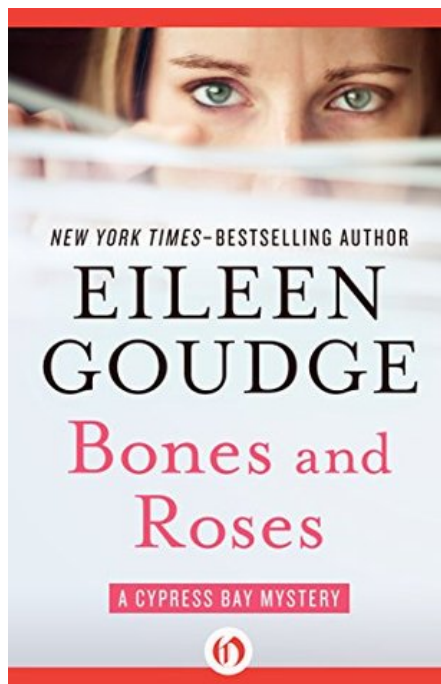




Bones and Roses

Eileen Goudge

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Bones and Roses Eileen Goudge

In a picturesque California seaside town, an intrepid property manager attracts the right clients, the wrong boyfriends, and a kinky killer

After wrecking her real estate career in a booze-fueled blowout, Cypress Bay property manager and recovering alcoholic Tish Ballard thought she had put her past behind her. But when she opens an old trunk, a bequest from an anonymous benefactor, she finds it filled with bones and roses.

Suddenly Tish is plunged into a murder case that dates back to her childhood. Pitted against her high school crush, homicide detective Spence Breedlove, she finds herself in jeopardy—in more ways than one. Can Tish unmask a killer before the man who broke her heart puts her behind bars or, worse, she becomes a corpse herself?

With a suspenseful, surprising plot and touches of romances and humor, the *New York Times*–bestselling author of *Garden of Lies* delivers a delectable cozy mystery.

Bones and Roses is the 1st book in the Cypress Bay Mysteries, but you may enjoy reading the series in any order.

Bones and Roses Details

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From Reader Review Bones and Roses for online ebook

Susan Becraft says

A delightful old-fashioned mystery

As a longtime fan of Eileen Goudge, I was excited to read her first foray into the mystery story genre. She did not disappoint me. Bones and Roses was an intriguing story that had me guessing until its conclusion.

I loved so many of the characters, which were richly drawn. Tish Ballard, the protagonist, was a particular favorite of mine. In her mid-thirties, she was a recovering alcoholic, whose mother had abandoned her now schizophrenic brother and her when they were young children. She was the caregiver of her brother, who was also endearing and funny.

And who would not love Tish's best friend, Ivy, who created dioramas that featured insects? I wanted one to the point at which I searched online!

I deemed Bones and Roses an old-fashioned mystery because it brought back memories of my days with Nancy Drew. It was an intriguing whodunit from almost the first page, with Tish a grown up Nancy.

The setting in Cypress Bay, an upscale beach community in California, was ideal for the story. Tish's one-woman company that cared for expensive homes let me be a voyeur into places that came to life because of their vivid descriptions.

I would be remiss if I neglected to mention Eileen Goudge's wicked sense of humor. Tish and Ivy made me laugh out loud many times, even when they were in danger.

Bones and Roses left me waiting for the next Cypress Bay story. I cannot imagine anyone who would not have fun unraveling this mystery.

Carol - Reading Writing and Riesling says

My View:

I choose to read this book for a couple of reasons; it had been personally recommended to me and when I sought the book out I fell in love with the cover, so based on purely on these 2 reasons I picked up this book and laughed and was intrigued and enjoyed the whole reading experience.

The protagonist Tish is delightful, honest, sassy, and a down to earth recovering alcoholic, hers is such unique voice in crime fiction I can't wait to read more about this heroine. She is sober but every day is a challenge that she acknowledges – I like this frailty and honesty it adds a wonderful depth to her character (that and she is the “responsible adult” for the care of her schizophrenic brother). I love the way that alcoholism and mental health issues are dealt with so openly in this drama; and drama it is.

There is plenty of action, conflicts, the airing of past misdemeanours, a bit of mystery, romance, and some great friendships and of course a murder to solve. This narrative is written with passion (you can tell), some laugh out loud moments and the good guys win- what more could you want in an easy read absorbing read?

