



Trixie Belden and the Mystery in Arizona

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Di Lynch's Uncle Monty has invited Trixie, Honey, and the rest of the Bob-Whites to his Arizona dude ranch for winter vacation. There will be lots to do—horseback riding, swimming, festivals—but Trixie is hoping for an activity that isn't on the usual list. She wants another mystery.

Trixie Belden and the Mystery in Arizona Details

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From Reader Review Trixie Belden and the Mystery in Arizona for online ebook

Rachel N. says

This is the sixth book in the Trixie Belden mystery series. I loved this series when I was in around 5th or 6th grade. I remembered part of this book but not all the details. Trixie and her friends in the Bob White Club get to spend Christmas with Diana Lynch's uncle on his dude ranch in Arizona. Unfortunately all of the staff have disappeared but the Bob Whites step in to help while Trixie tries to find out where everyone went. This book was written in 1958 and I'm pretty sure child labor laws existed then and Trixie and her friends are all 13 to 16 years old but hey they can run a dude ranch no problem :-). The author also randomly dumps a lot of info about Arizona history and cowboys into the middle of the story. I still love this series and now I want to reread all of them but this isn't the strongest entry in the series. It is fun to see what "dude ranches" were supposedly like in the late 50's.

Joy Gerbode says

Good again ... pretty good Arizona history here.

August 2013 ... another good read, quick and easy, fun mystery, plus lots of information about Arizona and the culture of the American Indians there.

Bonnie says

The first book set outside of New York, as the six Bob-Whites travel to Arizona for Christmas. Never truly loved this one. I would've preferred Christmas in Sleepyside and couldn't imagine MY parents ever letting me go away during the holidays.

2012 Read:

I'm not overly fond of Julie Campbell's final contribution to the series she created, but with my vacation (and first visit) to Arizona upon me, I had to read Trixie Belden and the Mystery in Arizona. The Bob-Whites head to Tucson and Di's uncle's dude ranch over the holidays. And there was my first issue with the book, albeit it a very personal one. I can't imagine ever being away from my family at Christmas and I can't imagine my parents ever willingly agreeing to it when I was a young teenager. I don't really care for the teens' attitudes in this one, either. It's almost as if they're ... teenagers! Everybody picks on Trixie, Brian and Jim (as her tutors) are extremely high-handed with her, Mart's teasing borders on rude, and speaking of rude, Trixie is rude to Diana several times without any apparent reason on the flight to Arizona. The "mystery" is pretty lame and resolved almost second-handedly in the final pages and never feels like a resolution. I never feel like we got to really delve into the secondary characters in this one. I would love for a great fanfic writer to take a stab at this one and give more depth to Uncle Monty, Tenny, Rosita, Jane Brown, Mrs. Sherman, and the Wellingtons. Overall, this isn't a book I dislike, it just doesn't give me much enjoyment and ranks near the back of the pack in the series.

Kelly says

This is one of my least favorite early Trixies, and coincidentally, the very last one I owned. The book reads like some crappy Fodor's/history guide for the southwest. The depictions of Native Americans and Mexicans are dated and offensive (HOW many times can Mart call a woman a squaw?). Though I had to wonder, reading this book in 2010 -- would the Orlando family (who left the ranch to return to Mexico to attend a family gathering) be able to get back into Arizona in this day and age, or would poor Uncle Monty be stuck with the Bob-Whites as his ranch crew forever? I could probably overlook the other stuff if the descriptions of Arizona weren't so didactic and BORING.

My favorite part of this book was the food (of course) and the description of the dime-store Christmas gifts they gave each other. Honey's tiny sewing basket! Trixie's tiny detective magnifying glass!

J.H. says

Just re-read this one and liked it as much as I remember. Don't see it as a weak link in the series. Who needs a villain when you've got the root of Di's stewardess ambitions, the boys in tight matador pants, and Jim making Trixie blush when he says she'll be the most graceful lady on the floor for the square dance and asks to be her partner.

Melody says

This book is so bad I have a hard time articulating the ways in which it sucks. Let's hit the easy targets first, heap big stereotypum, ugh. Completely offensive, on every level. Also easy to complain about; the didactic and horribly stilted writing. It sounds like a travelogue about Arizona written by aliens. This book reads as though it was written by a corporate committee. The characters, completely unreal, completely stereotypical.

