



Loonies

Gregory Bastianelli

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Smokey Hollow is a quiet town, but all that changes when Brian Keays moves in and discovers a locked steamer trunk in the attic of his home.

A suspicious fire destroys a mental asylum, but there is no sign of any of its inhabitants. Victims are found dead with a pillowcase over their heads, the same method used in an unsolved series of murders, committed over fifty years ago.

Brian tries to piece together the connection to the trunk and its grisly contents, his investigation aided by anonymous notes. He follows the trail from a ventriloquist firefighter whose dummy knows more than its puppeteer, to a Somnambulist whose pockets contain clues, and to a Knackerman who disposes of animal carcasses but keeps a container with its own mysterious contents.

Death is everywhere, but answers are hard to come by.

Loonies Details

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Author : Gregory Bastianelli

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From Reader Review Loonies for online ebook

Aly says

This book is very good, in my opinion. Brian is a journalist who is bored with the small news stories. His wife finds a trunk in their new house, and this starts to heat up the story. Brian is a bad husband in my opinion. This book has got some good twists in it for sure. * I received this book from the author in exchange for an honest review*

Lunar Snowflake says

Well, that was a ride.

If you like a book filled with twists, turns, and "what in the world just happened" type situations, I would recommend this book.

Debi West says

I really enjoyed this novel; it grabbed me from the first chapter and didn't let go until I finished the last one. Reading this story made me feel like I was in Brian Keays', the reporter's shoes. He had just trasnsfered to a small town in New Hampshire, Smokey Hollow, from Boston at the urging of his pregnant wife, Darcie, so that they could live a quiet life and he could spend his time at home more. Of course, that doesn't happen and he becomes embroiled in a "who done it". The pieces came together bit by bit and the ending totally blew my mind.If you really love to read a good muder mystery, this book will not disapoint you. It's also a stand-alone book, without any loose ends to tie up in a future book.

I received this book for free as an e-reader for my honest review and I totally ate it up, and it was good.

Christopher Payne says

Smokey Hollow is a quiet town, but all that changes when Brian Keays moves in and discovers a locked steamer trunk in the attic of his home.

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Death is everywhere, but answers are hard to come by.

Loretha says

I received a copy of "Loonies" for free through the LibraryThing Early Reviewers Program in exchange for a review.

Wow, what a read! What a true page-turner! This book had so many twists and turns that kept me guessing throughout the book.

The protagonist of the book, a news reporter, thought he was coming into a calm and quiet town, often complaining how boring things are. But, as events unfold, he realizes that he is very wrong and actually is exposed to much more drama, mayhem, and crime than he could have ever imagined for such a place. The diligence of the reporter demonstrates some great detective work.

The title of the book is appropriate and explains the make-up of the town and the behavior of the characters.

I would highly recommend "Loonies" to those who are eager to read a true murder mystery

Frank Errington says

Review copy

I love a good opening line and Loonies opens with this one, "Smokey Hollow had the appearance of a quiet and quaint New England town, until the trunk in the attic was opened." I was drawn in immediately. Part horror, part crime drama, and part mystery, Loonies kept me turning pages right to the very end.

Brian Keays and his wife Darci are new to town. Brian has taken the job of editor at the community's weekly paper while Darci spends her days at home preparing for the upcoming birth of their first child. It's a quiet life until the discovery of a trunk in the attic that when opened reveals a mystery that will envelope the entire town.

Even with all the craziness in this story, the plausibility factor remains very high. There are many unforgettable characters in Smokey Hollow, some of my favorites being the assistant fire chief, Simon Runck and his ventriloquist's dummy Marshall, and the town Somnambulist, Sherman Thurk. I can't help but think this story was a lot of fun to write, but at the same time, a lot of work. Loonies is a bit like a giant jigsaw puzzle with so many pieces, yet very satisfying when you put them all together.

I found Loonies to be wickedly imaginative and a fun read. It's available both in paperback and a variety of ebook formats from Journalstone.

Recommended.

Amanda says

Oo boy was this a fast-paced, chilling tale! I loved every second of Bastianelli's *Loonies*, regardless of the few (forgivable) typos. Having this story set in my home state of New Hampshire probably helped add to the creep factor a bit, but this story was rightfully disturbing on its own. I have to credit Bastianelli for his superb concept and enriching characters. *Loonies* certainly delivered on its promises of being a dark creepfest. Definitely couldn't put it down; a thoroughly enjoyable tale if ever there was one.

Catherine says

I can't help but think the author had his tongue firmly in his cheek while writing this book. A town peopled by very strange, but mostly likeable individuals. However characters are being murdered and I certainly could not guess by whom. I was drawn into the story from the beginning although I couldn't decide if it was black comedy or what, at first. The revelation at the end came rather abruptly for me, but then I don't know how else it could have been handled. Enjoyable story. Would read more from this author.

Cj Zawacki says

Gregory_Bastianelli has written an enjoyable , easy read of a small town mystery. What has happened when a reporter's wife has found in a trunk in their new home? How does affect the happenings of a seemingly peaceful town that now faces more news for the local paper then would require a once weekly publishing? Who is next in the town's offing?

Well done . This book will be a delight summer read.

