



Beach Blanket Barbie

Kathi Daley

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Zoe suspects that something is up when Levi's ex-girlfriend Barbie comes to town unexpectedly. When she ends up floating face down in the lake Zoe and the gang shift into full sleuth mode to find a killer. As they delve into Barbie's life since she left Ashton Falls, they find a complex puzzle that is going to take a group effort to unravel.

Beach Blanket Barbie Details

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Author : Kathi Daley

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Genre : Mystery, Cozy Mystery

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From Reader Review Beach Blanket Barbie for online ebook

Cathy Inboden says

I love this series. Can't wait to read the next one.

Eva says

A Quick and Entertaining Read

This is book 6 in a series, and I strongly recommend reading the series in order. The mystery part of the book is mostly disconnected from previous happenings, but there's a big overall story arc concerning the lives and relationships of the main characters. Also, while the book is relatively short, there are quite a lot of characters. Reading the series from the beginning, they're introduced gradually, and it's much easier to remember who's who.

The Story:

Zoe finds another body – this time, the victim is her childhood friend Levi's former girlfriend. Barbie, the victim, was a high maintenance beauty who delighted in flirting with married men and made a lot of enemies in her short time in town. Because she called Levi for help a few days before her murder, and he turned her down, he feels guilty and enlists Zoe and friends to find the killer.

What I liked:

The main characters are likable and well fleshed-out, and their relationships are interesting. You can also tell that the author put quite some effort into making her characters grow while keeping it all plausible. The mystery is interesting and kept me guessing. Barbie had many enemies, some personal, some professional, most of them with both motive and opportunity. I had great fun trying to figure out the 'who did it?'.

What I didn't like:

I don't really like the ending, for two reasons: One, it's very abrupt. A huge chunk of the action takes place 'off-screen' and is only recapped very briefly in the final chapter. Two, the interaction between Zoe and the killer seems somehow 'off'. They actually have quite a polite discussion about the murder (the murderer's motive, exactly how and why (s)he did what (s)he did, etc.) before (s)he proceeds to attack Zoe. I'm not sure how to put in words, but the whole scene seems kind of awkward.

Conclusion:

This is a nice little cozy mystery where the emphasis is slightly more on the 'cozy' than on the 'mystery'. It's an enjoyable read for fans of the genre. The summer setting makes it a great read for a rainy (or snowy) afternoon.

Becky says

I enjoyed this book much more than book 5.

Kathleen says

Need to read these in order if yo want to keep the relationships straight. This was an okay book. I enjoyed the others before this better. I will continue the story as I want to see what happens with the other characters.

Jaime says

I found these books through Kindle Unlimited. When I saw I could borrow them for free and saw how many books were already written, I was excited.

Overall, I've been pleased enough with the series but in this one, a glaringly obvious continuity error popped up and it kind of ruined the book. One of my biggest pet peeves with movies, tv shows, and books is plot holes/continuity errors. I just can't move beyond them.

The error could be a result of the author pumping the books out so quickly.
Not sure I'll continue with the series.

Linda says

I love this series, having started it in August with the first one, Halloween Hijinks. I have enjoyed watching the friendship between Zoe, Ellie and Levi, and her relationship develop with her childhood nemesis, Zak. Each story contains a bit of mystery, along with some wonderful animal rescue and/or adoption stories. In this story, Levi's former girlfriend returns but before the friends can find out why she has come back, her murdered body is found. Seems that Zoe is a magnet for dead bodies and murders and even though the local sheriff dislikes her butting in, for Levi's sake she once again finds herself searching out the murderer. As always, her search tends to put her in the path of the murderer, but can she discover what happened before he/she realizes that she is closing in? This book would have rated 5 stars but I was a little disappointed with the way the story ended. Not that the mystery wasn't enjoyable, but at a certain moment, the author skipped forward in time and explained what happened instead of "live" action. While I don't mind a summation for motive, I was a little disappointed at how much was explained in this last chapter, and felt a little cheated for losing more reading pleasure. That said, I am still invested in this series, and am already in the midst of the next Zoe adventure, Maui Madness.

