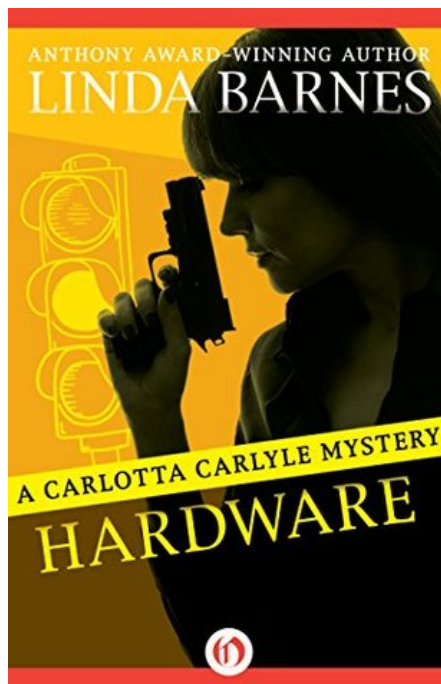




Hardware

Linda Barnes

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Private investigator Carlotta Carlyle's moonlighting job as a taxi driver turns into the most dangerous, high-octane case of her career

When Carlotta can't sleep—or when money gets tight—she drives a cab. It's always been a dangerous way to make a living, but lately it's become truly terrifying. In the last two months, nine cabbies have been savagely beaten and robbed, and every time Carlotta gets behind the wheel, she knows that she could be next.

How then can she refuse when a rival taxi company hires her to investigate the assaults? Thinking she will be making the world a safer place for cab drivers, Carlotta doesn't suspect that this new case will push her even closer to the edge. The company she works for is co-owned by Sam Gianelli, her sometime lover and a mob-connected businessman whose family knows how to get tough. Drawn into a tangled conspiracy of mafia secrets and high-tech espionage, Carlotta will have to drive faster than ever to stay alive.

Hardware Details

Date : Published July 7th 2015 by Open Road Media Mystery & Thriller (first published 1995)

ISBN :

Author : Linda Barnes

Format : Kindle Edition 404 pages

Genre : Mystery, Fiction, Crime, Detective

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From Reader Review Hardware for online ebook

Mad Leon says

If you need a dull mystery that is sure to put you to sleep, plus leaving the book out in a rainstorm won't upset you, this is it. Ugh

Leisha Wharfield says

In this book, I care a lot about the character Carlotta, remembered and eulogized by the author in an elegant criticism of Boston for its lasting segregation, and her overt admission regarding a city that is still racially exclusive: "In Boston, movie theaters cater to black crowds or white crowds. Restaurants rarely attract racially mixed gatherings . . ." It still takes exceptional individuals to cross racial lines. Why is that? Let's mix it up, people!

Karen says

I had trouble getting into this; I just wasn't that concerned about who did it or why. The heroine jumped to one conclusion that really didn't sit well with me and that made me question her judgment from that point on.

Ed says

#6 in the Carlotta Carlyle series.

Carlotta Carlyle series - When Boston-area cabbies are targeted in a series of attacks, the professional and personal lives of Carlotta Carlyle bloom with mystery. The part-time PI and part-time cab driver is hired by the Small Taxi Association to investigate the attacks. On the same day, she discovers four microphones hidden at Green & White, the company she drives for. Sam Gianelli, her "on-again, off-again lover" and Green & White's co-proprietor, wants the bugs left undisturbed though he won't say why. Sam's friend Frank sells Carlotta a new computer; on the way home she and Sam are shot at. Violence edges closer to Green & White, leading to serious injury for Sam and his co-owner, Gloria. Unexpectedly, Frank the computer maven, whom even Roz, Carlotta's tenant with a lively taste for men and the bizarre, finds odd, resurfaces. Before Carlotta can sort out taxi industry troubles, the past intrudes on the present and she discovers some surprises about Sam.

Meredith says

I enjoyed this book -- I like Carlotta and Gloria - but I don't think I really understand what happened, or rather how the two threads of the story fit together. So it was a page turner for me that left me scratching my head at the end.

Spuddie says

#6 Carlotta Carlyle mystery. Winter's approaching in Boston, and someone is beating up cab drivers. Carlotta, who drives cab part time to help pay the bills when her PI business doesn't do well enough (which is most of the time) is approached by two different people to investigate--an official in the local Hackneys association, and her boss and friend Gloria, who is part owner of G&W cabs.

Gloria isn't sure whether someone is targeting just her small company or cab drivers in general, and can't quite figure out what they would stand to gain by intimidating drivers. Is it something personal or something to do with the politics of the cab medallions--the license issued by the city to own and run a cab, of which there are a fixed number.