Stephanie says

“Smokey Hollow had the appearance of a quiet and quaint New England town, until the day the trunk in the attic was opened.”

Brian and his wife Darcie moved to Smokey Hollow in order to slow down now that Darcie is pregnant. Brian is the new editor of the Hollow News, a weekly paper that reports on such news such as the Garden Club tour and the annual Dump festival. Darcie begins to clean out the attic of their new house and finds a trunk. When they open it, there is a gruesome surprise that sets into motion a series of events that shake the small town and give Brian a series of killer front pages. The trunk is linked to the Mustard House, a psychiatric treatment center in town. The more Brian digs into the contents of the trunk, the more strange things happen; a sleepwalker may hold the clues, the fire chief's ventriloquist dummy might be doing naughty things and everyone in town keeps dying.

From that first sentence I was hooked on what that trunk unlocked on the small town of Smokey Hollow. I loved the slow build of suspense. This was a well-crafted mystery where each event layered on top of one another the build an intricate story line. Most of all, the whole time I really didn't know if this was going to be something natural or supernatural. The ventriloquist dummy, the sleepwalker, the Knackerman and a whole list of other intriguing characters keep the story moving as Brian tries to figure out each of their roles

in the mystery. Brian makes a great detective, a relentless reporter who puts nothing in front of his job is determined to figure out where the babies in the trunk of his attic came from, but keeps getting pulled in much deeper into the secrets of Smokey Hollow. Overall, an engaging horror, thriller and crime drama that kept me guessing to the end.

This book was provided for free in return for an honest review.

Linda Watkins says

Bastianelli draws you in from the get-go with a mysterious trunk found in the attic of Brian and Darcie Keays' new home in the quaint New England town of Smokey Hollow. The Keays have moved to this sleepy community because Darcie, now pregnant, craves a normal, quiet life. Brian, a newspaper reporter by trade, is not so happy. He misses the adrenalin rush of chasing down a story and is a bit disgruntled with his new job as editor of the town's weekly newspaper, covering such titillating stories as the passing of the Boston Post Cane to the town's oldest resident. But, with the discovery of the trunk and what's inside of it, everything changes and the reader is taken off on a crazy ride to discover the secrets of Smokey Hollow.

The novel, well written, moves at a fast pace with numerous twists and turns that keep the reader enthralled. There are many colorful characters involved, however, I have to say that the unusual names the author gives these folks put me off a bit and I had a hard time remembering who was who. In addition, I felt the ending of the novel came about too quickly, with all the threads tied up a little too neatly.

However, overall, it is a very good read and, if you are a fan of mysteries that have a slightly bizarre twist, I am sure you will enjoy LOONIES.

I received a free copy of this book in exchange for my fair and honest review.

Natalie says

I received this book from Library Thing Early Reviewers in exchange for an honest review.

I thought "Loonies" by Gregory Bastianelli was full of plot twists and suspense. After reading the book, I realized that the title was very fitting. The whole town of Smokey Hollow is Loony! In every sense of the word. Brian Keays moved to Smokey Hollow because his wife wanted his life to be more quiet and easy. Brian used to be a reporter in a big city newspaper. His wife Darcie wanted him to be home more often. So they moved to the quaint, quiet little town of Smokey Hollow. Everything was serene in Smokey Hollow, until the trunk in the attic is opened. What they discover in the trunk will start of chain of events that the town will never recover from. The nasty secrets of Smokey Hollow will be revealed. The truth about the residents of the town will be revealed.

This book had me on the edge of my seat. Just when I thought I knew what was going to happen, another bomb shell would drop. I found every character to be intriguing. Some of them were very disturbing. Gregory Bastianelli mixes suspense, action and humor in the book "Loonies." Right up until the very end,

there were shocking revelations.

Dan says

It begins with the discovery of an old trunk in an attic that is filled with the skeletons of infants. Brian Keays and his wife Darci moved to the small quiet town of Smokey Hollow to start a family of their own. He has taken the job of editor for their local weekly paper, but with the trunk in his attic, his investigative instincts come alive. But as he investigates bad things begin to happen. And all Darci wants is for him to stay home and be with her. At every turn of the page, I never knew what to expect and the author certainly not only keeps Brian on his toes, he does so with this reader. I found it very interesting and wondered who the real Loonies were. A fun read for the summer.

Jim says

Brian and Darcie find a trunk in their attic from a previous owner. The contents of the trunk turn the quite little town into chaos.

The killings start but, who is doing the killing that reminds the town folk of a killer from the past?

A good mystery once you start will find hard to put down. I look forward to reading his other books.

Cameron says

Gregory Bastianelli's 'Loonies' is hard to slot it into a genre. It isn't entirely a who-dunnit or a crime thriller, and it isn't a fantasy or a black comedy either. You could call it a tongue-in-cheek mystery, but whatever genre label you choose, it's a good read. Wherein: a disgruntled journalist and his pregnant wife move to Smokey Hollow, small town USA. They find a trunk in their attic, and all hell breaks loose!

Bastianelli uses a large cast of characters with splendidly obscure names which, I assume, was to make the characters easier to follow. However, for me, the cast was just a little too big, and, although the pacing was generally good, the ending was a bit abrupt. All in all I'm very glad I read 'Loonies' and look forward to Bastianelli's next offering.
