



## Town in a Blueberry Jam

*B.B. Haywood*

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**First in the fabulous new Candy Holliday Murder mystery series.**

In the seaside village of Cape Willington, Maine, Candy Holliday has an idyllic life tending to the Blueberry Acres farm she runs with her father. But, when an aging playboy and the newly crowned Blueberry Queen are killed, Candy investigates to clear the name of a local handyman. And as she sorts through the town's juicy secrets, things start to get sticky indeed...

## **Town in a Blueberry Jam Details**

Date : Published February 2nd 2010 by Berkley

ISBN : 9780425232651

Author : B.B. Haywood

Format : Paperback 320 pages

Genre : Mystery, Cozy Mystery, Fiction

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## From Reader Review Town in a Blueberry Jam for online ebook

### Suzanne says

This is the first in the Town in a..... series as I will call them. Just like the Cat who.....series.

This introduces Doc and Candy Halliday to the readers.

Doc (Henry) is a retired professor from the University of Maine Who bought a Blueberry farm in Cape Willington, Maine after the death of his wife. Candy is his daughter, who he brought home after her life as a high powered ad executive and wife imploded when her husband left her after what she thought was a great marriage. She now helps him run the farm and does odd jobs on the side to bring in extra money.

The plot is pretty basic and yet had enough turns in it to keep me reading.

This small town has secrets, many secrets that I'm sure will come out in the following books.

The reason for the 4 stars was that it sometimes plodded along, not often, and I couldn't understand why someone who had no trouble breaking into a dead woman's house and walking around the room she was murdered in had trouble just being in the office she worked in. It was like the partners didn't get reactions right. But that is just me.

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### Mary Brown says

Town In A Blueberry Jam

A Candy Holliday Mystery, Book #1

B. B. Haywood

5 Stars

Synopsis:

First in the fabulous new Candy Holliday Murder mystery series.

In the seaside vi

llage of Cape Willington, Maine, Candy Holliday has an idyllic life tending to the Blueberry Acres farm she runs with her father. But, when an aging playboy and the newly crowned Blueberry Queen are killed, Candy investigates to clear the name of a local handyman. And as she sorts through the town's juicy secrets, things start to get sticky indeed... (Goodreads)

Review:

Candy is living with her father on their Blueberry Acres farm, and she is enjoying her life. She loves all things blueberry, she loves baking delicious pastries with the fruit, she enjoys spending time with her dad and her best friend Maggie. Life is quiet and safe in Cape Willington, until it isn't. When two members of the community are killed, things become hectic and dangerous. And when a friend of her's is accused of committing the murders, she knows she has to help prove his innocence.

The characters are well developed and well rounded. I really enjoyed the interaction between Candy and Maggie. They are really good friends and will do just about anything to help the other, including breaking

and entering. We should all have that good of a friend in our lives. I also enjoyed Candy's dad and his posse, they were fun to read about.

The mystery was carried on well throughout the entire book. There are quite a few suspects to consider, especially since one of the victims was not really well liked. There are plenty of twists and turns to keep the reader guessing and an occasional red herring thrown in, just for fun. Just when I thought I had the culprit nailed, something would happen to show that I was wrong. I never did figure out the killer until it was revealed.

The writing style flows smoothly and the book is an easy read. The author is very talented in her descriptive writing and through much of the book, I felt like I was right there, watching the action take place all around me.

Right from the very first page (the prologue), I was hooked on this book. The book does not start out like the other cozies that I have read, and I like that fact. I would recommend this book to anyone who enjoys a well crafted cozy. I cannot wait to read the rest of the books in this series.

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### **Grey853 says**

There's a blueberry festival in Candy's small town and along comes blackmail and murder.

There are several big problems with the book. One is that I really disliked the catty behavior of Candy and her best friend. The snide comments they made about different townspeople made them come off as obnoxious and rude. Two, the writing was very slow and uneven especially at the beginning. It did get better as the story progressed, but there were still too many parts that just didn't blend together. Three, and most important, the plot was just silly and unbelievable. Who breaks into homes and town hall and expects not to be arrested?

I give it a 2 instead of a one is because I did like the blueberry recipes and some of the descriptions of the farm and the town. Plus, I did like the relationship between Candy and her father.

