



Basket Case

Nancy Haddock

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First in a crafty new cozy mystery series from national bestselling author Nancy Haddock

There isn't much crime in Lilyvale, Arkansas, but local authorities have their hands full with Ms. Sherry Mae Stanton Cutler and her housemates—a crafty group of retirees who've dubbed themselves the Silver Six. But when Sherry Mae's niece, Nixy, arrives to keep them in line, Lilyvale also plays host to a killer.

When Leslee Stanton “Nixy” Nix gets the latest call from Lilyvale detective Eric Shoar, she knows it means trouble. There’s been another kitchen explosion at her Aunt Sherry’s farmhouse, and the dreamy-voiced detective has had enough. If Nixy doesn’t check on her aunt in person, the Silver Six could become wards of the court. But the trouble Nixy finds in Lilyvale is not at all what she expects.

The seniors are hosting a folk art festival at the farmhouse, featuring Sherry’s hand-woven baskets, when land developer Jill Elsman arrives to bully Nixy’s aunt into selling the property. When Jill is later found dead in the cemetery, Sherry is suspected of weaving a murder plot, and it’s up to Nixy and the Silver Six to untangle the truth.

Recipes and crafting tip included!

Basket Case Details

Date : Published September 1st 2015 by Berkley

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Author : Nancy Haddock

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From Reader Review Basket Case for online ebook

Debbie says

I had thought that I didn't want to start a new series until I caught up with a couple of others, then I was lucky enough to win a copy of this book, and I found that I definitely need this series added to my favorites. I don't think that I can do this book justice, I thoroughly enjoyed this read. Nixy is a petite woman with a strong personality, who comes to help her aunt. She arrives to find the silver six a group of elderly people who live together, that are anything but helpless. I loved every single personality of the group. They come together to fight off an overbearing woman whom Nixy nicknames Hellspawn, who is trying to buy up the town. This mystery takes you step by step, leads you in, and you find the clues just as Nixy does. It was an excellent mystery and took me on a few twists but I felt like I was right along side Nixy as she figured it out. I loved the ending and can't wait for the next one to come out.

I received a copy of this book, and this is my honest opinion.

Jerri Cachero says

When Nixy moves back to Lilyvale, Arkansas to check up on her Aunt Sherry and her Aunt's six roommates, her life is changed forever! Never did she expect to add crime solver, along with the "Silver Six" to her resume as an art gallery assistant to the assistant director.

Filled with mystery, humor, and action this book is a great first in a series. Anyone who lives or lived in a small town will recognize the characters - and I do mean characters. For example, there's Ms. Gilroy, the 93 year old internet and home shopping whiz who loves her iPhone and big screen tv and encourages Nixy to get to know the handsome detective investigating the murder.

I loved the descriptions of small town life - with a twist...engineers, hippies, a retired Navy nurse and other characters make up the "Silver Six" who band together to enjoy life and provide family for each other.

The mystery kept me guessing and I enjoyed the beginnings of a romance.

Make the trip to Lilyvale, you won't be disappointed! Can't wait for the next book!!

Angela says

Mostly I liked this story. The Silver Six are wonderful characters. I love their house, their little community, their arts and crafts, and all the wonderful ways they take care of each other! The mystery was very interesting with enough red herrings to take me in a different direction. I loved Mrs. Gilroy! She was a very interesting character. I didn't like Elsman but I was surprised it took so long to get to her murder. I also didn't care for the constant overuse of the nickname Hellspawn. That was unnecessary and a little annoying. Otherwise, I'm looking forward to reading the rest in the series!

Lacey says

Star rating: 3.5 - 4 stars

After being repeatedly called by a Lilyvale, Arkansas police detective, Nixy Stanton finds herself traveling from Houston Texas to the little town of Lilyvale to see what exactly her Aunt Sherry Mae has gotten herself into. Arriving in Lilyvale to find her Aunt and her 5 best friends hosting a folk art festival, Nixy knows it's not going to be easy to keep these seniors reined in. Especially when an overbearing land developer is hounding her aunts every step. When the same egotistical land developer is found dead in Sherry Mae's family plot all eyes turn to Sherry as the culprit. *Knowing* her aunt is innocent, Nixy decides to stay in Lilyvale for as long as it takes to find the real killer and clear her aunts name.

This was a cute read. I wouldn't say it was amazing or mind blowing, but it was definitely well written. I enjoyed the characters immensely, particularly the Silver Six. They were all very well hashed out and entertaining to read about. My biggest problem with this novel was that I felt like the second half of it lagged behind the first half. Even though the murder doesn't happen until you're almost 40% of the way through the novel, I felt like it was more entertaining up until that point. Another smaller problem was Nixy's 'love interest', Detective Shoar. I felt no real connection to his character and no true 'spark' between Nixy and Eric. It came across as more contrived then a well written attraction between two people. But overall I still enjoyed this book and look forward to reading the next in the series. Hopefully it will be even better then the first.

