



# Book Clubbed

*Lorna Barrett*

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***New York Times* bestselling author Lorna Barrett is back in town—Booktown, that is—with another page-turning mystery. This time bookstore owner Tricia Miles and her sister, Angelica, put their own problems on the shelf to catch a killer who turns a bookcase into a murder weapon...**

Cranky Chamber of Commerce receptionist Betsy Dittmeyer is done reading people the riot act. After she's crushed by a fallen bookcase, the next item to be read is her last will and testament—which is packed with surprises. It soon comes to light that Betsy was hiding volumes of dark secrets behind that perpetual frown of hers—and one of them just might have been a motive for murder.

While Tricia tries to help Angelica—the newly elected Chamber of Commerce president and Betsy's boss—solve the mystery, she discovers a hidden chapter in her own family history that rocks her to her very core. And with her ex-husband and the chief of police vying for her affections, it's doubly hard to focus on who might have buried Betsy in a tomb of tomes.

But as Tricia and Angelica try to read between the lines, they need to watch their step...and make sure the killer doesn't catch them between the stacks.

## Book Clubbed Details

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Author : Lorna Barrett

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# From Reader Review Book Clubbed for online ebook

## Pixie Poe says

With the tourists gone, Stoneham is so quiet you could hear a pin drop... or a bookcase.

Angelica has her hands full running her shops, writing her books, and now running the Chamber of Commerce as their newly elected president. The Chamber's receptionist is making Angelica's newest venture anything but smooth sailing. Betsy Dittmeyer's acerbic tongue and penchant for stirring up trouble has left her with a long list of enemies.

Betsy was not well-liked and evidently not well-known either as her many secrets are revealed following her death. Angelica and Tricia team up to figure out which of the secrets were worth killing for in the latest installment of the Booktown Mysteries series. But Betsy is not the only one with secrets as we learn in Book Clubbed. Some secrets may drive people apart forever, while others may bring people closer than they ever imagined.

As with the others in the series, the reader is taken on a trip through Stoneham and into the lives of many of its beloved residents. In addition to the mystery, several lives are about to change which makes this a page-turner from beginning to end (which is a heartstopper). Lorna Barrett writes in such a way that you can feel the bitter wind on your face and snow underfoot as you cross the street and enter Haven't Got a Clue to hear Pixie singing and Mr. Everett greet you while Miss Marple glances at you with appraising eyes. As we get to know these characters more, we can't wait to visit them again.

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## Maureen says

I don't know what Trisha is turning into, bookstore owner who never is at the bookstore, sleuth but is in no hurry to let police boyfriend know what she found....and police boyfriend who is so put out when Trisha's does find out info that he's always mad, then trying to make up to her for being mad...and ex husband proclaiming his love for her even though he is the one who left her...add femme fatal to list of professions trishia is trying out....can u see I'm confused... ,!

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## LORI CASWELL says

### Dollycas's Thoughts

Hang on tight! This book gets off to a fast start and had this reader tuned in from page one.

Angelica is trying to start out on the right foot with the Chamber but Betsy Dittmeyer is not happy about it. Her point of view ceases to matter very quickly when her death has Angelica and sister Tricia trying to find out who helped bury Betsy under that pile of books. She wasn't well liked so there ate quite a few suspects. It seems Betsy also has a few secrets that could have led to her demise.

Lorna Barrett does it again. My emotions were reeling with this story. I had tears in my eyes at one point.

Haven't Got A Clue is a very special bookstore with very special employees. I love these characters. Pixie continues to shine and Mr. Everett is the perfect gentleman. Tricia is so lucky to have them by her side handling the ups and downs of not only the bookstore but Booktown as well. There are some changes coming to Booktown with Angelica leading the Chamber and Nigela Ricita Associates taking on a larger role in the properties in town there. Some other characters have some special announcements too that will be changing their lives.

Then of course there is Tricia's love life or lack of a love life to add a little more to the story.