Mary Brown says

If you like cozies with great characters, a great mystery, humor and animals, then Kathi Daley's Zoe Donovan Mystery series is for you. In the latest book, Beach Blanket Barbie, the mystery continues throughout the story and there are enough twists to make you rethink your choice of the murderer. Characters continue to be developed and relationships continue to grow. You really feel like you know the characters and care what happens to them. The writing flows smoothly and is very easy to read. The ending held a few

surprises and made me want to read the next installment. Unfortunately, I have to wait until it's written, which I hope is soon. I can't recommend the entire series enough, it is definitely one of my favorites

Sabine says

Levi's ex-girlfriend is back in town. Her way of teasing and flirting with every man hasn't made her a lot of friends. So when she is found dead at the pier one morning Zoe, Ellie and Levi find themselves investigating a lot of suspects. Or is her death connected to some questionable business she seems to have been involved in?

I just love this series. The characters are very well drawn....and the recipes at the end of the story sound super delicious.

Chris Meads says

This book reminds me so much of the Cat Who....books by Lillian Jackson Braun and the Mrs. Murphy mysteries by Lillian Jackson (and we can't forget Sneaky Pie). I really enjoyed this book.

The book starts out with a friend's dog getting knocked up by a stray and Zoe chases after the dog through most of the book. Leaving there, Zoe heads over to Ellie's Beach Hut, an eatery and there while visiting with Ellie, sees Barbie B on the beach with a strange man. Barbie has been gone for a few months after breaking it off with Levi. The next morning Zoe finds out Barbie has been murdered.

Zoe and her friends try to piece together who killed Barbie and why. They make a list of everyone that Barbie could have made angry since she did attract men only to brush them off. By the end, Zoe finds out who did it when she and the yoga instructor, Serina get knocked out and the studio gets torched.

All's well that ends well except for a beloved pet having to be put to sleep and a wedding that wasn't meant to be. Zoe and friends end up going to Hawaii for a much needed vacation.

I do like the name of Zoe's animal rescue, The Zoo (or Zoe's Zoo). Now I will have to catch up on Zoe's life by reading the other books.

I won this book from a goodreads giveaway.

Celest says

This one could make you cry

There is a lot going on in this book which is one reason why I love Kathi Daley's writing. Mystery and intriguing situations everywhere you turn. There are some happy moments, but also some very sad moments. The characters are very real and easy to care about, so of course I am way to involved in their lives. Don't miss this one.

DelAnne Frazee says

Title: Beach Blanket Barbie - Zoe Donovan Mystery Book 6

Author: Kathi Daley

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E-Book ASIN: B00J6GUF16

Pages: 210

Genre: Cozy Mystery

Tags: Thriller & Suspense, Animals, Women Sleuths

Sensual Rating: Very Light

Overall Rating: Great

Reviewed For: Kathi Daley

Reviewer: DelAnne

Levi's former diva ex-girlfriend, Barbie Bennington is back and bringing her troubles with her. The men still fawn over her and the women want to scratch her eyes out for flirting with every man she comes across from eight to eighty. She asks Levi for help, but he has had more than enough dealings with her to stay away from anything to do with Barbie. When Zoe Donovan, operator of Ashton Falls' Zoe's Ark, finds Barbie's body floating faced down in the water near the pier Levi feels guilty for not even meeting with her to find out what was so important that Barbie would contact him for help. He wants Zoe and his friends to help him find out what happened to Barbie as the sheriff, who was seen with Barbie shortly before her death, seems in a hurry to call it an accident.

If Zoe wasn't so good with the animals she saves, takes care of, and either returns them to the wild or finds forever homes for I think she should give the Sheriff a run for his money on the next election. Then again Zoe with a gun is not a comforting image. She seems to put herself in danger without trying too hard, a gun could make her a danger to others. Zoe is a wonder when it comes to animals and will do everything in her power to save one. Her heart is enormous with more than enough room for her family, boyfriend, friends and every animal lucky enough to find their way to her. She and her friends are the kind of people we all want to have in our lives, warm, open and loyal.

Like all of Kathi Daley's books the sixth Zoe Donovan mystery, Beach Blanket Barbie is a quick clean mystery. Although you could read this as a stand alone, but if you are like myself you enjoy watching the relationships between the characters grow and develop. Not to mention how they interact in the town and events. Ashton Falls may have a larger ratio of deaths per population, but most were not exactly desirable, leading citizens anyway. So maybe Ms. Daley is weeding out the bad to make room for me. Ashland Falls needs a craft and hobby store and a book store, I would be happy to open one of them on Main Street to the benefit of the town. How can an author create a town without a bookstore? Let me rectify that oversight for you.

