



Deadly Patterns

Melissa Bourbon

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Bliss, Texas, is gearing up for its annual Winter Wonderland festival, but when a mysterious Scrooge ends the merriment with murder, it'll take more than a ghost from Christmas past to set things right.

Designing a holiday fashion show set in the town's most prominent historic mansion seems like a job tailor made for dressmaker Harlow Jane Cassidy. But with the mansion's restoration still in progress and threatening weather on the horizon, she's feeling on pins and needles more than reveling in holiday cheer.

Having volunteered to play Santa in this year's festival, Dan Lee Chrisson was ready to move on after his divorce--until Bliss became his final resting place. Discovering his body puts Harlow at the scene of the crime. She'll need plenty of help from friends and even her late great-grandmother's spirited sleuthing if she's to have a ghost of a chance of catching a killer who's just jumped to the top of the naughty list....

Deadly Patterns Details

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From Reader Review Deadly Patterns for online ebook

Dakota says

I'm so loving this series. I think plotwise this one is my favorite atm.

Patty says

I sew and I love mysteries. When I saw an article written about the first book in the series, Pleating for Mercy, I contacted the Melissa to get permission to reprint it in the sewing guild newsletter I edit. Then I downloaded the book and it actually got me started on reading on my iPad. Because I was late to the party, I didn't wait long for the second book, and eagerly anticipated book three.

The series is all about family histories and relationships, with a murder or two thrown in. In each book, Melissa has given you a good dose of the characters their eccentricities (and gifts) and as the series has developed so has the family tree. She weaves a good mystery that, of course, Harlow is compelled to solve, but she doesn't make Harlow a victim—someone who is always in peril and must be rescued.

The book can stand on its own, but knowing some of the details of the ever-growing family tree can make it that much better. Truth be told my retention of those details over the course of a year-plus since reading the first book isn't so great. But I enjoyed this third book so much, I'm rereading the first two, and enjoying them all over again.

* Jennifer says

I love this series and this book, Deadly Patterns, didn't let me down. I was extremely confused reading the last book and I truly think there was a continuity or editing error, concerning two of the characters, but everything is resolved and clearly so, in this book.

I thought the mystery was excellent, lots of clues and lots of things distracting this reader from seeing all of them. When the murderer was revealed it wasn't a total shock, but it was someone I hadn't given a lot of thought too.

I absolutely love the characters and the setting and I can't wait for the next book to catch up with them all.

Fred says

Deadly Patterns is the third book in the A Magical Dressmaking Mystery series.

Life back in Bliss, Texas is going well for Harlow Jane Cassidy and her dressmaking shop is going well, too. Preparation are well underway for the Holiday fashion show that will be held at a beautiful mansion that is currently being restored. When the recently divorced Dan Lee Chrisson goes to inspect the railing around the

widow's walk and doesn't return in a few minutes, Harlow and some other members of the planning committee go see where he might be. When they get there they find that the railing has broke and Chrisson has fallen to his death. Harlow, in the chaos that happened upon finding the body, also falls, but is save by a tent that has been erected in the back. So with numerous bumps and bruises she sets out to finish several outfits for the show and a new Santa's suit for Will.

But, naturally, her mind keeps going back to the death of Chrisson. Everyone knew that the railing was weak, so was it an accident or murder? There are several possible suspects. The ex-wife, Raylene, who feared that Chrisson would try to get custody of their child or maybe Hattie, Raylene's sister, for divorcing her sister. The house has a colorful past, what with Bonnie and Clyde having stayed there after a robbery in town. Possibly something valuable had been hidden in the house and the murderer thought that Chrisson might have found it.

I always try to read a series in order, but somehow I missed #2. The author causally mention things that had occurred in that book and would have help me to understand better, those parts.

This is a delightful series, with a fun and interesting cast of characters and just a little bit of woo-woo, too. And a little romance too.

Looking forward to book #4.

Debbie Heaton says

In Bourbon's mystery novel, dressmaker Harlow Jane Cassidy is preparing for a holiday fashion show set in a recently restored mansion for the annual Winter Wonderland festival in Bliss, Texas. Dan Lee Chrisson has volunteered to play Santa Claus when his body is found unexpectedly after he apparently fell from the Widow's Walk of the mansion. Harlow finds the body and sets her own investigation into motion allowing her natural sleuthing skills to blend with her special magic as she follows the pattern of clues to find the murderer.

Harlow Jane is an amazing amateur sleuth and I love the advice she gets from her dearly departed great-grandmother! Another fabulous addition to the A Magical Dressmaking Mystery.

Vicky says

The only thing that irritates me about this series is that Harlow's brother Red is mentioned in all three books but never comes into reality until the tail end of this book. Also where is Granddaddy in the 1st 2 books and suddenly he appears at the end of this book also.

Kate says

Just could not get into it!

Margaret says

Fun, romance, mystery. A bit overblown, but enjoyable.

