



## Moonlighting In Vermont

*Kate George*

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## **Moonlighting In Vermont** Kate George

Rumor has it that nothing ever happens in small-town Vermont, but for Bella Bree MacGowan, there is no shortage of excitement. She becomes the prime suspect when she finds her boss dead in a pool of blood and can't convince the officer in charge, hunky Lt. Miles Brooks, that she isn't capable of murder.

Lt. Brooks believes two things: The first is that everyone is capable of murder, and the second is that the simplest solution is usually correct. So when it appears that Bree MacGowan has both motive and opportunity, he's confident he's found his killer.

Meg Maverick owns the local paper, and Bree's been her paste-up tech and friend from the beginning. She has no doubt of Bree's innocence, but she's worried. If her husband Tom, the captain-in-chief at the local state police barracks, insists on sticking up for Bree, he could end up ruining his reputation.

Then there's Beaux Maverick, Tom's younger brother, who has been waiting 15 years for his chance to ask Bree MacGowan out on a date. He doesn't give a rat's ass if the whole town thinks Bree is guilty. He'd be the happiest guy alive—if only she'd stay out of trouble.

## **Moonlighting In Vermont Details**

Date : Published July 15th 2009 by Mainly Murder Press

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Author : Kate George

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# **From Reader Review Moonlighting In Vermont for online ebook**

## **Sheridan says**

Lovely, light read. Really likeable characters. Not enough Vermont in it for my taste, but I'm a displaced New Englander. Plot slightly thin. Characters a bit two-dimensional. Those did not stop me enjoying the book, though. Would read more by this author.

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## **Jackie Mandeville says**

I'm going to give this book 3 stars because it was a little long and drawn out. I did very much enjoy the book but I felt it could have a lot of less pages. The story starts out with a woman discovering her boss murdered in the supply closet. The local police feel she's the only suspect because she found the body. This drags on throughout the book. They have no evidence whatsoever so it gets a little tedious. There is some romance thrown in but mostly it's about the murder. Not long after she finds the body it became apparent to me who had committed the murder. This was less than halfway through the book. The story line was ok, the romance parts were pretty good but the book definitely dragged on. I'm the type that has to finish a book I start. If I wasn't, I probably would not have finished the whole book! If the pace was a bit quicker and with more story lines it would have been a much better read.

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## **Cheryl Goldyn says**

I finished this book because I hoped there could be a strong plot hiding away in the later pages. The e-book is poorly edited with dozens of missing and wrong words disrupting the sentences, and at one point, a dead character speaks -- the author used the wrong character name! Though mildly entertaining and occasionally humorous, the plot needs a transfusion early on. About 3/4 through the book, the author must have realized she was putting readers to sleep. Out of nowhere there is a double kidnapping that is out of sync with the story. Hoping it would expose the killer, at the end of this read, all I can do is ask why. The answer can only be that the mishap kidnapping plot might have provided the most entertainment.

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## **Jo Notary says**

242pgs, When Bree finds a dead body at the five-star resort where she moonlights as a maid, her life careens out of control. Her lawyer boyfriend, Jim, dumps her; the surly and sensual investigating officer, Lieutenant Miles Brooks, keeps giving her the beady eyeball; and a reporter at the paper where she works names Bree as the primary suspect in the murder! Can your average hard-working country girl prove her innocence, rein in a love life gone wild, and maintain her sanity all at the same time?

Meet Bella Bree MacGowan ... smart, sexy and wanted for murder. Bella is furious that Lt. Miles Brooks thinks she's actually capable of murder. If he'd concentrate on finding clues, instead of trying to pin the death of her boss on Bree, he might actually catch the perp. If Brooks won't look for clues, then Bree will, regardless of the danger. Finding clues isn't as easy as it seems and Bree loses her boyfriend and her job while in the pursuit of justice. A lethal encounter with the creepy soap star Gunnar Ericson makes her

wonder if she'll be able to discover the murderer's identity before she also loses her life... Another chillingly good New England mystery from Mainly Murder Press.