Bonnie Dale Keck says

Kindle Unlimited liked it but didn't love it hence 4 stars. Wasn't anything stupid such as typos or anything like that, just didn't love this.

Halloween Hijinks Anniversary Edition (Zoe Donovan Mystery Book 1) * - The Trouble with Turkeys (Zoe Donovan Mystery Book 2) * - Christmas Crazy (Zoe Donovan Mystery Book 3) * - Cupids Curse (Zoe Donovan Mystery Book 4) - Big Bunny Bump Off (Zoe Donovan Mystery Book 5) * - Beach Blanket Barbie (Zoe Donovan Mystery Book 6) * Maui Madness (Zoe Donovan Mystery Book 7) - Derby Divas (Zoe Donovan Mystery Book 8) - Haunted Hamlet (Zoe Donovan Mystery Book 9) - Turkeys, Tuxes, and Tabbies (Zoe Donovan Mystery Book 10) - Christmas Cozy (Zoe Donovan Mystery Book 11) - Alaskan Alliance (Zoe Donovan Mystery Book 12) - Matrimony Meltdown (Zoe Donovan Mystery Book 13) - Soul Surrender (Zoe Donovan Mystery Book 14) - Heavenly Honeymoon (Zoe Donovan Mystery Book 15) - Hopscotch Homicide (Zoe Donovan Mystery Book 16) - Ghostly Graveyard (Zoe Donovan Mystery Book 17) - Santa Sleuth (Zoe Donovan Mystery Book 18) - Shamrock Shenanigans (Zoe Donovan Mystery Book 19) - Kitten Kaboodle (Zoe Donovan Mystery Book 20) - Costume Catastrophe (Zoe Donovan Mystery Book 21) - Candy Cane Caper (Zoe Donovan Cozy Mystery Book 22) - Holiday Hangover (Zoe Donovan Cozy Mystery Book 23) - Easter Escapade (Zoe Donovan Cozy Mystery 24) {pre-order at this time}
Spin off from Zoe Donovan series Zimmerman Academy. *means NOT ku

Whales and Tails Mystery

Romeow and Juliet (Whales and Tails Mystery Book 1) - The Mad Catter (Whales and Tails Mystery Book 2) - Grimm's Furry Tail (Whales and Tails Cozy Mystery Book 3) - Much Ado About Felines (Whales and Tails Cozy Mystery Book 4) - The Legend of Tabby Hollow (Whales and Tails Cozy Mystery Book 5) - The Cat of Christmas Past (Whales and Tails Cozy Mystery Book 6) - A Tale of Two Tabbies (Whales and Tails Cozy Mystery Book 7) - The Great Catsby (Whales and Tails Cozy Mystery Book 8) - Count Catula (Whales and Tails Cozy Mystery Book 9) - The Cat of Christmas Present (Whales and Tails Cozy Mystery Book 10) - A Winter's Tail (Whales and Tails Cozy Mystery Book 11)

Murder at Dolphin Bay (Sand and Sea Hawaiian Mystery Book 1) - Murder at Sunrise (A Sand and Sea Hawaiian Mystery Book 2) - Murder at the Witching Hour (Sand and Sea Hawaiian Mystery #3) - Murder at Christmas (Sand and Sea Hawaiian Mystery #4)

Zoe Donovan, Whales and Tails, Sand and Sea, others, check out amazon page

Julesy says

I love this series, much more than Daley's TJ Jensen and Whales & Tails series. I love the characters in this Zoe Donovan series, the friendships and relationships. Each book has good cozy mystery and are quick, easy reads.

This book fits all the attributes I mentioned above. I enjoyed the mystery from beginning to end. I didn't guess the culprit but the motive made perfect sense. I would highly rate this book except for one thing ... the last chapter, which was a month later, actually everything that happened in the characters' lives. I was taken by surprise by the events that occurred in this last chapter. However, there was a slight cliffhanger at the very end, so now I just HAVE to read the next book!

I would rate this book somewhere between 4 and 4.5. I am leaning more towards a 4 because of the last chapter seemed to have rushed events for the last month for the characters.

Linda Rainey says

Another Great Cozy

I love cozy mysteries and Kathi Daley is one of my favorite authors.
This story and the series is recommended for those who love cozy mysteries.

Kirk says

Really enjoyable

These books are so much fun, and so easy to read! Really great characters, that seem like old friends. I highly recommend these books!