There's just nothing about this book to like.

April Brown says

A childhood favorite re-visited.

Is the story as good as I remember? – Yes

What ages would I recommend it too? – Ten and up.

Length? – Most of a day's read.

Characters? – Memorable, several characters.

Setting? – Real world, pre - computer pre - air conditioning, pre - cell phone.

Written approximately? – 1958.

Does the story leave questions in the readers mind? – Ready to read more.

Any issues the author (or a more recent publisher) should cover? Yes. A slight mention of the time frame of the story - as the teens are given far more freedom to come and go as they please than would be safe today. Also, the absence of computers, cell phones, and air conditioning in homes, especially the mansion.

Short storyline: Trixie Belden, Honey, Jim, and her brothers join Diana Lynch on her uncle's ranch in Arizona and struggle to help the three "difficult guests, and solve the mystery of the disappearance of the family who did all the work on the ranch.

Notes for the reader: A great mystery! No violence (only referred to from the past), no murder.

Melissa McShane says

The Trixie Belden mysteries fall into some broad categories. This one is one of the "the mystery isn't really a mystery" episodes, with Trixie picking up on some strange events and trying to make them more sinister than they turn out to be. Most of the entertainment in this book comes not from the mystery, but from the Bob-Whites getting roped by Trixie into doing housework on their dude ranch vacation. There's a lot of information about Native American tribal history and cultures that as far as I can tell is fairly accurate, but Campbell doesn't do a great job of parceling it out and it comes off as rather info-dumpy. The "mystery" is resolved rather abruptly, and everyone gets a happy ending, but I prefer the books where something genuinely sinister is going on.

Lorraine says

Di Lynch's Uncle Monty has invited Trixie, Honey, and the rest of the Bob-Whites to his Arizona dude ranch for winter vacation. There will be lots to do—horseback riding, swimming, festivals—but Trixie is hoping for an activity that isn't on the usual list. She wants another mystery.

I'd forgotten how much I enjoyed Trixie, Honey, and the Bobwhites as a youngster often re-reading these mysteries several times. I know I read The Red Trailer Mystery 4 or 5 times. These are clean, cozy mysteries with just enough mystery for young readers. I particularly liked this one as young readers are exposed to the different cultures especially Indian and Hispanic as well as rodeo traditions as they read. These older series were well written and can still be enjoyed by young readers today.

Bobbi Rightmyer says

Trixie and the rest of the Bob-Whites are off to spend the Christmas holiday at Di's Uncle Monty's dude ranch in Arizona. At first, Trixie was afraid she would not be allowed to go because her school work wasn't

up to par. But after her brothers, Brian and Mart, put in a good word for her, Trixie is allowed to go on one condition: she must work on her algebra and English theme at least one hour every day. Bummer!

After a long flight to Arizona, the gang is rearing to go, only there is a problem. Uncle Monty's hired help mysteriously packed up in the middle of the night and left. There is a ranch full of guests and no one to take care of them. It looks like the Bob-Whites will have to turn around and go home! But leave it to Trixie to come up with a plan.

Much to the chagrin of the others, Trixie volunteers the Bob-Whites to be the kitchen help and maids. The boys end up cooking and waiting tables, while the girls are left to wash dishes and make beds. Some holiday!

Even with all the work to be done, and Trixie's daily homework to complete, there is still time for some riding and picnicking, as well as a mystery to solve.

This book is the first time all the Bob-Whites have traveled out of state together, so the change of surroundings was interesting. However, I did miss the escapades of little Bobby and the interaction with Reagan and Miss Trask.

Heather says

Thought this was in the 1800s!

“Moms and Dad.” I thought it was a mistake the first time, but she said it again.

“That means Arizona is out for this Beldon, but definitely.” there’s some weird speech in several places in the book.

“groan, groan.” “groan, groan, groan!” are they saying the word groan, or are they actually groaning? Never seen that in a book before!

“that’s for me. But definitely.” Here we go again!

That’s insensitive for Di to run in saying they’re going to Arizona knowing Trixie might not go.