What I really enjoyed was that Tricia and Angelica continue to get closer as a family secret is revealed. It is time for these sisters to stick together and support each other.

The author has packed these pages with so much that I challenge anyone to put it down once you start reading. I truly hated for the story to end. I can't wait to see what happens next!!

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## Bev says

My Take: This is going to be fairly short. Book Clubbed caught my eye on the New Arrivals shelf at the library. I mean, what's not to love? A mystery bookstore owner as amateur sleuth. With a cat named Miss Marple. A corpse killed by a fallen bookcase. A clue in a family Bible. Books everywhere you look. I was in need of just six more library books to fulfill the I Love Library Books reading challenge and this seemed like a perfect entry--a quick, cozy read.

Yeah...no. At first I thought that maybe the reason I wasn't connecting with Tricia Miles and her sister Angelica (and about 95% of the rest of the characters) was because I hopped on the Booktown Mystery Train at stop number 8, but a glance through other less favorable reviews by readers who have been on board from the beginning lead me to surmise that it wouldn't have mattered much. Tricia apparently has been in a weird funk from her divorce (and other man troubles) all along. She's being stalked by her ex--I don't care what anyone says. The fact that he watches her every move from a window that looks down on her store and straight across from her apartment is very creepy. And, it's not enough that she's got hang-ups over men. She's also got her troubled relationship with her mother.

Quite honestly, living inside her head and seeing the other characters from her point of view is no treat. She's labeled a goody two-shoes, but she's not particularly charitable in her thoughts about most of the others. When tragedy strikes at the end, I'm not even invested enough in her character to feel terribly sorry for her. The most sympathetic characters--in my opinion--are her employees. Unfortunately, we don't see nearly enough of them. And let's not even talk about the dialogue...mostly flat, almost always at cross-purposes, and sometimes I'm left thinking "what-the-heck?" because the subject has just been changed abruptly for no discernible reason.

The good points? Decent mystery and plotting, although not enough clues displayed so the reader could possibly arrive at the solution on their own. Booktown atmosphere is also a plus. But not enough good points to entice me into reading any more of the series.

First posted on my blog My Reader's Block. Please request permission before reposting. Thanks.

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## **Nicky says**

I was very excited when this finally came out. I have loved this series, but I am not loving Tricia lately. And I can't say that this was one of my favorite books. Tricia has become so bitter, she really needs to fall off that high horse of hers. I find it very hard to believe that all these men are really fighting over this ice queen. Are there no other nice women in Stoneham? I didn't care for Angelica early on, but I would hang out with her over Tricia any day. I really hate the way she treats Pixie as well. Yeah, she has a past but so what. She has been nothing but nice and giving towards Tricia. What I wouldn't give to have Pixie grab a heavy book and smack Tricia upside the head with it. I'd hang out with that broad too.

The mystery was ok, I didn't feel like there were enough clues to really have me guessing the murderer on my own. And what was with that ridiculous Bob part of the story? After all the silliness... Tricia is a sucker for those green eyes??

Sorry Lorna, you just weren't on your game this time around.

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## **Lorna Barrett says**

I wrote it. I like it.

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## **Jeannie and Louis Rigod says**

Excellent as usual. The story is driven by the personalities of the victim and the other characters. Tricia Miles helps out her sister, Angelica in this episode. The Chamber of Commerce must relocate and quickly, this is not aided by their receptionist, Betsy Dittmeyer. Someone else doesn't care for Betsy either.

We are off on a hunt into what drove this woman to end up dead with Tricia leading the way. The ending was fulfilling but also had me a bit sad. You can not read this series without growing attached to the three-dimensional characters, who become more real each volume.

The entire Stoneham crew is present, make sure you join them.