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### **Radd Reader says**

DNF. Just couldn't get into the story or the characters.

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### **Kaye George says**

Bella Brie MacGowan is an appealing protagonist who admits her name means either good cheese or beautiful cheese. She doesn't much enjoy being a housekeeper, even though it's at a group of five-star cottages. But when she finds her boss, Vera, dead in a housekeeping closet, she likes it even less. Even though Vera wasn't well liked, the handsome Lt. Brooks seems to think Bella is a prime suspect for her murder.

She keeps a menagerie at home, a pony, rabbits, chickens, a cat, and four dogs. Her parents have recently moved to South Carolina, but it's not too far away for her mother to give Bella dating advice. Namely, that she should marry the guy she's dating, Jim Fisk.

Bella's other job is more enjoyable, typesetting and paste-up at South Royalton's newspaper, \*Royalton Star\*. She works there with her best friend, Meg. A threat to Meg's marriage by the name of Scott casts a shadow there. Besides keeping herself out of jail, Bella needs to intervene to keep Meg and her cop husband, Tom together.

Jim is there for Bella less and less, finding her bouts of clumsiness less amusing than she does. But Rob, her mechanic, is good looking. And Steve, a cop she grew up with, is kind and attentive. Unlike Brooks.

I loved picturing Bella tooling around Vermont on her motorcycle when her car is confined to the shop, investigating her fellow employees at Whispering Birches and other suspects, trying to save Meg and Tom's marriage, between working her two jobs and caring for all her expensive animals (hence the two jobs).

A fun read and a good, well-plotted mystery!

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### **Lorraine says**

SUMMARY: Sometimes a girl just has to get dirty! TROUBLE FOLLOWS SOME WOMEN... Bella Bree MacGowan is your average country girl. She works two jobs to support her farm and the menagerie of stray animals that accumulate there; she's almost always covered in mud; and everyone in her small town of South Royalton, Vermont, feels free to comment on everything from her love life ("That Jim just isn't right for you!") to her expired inspection sticker ("Better get that car looked at!"). Is there any such thing as privacy anymore? ... BUT IT FELL IN LOVE WITH BREE MACGOWAN. When Bree finds a dead body at the five-star resort where she moonlights as a maid, her life careens out of control. Her lawyer boyfriend, Jim, dumps her; the surly and sensual investigating officer, Lieutenant Miles Brooks, keeps giving her the beady eyeball; and a reporter at the paper where she works names Bree as the primary suspect in the murder! Can

your average hard-working country girl prove her innocence, rein in a love life gone wild, and maintain her sanity all at the same time?

REVIEW: The premise of this book was a very good storyline with lots of possibilities. I would have enjoyed it much more and given it a better score if the obscene language and few sexual interludes with TMI had been left out. The heroine was an interesting person, and I loved all her animals, but I didn't connect with her morality in her relationships. There were also some editing/grammar problems that need to be cleaned up. I think Ms George could have a wider audience appeal if she eliminated the language and sexual scenes.

FAVORITE QUOTES: "These women transform their lives by doing something out of the ordinary. By taking chances.

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## **Cathy Cole says**

First Line: "Why. Won't. You. Open!" With every word I pushed my shoulder into the door.

It's not easy being Bree MacGowan. She works two jobs in an effort to keep her farm going, her vehicle running, and her menagerie of stray animals fed. About the only time she's not covered in mud is when she's working one of her jobs as a maid in a nearby five-star resort. And when you live in the small town of South Royalton, Vermont, everybody knows you... and everybody feels comfortable telling you what you should be doing.

When a universally disliked supervisor at the resort is murdered, Bree is first in the line of suspects. All her co-workers points fingers at Bree. Her boyfriend the lawyer dumps her. A reporter at the newspaper where she works lists Bree as the primary suspect. Even the police officer in charge of the case seems intent on pinning the murder on her. What else can Bree do but conduct her own investigation? If she goes to jail, who will take care of all her animals?