Family coming out of the woodwork! You should list all at once all her brothers. Thought Bobby was a random neighbor kid, ‘gathered the plump little boy into her arms.’ Why didn’t you say that was her brother immediately?

“Th-Then I-I c-can go?” too many stutters.

A lil draggy, especially cuz I dragged it out a while. We knew she was going to Arizona so I wish that whole school scene & all the moaning--literally moaning--about grades & not being able to go had been much shorter.

“She&Honey & Miss Trask had gone off in the wheelers’ luxury trailer to find Jim, after he had run away from his cruel stepfather.” What?? Are they not related? This is the first Trixie book I’ve read, so Idk anyone or their connections.

I thought it was weird how the stewardess just sits down& tells them she’s Apache. I’ve never been on a plane before, but that seems highly unorthodox.

-Jim is Honey’s adopted brother!

-I find it ironic Trixie & her friends have either written reports on Arizona, the Indians, or Mexican culture.

- ‘Di said “I’m going to be a stewardess someday.”

Trixie sniffed. “You’ll nvr be that smart.” Now, Trix, don’t be rude! You’re failing your classes, so why

would YOU say something about someone else not being smart? &that sounded so incredibly snobby&rude. &a stewardess isn't a genius. That woman talked about places she knew, so obviously she knows all about them.

-they're sharing things they know& Di says she knows about the Lost Dutchman mine &Trixie says "I'm not very interested in gold mines," Trixie said flatly.' Rude again! I thought it sounded interesting. &I'm disappointed that she isn't interested in that, because I'm interested in it. &hey, isn't Trixie supposed to like mysteries &adventures??!

I thought the Hassayamp river &if you drink from it, you'll never tell the truth again, and the little saying they have for Hassayamp liars was cool. &was the mine that quickly got shut down from Trixie.

““Bristly?” Trixie frowned& looked down her nose. “I know it’s sandy, but I didn’t think it was bristly.”

How did she not understand how the desert is bristly? Cacti, other dry, prickly plants.

Can't believe Mart would say "you're not a true apache woman" cause she served the women first. It was an out of line thing to say& I don't think you could get away saying that in real life! Also, that's how apache women acted in the past, not necessarily now.

-it didn't seem like true plane protocol. Seems like they're on a private flight. At one point, I literally forgot they were on a commercial plane with other people on board. They didn't describe anyone else on the plane. Love the insight on Indians! How Navajo Indians greatly respect their women. &the women serve the men first.

Can't believe they didn't know what a piñata was! You don't have to be Mexican to know that!

They can trace their lineage back to Aztec nobles. That's cool. But how you do even begin to do that? They have cool customs, like the one of Mary&Joseph. &leaving hay for the wise men in their shoes, &them giving their thanks by refilling the shoes with candy.

“The boys have had lots of experience waiting tables at camp,& they’re all grand cooks.” Well, isn’t that extremely convenient. They’re ALL great cooks? &waiting tables isn’t the same as cooking. What kind of camp did they turn to cook&wait tables at?

Dolefully has been used several times and it's only page 76. She's already repeating words a lot.

Think of another way for your characters to express emotion. I swear everyone's spoken dolefully at some point.

The mystery hits us from the get-go. The family quits. Rosita is sad about her jewelry. “&she probably isn’t wearing any jewelry because she feels it wouldn’t be in good taste.” What does that mean?!?

Oh boy. No one noticed that Rosita is acting odd, sad about her jewelry. Looks like Trixie is the only one! This lil mystery is too weird. I'm probably irritated because I can't figure it out.

Their family was threatened but Maria remained. Didn't she want to go with her husband??

All indians love jewelry. That's really stereotypical.

They all talk like proper grown-ups. Which doesn't match with their ages. &when Mary, Honey& Trixie were talking like westerners, how would kids know how to talk like that? It's more believable with Mart, cause he's in high school. In fact, I forgot what grade the girls were in, &never knew their ages!

I like how her friends offered her to skip the luncheon dishes& she says it's her fault about her grades so they shouldn't suffer. I like when characters have morals, realize what's right&wrong, and know the right thing to do.

I thought this was a ghost story! So disappointed!