Connie says

First let me thank NetGalley and Lauren Lee, Publicist for Ms. Goudge for asking me to read an ARC of this book. Second, let me say, if Eileen Goudge is spreading her skills into Mystery/Romance then she is headed in the right direction! What a fun romp this was!

I have read a few of her books, and she is an entertaining writer, that gives the reader strong characters and a good "women's story". This is a bit of a departure but none the less enjoyable.

Tish Ballard is an unmade bed...the bottom sheet is fitted but the rest looks like a restless night. She is trying to build a life "after" drinking. As an AA member she has a past that she would like to forget...and has much of it. But she is spunky, sassy, full of wit and loyal!

When the question of her Mother's disappearance years ago is suddenly answered, she doesn't quite believe it is an open and shut case and decides to do a bit of investigating on her own. She wants closure. Enter her best friend Ivy, a retired cop, Mcgee (who is a story all by himself) as well as her not quite right in the head brother and the search for answers begins. She searches for clues to put this long ago chapter to rest...along with her Mother. She is klutzy, quirky and quick to act...without always thinking things through. Goudge gives us a long buried mystery, lots of red herrings, twists and turns and a wonderful read! I highly recommend this for a rainy day, curled up in your favorite chair.

Julie Valerie says

Make room on your bookshelves for a new mystery series by New York Times bestselling author Eileen Goudge.

I read Bones and Roses, the first book in Goudge's exciting new Cypress Bay Mysteries series in one sitting and closed the covers ready for the next book. Now I'm tapping my fingers waiting for the next installment in a series I intend to snatch-up the moment the books are released. The best feeling a reader can have – the enjoyment of a great book and the thrill in knowing there's more to come.

Bones and Roses brings readers to the northern California seaside town of Cypress Bay where recovering alcoholic Leticia

"Tish" Ballard has set up shop as a vacation rental specialist at Rest Easy Property Management, a company name I found quite ironic because Tish can't rest easy after a discovery of skeletal human remains in a trunk in a storage unit stirs up all kinds of trouble in Tish's life, including Spence Breedlove, former lover and lead detective in this decades-old crime.

Conflict and tension builds with each turn of the plot and before long, Tish is navigating through the repercussions of events from both the past and present – in moments that made me snuggle down deep in my chair as I turned the pages of the book.

There's lots to love about this first book in a new series by Eileen Goudge. A page-turning cozy mystery

with great characters (I especially like best friend, Ivy, and I adore Arthur, Tish's brother – hope to see them both in future books), a storyline with twists and turns that are delightfully surprising, and a main character that is both flawed and vulnerable while also showing remarkable strength in the face of difficult revelations about the past. There are moments of humor and plenty of “seed-planting” for further development in both plot and character for future books in the series.

You're in good hands with this master storyteller. Enjoy this first book and then enjoy the ride as future titles are released in the Cypress Bay Mysteries series. An enthusiastic five stars.

Trena says

Was asked to review before book release. Enjoyable so far only read about 20%. Mystery has just been introduced. Good Character building.

I have been reading Eileen Goudge's novels for years. I have recommended every one I've read to friends and family that read. Bones and Roses is a little different in that there is more of a mystery theme. But Eileen Goudge fans, don't worry; she has woven her normal twists and the unexpected into the mysteries. Excellent book- you will not regret buying it! I am waiting for the next one!

Amy says

As a recovering alcoholic, Tish's memories are, at best, hazy. She admits that there are gaps in her recollections, although she believes she recalls precisely her many nadirs.

All alcoholics drink for a reason, and Tish's is fairly simple: she drinks because she believes her mother abandoned her and her troubled brother in order to run off with a man friend. It isn't so much that Tish blames her mother for all of her troubles as it is that Tish knows her life would have been vastly different were it not for her mother's defection. That she calls her business "Rest Easy Property Management" is ironic, to say the least, although I suspect the irony is lost on Tish. She is categorically unable to rest easy in any aspect of her life. She is ever vigilant against drinking, and as an advocate and caretaker for her brother. Even her romantic partner is someone with whom she cannot rest easy.

Upon the discovery of her mother's remains, Tish's already tense life takes on even greater stress. Clearly her mother did not run away. Clearly she was murdered. Clearly someone is responsible.

