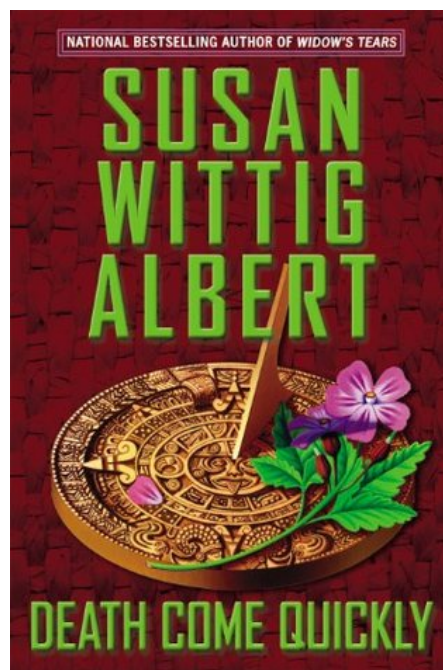




Death Come Quickly

Susan Wittig Albert

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Herbalist and ex-lawyer China Bayles is back. In *Death Come Quickly*, a friend's murder may be the key to solving a fifteen-year-old cold case...

When China's and Ruby's friend Karen Prior is mugged in a mall parking lot and dies a few days later, China begins to suspect that her friend's death was not a random assault. Karen was a filmmaker supervising a student documentary about the fifteen-year-old murder of a woman named Christine Morris and the acquittal of the man accused of the crime. Is it possible that the same person who killed Christine Morris targeted Karen?

Delving into the cold case, China learns the motive for the first murder may be related to a valuable collection of Mexican art. Enlisting the help of her San Antonio lawyer friend Justine Wyzinski—aka the Whiz—China is determined to track down the murderer. But is she painting herself into a corner from which there's no escape?

Death Come Quickly Details

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Author : Susan Wittig Albert

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From Reader Review Death Come Quickly for online ebook

Mich says

You can ALWAYS count on Wittig Albert to weave a great story with China Bayles and her gang. Reading these is seriously like coming home for me. Just settle in and enjoy a good book.

Shomeret says

I did think that China Bayles was a little slow on the uptake in this one. So was Ruby for that matter, but it's more likely that possibilities involving criminal behavior wouldn't occur to Ruby than that China, the former attorney, would be clueless about such an issue.

I also wanted to see more about Mexican art which was supposed to be a focus of this novel. That theme caused me to want to read this particular book, but there wasn't enough of the content that interested me.

Shirley Schwartz says

China Bayles never fails to entertain. This latest book in one of my all-time favourite series is another winner. In it we've got dual story lines and dual murders as well as art fraud and building code boondoggles. You couldn't ask for more excitement. Then add lots of valuable and interesting herb lore and throw in a few really good recipes and you've got vintage China Bayles. I have loved this series for a number of years now and look forward to each new book in the series. China's family is growing through the years, but her friends are just as endearing as they were from the first book. Ruby Wilcox and Sheila Dawson (Smart Cookie) are perennial favourites. I love China's sense of humour and her dry wit. I love reading about her life in Pecan Springs, Texas. It's like catching up with old and dear friends every time I read a new China Bayles book. Keep 'em coming Susan. I can never get enough.

Jeannie and Louis Rigod says

This volume is 22nd in the China Bayles Mystery Series, and to my opinion, still maintains the quality of the first 21.

China Bayles, a former Defense Attorney, now happy married owner of multiple businesses built around Herbs and plants, is shocked to learn a friend has been mugged, and that it might be related to a 14 yr old murder cold case.

Ruby Wilcox, China's BFF (Best Friend Forever,) shares the shock and it worsens when the ladies learn their friend has died and it is a homicide. What is going on? Is there a link to a college class/students doing a project that spans back to the cold case?

Ms. Albert is excellent at blending in the background of the city she lives in (Pecan Springs, Texas,) the history of the people involved, and Chapters are headed with useful information regarding plants and, in this episode, herbs. It surrounds the topic of truth and deceit, good and evil, and Justice or Not!