Dawn says

More like a 2.5 stars book but rounding down for over usage of the word Hellspawn. Just put me off. Also another turn off the pace of the book just seemed to drag on & on & on to me. Not enough action for me in the first half of the book but it picked up a tad in the second half. I really wanted to like this book but it just left me feeling meh. Still debating on whether I well read the next one.

LORI CASWELL says

Dollycas's Thoughts

Leslee Stanton "Nixy" Nix arrives in Lilyvale for a quick trip to find out what is happening with her aunt, Ms. Sherry Mae Stanton Cutler, and her housemates (The Silver Six) but the stay gets extended when a land developer is found dead and Ms. Sherry is a prime suspect.

Nancy Haddock introduces us to Nixy and the Silver Six, Ms. Sherry, Dwight Aloysius Baxter, Maisie Holcomb and her sister Aster Parsons, Eleanor Wainwright and Fred Fishner. A group of crafty seniors that all live together in Ms. Sherry's farmhouse. They all have their strengths and weaknesses but stand by each other no matter what. Even during a murder investigation. She does an excellent job of giving the reader time to get to know them all before the main mystery begins and I really appreciate that.

But when “Hellspawn”(love this nickname) Jill Elsman is killed and Nixy starts to dig into her background and investigate her business we soon have several suspects and the story’s pace picks up. Then we are caught up in solving the mystery right along with Nixy. Detective Eric Shoar at times wishes he never called the nosy niece to town but she seems to be growing on him.

I love the Silver Six and would love to be friends with them in real life. The entire community of Lilydale sounds like a great group of people. It is nice to see just a glimmer of romance on the horizon for Nixy.

I truly enjoyed my first visit to Lilyvale from the folk art festival to the beautiful town itself. Haddock has laid a great foundation for this series and given us a great mystery to boot. She also tempts us with a preview of *GOODBYE GOURDEOUS*, the next book in the series, and a craft tip and recipes too. What a fantastic start!

Fred says

Basket Case is the first book in the A Silver Six Crafting Mystery series.

One of the reasons that I like this book is that most all of the characters are near my age and could certainly relate.

Leslie “Nixy” Nix gets a call from Detective Eric Shoar asking her to come to Lilyvale to check on Aunt Sherry and her house guests. Over the previous couple of weeks there have been a few clouds of smoke and explosions coming from the house and he feels she should check and make sure everything is okay. Aunt Sherry has five 60+ people living in her home and they refer to themselves as the Silver Six. When Nixy arrives there is a Folk Art Festival going on. As Nixy is looking around, she hears her aunt in a confrontation with a Jill Elsman. Elsman is trying to buy lot option in Lilyvale and has been a thorn in everyone's side and no one knows why land has become so popular. Soon the body of Elsman is found in the family cemetery on Aunt Sherry's land. The murderer has left several items by the body to implicate Aunt Sherry.

Nixy will need to get the crafty Silver Six together to find the real killer and clear Aunt Sherry of all suspicion.

This book has a wonderful cast of characters and I would enjoy knowing all of them. They've all had interesting jobs in their lifetime and they come in handy in their “silver” years.

Craft tip and recipes are also included.

Will definitely be looking for *Goodbye Gourgeous*, the next book in this new series.

Debbie Lester says

Author Nancy Haddock is bringing readers a new series, with six, 60+ heroines with a penchant for murder and crafts. *Basket Case*, is great introduction to the Silver Six mystery series and readers will quickly fall in love with this eccentric cast of characters from Ms. Sherry to the local detective. Haddock does a fantastic

job of setting up this series with colorful characters and back stories. You'll want to return to Lilyvale on a constant basis! Great new series!

What I Liked:

When a new cozy mystery series comes out I start speculating. How is this cozy series going to be different from the rest? How will it stand apart? Can it make its mark? Sometimes they do and sometimes they don't, but once in a while a series comes along that is simply a stroke of genius. The new Silver Six series has tons of potential. Nancy Haddock did everything right in this first book in the series. Basket Case, introduces readers to six elderly ladies in the South who love to craft. This particular book centers around basket weaving, but the author leaves all kinds of possibilities for future books. Each of these ladies has quite the story to tell and I can just see the ideas for more books in the series on every page.