“somebody was out there, &that somebody was crying. Who could it be--&why was he, or she so unhappy?” This does not make for a good mystery. Figuring out why people are unhappy. This may have been the moment I felt this book--&plot, &what I thought it would be like--slipping away from me.

THIS is the snippet from the back of the book?!? It actually seemed like a mystery when I read that lil blurb in the local book shop. But reading it here, why it's nothing! It's not even interesting!

-Jane says “I did, but how did you know.” &Trixie asks was it you crying? Jane said she was crying in the beginning!

Jane Brown doesn't act like that someone 10 years out of high school. Throwing herself on the bed&

wailing. Then telling Trixie to go away.

“But Mommy is too dumb to know that.” Well that’s nice! He’s only in the first grade! He shouldn’t be talking like that.

Everyone’s pretty. Di, Brian, Maria, Rosita, Stetson. It’s just unrealistic. Or Arizona is the land of beautiful people.

-“If you have not finished those 3 rooms by 8:15 the guests will return to them &may keep you there indefinitely.” That sounded crazy. &every single guest is lonely &looking to talk that they’d hold up a worker from doing their job&just chat their ears off? That’s unrealistic!!!

-I’m surprised the “cra-zee” and “puh-leaze” were in here. sounded like teens today!

-you mean both Di &Honey’s dad’s are millionaires? That seems unrealistic too!

-“she’s as poor as a church mouse. Aren’t you, Trixie?” &Trixie laughs. I can’t believe Montey said that! I thought that was rude!

‘she’s so small&slim, she looks cute in jeans.’ That was a weird thing to say. R u trying to say she looks young?

Oh boy. Mr. Wellington wants to work on his vacation because he’s had experience with serving ppl because his kids used to bring a lot of friends over&he can make rlly good lemonade. Well, look at that.

Then Jane Brown jumps in &wants to work too, on her vacation, with the accounting. Well, imagine that. Who works on their vacations?!

Di talks weird. “Me for bed.” “Me for a hot shower.”

-it’s annoying how ppl think Trixie is making things up or lying.

Interesting about what all a bandana can do--&it can do a lot!--&their chaps, boots&ropes.

-“I have a feeling in my old bones that Maria is suddenly going to disappear& then I could have fun.” What! They skipped right over the dance--the whole reason they went there a week early!!! What the heck! I was so interesting in hearing about the big custom that would be educational to see.

So she sold her jewelry to that woman. Gosh this mystery is so lukewarm!

-everyone’s nice, just misunderstood. What do you know? This is all so unrealistic!! Not even one person is truly mean.

Can’t believe it was just about jewelry. She told her parents to buy a modern machine, her dad cut his hand. She simply needs money.

“If only Maria would quit, I’d be as happy as a queen.” So Mrs. Sherman, the rich snooty woman, isn’t actually rich. &she likes working.

This book is so repetitive. We’ve heard about her ‘low marks’ throughout the whole book.

She gets there&should be studying but gets distracted, or helps Mrs. Sherman unpack. Then Honey offers again to cover for Trixie so she can do her school work. &says she won’t go riding without her. If that was my friend and I’d already covered for her once& she was still blowing off her work, I’d be mad.

“Don’t be silly,” Trixie said rather crossly. “I don’t feel much like riding, anyway, &if you’ll just stop bothering me, I’ll have these problems corrected before the rodeo.” Wow, Trixie goes again being really rude &unlikeable! Her excuse was that she had to or Honey wouldn’t have gone riding. You didn’t have to say it like that.

-Ok, one of the last mysteries falls to the wayside, as did the previous ones. Tenny is a PhD student, simply saving for money.

-Don’t the guests wonder why kids are serving them? Who would want that? It would be weird if kids served me food.

A whole book of guests with talents that can help run the ranch. ¬ only talent, but the willingness to use them. They ALL wanted to work there. On their vacations.

-I thought Tenny was a bad guy! I can't believe Trixie just up&said she knows he's faking! I thought that scene was gunna end way differently. I thought he'd get mad &threaten her, because I thought he was a bad character! Doesn't the author know she made him look bad?

-the girls are good at talking. They talk to ppl older than them& adults really well. I marvel at that, cuz I wasn't like that as a kid!