Because Tish doesn't think the police are as interested as she is in finding the killer, she becomes a de facto investigator, occasionally dipping a toe over the line of legality. She is surrounded by a coterie of quirky pals, whether a former police officer turned storage facility manager, a best friend who can't decide if she's Mata Hari or Wonder Woman, or a brother who struggles with real life. Even a former high school nemesis turns out to be a decent guy who is far more willing to help her than she believes.

Mixed up in all of this is a bickering, divorcing couple whose property Tish manages. They indirectly introduce a romantic entanglement, something Tish does not have time or energy for even as she is inescapably drawn to and wants it. She also discovers some connections with Tish's mother of which she was unaware, each of whom affects her investigation.

I enjoy Eileen Goudge's books quite a lot, and this one is no different. Tish is hard headed and makes stupid mistakes, but she's real. She feels like someone I'd have as a friend. Tish narrates the story, and it is through her occasionally distorted lens that we get to know the other characters. She may not always get it right, but she keeps trying.

This is the first of a planned series, and I am interested as to the direction Goudge will take. The ending assuredly is a cliffhanger of sorts, yet part of me wishes that Tish's story would end there. I have a feeling, though, that we will see more of her, and that is not a bad thing. I just hope that the reason for the cliffhanger sticks around a while.

Hint hint, Eileen Goudge.

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Deb Novack says

Things go well for Tish who is a real estate manager for the wealthy. She also takes care of her mentally challenged brother while trying not to fall off the wagon. All is well until she receives a ;large box and opens it only to find her mother's body who she thought just left them when they were young. She now begins to investigate and eventually finds all the answers she seeks.

I received this book in exchange for an honest review

a. says

Poor dialogue.

Predictable relationship between the main character and law enforcement.

Predictable relationship development between the main character and the "hot guy".

At one point, the author mentions cereal and she calls the cereal "honey roasted cheerios" and for some reason that annoyed me beyond belief, which is, I know ridiculous. But, if you are going to write about a well known cereal, call it what it actually is-- or use some totally off brand name.

The characters were not well developed. I didn't like Ivy at all. I was ready for her to be out of every single scene she was in.

Sonja Yoerg says

The first of the Cypress Bay series, Bones and Roses delivers in classic Eileen Goudge style. It's witty and well-paced, fueled by a compelling plot.

The heroine, Tish Ballard, is a feisty recovering alcoholic investigating her mother's death. When she gets a lead, she's like a bulldog with a bone, and she's not afraid to snarl. She's a winning character, and Goudge surrounds her with a varied and cleverly-drawn cast. Set in coastal California (my old stomping ground),

you'll feel the mist and hear the roar from the crashing sea as Tish pursues one lead after another. The author's descriptions are that good.

When you reach the end, you'll give thanks Bones and Roses is the first in a series and you won't have to say goodbye to Tish Ballard for too long.

Artemiz says

Bones and Roses by Eileen Goudge is an interesting criminal mystery, with just a dash of romance. That's really all I can say about this, since it really was an interesting criminal mystery story about unexpected discovery of Tish's long lost mom's body, about her meeting her employer's son Bradley, about all the possible suspects who could have murdered her mother ... it was intriguing, enchanting and funny.

Good read.

Wendy says

Bones And Roses, by Eileen Goudge, is the 1st book in the Cypress Bay series and my 1st book by this author.

A cozy mystery full of twists and turns with characters that are witty and endearing.

A compelling plot and I look forward to the next book in the series.

Beth says

For years I've been a fan of Eileen Goudge's writing: her whip-smart humor, pacing and character development are always top notch, and in this twisty whodunit she doesn't miss a beat. Recovering alcoholic and protagonist, Tish Ballard, is wonderfully flawed and by turns both fragile and fierce, and the supporting characters are as diverse as they are quirky.

Goudge has successfully blended her talents as a bestselling women's fiction writer with all the key ingredients of a cozy mystery. The end result is a fun and addictive read that kept me guessing. This is the first installment of her new Cypress Bay Mystery series and it's a winner. I'm eager to see what's next!