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### **Brittany (The Book Addict's Guide/Novelly Yours) says**

**Initial Impressions 5/19/12:** This was a cute first book to the series! I really liked Candy's character - Although I have to say, what's with all the cozy mystery series and their wacky names? This one has Candy Holliday, Sapphire Vine, Jock Larson, and Candy's dad "Doc" Holliday. Really? But regardless of silly names, I had a lot of fun with this one. Some of the smaller puzzles/mysteries, I did have a solid (and correct) guess at before they were revealed, but as to who the real killer was, I really didn't know until the end. I'm glad they didn't go for the easy choice here! I really do look forward to reading more in the series! I

think it's Candy's character who's really bringing me back. I just really felt like she was down to earth in the rural setting even though she was supposed to be transplanted from the big city after she had suffered some hardships and moved back in with her dad up in Maine. I was glad we skipped the whole transition stage though and that she wasn't portrayed as an outsider even though she was not a native "townie"!

**Review as originally posted on The Book Addict's Guide:** You know, I really enjoyed this little story. It's the first book I've read that's set in Maine (a place I so desperately want to visit -- Heard it's just gorgeous there!) and despite some super cheesy names like Candy Holliday (nicknamed 'pumpkin' by her dad - both names because she was born on Halloween), Sapphire Vine, and Jonathan "Jock" Larson (why do they always have cheesy names in these cozy mysteries? If I weren't so sucked in to these kinds of books, I might actually be really annoyed!), I thought this book was a lot of fun! I really liked Candy's character a lot. We didn't really get too into her past, but we do know that she gave up her old life after many hardships and came to live with her dad "Doc" Holliday (another name... sheesh, guys) on the blueberry farm in SE Maine. I really liked her switch from business exec to blueberry farmer. Unlike a couple other cozies who have tried to make this transition, Candy has already fully come over to the rural side of life and we weren't bothered by the awkwardness of having her feel like an outsider or someone who hasn't found her place. Instead, it was quite natural to be in the rural Maine setting and I found the town and other characters in the town quite pleasant!

That being said, I will say that I'm getting a little tired of so many cozies using a "slow" character (mentally) as a common scapegoat for a crime. It's happened in quite a few cozies that I've read recently (maybe it's just the order I've happened to choose to read them in), but the reoccurrence among authors is getting a little old! Ray the handyman is the "slow" character in this book and of course gets blamed for a murder he didn't commit, and this spurs on Candy's investigation. I just found that story line a bit tiresome.

Other than that, I really did enjoy the mystery. I had guessed a couple of smaller puzzles that had come up throughout the book, but as for who the killer was, I was actually pretty surprised in the end. Glad they didn't go for something too easy!

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### **Heather says**

A month or so ago I was lucky enough to win Sharon's Garden of Book Review's Spring Cozy Give-Away. One beautiful spring day I received a box with over 10 titles-HOORAY! Thanks again Sharon!

Now, it should be said that I am fairly new to the cozy mystery sub-genre. Last year I was browsing on the Books-A-Million website, and I discovered a couple new mystery series with female protagonists. I assumed they would be like Sharon McCone or Kay Scarpetta. Instead, they were more like Jessica Fletcher. Women of a certain age, ordinary moms/shopkeepers/bakers/scrapbookers/librarians/vampires/telepaths (OK, I guess vampires and telepaths are not ordinary, but there are cozy mysteries about them, so whatever) solving mysteries not because it is their job, but because they are kind and thoughtful, or nosy and bossy, or wrongly accused themselves, and want to see justice done. Little did I know that I was finding a new-to-me sub-genre complete with it's own websites and blogs!

So, with a box full of cozies to choose from, I picked Town in a Blueberry Jam, by B.B. Haywood. Mostly I chose it because it is the beginning of a series, and most of the other titles are continuations, so I wanted to start something fresh. The story revolves around the ridiculously-named Candy Holliday, a former marketing

exec turned blueberry farmer in southeastern Maine. After her marriage failed, and her mother died, she moved with her father, Doc, to Blueberry Acres to try a different kind of life. As the story opens Candy is preparing for the annual Blueberry Festival, which includes the pageant to crown the Blueberry Queen. After an unexpected turn-of-events leads to the winner being a 30-something woman instead of a high school student, chaos and murder ensue. Candy and her best friend Maggie are left to try and find the truth behind this mysterious death.