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## **Leigh says**

Another visit to Booktown. This series is hit and miss for me. The writing and pacing of the stories have all been good, they are quick, light and easy reading which I like, but then there is Tricia. She has to be the most unlikeable main character in any series I've read. Normally I love to read a new instalment in a series because I've grown attached to the characters, here I just wonder what on earth is she going to whine about now. The best description I've heard of Tricia was from a reviewer here, she looks like she's simultaneously sucking a lemon and smelling a fart, couldn't have said it better myself. Onto the book. Betsy Dittmeyer, the cranky secretary of the chamber of commerce is found crushed under a bookcase. The most unlikeable person in town (beside Tricia of course) everyone at least wished she was dead. Despite that there are really

only two viable suspects her ex husband and her sister, and one of them isn't even mentioned until over half way through the book. Once again not a whole lot was focused on the solving of the mystery, more on the people of Stoneham and all that is going on around town which is a lot. Two pregnancies, with two very different reactions to that news, an upcoming birthday party, and Bob Kelly acting weirder than usual. This was an okay addition to the series. At least it wasn't as ridiculous as the plane crash one. Tricia is still judgemental and was downright mean to Frannie, who while an annoying blabber mouth didn't deserve the treatment she got. The ending made the book worthwhile. Maybe it will be like the Maisie Dobbs series and reinvent itself after these events, but I somehow doubt it.

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## **Elaine Helms says**

Okay, so I have read all of these Booktown Mysteries. I like cozies and I like the sense of returning to characters I have come to know. Having said that-why am I being given a main character who is sooo unlikeable? Trisha is smug, judgmental, prissy, prudish, and full of herself. I thought that was maybe going to change. I thought that she would get through her grief over her failed marriage and learn to loosen the heck up and enjoy her life again, but apparently not. I can see no reason why so many men are fussing over someone so boring she eats the same bland lunch every day and who is so buttoned-up she can barely function in a relationship, yet I am expected to believe they are absolutely fighting it out over this wench in Booktown. Why? I guess the town is really small-but surely there are other women who aren't so dull and prissy. At first when I was reading these books it seemed like all of the characters were so hard to like, but then I realized since this is written from Trisha's POV it is actually Trisha who is unlikeable. We are constantly exposed to her judgmental attitudes about all the other characters, so it initially made them all seem unpleasant because we hear her judgey meanness about them. For someone who has been referred to as a "goody-two-shoes" on more than one occasion in these books she actually seems quite hateful much of the time. I guess only we know how awful she is-since the other characters can't know (as we do) what is going on in her head. She is just so uncharitable and stuck-up and I really hoped she would pull it together and change. This woman is so prissy she refers to sex as "the act" even internally. She hires a former prostitute but cannot bring herself to discuss "THE ACT with someone who used to perform it professionally". Seriously? It could only do her some good and maybe she'd be less of a supercilious prude. The author doesn't really give us much to go on when it comes to what Trish looks like (maybe she did in the first book or so and I just don't remember) but I always imagine her looking like she simultaneously sucked a lemon and smelled a fart, since that is how her personality comes off in these books. Lighten up, Frances.

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## **Suzanne says**

### **Use your little gray cells for this one.**

This is a story filled with twists and even if you figure out the killer discovering the motive might be a little harder.

While Tricia, Angelica and Frannie are chatting with the postman there is a commotion upstairs.

Then the crushed body of Betsy Ditmeyer is found under a book case.

Naturally Tricia, along with Angelica decide to find the killer even though Betsy Ditmeyer was not liked by anyone.

When Tricia's ex-husband Christopher tells her Betsy was a multi-millionaire and cut her sister Joelle out of the will, they need to find out why.

Bob Kelly is still avoiding the police, and his business is suffering.  
Then NRA has decided to open up a reality company and giving Bob Kelly a run for his money.  
And it seems something is in the water because babies are coming.

What I enjoyed the most though was the ending. Not only who the murderer is but the motive was something I wouldn't have guessed in a million years.

The only thing that still bothers me is Tricia's whiny and her deciding when she gives the sheriff information about the case she has discovered.

I know it's the main part of a cozy but Tricia drives me nuts at times that I just wish Grant would lock her up for a day or two.

As always Angelica has included some of her wonderful recipes for us. Can't wait to try them.