Meanwhile, Carlotta's on-again, off-again lover Sam Gianelli, son of a mob boss though not involved in mob business himself, has been spending a lot of time away from Boston in recent weeks and Carlotta's wondering why. Sam owns the other half of G&W, and would prefer that she not investigate at all, which also puzzles her. He also insists that she needs to get into the computer age and introduces her to an old friend who gets her set up with a state of the art system for next to nothing. Once again, Carlotta's puzzled as to the motivation for this move.

I've come to really enjoy this series a lot and this one was quite enjoyable with an ending I didn't expect and more plot twists than I could count. Very much looking forward to the next in the series.

Robert Scott says

Finished 07/08/2014. Carlotta is approached about finding who is purchasing cab medallions for Boston. & then confronted by the person who was accused of doing so. She decides to upgrade to modern technology & get a computer. Sam Gianelli who has been scarce lately offers to get her a good deal on a used computer. She meets his friend Frank who is in fact James Fabrizio. Then she stands in for Gloria's brother when he is attacked while driving a G & W cab w/o a license. Then S & G & the bro. are blown at the G & W garage & office. Roz helps with the computer & with the investigation. S's brother is the person behind all the mayhem. Best CC mystery so far.

Charlotte says

Fun, easy read. Might be worth reading more of the series when I'm looking for something light.

Cameron Wiggins says

This is a good, quick Barnes' read starring the part-time Private Detective/Cab Driver, Carlotta Carlyle. As usual, Barnes does do her research. This time, Boston-based Carlotta gets involved with a case at her own work-place Green and White Taxi. Carlotta discovers four bugs in the restroom. Is it the FBI – they use the same type of archaic bugs? If not the FBI, then who could it be, and why?

The FBI is systematically eliminated as the culprit. So, next on the list is the largest taxi company in town. The case definitely appears to be about taxi medallions. The main owner is begrudgingly eventually eliminated and his number two man no matter how good he looks for it does not appear to be the bugger. This leaves the mob? Which family, though, would be interested in the medallion and taxi racket? True, Sam Ginanelli, son of the leader of the famed Ginanelli family is a partner in the G&W Taxi business, but when the home shop is blown up with murder and mob hit dripping from it, motive is complicated. It surely was not for insurance reasons? He was not planning on selling the business and thus, the cabs and the medallions? Oh, yes, and Sam is almost killed in the bombing. Yep, it reeks of a mob hit. The case becomes very dangerous quickly and Carlotta's old partner on the police force, Mooney, talks Carlotta into purchasing a more current hand weapon to replace her old .38. She buys a used S&W .40 (10mm) like the FBI has gone to. Carlotta buys the gun partly to soothe Mooney. Carlotta has no idea just how badly she needs to make this purchase.

Cam

Jan says

Linda Barnes's Carlotta Carlyle series is one of the very few that I can keep reading back-to-back. I really, really like Carlotta and her attitude and the unique people in her orbit. This reader really likes how they are all developing in each installment. Her fraught relationship with her little "sister", Paolina, is one that any parent can understand with the exception that legally she can do so little. Carlotta has many love temptations and not all are temptation only. And, throw in computers--who does know what each other is doing? And, who is hiding information? And, always there is a climatic, threatening denouement.

Gail says

This was the grittiest Carlotta Carlyle mystery yet. Still continuing with the series. The characters are great. I love how there is a continuing story woven underneath the main case. It holds the series together but a reader can still pick up a book at any point in the series and not feel lost.

Vannessa Anderson says

Carlotta Carlyle is hired by her boss to investigate why her cab drivers are being beaten up. Just when author Barnes had us convinced that we knew who the killer was, she threw in someone who we never suspected! Hardware was a fun and fast read. C.J. Critt storytelling made the story exciting and a fun read.

Brian O'Leary says

My type of plot line, but a really bad book.

Barbara ★ says

This is a good mystery concerning a taxi company (or two), a mafia family including the estranged youngest son, a private investigator dating the taxi owner (said estranged mafia son), and a friend from his past.

I listened to the abridged audiobook of this title and am not sure whether the abrupt conclusion was the author's writing style or due to the revision. I just seemed to me that Carlotta all of a sudden just knew who, what, when, where and why with no real explanation as to how she came to this conclusion. Again, I'm sure if I read the book instead of listened to the audio tape all of this would have been explained properly and seemed more believable.

Judy says

I've been trying to read the Carlotta Carlyle series as she wrote them but I've had some trouble finding the ones that she wrote earlier. In sequence they start as her being a cop in Boston, then leaving that after she shot someone and becoming a P.I.

Well written and detailed descriptions.