The thing about cozy mysteries is that you just have to take them as they are. They are light, rather shallow, easy to read, and I don't know about you but I can usually see the answer to the mystery coming from pretty early on in the book. What makes them enjoyable, at least for me, is the fact that they are light, rather shallow, easy to read, and easy to figure out. They are the perfect book for when my brain is tired, like it is at the end of a school year. I don't necessarily want deep, thoughtful literature. I want escapism. Town in a Blueberry Jam helped me to escape from the stress and chaos that the end of the year brings in my world. There are two major things in its favor. One, it is set in my favorite part of the country, New England. Haywood does a good job evoking a small-town summer in that part of the world. And, it kept me guessing. I thought I had it figured out, but there was a twist at the end that I didn't see coming. Overall, Town in a Blueberry Jam was a pleasant, if not earth-shattering, way to spend a couple of days.

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### **Vickie says**

Another fine cozy mystery set on the East Coast...this one is even better with the main character, Candy, owning a blueberry farm. She is a busy chickie, prepping for the upcoming festival and taking care of the farm as well as the odd jobs around town to help bring in some extra cha-ching so she can keep living this life she's grown to love.

There are some really well written characters, a good main character who is curious and wants to help her friend, there is her father who is helping in his way. There is a best friend to go on the capers with and a really off the wall character to make the eyebrows raise. And the ending to make the eyebrows go up even farther in the hairline.

I am looking forward to another look-see at Cape Willington and see what else Candy Holliday can get into. Five (well there are four) blueberry recipes in back beans.....

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### **Carol says**

We are going to Cape Willington, Maine which is a quaint seaside village to visit with Candy Holliday on her Dad's Blueberry Farm.

Candy had been living in Boston when her big city world fell apart leaving her divorced and jobless. How will she adapt to farm living now???

Every year the Cape Wilmington blueberry festival is held with booths of vendors selling blueberry products. There is a parade and beauty contest. Candy has volunteered to host a booth selling blueberry pies, blueberry preserves, blueberry

soap and many other products she made from the blueberry farm.

But now all is not wonderful in Cape Willington.....a award winning, playboy swimmer in found dead from going over a cliff. Suicide or murder???

Then the Queen of the Blueberry Festival/ gossip columnist is found bludgeoned to death by a hammer.

Candy decides to do her own investigation after a friend is wrongly arrest for murder.

Interesting plot with many surprising twists and turns.

Great blueberry recipes at the end of the book.

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### **Julie Durnell says**

This was a cute cozy-very light and fluffy!

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### **Ryn says**

This was okay. This is a cozy mystery that at times was entertaining, but for the most part, it was just okay. I find the cozy mystery genre fun sometimes; they are good entertainment to listen to audibly while I'm cleaning my house, easy reads on a weekend, fun to pack into a bag for a day at the beach, good filler when you're waiting in a doctor's office. So for that reason, I pick them up occasionally.

I do enjoy that many cozy mysteries follow a theme that could be attractive to knitters, or book lovers, bakers or travellers. This book's theme was blueberries. The story begins around preparations for a Blueberry Festival. The main character is from a blueberry farm. She makes blueberry wares to sell at the festival and in the town's cafe. There's a murder. The main character, Candy is figuring out life and takes on trying to solve the crime while still being master of all that is blueberry. It didn't make me want a blueberry muffin.

The story had a couple twists that were entertaining, but for the most part, like many cozy mysteries, you can sort of figure them out. It has to be one of the characters behind all the mayhem. And sometimes it went on a bit long in parts... "okay, okay, already" (I would say to myself). But I do this for many cozy mysteries. Yet, I still enjoy reading them.

I am quite certain that cozy mystery aficionados will enjoy this first-in-the-series book and will look for more of Candy's escapades. And, I may even try another as I do enjoy the genre. I never give 5 stars to cozy mysteries. They follow a pattern, they are kitschy on purpose and quick reads. This book is what I expected and always expect of a cozy mystery. Quick entertainment with some kitsch. Some days I need it, but I don't think they belong at a 4 or 5 star book rating on my list. Not a criticism, they just are what they are; light reads at an easy level.

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### **Sandra says**

It was a cute cozy, even if it did have a bit of a slow start - it wasn't until a third of the way though the novel that the second victim is killed and Candy starts her investigation. I did enjoy reading about the festival goings-on, particularly the pageant itself, which had some humorous moments. I did see one major plot twist coming a mile away, but I didn't know who the murderer was until the end, though it didn't really surprise me to read it.

The character development was about nil and the plot sometimes seemed to drag on, that's why this book gets three stars from me. It was a cute cozy, but it didn't blow me away.