These ladies aren't just crafters though, they are mystery enthusiasts. When the dead body of a woman looking to buy Ms. Sherry's home ends up dead in the family cemetery, things don't look good. But with the help of the Silver Six, Ms. Sherry's niece, Nixy and Detective Shoar the killer will be brought to justice, one way or another. The characters in this one are just spectacular. So well developed and so fun! Haddock knew what she was doing when she started dreaming up Lilyvale, Arkansas and the people who would populate it. I can't wait to see what these ladies get into next.

What I Didn't Like:

I liked just about everything about this one and definitely feel it is 5 apple read. However, I do want to mention a strong trend in the cozy genre of late. There are a lot of 'Southern' cozies coming out. There are a lot of cozies coming out featuring older heroes and heroines, and there are a lot of cozies come out with a large group of possible heroines or heroes. I loved this one, but that just goes to show that trends happen even in the cozy genre and sometimes you get too much of a good thing. I hope to see more variety in the new cozies coming out soon, but in the mean time... this one rocks!

Bottom Line:

The mystery was well crafted and didn't start on the first page. Haddock allowed readers to get to know the town and the Silver Six first, before the murder occurred. I liked the undercurrent of romance between Nixy and Eric and I felt that added a different dimension to the story. The details about crafting and basket weaving were also nice touches. This is just a group of women I want to know more about and I think Haddock is really onto to something with this series.

Brenda says

Leslee Stanton (aka Nixy) decided to visit her Aunt Sherry after yet another call from Eric Shoar, the local sheriff of Lilyvale, Arkansas, where she lived with her elderly housemates – the Silver Six. Getting time off work proved to be tricky, but eventually she was on her way. Nixy hadn't let her aunt know she was coming, so the surprise on her face was tinged with delight; but they were in the middle of a crafty folk art festival in the front of Sherry's farmhouse so Nixy was able to quietly observe her aunt with her friends.

But it was when developer Jill Elsman suddenly arrived on the scene, spewing vitriol and bullying Aunt

Sherry about selling her property that Nixy realised things weren't as they seemed in the sleepy little town of Lilyvale. And with Elsman doing the same to the other landowners of the area, it was obvious no one liked her. But when her body was found, and circumstances pointed Aunt Sherry's way, Nixy knew she had to act fast. Would she be able to find Elsman's killer before someone else was silenced?

Basket Case by Nancy Haddock is the first in the Silver Six Crafting Mystery series and I loved it! So much fun – the elderly residents and their delightful ways; Nixy and her determination (she is a great character) and of course Sheriff Eric Shoar. But I loved ninety three year old Mrs Gilroy – snarky, sarcastic and totally wonderful! I picked this book up from the library for a challenge – but it looks like I have a new series to enjoy now! Highly recommended.

Lisa Morin says

A real page turner

This book will have the reader eager to stay up past bedtime! The Silver Six are a group of seniors who live together not only for financial reasons, but for companionship as well.

Sherry Mae is a delightful character and her strong mind and attitude fits well with the story. Nixy is Sherry Mae's niece and after an urgent phone call from the sheriff, Nixy sets off to visit her aunt. Worried that the seniors can't take care of themselves is a big concern for Nixy, but when a murder takes place and Sherry Mae is the person of interest, Nixy spoons finds out just how strong the Silver Six are.

This was a fun book to read and I was really excited with the ending. The characters are all well rounded and truly make the story believable.

I can't wait to read more in this series.

OpenBookSociety.com says

<http://openbooksociety.com/article/ba...>

Basket Case
A Silver Six Crafting Mystery, Book #1
By Nancy Haddock
ISBN: 9780425275726
Author website: <http://www.nancyhaddock.com/>
Brought to you by OBS reviewer Kayt

Synopsis:

First in a crafty new cozy mystery series from national bestselling author Nancy Haddock

There isn't much crime in Lilyvale, Arkansas, but local authorities have their hands full with Ms. Sherry Mae Stanton Cutler and her housemates—a crafty group of retirees who've dubbed themselves the Silver Six. But when Sherry Mae's niece, Nixy, arrives to keep them in line, Lilyvale also plays host to a killer.

When Leslee Stanton “Nixy” Nix gets the latest call from Lilyvale detective Eric Shoar, she knows it means trouble. There’s been another kitchen explosion at her Aunt Sherry’s farmhouse, and the dreamy-voiced detective has had enough. If Nixy doesn’t check on her aunt in person, the Silver Six could become wards of the court. But the trouble Nixy finds in Lilyvale is not at all what she expects.

The seniors are hosting a folk art festival at the farmhouse, featuring Sherry’s hand-woven baskets, when land developer Jill Elsman arrives to bully Nixy’s aunt into selling the property. When Jill is later found dead in the cemetery, Sherry is suspected of weaving a murder plot, and it’s up to Nixy and the Silver Six to untangle the truth.

