



Jack Be Nimble Jack Be Dead

Wendy Owens

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Wyoming Ohio is the place you move when you are ready for the quiet life—at least that's what Penny Preston thought.

Five years ago, Penny Preston found herself divorced and alone in San Diego, CA. With only her Dachshund named Piper and the possessions she could fit in her beat up Chevy Malibu, Penny decided to take her Aunt up on her offer to move in with her in Wyoming, Ohio, and help her run her coffee shop. She never imagined her Aunt passing away or her leaving the shop to her, but that's exactly what happened.

Besides the occasional nosy community member creating a stir around unsubstantiated gossip, life was peaceful—that's until Penny's life got messy . . . as in red body messy. Jack Eggerton, the local dog catcher, is found dead in the back of the animal shelter Penny runs in her spare time. After a heated argument between her and Jack about a missing dog, it appears the finger is pointed directly at Penny Preston. Enlisting the help of her seamstress neighbor, Linda, and her chubby Dachshund, Piper, with whom she has a rather peculiar connection to, Penny sets out to unveil the killer before she is left paying for a crime she didn't commit . . .

Jack Be Nimble Jack Be Dead Details

Date : Published February 21st 2017 by Four Bean Soup LLC

ISBN :

Author : Wendy Owens

Format : Kindle Edition 166 pages

Genre : Mystery, Cozy Mystery

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From Reader Review Jack Be Nimble Jack Be Dead for online ebook

Lisa Gillette-Martin says

Take one combination coffeehouse/animal rescue facility (an interesting aspect right off the bat), add a heroine with a psychic connection to her adorable dachshund, and top it off with the mysterious murder of the town dogcatcher. The result is one of the more unique cozies I've read.

“Jack Be Nimble, Jack Be Dead” is an entertaining mystery set, as cozies often are, in a small town where everyone seems to know everyone else. There’s no preamble to the murder – it’s already taken place as the story opens, and Half Day Coffeehouse proprietress Penny Preston is understandably shaken, as the victim was found on the premises. I really enjoyed the interplay between her and her 60-something sidekick Linda as they set out to clear Penny’s name and determine who committed the murder. Linda fancies herself a murder mystery expert, mainly because she reads so many of them, which made me chuckle, as I imagine many of us mystery readers probably think the same thing about ourselves!

The story unfolds in some unexpected directions, and I changed my opinion as to the perpetrator a couple of times. My last guess was right, but the killer’s motive turned out to be one I’d never have anticipated. Without giving anything away, I will say I was glad the killer’s creepy plans never came to fruition in the story.

Overall, I enjoyed the book. It was a quick, fun read, and although I’m not typically a fan of a supernatural aspect in mysteries, this one was pretty cute – I wouldn’t mind having a pup like Piper that could give me some psychic warnings and clues about things... especially when it comes to playing matchmaker with a cute sheriff’s deputy! I’ll look forward to seeing how that aspect unfolds as the series progresses. ;)

NOTE: I received a copy of this book from the author in exchange for a fair and honest review.

Tari says

Cuddly dogs and a killer stalking them, just a day at Half Day Coffee

Penny Preston and her dachshund, Piper have an unusual psychic connection and it comes in handy lots of times. She and her friend/renter Linda have their hands full after discovering a body in the kennel area behind the coffeehouse Penny owns. Penny also rescues dogs so after finding the body and getting clues from Piper who with the rest of the dogs saw the murder, she and Linda set out to find the killer before he strikes again.

This was such a fun book and I love that my favorite dog, a dachshund, is featured as an actual character. It was a quick read and I didn’t guess the killer until the author cleverly started the reveal. The take down was awesome (not spoiling, I’ll just say yay for Piper) and the ending was really good. I can’t wait to read the next one!

Kim says

I received a copy from the author to read and give an honest review.

I really enjoyed reading this book.

Penny Preston gets divorced, and moves back to her hometown of Wyoming, Ohio with her chubby Dachshund Piper. When her aunt passes away and leaves her a coffee shop. She adds a very small no-kill dog shelter next to the shop and runs both. Shortly after she gets into an argument with the local dog-catcher about a missing dog, the dog catcher is murdered in her dog shelter, and she becomes a suspect; Penny, Piper, and their neighbor Linda start their own investigation into the murder.

The story grabbed me right away, and kept me interested the entire time. Likeable characters, and well developed plot with lots of twists. Thrown into the mix are cute dogs, a quirky neighbor, and a hot deputy, and you get a fun, fast-paced story that's a winner!!

Jess says

Wyoming Ohio is a small town where Penny Preston is the proprietor of Half Day Coffeehouse. It begins as a normal day but then she discovers the local dog catcher Jack Egerton's body face down with a knife in his back in her kennel. Penny had opened the small rescue operation at the back of her coffeehouse for lost dogs short term til they found their fur-ever home. The local sheriff of course puts Penny at the top of his suspect list. Penny's friend Linda leads the local mystery readers book club thinks of herself as Sherlock and soon gets Penny on the hunt interviewing suspects and tracking down clues. Jack had a lot of enemies and their investigation is sometimes comical especially some of the situations Linda gets them into. Also Penny has a psychic dachshund named Piper who sends her images to help. I loved the connection with Piper which put a unique twist on the story. Pick up this fun cozy mystery today!

Christy Calhoun Miller says

Jack be nimble

The lack of accurate spelling and punctuation did me in. Aren't there people who proofread? Are they literate? This could have been a great read but SHEESH punctuation and spelling make it break a book. Sorry, Ms. Owens. Try again.