I was very caught up in the book, while wanting to be asked to dinner...read it and you will see. Some recipes are included for...me? Yes, my ego is willing to accept that...LOL.

A very good read to enjoy.

Pamela McLaren says

If you have ever read any of Susan Witting Albert's China Bayles books, you will enjoy this one from 2014. The ex-lawyer, not herb and flower expert and store owner just can't seem to get involved in any murders that happen in Pecan Springs and in this story, she is no different.

This time, a friend is mugged and dies. Its enough to make China want to help her family and soon she is in the thick of a definite, if undefined, mystery. But make no mistake, once China and her friend Ruby get started, its like a dog with a bone and it doesn't rest until she has gathered enough clues and connections.

This is fun, light reading at its best. A joy to imbibe.

Sharon says

2.5 Stars. This was such a disappointment I almost didn't finish reading it. Karen Prior is found dead in her car which at first seems like a robbery. She is an advisor for a student documentary on the cold case murder of Christine Morris. When one of the students is also threatened, China is on the case with the possibility of Karen and Christine's murders being linked. I've read all the China Bayles mysteries and usually enjoy Ms. Albert's style of writing where China will speak to the reader directly. I love the setting of the Hill Country and all the herbal lore and through the first couple chapters I thought it was going to be another enjoyable read. My biggest problem with it was all the asides to the reader. Between the law lectures, global warming and urban sprawl warnings, China's reconnection with Aaron (which seemed inappropriate and unnecessary to me), traffic in Houston, and Sheila's personal troubles I started to forget what the plot was supposed to be about. The reader learned more about Christine through China's interviews and Ruby's synopsis than about the present day murder victim who was never fleshed out. At the beginning there was a lot of emphasis on the two documentary students that got dropped once China got into lawyer mode and lectured the reader on the finer parts of the law to include a minor discussion of the OJ Simpson trial. At one point every character was described as blonde and thin or athletic which surprised me that I remembered enough to grumble about the description. What really lost me at the end was when China uncovered what was going on and went on for several paragraphs that if she was a character in another book, this is what would have happened. Then all of the sudden the mystery part of the book was over and China and Mike were discussing the case tying up the loose ends. Too much meandering in this one and not enough getting on with the story for my liking.

Johanna says

I am a big fan of the China Bayles series but unfortunately I was disappointed by this book.

It starts of in a good way, with the regular re-cap for new readers.

But I felt it lost momentum.

There was not as much depth in the characters to me. It felt very unfinished.

I usually love the inserts before each chapter begins but I felt like these were just thrown in because it was

tradition not for added knowledge which dive tails with the story.

I guess what I'm saying is this story didn't seem to have heart. But maybe it was just a book to set up the next story ark for the three main characters as they move into a new stage of life.

I hope so at least!

Lisa Ks Book Reviews says

DEATH COME QUICKLY was sent to me by the publisher to review and is the first book I've read in the China Bayles series. I'll admit that when I purchase books, unless it's a series I already know, the cover is what draws me in. Don't get me wrong, the covers in this series are beautiful, they're just not the cozy covers I'm used to, so I never gave them a chance. Well, I'm happy the chance was given to me.

I enjoyed the way Ms. Albert started each chapter with "Herbs of Good and Ill Omen". It was extremely interesting to learn about the beliefs associated with all the different plants me mentioned.

I really liked the character China. She's a wonderful protagonist. I felt a connection with her right away. All the characters in the story are incredibly well written and so multidimensional.

The story itself is extremely compelling. Very detailed and intriguing. It had much more happening than the back cover description alone would lead you to believe. And it as a pleasant surprise to find recipes at the end of the book.

I now know what so many other readers before me already knew. . . . Susan Wittig Albert is a great author and she now has a new fan of the China Bayles series in me.