Recipes and crafting tip included!

Review:

Basket Case is the first in a new series by author Nancy Haddock and it is a winner. The series is called “A Silver Six Crafting Mystery” and the characters are a hoot. It is set in Lilyvale, Arkansas. Ms Haddock gives the reader a wonderful setup period, time to enjoy the characters and their personalities, time to get to know the lay of the land and to spend some quality time in this serene setting. Well serene maybe not so much. Leslee Stanton Nix (Nixy) has not been a very dutiful niece since she last saw her aunt Sherry Mae Stanton. Sherry Mae helped Nixy when her mother passed. Now Nixy gets a call informing her she needs to get to Lilyvale immediately to help control her out of control aunt and housemates. She has to go or else they may end up in a nursing home.

This new cozy series is wonderful. The main characters along with Nixy include her aunt and 5 other senior housemates that are entertaining and diversified. The “Silver Six” as they call themselves have been causing some complaints from the neighbors and too many visits from the police and emergency services due to “explosions”. When Nixy gets the call from Lilyvale detective Eric Shoar, she road trips it to her aunt. When she gets there the Silver Six are having a craft fair and the fireworks are flying on the front porch. “Hellspawn” Jill Elsman, land developer, has been terrorizing the town and she is in the process of threatening Aunt Sherry Mae when Nixy pulls up.

As I said, this cozy gives the reader time to feel at home in it before things get really hairy. We meet the wonderful members of the Silver Six and they are all so different and such a great assortment of characters. Basket Case really drew me in and I think it will most if not all readers. There are several side mysteries including why does Elsman want all their houses, what was making the explosions, and a few more. That keeps the book moving and entertaining even before the murder occurs. The author’s writing style is enjoyable and descriptive without going overboard. The mysteries are well plotted and intriguing. Reading this book, I felt like I had come home to a series, not that I was reading the first in one.

I would recommend Basket Case to any fans of the cozy genre* and any crafters as well. This series will be a hit with just about any age group since the characters run the gamut of generations. Even though I am not a senior, I have to say I loved reading about them, their antics, and their friendships, all of it. I kept thinking to myself “how will Nixy end up staying in Lilyvale” and I was happy with that outcome. I truly enjoyed this first in what I hope will be a long lived series. I can see a romance building between Nixy and Detective Shoar, yet it was not rushed which I liked. I loved the little southern intricacies and the way the author gave glimpses of southern life, but never pushed it over the top. As a southerner I really appreciate the soft touch. I enjoyed the recipes and craft tips (not crafty but liked them all the same). I think this is a super first in what promises to be a fun new series.

OBS would like to thank the publisher for supplying a free copy of this title in exchange for an honest review as part of their ongoing blog tour

Lisa Ks Book Reviews says

BASKET CASE is one of the cutest, most refreshing new cozy mysteries of the year! Author Nancy Haddock has created an extraordinarily, fun cast of characters. The “Silver Six” are such a handful, but there isn’t one of them I wouldn’t want for an aunt.

This first book in the Silver Six Crafting Mystery series is packed with fun, mystery, and just plain good story telling. I was captivated from beginning to end, sad when the book was done.

Ms. Haddock lets readers get a very good way into the story before she brings in the discovery of the murder victim. I’m so glad she waited. It really helped me to get to know and enjoy the core characters before they launched into investigation mode.

Excellent writing and a wonderfully plotted mystery make BASKET CASE one of the “must read” new mysteries of 2015. Don’t miss out on this one! Nancy Haddock is sure to be an ongoing name in cozy mysteries.

Crafting tips, recipes, and an excerpt of book 2, GOODBYE GOURDEOUS, can all be found at the back of the book!

Sherry Rummel says

Love...love..loved this cozy mystery. Nancy's well-defined characters and clever hints weave you through the story in a way that keeps you up long past your bedtime! Nixy, an easy to like character, reminds me of an old bestie. I happened upon this book at a library book sale and I'm so glad I picked it up as now I'm hooked to the series. Looking forward to the next one!

Shelby Bagby says

A very nice start to a new series. I'm not sure I've ever read a cozy set in Arkansas and I'm anxious to see if the author will offer us more details about the state. The folk art crafts are fun to read about. I will be anxiously awaiting the next book.

Meg says

This was a really good read; great flow, good mystery. You really got to know The Silver Six, the MC, and other characters; IOW, no cardboard cutouts here, whether the character was one of the 'good guys' or an evil one. And while I've always felt I would have a difficult time living in 'small town USA' the author did an

excellent job of portraying the town so that one felt one could live there and thrive. Looking forward to the next one in the series.