Autumn Is Azathoth The Haunted Reading Room says

I confess that this is my first novel by Eileen Goudge, but BONES AND ROSES (read in one afternoon-evening) hooked me immediately. This is an unexpected, but fascinating, interweaving of cozy mystery with serious backdrop. Protagonist Tish Ballard is "anti-hero": a recovering (= currently non-drinking) alcoholic, former real estate broker, now owner of a property management business; dragging on in a relationship not right for either partner, grieving her mother's abandonment 25 years earlier, and caring for her schizophrenic brother.

There's so much to love about this novel, so many plot convolutions; and unlike many cozies, when the author lifts the curtain, that's not the Wizard we see, but ugly reality--past and present.

Pamela says

Bone and Roses is the first book in the Cypress Bay mystery series. It is a well written and professionally edited full length novel.

Tish is a property manager, caretaker of her mentally ill brother and a recovering alcoholic. Her whole life has been overshadowed by the disappearance of her mother when Tish was a child. She always believed that her mother ran off with a lover, so when her mother's body is found Tish decides to investigate her murder.

This is an intelligent plot with believable characters that are easy to identify with. I did think that the romantic element in the story was a bit forced.

Overall, Bones and Roses was a satisfying read. I look forward to reading more of this series.

ARC provided by the publisher via Netgalley.

Judy Collins says

A special thank you to INscribe Digital and NetGalley for an ARC in exchange for an honest review.

Eileen Goudge is back, stronger than ever with **BONES AND ROSES**, the first book in her exciting new *Cypress Bay Mysteries* series. Filled with lovable characters, razor sharp humor, and tons of drama for a page-turner mystery charmer!

In Northern California and the seaside town of Cypress Bay, readers meet the vacation rental queen, Leticia “Tish” Ballard, the former real estate broker, and recovering alcoholic, presently the owner of her own company, Rest Easy Property Management. She gave up the suits, and hectic life of real estate sales for flip flops and a more laid back lifestyle, where she takes care of the owner’s homes and prepares them for the guest arrival.

Currently, Tish is dating Daniel (*comfortable, not sizzling*), enjoys spending time with her BFF Ivy, and taking care of her very high IQ troubled adult brother, Arthur (*he is a riot*). However, her head begins spinning when she is left with a storage unit with a mysterious trunk filled with skeletal remains and opens up a past, and a crime (s), never solved.

Of course, while she puts herself front and center of the investigation, she has to come face to face with her old high school sweetheart, and lead detective, Spence, plus a number of other eccentric characters as she races to find the real killer as her life is on the line—keeping you guessing until the end with a nice twist.

As usual, Goudge is a master at character development, and storytelling, with obstacles coming in every direction for an engaging and satisfying read. *I was blown away by the inspiration for the book and the events taking place in the author’s own life at the time of writing.*

Wow, what can I say, I fell in love with author, *Eileen Goudge* years ago, and have been a faithful follower

since. I will never forget the day I purchased the *Woman in Red*, in Florida, which was my first book by Eileen. Something about the front cover was so intriguing—it pulled me in and was hooked. Immediately afterward, started *Garden of Lies* and worked my way up/down the list. After reading eighteen of her books, you could say I am a fan, and was delighted to receive an ARC of *Bones and Roses*. *I loved it!*

In addition to being a talented writer, Eileen is genuine, and speaks from the heart. She uses her tragedies and turns them into something wonderful. If you have ever communicated with Eileen via email, or Goodreads, via her blog, or read her postings, you will come to know a special and unique person. I speak for all the fans and readers out there – Thank you for being you! You are an inspiration and your words come alive on the page, with stories to warm hearts, and characters to remember, long after the book ends.

I loved Tish, Bradley and Arthur, and especially the vacation rental real estate storyline, as I have managed real estate, vacation rentals, cottages, hotels, and B&B inns for years, and there is always something exciting going on, and life is never dull!

Check out the second book in the *Cypress Bay Series*: *Swimsuit Body* (5 stars) Coming June 7, 2016. Tish Ballard, is once again embroiled in solving a murder, a famous movie star found dead by the pool at one of the homes she maintains as owner of Rest Easy Property Management, in Cypress Bay, California. *Let's hope she hangs out her sign her second business, a PI. Yummy!*

If you are new to *Eileen Goudge* books, you are in for a treat! I would highly recommend all her books, and visiting her website to learn more about this extraordinary author.

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