Jessica Secret says

Jack Be Nimble, Jack Be Dead

By Wendy Owens

Review by Jessica Secret

Wendy Owens story "Jack Be Nimble, Jack Be Dead" is a great story. Jack most certainly is dead and Penny

Preston is the one who found him. Jack is the dog catcher and Penny runs a shelter finding homes for stray dogs. She had been overheard arguing with Jack about the whereabouts of a Bernese Mountain Dog that Jack was supposed to deliver to her shelter.

I found it interesting that the story does not begin with Penny stumbling over the body, but with Penny calmly discussing finding the body in her coffee shop with the sheriff. The coffee shop was left to her by her aunt in the small town of Wyoming, Ohio.

I like Penny as she is a reluctant Watson to her tenant, a seamstress, Linda Louise's, Sherlock Holmes. Linda is older than Penny by a decade or so, and keeps pushing her to investigate the murder.

They follow a slim line of clues to the murderer. You meet each suspect as they are introduced to Penny and Linda. I did not see any foreshadowing. There were a lot of warnings from the sheriff and Penny's love interest, Deputy Hanson. At last the slim clues fall into place. Penny is startled to see the Bernese Mountain Dog tipping her hand to the murderer. The murderer attacks Penny. Linda saves her in a unique way. Deputy Hanson stumbles in the door soon afterwards.

I'm not sure if Penny ever did save that Bernese Mountain Dog. Hmm.

V L says

A Great Book!

An enjoyable book filled with suspense and accusations caused by a murder at the local coffee shop. Sit back in your favorite chair with this book and take an adventuresome romp through Wyoming, Ohio in search of a murderer.

Lisa Millett says

Delightful cozy mystery

This is a cute yet suspenseful cozy mystery. I loved the two main characters and the doggie connection too. I found it to be a quick read and highly recommend it to all mystery lovers.

Marsha Holz says

Love loved this book

I loved this book couldn't put it down at times. I laughed & cried & tried to solve the mystery. I didn't. I highly recommend this book & will buy anymore in the series.

Kim says

Penny Preston moved to Wyoming, OH, five years earlier to help her Aunt run her coffee shop. After her Aunt passed away she was left to run the coffee shop on her own. Penny added an animal rescue shelter to the back of the coffee shop as a no-kill option for stray animals in the area. After an argument with Jack

Eggerton, local dog catcher, about a missing dog he was supposed to bring to her shelter, Jack was found dead inside the shelter. Penny (with the help of her friend and neighbor, Linda, and her Dachshund, Piper) sets out to find the real killer and clear her name.

This is an entertaining story with a well-developed plot that has several twists and turns. The characters- Penny and Linda are delightfully funny as they try to solve Jack's murder with their amateur sleuthing. Penny's Dachshund Piper and other dogs in the story are adorable. This book as a little bit of everything for cozy mystery lovers... a touch of romance, a little bit of psychic ability, baking, and pet rescue. I look forward to more books in this series.

I was provided with a copy of this book in hopes I would submit a review. All thoughts and opinions are my own.

Kit Donner says

A pretty good somewhat short mystery, but not believable

When you finally learn why Jack was killed, you will realize that this story was made up by someone who is no good at arithmetic, knows nothing about farming, business, or economics, and does not have much common sense. But while the conclusion of the whodunit is obviously ridiculous nonsense, the investigation by the two slightly whacko but well meaning amateur detectives is highly amusing and moderately plausible. I can imagine people giving information to the two of them as they bumble through alternately causing a ruckus and reassuring people that no, we did not think that YOU killed Jack, we just think that maybe you can help us learn more about this little clue that is puzzling us Crazy women rushing in where noone in their right mind would, unless, like Penny Preston said at one point, you thought that a crazed killer was about to come after you next. I could identify with her fear when she said that, because the author had done a good job of conveying Penny's growing concerns as Linda rushed the two of them into predicament after predicament, without a thought of the risks that they were taking trying to hunt down a killer!

Annette says

I know it is just me, but I did not enjoy this story.

The premise of a dog who communicates with other dogs and then communicates the other dog's thoughts to a human is simply too much of a stretch for me.

I wanted to like it, but this is simply not for me. I know there are readers who love this author and this series. It just is not for me.

Sue Brooks says

I just love it when a new author asks me to read a book and review it for her. Because, as a result, I have

another amazing author to read books by.

Penny Preston lives in the small town of Wyoming Ohio. She moved there to help her Aunt with her coffee shop (Half Day Coffeehouse), that she later inherited from her. She also runs an animal shelter in a part of the same building. When she comes to work one day and finds the dog catcher (Jack Egerton) killed in the kennels, she and one of her tenants (Linda Louise) decide they need to find out who did it - to keep Penny out of jail herself. I don't write spoilers, BUT I will warn you that you will be sitting on the edge of your seat, trying to figure out exactly what happens, all the way to the last page!!!

I'm so looking forward to more books in this series!!! I was given a copy of this book for an honest review.

Crystal says

Penny runs a coffee shop that also has an area in the back to take in strays. She is a sweet woman who is just trying to make sure that unwanted pets have a place to be safe, and hopefully find them a new home. One day she comes in and the dog catcher is found dead in the kennel area. Now the number one suspect, Penny needs to figure out who the real killer is so she is no longer considered. With the help of her dachshund Piper, she heads out to solve the case.

This book definitely had a couple of twists that I didn't expect which is a good thing for me. I didn't figure out the killer right away, but once I did, I also figured out the motive and it's not for weak stomachs. The writing is superb and I absolutely love the characters. I hope that there is more to this series!!

Sherri Shade says

Super cute read!

At first I thought it was a little too Pollyanna for a murder mystery, but once I really got into it the cutesiness kind of lightened my mood and I really enjoyed it.