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## **Carol says**

Book Clubbed made me feel very at home with the characters. The story is set in Stoneham, New Hampshire, aka Booktown, a town that sprang back to life with several book themed businesses. Lorna Barnett made the characters real for me. This is the eighth in a series and it does well as a standalone. Tricia Miles is the owner of Haven't Got A Clue, a very unique used bookstore. Angelica, her sister owns a café, Booked for Lunch and is the new President of the Chamber of Commerce. Betsy Dittmeyer is the receptionist for the Chamber of Commerce and she is never welcoming and her current and past life is loaded with many dark secrets. Pixie Poe and Mr. Everett work for Book Clubbed and are great and lovable employees.

Betsy Dittmeyer has plenty of enemies, an ex-husband her sister, Joelle and most of the town. One day, a lot of commotion is heard upstairs. Betsy is found dead, crushed under a bookcase. With a pause for revelations about Tricia Mile's mother that seems to explain a lot, the story plunges in the murder mystery. Some of the scenes are firmly etched in my memory and I didn't want them to end! The author's talent shines through this tale for connecting people, creating the deepening friendship between the two sisters and the friendships. I am now so hungry for the rest of the books in a series. I definitely love the characters, all unique and having their own histories.

I highly recommend this exceptional cozy mystery.

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## **Lisa Ks Book Reviews says**

I was so excited to finally get my hands on this book! When I started reading cozy mysteries several years ago, the Booktown series was one of the first I read. If it hadn't been for this series and a few others, my love for cozies may have been short lived.

BOOK CLUBBED is now my favorite book in this series. It had all of the same wonderful storytelling as the volumes that came before, but amped up to a whole new level. Author Lorna Barrett held nothing back with this one, calling on all of her talent as a writer. Action packed with one exciting story twist after another, I was left breathless by the end.

And keep reading after the story is over for yummy recipes, and a sneak peek of the next Booktown mystery, A FATAL CHAPTER!

If you're already a fan of the Booktown Mysteries, you are going to be blown away when you read BOOK CLUBBED. If you haven't started this series yet, do yourself a favor and please do. But I suggest getting them all at the same time because you're going to want to binge read this series!

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### **Tina at A COZY GIRL READS AND WRITES Blog says**

Oh, how I love Stoneham, New Hampshire, AKA Booktown, It has a picturesque setting and has some quirky and charming characters and with another murderer lurking in the town, no one is safe. Chamber of Commerce receptionist, Betsy Dittmeyer keeps to herself and has some deep, dark secrets to hide, she was not very well liked with some of the residents in Booktown either. It is really no shock that she is found suddenly crushed by a falling bookshelf. Could her secrets be the reason why someone wanted her dead?

Angelica owns many businesses in Booktown and wears many hats, her latest hat she is the newly elected Chamber of Commerce President and also as Betsy's boss she and her sister, Tricia, Owner of Haven't Got A Clue, a vintage mystery bookstore in Booktown feel obligated to help solve the murder. If that isn't enough Trisha is rocked to the core after hearing a family secret of her own and also with her ex-husband and the police chief, Baker competing for her undying love and affections but her priority lies in finding Betsy's murderer.

This is the very first cozy mystery series I have ever read and it's very near and dear to my heart and it will always be a favorite. Since then I have never turned back from reading cozy mysteries. The characters are very endearing and I love revisiting them year after year. Book Clubbed is filled with surprises and a few tears, and you can never forget the murder and mayhem. This is the one book in the series you will never forget and I'm happy to say I'm caught up on this one. If you're starting out reading cozy mysteries or if you haven't already done so I highly recommend this series as I always have to everyone, Can't wait until the next in the series !!!

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### **Allena says**

Loved this book! Can't wait for the next installment !

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### **Bea Charmed says**

Meh. Too many convenient occurrences, boring love triangle, very soap operais, and just why exactly is she



involved in the investigation? The police did very little and the dispatcher is incompetent.

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