-‘Jim asked coldly, “Did you correct all of those problems?”’ I’m surprised Jim would treat her like that, cause she isn’t her sister.

-“Why worry about him?” Tenny demanded. “He’s as happy a little boy as I have ever seen.”

“I know,” Trixie said.’

What?? He hasn’t been happy any time we’ve seen him!! Why would Trixie agree to that, and is Tenny delusional??

-“only much prettier than the ladies you see in western movies.” So they get hags in western movies? That’s not true at all!

-since when is Jane Brown terribly shy? Or shy at all?

I like how throughout the book, ppl mention Trixie likes adventure& mysteries and solving them.

“I solved the mystery this morning when I talked to Mrs. Sherman &also when I talked to Tenny.” But you didn’t really solve it. Outright asking them &them just out& telling you is not solving anything. A mystery is when you look for clues & solve it on your own. That’s why this fails as a mystery.

“All too well do we know that when you trip the light fantastic, you trip, period.” Huh?

-“You were the belle of the ball, honey,” Mrs. Sherman told her.

“No, you were,” Jane argued.’

There was too much emphasis in this book on people being pretty& looking pretty, and the belle of the ball. Di, Honey& them told Trixie she’d be the belle of the ball if not for Mrs. Sherman &her sack dress. Which I think they’re making fun of.

-“She knows that Petey wants to be with the other Orlando’s, wherever they are,” but nobody paid any attention to Trixie when she talked like that--nobody except Rosita.’ Why don’t they believe her?!?

Can’t believe her husband died! I wonder how? No wonder she stayed behind with Petey, because her husband wasn’t alive.

-so they argued &Maria stayed with Petey because the family believed in old customs.

“The Mexicans, you know, are really cousins of many of the southwest Indians.” Wow! I did not know that.

“Rosita may know where the Orlando’s are now& why they left so suddenly.” That’s a long shot.

-Wow. Trixie says that she wouldn’t be surprised if Maria &her son left, even the next morning. &I was thinking no, because Maria has been so adamant in staying. I especially didn’t think they’d leave the next morning. &they do! It’s too much!

-“I was pretty sure Maria would leave last evening,” Trixie said smugly. “I’m honestly surprised that she didn’t go last weel.” I know she’s happy to be right, but that’s a little insensitive. Do you miss her? Don’t you feel bad for the effects on the ranch of her leaving?

Honey is the only really sweet, compassionate &likeable character.

Mart says do you expect us to set the tables too? &Honey says “You don’t ever have to set a table again. We girls will manage the dining room as long as you boys do the cooking. Wont we, Trix?” & Trix just nods, like she doesn’t really agree with it. Honey was awesome for saying all that! Really great girl! Trix should have said all that, too.

-I just didn’t like Petey, not even a smidgen. I think he’s a brat. Yeah I get he misses his family, but that’s no call to act like that. He should accept his mom’s decision to stay there. &frankly, the things he yells out sounds too bizarre. I knew it was some kind of festival or ceremony from the beginning, but the way it was said sounded too crazy. He didn’t have to say eating skulls.

-“Maria is so Americanized that she almost--but not quite--makes fun of Mexican customs.” That sounded way too mature for her to say. &When has Maria made fun of any customs?

The only real surprise is how Maria had been prepping the guys to learn to cook before she left. That truly surprised me, that she had been planning to leave. Everything else, every “surprise” in here wasn’t very surprising.

-“So my prayers were answered!” She exclaimed. “Maria has gone! Now I can have some fun around here.” You could have cooked WITH Maria...if you so desperately wanted to work on your vacation. &wow, does anyone miss Maria?

-“Now I know why you kept saying you hoped Maria would leave. You like to cook. When you and your husband had that restaurant, you must have done the cooking.” That was obvious from the get-go! I’m surprised Trixie was slow there.

-“Scram,” she yelled. “What on earth are you doing in my kitchen?” She’s been likeable. Don’t ruin it here at the end. They know Uncle Monty; he hired them, such as it was. You have not been approved to work there yet. You’re getting territorial over a kitchen that in no way belongs to you.

I can’t believe Sherman asked what tacos are! &no one knew what pinatas were!