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### **Linda says**

Great first book in the series! I really liked Candy, Maggie, Doc and the rest of the gang and I hope to see more of Ben in future books. The blueberry festival was fun and I enjoyed the aftermath. The mystery was well done and the ending was exciting. I look forward to reading more!

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### **Avid Series Reader says**

Town in a Blueberry Jam by B.B. Haywood starts a new cozy mystery series set in a contemporary coastal village in Maine. Candy Holliday lives with her father on his blueberry farm, which he purchased at retirement. Candy delights in the hard, simple work and the easily visible results.

Cape Wilmington holds an annual blueberry festival, complete with parade, booths and beauty contest. Candy volunteered to provide blueberry pies and work a booth. The town is shocked at the sudden death of a resident celebrity, followed not long after by the murder of a festival organizer. When a simple-minded, peaceful handyman is arrested for the crime on circumstantial evidence, Candy is compelled to investigate on her own, to find the real killer. In her quest for justice, she uncovers many secrets that town residents might kill again to keep buried.

Includes recipes: Candy Holliday's Blueberry Whipped Cream, Herr Georg's Bavarian Blueberry Pretzels, Blueberry Lemon Shortbread, Blueberry Gingerbread.

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### **Tari says**

There is nothing as handy as belonging to a bunch of online book clubs! I'm always getting to start books that I wondered when I would ever get around to starting. I'm so glad the club chose this book! I really enjoyed reading about the small fictional town of Cape Willington, Maine and getting to know Candy Holliday, her dad Doc and Candy's best friend, Maggie Tremont.

In the prologue, it described a man falling to his rocky death off a cliff in Cape Willington. As the book started, it was July and time for the annual Blueberry Festival in town. Everyone was excited, but there was a somberness in the air since the police had just reported the murder of Jock Larson, a local man who thought

he was a celebrity since he was an ex-Olympic swimmer. He also thought he was God's gift to women and a lot of people weren't that sad to see him dead. When a local gossip column woman was crowned Blueberry Queen (instead of the usual younger high school girl), then the woman was found dead in her own home, all fingers pointed to Ray, a local handyman since it appeared that his hammer was found at the scene. Everyone had a soft spot for Ray who was the gentlest of souls, and Candy was not going to let him go down for a murder she and everyone else in town knew he didn't commit.

Candy and Maggie made a great sleuthing team and when Maggie couldn't go with her, sometimes Candy's dad would add some insight to the case or go with her himself. I thought it was pretty cool that he didn't try to discourage her from sleuthing. I loved that Candy and her dad had a close relationship, especially after he'd lost her mom and Candy had fairly recently gone through a bad divorce and the loss of a good friend she went to college with. They seemed to be helping one another heal while working on the blueberry farm and tending to the chickens.

This was a really well-written and plotted mystery with so many different angles and suspects that I didn't even think of suspecting the person that it turned out to be. The showdown with the killer was really exciting--Candy and Maggie acted as each others' heroes. Best of all, an innocent man was set free. Candy had started working for Ben, the editor of the Cape Crier newspaper, so I'm hoping that something will develop between them. She must like him because her first thoughts when he asked her to take over the gossip column were "Is he going to ask me out?" I think there's potential! I got a kick out of Doc and his buddies hanging out at the diner.

I've been collecting this series as I find the various books and now I'm anxious to keep reading it!

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### **Myhotstylist says**

This book was an Easy-going cozy mystery with a tight plot and a few good twists.

Candy Holliday and her gal-pal Maggie Tremane team up to discover who murdered the town gossip. Her seemingly harmless handyman was seen leaving the crime scene and his brand new hammer (the murder weapon) was found at the scene of the crime. The entire town is in an uproar and Candy is determined to find out the killer.

I did have a few beefs with this book. The names of some of the characters were just a bit far fetched for me. A German baker name Herr Georg (gay-org) the Murder victim named Sapphire Vine???? Come ON! I can dig trying to be creative but these names were just to wierd for me. Plus the descriptions of each of the towns' buildings were a bit overdone. Many of the conversations were a tad drawn out, and I kept thinking, OK, real people dont talk like this.

Overall, It was a good book, worth reading, but not a keeper.

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### **Karen says**

Just finished this book which was recommended to me by my friend Lisa A Kelley. I really enjoyed it. I think this will be a great series and I look forward to reading the next ones! I liked the characters, setting and

outcome of the story, I had not seen it coming!

You will enjoy this one too, grab a cup of tea a blueberry scone and the book!

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