Moonlighting in Vermont won the 2009 Daphne du Maurier Award for excellence in mystery and suspense. It is a cozy with an engaging main character. Kate George has a light, humorous touch, and I liked the way she developed Bree's character. Bree's bright, funny, and good-hearted. She makes mistakes, but she learns from them. It was easy to find myself rooting for her to uncover the real killer.

If you're in the mood for something light and fun, you'd do well to make the acquaintance of Bree MacGowan. I know that I look forward to reading more books in this series.

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## **Carol Evans says**

Moonlighting in Vermont was an uneven book for me. It's told from Bree's point of view and I really did like her. She a trouble-magnet, but she's fun and tries to be optimistic. She loves her animals and seems to more or less work to make money to take care of them. She's not afraid to get dirty, but the mud fight with

her best friend was a little unbelievable. She's loyal and honest. And all the guys in town seem to be attracted to her – from the cop to the mechanic to her best friend's brother-in-law. I just wish I could pick her up and put her in a different book.

I went into this expecting a mystery, but about halfway through I was debating if it could still be considered a mystery if there were more sex scenes than clues. And the sex scenes were a little bland, at least compared to the other book I was reading at the time.

The mystery portion picked up a little after that, and I think the series has potential.

You can see my whole review at Carol's Notebook.

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## **Gail Rae-garwood says**

### **Fun and witty**

This is my kind of heroine: unique, quick thinking, loyal, and smart. The plot has some lovely twists and turns.

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## **April says**

I love a good cozy mystery, Bree definitely has potential for stepping in it Jessica Fletcher style! The only thing that bothered me in this book is that it could figure out if it wanted to be a romance too.

Loads of great characters here, with just enough story building to keep you in the loop. I see plenty of potential for more mysteries in this sleepy resort town.

The dynamic with her BFF Meg is perfect. Reminds me of my BFF and I, always pals but telling it like it is, possible getting in mud fights!

The mystery wasn't overly taxing, it had enough twists and angles to keep me on my toes. I was guessing right until the dead giveaway, then it was obvious who the murderer was, if not the motive.

The whole book comes from Bree's POV, which isn't a bad narrative. I love her quirkiness and her menagerie of pets! She gets some lovin throughout the book, but the bedroom door is barely cracked open.

I listened to the audiobook narrated by Sara Mackie, who is excellent. She has just the right touch of snark in her read to really sell the character. Great pace throughout the book and terrific energy. I could have used a hint more bass with the men, but that is just me being picky!

I am eager to see what happens next for this cozy mystery series! Fun story kept me giggling!

Disclosure - I received a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review. All thoughts, ratings and opinions are my own.

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## Penny Watson says

Moonlighting in Vermont by Kate George

Once upon a time, I lived in Vermont. I loved picking fresh blackberries in my backyard on a summer morning. I loved growing my organic garden. I loved going into the general store and choosing penny candy out of a jar and putting it on my "tab." I loved antiquing in an old barn, snowshoeing on fresh snow, and driving without fear of being run off the road by an enraged madman talking on a cell phone. Yes, I have very fond memories of Vermont and a distinct longing to move back there someday, preferably in a little cottage with a couple of wiener dogs.

Kate George's novel was wonderful for many reasons. One was the setting, of course. I loved hearing about my old favorite places in the "Upper Valley"--which is the area around Hanover, NH, where Dartmouth is located. The lifestyle there is a breath of fresh air, and I do mean that literally. The heroine Bree lives on a "farm" taking care of chickens, horses, dogs, cats, etc. She mucks about in mud and crap and wears hiking boots. The author's obvious love of animals is never more apparent than when she is describing Bree's menagerie of dogs, all with their own adorable personalities, heaping love and affection on the heroine. Well, I'm a dog person, so this really appealed to me. And I loved how the "city" folk were completely undone by this natural environment. When I lived in Vermont, we called city folks "flat-landers" and would make fun of their fancy clothes, luxury cars, and snooty attitudes. (Folks in Vermont drive pick-up trucks, wear sensible clothing, and are very down to earth. Seriously, it's my Shangri-La!).