Snap says

DEATH COME QUICKLY is the 22nd (!!) book in the China Bayles mystery series by Susan Wittig Albert. I love Pecan Springs and DEATH COME QUICKLY takes us back to Pecan Springs and the whole gang is there. Yippee! China and McQuaid, Ruby, Smart Cookie (Sheila) and Blackie, Brian and Caitlin. After twenty two books, I feel like I know them all and feel slighted if I don't get to visit with them. Karen Prior, a friend of China and Ruby, is mugged in a mall parking lot. Two days later, she dies. Karen was working with students at the local college. They were working on a documentary about the murder of Christine Morris -- a cold case. With a little investigating, it becomes clear that Karen Prior wasn't "just" mugged, but murdered and the two murders are linked. Murder, cold cases, art, herbs, chickens -- a little of everything in this one including lessons on the law. I did know who did the foul deeds early, but that didn't stop me from enjoying my visit with all my "friends". Welcome back to Pecan Springs!

Suspense Magazine says

China Bayles, where have you been all my life? I can't believe that you've been solving mysteries in twenty-three other books, and I'm just now discovering you. Shame on me.

China Bayles, Texas ex-lawyer turned herbalist, is shocked when a good friend, Karen Prior, is mugged and savagely beaten in the far reaches of the local shopping mall parking lot. And saddened when Karen dies of

her injuries.

It seems like a senseless act of violence, until China discovers that Karen, a filmmaker and professor at the local university, was supervising a documentary about the almost fifteen-year-old murder of fine art collector Christine Morris.

When a family friend, a student who is working on the documentary project, is also mugged, China can't stay on the sidelines.

Author Susan Wittig Albert has crafted an excellent, well-plotted, intelligent mystery that was a pleasure to read, all the way to its surprising climax.

Reviewed by Susan Santangelo, author of "Class Reunions Can Be Murder"

Larraine says

It was definitely enjoyable to cozy up with the latest China Bayles. As a mystery, it was rather transparent - at least to me, but China is such an engaging character. If you haven't read any of the previous books, it helps to read a few although Ms. Albert does recap when necessary. China Bayles is the owner of an herb shop in a small town in Texas. She's also an avid gardener and former attorney. Her close friend is Ruby who shares some of the space in the building with a job that offers such things as tarot cards, ouija boards and crystals. China is the no nonsense, former attorney with her feet firmly planted on the ground. Ruby, her sidekick and partner in crime solving, is her total opposite. In this latest addition to the series, a local university professor and art specialist is murdered. At first it seems as if she might be the victim of a mugging. However, it soon is obvious that it is murder. This was enjoyable, not a page turner, but the kind of book you can relax and enjoy because you're getting together with an old friend.

Joan Gaudet says

Easy read.

Julie says

This one was a bit of a departure from what I have come to expect from this series and I don't blame the author for trying something new, plus, keeping a long running series fresh has got to be a challenge.

However, I did miss some of the trademark elements that has made this series standout from others.

Herbs were not really that much a part of the story, and much of the fun with cozies is catching up with familiar characters who feel like old friends or even family, but this time China went solo for the most part, although we do meet up with a character who has appeared in other installments. But, the whole story felt like it had gone "off script".

However, by the end of the book, I did have to grudgingly admit, the story wasn't half bad after all. I love solving cold case crimes and also have an interest in art related crimes, so although this one is not my favorite from this series, and it took me a long time to finally get fully invested in it, it was still an enjoyable enough read. I do hope the next installment is back on its usual path and we see China back on the home front. I do recommend this one to longtime fans, but if you aren't familiar with the series, you may not want to start with this one.

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Karla says

This is the latest in the China Bayles cozy mystery series. It is set in Texas hill country and has lots of herbal lore/information. I used to really like this series, but I have not enjoyed the last two additions. This one just seemed to ramble on with too many extraneous characters and too much extraneous information.

Susan says

I have been enjoying Ms. Albert's books for many years. Recently, I find myself gritting my teeth and forcing myself to turn the page. Ms. Albert's habit of using nicknames in an unrelenting manner has become distracting. Maybe it is age, maybe it is that I know female lawyers, shop owners and law enforcement and know that incipient names like Smart Cookie would not be uttered let alone 10 times in the space of 5 pages.

The stories build beautifully it is the cutsey that is killing it for me.