Kate says

You wouldn't really know it from the title or cover but this is a Christmas themed book. It was good and moved along at a fast pace that made me want to keep reading. My only complaint about this series is that Harlow keeps discovering more and more people who are related to her from way back when, and it is difficult and sometimes confusing to keep the names straight and trace back how they are related to her. I hope the author will simplify the family tree references a bit in the next book.

Bonnie Drummond says

Deadly Patterns book 3 in the Magical Dressmaking Mystery was every one running around getting ready for The Winter Festival and Christmas only to have a bamper put on all for a murder in the Historical House.

Monica says

I love these stories. The characters and great and the mystery is good.Can't wait to start the next book.

Sarah says

I really like this series, perfect for vacations.

Jeannie and Louis Rigod says

This book brought me so many laughs, catches of breath, confusion, and ended with complete clarity. Huh? Yes, I really went through all that and in a mere comfy paperback novel. Ms. Bourbon writes very compellingly.

This gives a reviewer a problem...how to make the reader (of the review) understand the excitement yet not give a darn thing away in telling. So, I will give you the points from the back of the book with my embellishments.

Harlow Jane Cassidy, Butch Cassidy's descendant has been put in charge of the Winter Wonderland Fashion show by Mrs. James (yup, that James family.) Mrs. James and Mrs. Abernathy want to delegate and they

seem to think Harlow Jane is the one to go to. The community has restored and renovated the old Dennison House. The house, itself, is filled with infamous folklore of the past, with having Bonnie and Clyde staying there and being won in a poker game.

During the final walk-through of the house as the ladies start the decorating for the show, Mr. Dan Lee Chrissom goes up to the widow's walk for a safety check and falls. The railing is broken off! That sounds normal doesn't it? Well, that scene had me gasping and saying aloud "Oh, My Gosh." You have to read it to find out why.

Was the fall innocent, an accident or was it planned? And, who was supposed to fall? And, here is the magic question, just why?

There is treasure, genealogy, craft making, Santa Claus, and Romance in this compact mystery. The Cassidy gift expands, as does the family.

So, here is the truth, I love this series. I can barely wait until "Custom-Fit" comes out in July 2013. Grab a copy and catch up with the 'Hole in the Wall' gang in 2012!

Book of Secrets says

DEADLY PATTERNS is another fun installment in the Magical Dressmaking Mystery series. Christmas is coming to the small town of Bliss, Texas, and with it the Winter Wonderland festival. Dressmaker Harlow Jane Cassidy has been put in charge of the fashion show, which is being held in the newly renovated Denison Mansion. Preparations for the event are rolling along until the man hired to play Santa winds up dead, the victim of foul play.

After some investigating, Harlow finds out that this particular Santa was on several people's naughty list, and perhaps he wanted in the old Denison House for a reason other than spreading holiday cheer. With a little encouragement from her deceased great-grandmother's ghost, Harlow sets out to solve the Santa murder mystery and have the fashion show set to go on time.

This is one of my favorite new cozy mystery series, so I can't miss a book. I love visiting Bliss, Texas, and Harlow is a very interesting and likable main character. In addition to the mystery, the story also delves deeper into the Cassidy family tree. It did get confusing remembering who was related to whom and how, all the way back to Butch Cassidy himself, but luckily there's a family tree chart at the back of the book.

I would probably recommend reading the prior two books in the series first, just because Harlow has a complex family history and it would help to know the backstory. Fans of cozy mysteries with a little romance and a little magic are sure to be pleased.

LORI CASWELL says

Bliss, Texas is getting ready for the annual Winter Wonderland Festival. Harlow Jane Cassidy has designed a holiday fashion show that will take place in the town's most prominent mansion. But the weather and the not yet completed restoration of the mansion has Harlow "on pins and needles" while everything comes together.

It seems her workload keeps increasing as the event draws near. Where is that darn Lee Chrisson anyway? She needs to get that Santa suit altered.

Sadly Lee Chrisson has met with foul play and will not be Santa in Bliss this year. Discovering the body puts Harlow at the scene of the crime. Someone has jumped to the top of the naughty list and Harlow will need the help of family and friends "if she has a ghost of a chance" of catching the killer.

Dollycas's Thoughts

A trip to Buttons and Bows just warms my heart. Growing up in a family of seamstresses like Harlow these stories always bring back memories. When Harlow fears she is losing her magical charm because she can't envision the perfect outfit for Josie it almost broke my heart. My grandma was a lot like Harlow, she always made the perfect wedding dress or business suit for her clients making them feel beautiful or empowered. I think that's why I love MeeMaw so much. Her ghostly hi-jinks remind me so much of my grandma. I may have to check out my family tree, maybe we are related to Butch Cassidy :)

Melissa Bourbon brings together wonderful characters, a little history, a bit of romance and a fun mystery perfect for this holiday season. Curl up with these charming ladies and the rest of Bliss, Texas. A perfect way to spend an afternoon.