Bree is a great heroine...plucky, always getting herself into scrapes, fiercely independent, loyal. And she has a wicked sense of humor. There are a lot of physical mishaps, including a motorcycle wipe-out, getting stabbed with a pair of sewing scissors, and a hilarious mud wrestling scene with Bree's best friend. I also love the fact that the heroine is juggling a bunch of guys, including a lawyer, auto mechanic, police officer, and stone mason (Go Bree!). There are a lot of flirtations and sexy interludes going on, which adds great sexual tension to the story.

The "mystery" was actually the weakest link of the story, mostly because Bree is more of a passive observer than an active participant in solving the crime. Instead of sitting at home waiting for something to happen, she should have been out badgering the cops and looking for clues. That seemed more in line with her personality. I'm praying there will be another book about Bree, and hopefully she will take a more active role in the mystery.

I am very impressed with Ms. George's writing. She has a fabulous voice....fresh, funny, irreverent. It lends itself perfectly to this genre. I can't wait to find out which of the hunky Vermonters will win Bree's heart! And in the meantime, I'm booking a weekend at an inn in Woodstock. Only this time, I'll be the flatlander tourist from Massachusetts with my SUV and cell phone. How embarrassing!

Grade: A-

Penelope

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## **Madeline says**

DNF

Underdeveloped characters, dull conversations, cliché heroine.

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## **Jean says**

Kate George's *Moonlighting in Vermont* starts out with a wallop in the story's second paragraph. While at her job as housekeeper at The Whispering Birches, Bella Bree MacGowan discovers her boss, her DEAD boss, stuck in a closet. If I was expecting a nail-biter, I was mistaken. Two paragraphs later, I read, "Not throwing up is a life skill I haven't developed. My name is Bella Bree MacGowan. Bella is Italian; Bree – well, technically, Brie – but my mom couldn't spell, is French; and MacGowan is Scottish. Basically, my name means good cheese. Or maybe, pretty cheese. Either way, it's cheese, and what kind of life skills can you expect a cheese to develop. Definitely not dealing with dead bodies, I'll tell you that much."

That's pretty cheesy stuff, but I was practically rolling on the floor laughing and scaring the cats. After Bree discovers the body, she soon becomes the only suspect due to lack of evidence. She receives a Get Out of Jail Free Card, and we follow her exploits as she trudges through the mud – quite often – and traipses about from one man to another, interrupting her trysts to dash home to feed the animals in her menagerie. At times, I actually forgot that there is a murder to be solved. Well, I almost forgot.

Bree is best friends with Maggie, who is also her boss at the local newspaper. Maggie's husband is a cop. Conflict of interest? Yes, but there are plenty of those in this small Vermont town where everyone knows everyone else's business. The characters are funny, down-to-earth, and of course, some are caricatures. This is especially true of Gunnar Ericson, the soap opera star, who is a guest at the inn where Bree moonlights as her second job. For those who would like to read this book, I won't describe how he fits, or rather, doesn't fit, into the novel, but I felt that his character and story line detracted from the overall mood of the story. Her encounter with him, however, is just another in a string of misadventures that befall our stumbling heroine as she battles the gossip and dirty looks of town folk and coworkers and other incidents much more painful and dangerous.

For those who like wine with their cheese, the writing is not perfect; the editing and proofreading needs work. I suppose some might say that the "dates" could be considered a little too graphic for a cozy mystery. No whining for me! Those things detracted very little from my pleasure in reading this book. Except as noted above, I enjoyed *Moonlighting in Vermont* very much. Oh, by the way, the mystery IS solved at the end!

4/5 stars

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## **Cheryl says**

### **Female McGyver?**

If you want to a fool-hardy adventuress, Bree is your girl. At times she seemed to be the female version of

McGyver!

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