a stranger rush into The Rescued Word where he makes quite a scene as he insists he must have a particular typewriter, not one like it but that exact one. Clare is shaken but calling the police sends the stranger on his way. Clare is relieved until she sees something suspicious outside the back door and discovers the stranger dead as a door-nail. Did someone kill him because she failed to give him the typewriter? The story of his life came to an abrupt end, Clare is going to find out why...

These characters virtually pulled me right into this story. They are so real and fleshed out. I was engaged immediately. Everyone was so nice, I felt right at home. Chester has a secret but it is a sweet secret. Clare takes so much pride in the shop and her work and she gets excited about each new project. I love the way her romance with Seth is just beginning. With friends in the police department things can get sticky or helpful

depending on the situation. Clare and Jodie are still finding their way.

The setting drew me in as well. I had been to Utah a couple of times several years ago. The descriptions in the book brought back memories of how beautiful things are there. Imagine living so close to the slopes that you can watch skiers from your windows or just ski from your backyard. It would be wonderful to wake up to that day after day.

Now, the mystery was excellent, just what I expect from this author. She lays out a great base and then clues are dropped like snowflakes, you just have to catch them. Tracking down this killer is no easy task and the final reveal had me on the edge of my virtual lift chair. An epic read!

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## **Linda says**

### **Great first book in the series!**

This was a really enjoyable first book in the series. I've never heard of a shop like the Rescued Word but it was interesting reading about typewriters and book repairs. I enjoyed the characters and setting, both were a lot of fun and I look forward to reading more. The mystery was good and kept me guessing. So glad my trip to Utah nudged this book to the top of the list.

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## **Fred says**

To Helvetica And Back is the first book in the Dangerous Type Mystery series. Another enjoyable series from Paige Shelton .

Claire and her grandfather, Chester, have a typewriter repair and stationery store in Star City, Utah. Chester and Clare handle the typewriter repairs, while Chester's great-grand daughter, Marion, handles most of the personalized stationery orders. Their business occupies the site of a former mining business, and they have retained much of the interior items and have kept them in their original condition.

The story begins with Mirabelle, an old friend of Chester and Clare's, bringing in her old Underwood No. 5 to be cleaned and to have the "L" key repaired. Shortly after Mirabelle leaves a stranger, dressed in biker clothes, comes and wants the typewriter at any cost. Fearing that this man's action might escalate, the police are called and the man leaves before they arrive. Clare then begins to inspect the typewriter to see what repairs might be needed when she finds a combination of letters and numbers on the arm of one of the keys. She has never seen this before and wonders what they are and if this is the reason the man wanted this particular typewriter. Soon, Clare finds the dead body of the man that wanted the As typewriter, in the alley. Since her former boyfriend, Creighton Wentworth, a member of the Star City police department seems to consider her a person of interest. So she begins to do her own investigation and soon gets help from Seth, a geologist, who has recently moved to Star City. She shares with Seth, the numbers she found and he feels that he knows what they stand for. Now they need to determine for sure that he's correct and to find the murder before anyone else loses their life.

Ms. Shelton does an excellent job of describing the community of Star City in such a way that readers would love to visit or live there. She also provides a wonderful cast of believable characters and covers their history



with each other without overdoing it.

Definitely will be watching for the next book in this delightful new series to see if a couple of romantic interests will develop into more.

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### **Lynn says**

I enjoy Paige Shelton's other cozy series. The County Cooking School series is one of my favorites cozy reads. So I was interested in reading *To Helvetica and Back* (a Dangerous Type Mystery) which is the start of a new series.

I enjoyed the book very much. The location is Star City Utah. Clare works with her grandfather Chester in his business *The Rescued Word*. Her niece has joined them in the shop. They do repair of old typewriters, repair old books, and sell stationary. A man all dressed in leather enters the shop and wants to purchase an old Underwood Number 5 that was just brought in for repair. He becomes very agitated when Clare refuses to sell a customer's property. He is later found murdered in the alley.

The plot was very good. I didn't have it figured out as to who the murderer was and why the murder was committed. I enjoyed the mystery part of it. The book I felt picked up speed and interest as one went more into the story. I enjoyed the characters. Chester had a surprise for Clare. Clare's best friend is a police officer and she did relay information to her and worked with the police. Normally I do not care for romantic interests in cozy mysteries even though it is common in the genre. I did like the budding romance between Seth and Clare maybe because I liked the character of Seth. He is an geologist and quite interesting. If you enjoy cozy mysteries, you should like this book. Paige Shelton is a very good cozy mystery writer. I know I am looking forward to the second book in this series. I wonder if we will learn more about the rare Tarzan book in the next book.

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### **Lisa Ks Book Reviews says**

TO HELVETICA AND BACK is my type of mystery.

I was so excited when I heard author Paige Shelton had a new series coming out. Her *Farmers' Market and Country Cooking School Mysteries* are always on my "must read" list. Ms. Shelton does not disappoint with her *Dangerous Type* mystery series.

The quaint location this story is set in is a place where I would want to spend the day browsing through the shops. Protagonist, Clare is relatable and enjoyable to read. I look forward to seeing her fleshed out more during the course of the series. Her grandfather, Chester is great too, and I love the dynamic between them.

The outstanding plot that was extremely well written, had me hooked early into the story and held me captive with every turn of the page. The exciting reveal left me breathless. I applaud author Shelton on her gift for surprises.

A great start to a series I hope will have a long run, TO HELVETICA AND BACK tapped the keys of my imagination and left this entertaining whodunit permanently inked in my mind.

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### **Barbara Tobey says**

A wonderful cozy and great beginning for a new series. I enjoyed reading about the location, a fictional town, but similar to Park City, Utah, which I have visited. I learned to type on a manual typewriter, so our protagonist's profession repairing old typewriters struck a chord in my memory. Delightful and interesting side characters who add fun and challenges for our lead individual. Lots of potential for relationships and interaction to come in future books. I look forward to reading them.

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