



Killing at the Carnival

L.A. Nisula

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Cassie Pengear thought a visit to the carnival would be fun: see some shows, eat some sweets, help her landlady's nephew decide if the cowboy was real or an actor. But then the cowboy shot the volunteer, and he didn't get up. Now Cassie has a ten-year-old boy insisting the cowboy isn't a killer and a landlady insisting she help solve the killing at the carnival. *A cozy mystery with a steampunk setting.*

In a Victorian England that almost existed, a steampunk London where tinkerers and clockwork devices exist alongside handsome cabs and corsets, murder is still solved by traditional observation and intuition. This is the London where American typist Cassandra Pengear finds herself stumbling over corpses and helping Scotland Yard detectives solve murders (although they inexplicably prefer to call it interfering). Follow her adventures in the Cassie Pengear Mystery series, beginning with The Killing at the Carnival.

Killing at the Carnival Details

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Author : L.A. Nisula

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From Reader Review Killing at the Carnival for online ebook

AliceCake says

Cute book, interesting look at the circus as it was. Not boring, but not exactly a page turner. Fun read

Woody says

Cassie takes Davy a ten year old boy to the carnival and in the cowboy tent they see a cowboy shoot a volunteer or did they? Davy thinks Nick is innocent and Cassie has to prove it. A short story with a murder mystery. It was an ok read and it was free on Amazon.

Netanella says

Cassie Pengear is a typist for the Scotland Yard in this cozy mystery set in a steampunk England. Her landlady's nephew is in town for vacation, so they go to the local travelling carnival show and become witness to a murder during one of the cowboy shows. Cassie is a great lead, smart and intuitive and fun. This was a delight to read, and I'm glad I picked it up.

BRT says

So short, it was almost a short story so hard to evaluate quality.

Lori says

This was a good fast-read.

Jan says

Told from the perspective of a young woman transplanted to England, I still think it would have been better marketed to the 11 to 14 crowd. But I also think that my 9 year olds will love it! It is brief, and two young boys are instrumental in helping her to find the right people and ask the right questions even though her sometime employer from Scotland Yard kept telling her to stop investigating. I liked the murder mystery, and no spoilers here!

Mike says

I was a bit underwhelmed. There was nothing actually wrong with it, and the copy editing was excellent

(only one slip that I noticed: "died it black" instead of "dyed"). It was just lacking in suspense.

I realise that a cosy mystery isn't going to have as much suspense as other kinds of mystery, but I didn't feel that it had other great strengths to make up for it, either. The characters were flat, with no real distinguishing features, and the main character had no great stake in solving the mystery. She also seemed to have plenty of time to take away from her work to disobey the inspector (who ritually admonished her not to investigate every time they spoke) and poke around among cooperative informants.

Few red herrings, and I spotted how the murder was done long, long before the detective did.

Also, the cover and blurb promise steampunk. There were a few things powered by steam, but punk was conspicuous by its absence.

C-shaw says

This is a pleasant cozy mystery and a very quick read.

NANCY WILSON says

Historical!

I never really understood steam punk until now! (Stop laughing!) Now I get the concept of how everything was run by steam. Taxi, train, house. Even circus. All of it. Strange and wonderful. Thanks a lot!

Linda Fore says

When Cassie Pengear was asked to accompany her landlady, Mrs. Albright, and her nephew Davy to the carnival, Cassie couldn't resist the thought of fried dough on the midway. Davy was a big fan of cowboys and looked forward to Cassie telling him if the cowboy in the show was real or not. After all, Cassie was an American and not a native of England, so she should know. But the treat for the three of them turned into a tragedy when the audience participant in the shooting show was killed. Davy was sure the cowboy had not killed the man. After his plea to Cassie, she decided to try her luck at finding the real facts about the shooting. We were treated to details of western acts, costumes, and carnival life while Cassie hunted for clues.

I enjoyed this short novel and the novella which was an added bonus. I received a free copy of this book and I am voluntarily leaving this review.

Sandy says

Cassie Pengear may not be a detective, per se, but the part-time typist for Scotland Yard seems to find herself in the midst of murder investigations. This time, however, Cassie is one of the witnesses. Everyone saw who pulled the trigger. It was all part of a well-rehearsed act. So, what happened?

Children of all ages love the magic and mystery found within the canvas walls. Genuine Cowboys and Indians demonstrate various tricks of their trades. Snake charmers mesmerize audiences as well as snakes. Diets are put on hold as deep fried foods fill bellies and fresh squeezed lemonade slacks thirst.

Cassie really didn't want to go to the carnival, but how could she say no to the lady she had grown close to. After all, Cassie was an American so obviously she would be able to tell the difference between a real cowboy and an actor. At least, that's what her landlady's nephew believed.

Cassie is a fun character to hang out with - a round of fried dough for all!

Cassie's instincts may inadvertently lead her into trouble, but she is rarely wrong. Her mind is constantly working. As expected, the inspector tries to dissuade the amateur sleuth, but I'm sure we all know how well that works.

Rachel says

This is a good, quick cozy mystery read. However, I wouldn't call it steampunk... The only steampunk things are the mention of steam-powered cabs, and a ticket machine at the carnival that is clear so you can see all the gears and workings inside. The story is ripe with opportunity for steampunkery, but it was missing: The police had no bizarre gadgets for crime solving, the carnival had no special machines or exhibits, and our heroine does not have a penchant for inventing or nifty gadgets or technology.

That being said, this is still a great cozy mystery. I would still check out the rest of the series. It is definitely a good "take a break" kind of read, and appropriate for pretty much all ages.

Clay Davis says

A good who did it set at a carnival.

Rebecca says

The mystery itself is decent. But trying to figure out the steampunk world distracts from it a bit without contributing. If at least the steam had contributed, it would have worked better.

Jennifer Collins says

Free on kindle/Cozy mystery/quick read

I picked up this book last spring while searching for steampunk books. I liked the cover and it was free. LOL.

I liked the steampunk and mystery elements. However I felt it could use a bit more details and flair in general.

When it came to the steampunk aspect it felt forced. I would have liked more on the mechanics and inner workings. Not just this is steam powered/that is steam powered. When describing the ticket booth the author was off to a good start when adding the little description there, but it felt a bit flat.

Overall I liked the story. I would have liked more details and fantasy.

This is a suitable read for any age.