-I knew from the first moment Petey started describing eating skeletons heads that it was some sort of festival.

Back when I thought this was actually a mystery book I thought someone had threatened the Orlandos off the ranch. The ape man. I can’t believe I didn’t think specifically of the Dio de Los Muertos festival!

“maybe their own special family day of the dead is tomorrow.” No. that’s so unlikely, it’s weird to even say. Who has their own day of the dead? &if they honored tradition they wouldn’t have their own date.

“that cave-like place Petey told you about might be some sort of tomb.” That’s another kinda weird thing to say. A cave could be a cave!

Skeletons being candy makes sense, though.

The ape man “must have been a piñata.” Disappointing! They’re making up things &it’s all long shots, cuz they have no idea! &that was weird too. Cause he said ape man, &made it sound like a man. A piñata doesn’t look like an ape man.

-“they probably felt he wouldn’t understand--might even make fun of them--so they just left.” There’s no way Monty would have laughed! &you owe your boss an explanation. You never just take off.

&how long have they been working there? Less than a year? Cuz if it had been longer, Monty would know of their yearly ritual.

Jim saying all of a sudden that they’re probably celebrating an ancestors birthday just didn’t seem right to me. & I hate that they have to piece all of this together, which may or may not be right. They’re just throwing out possibilities, some of which sound wrong.

-Could be celebrating an ancient Aztec custom that only they know. Whoa, this is getting crazy!

-Di mentions twins. Idr her having twin siblings!

“He only started school this fall, didn’t he? Can he really write well enough to read?”

Trixie sighed. “As usual, you’re not making any sense, Di. How well he writes has nothing to do with how well he reads.”

Di pretended to sulk. “I meant, was his writing good enough so you could read it?”

Trixie giggled. “Just about.”

If you knew she was joking, why did she say that? &there she goes, putting her friends down again.

-Bobby’s letter just had missing letters in it. the author could have done better in the misspellings:

“Dere Trix. I fee th chikens ver day. I go ridn.

Lov

Robert Belden.”

-I realized there were too many problems in here. After the Orlando's were solved, I thought that was it. But was hoping they'd get a call that explained everything, instead of us settling with all the things the kids came up with.

Mention Wellington's kids&Rosita. I forgot all about her troubles!

-“A pretty girl and two tall boys.” Another pretty character! Oh boy!

Of course I was hoping& knew Wellingtons kids would show. But when they do show up right before, &right after Trixie is talking about them, it's too unrealistic.

-Aw Sally&Bob and Billy mention hanging out. I wonder if they'll have an adventure in another book!!

Oh no! Spoiler! Diamond in a pincushion on the wheelers estate! &another finding a red trailer.

Oh wow, Di says Honey usually helps Trixie solve mysteries. I didn't notice that in here.

The trailer is where they found Jim! &Trix &Mart got kidnapped in the trailer!

-Orlando's are coming back! Of course we knew that. I was hoping for that the whole book. Celebrating a nobles birth. How do they kow his bday? Why are they celebrating? He didn't find the lost city. Sounds like he had an average life after that. &having the reason they left be the very reason Jim thought of was too unrealistic. Who would guess it was an ancestor's bday?

“Gee, thanks.” Trixie tried to make her voice sarcastic. Why?! Jim says he gives you E for Excellent Effort& Brian says they're giving you vacation. No need to be sarcastic, even if you didn't mean it.

I can't believe how this ended. Didn't get to see Rosita get her money!! Or get her jewelry back. I feel gipped!

It wasn't as resolved as it could have been.

This failed as a mystery. Didn't show western life that great. Ruined by studying and working. All of that should have been cut out of here!

Yes it was all for a good cause, but they deserved a vacation!

-there were some big stereotypes in here. Like all Indians loving jewelry. &Rosita wanting to be a stewardess. What a dream! Can't Indians do anything else? That's like having them all work at casinos. Hope the other books aren't like this& are actually mysteries.

Seeing ppl's reviews that this isn't the worst in the series, so I'm hoping others will deliver that they should.

Juli says

Trixie and all her friends are excited about winter break from school. The newest member of the Bob-Whites of the Glen (their club), Di Lynch, has announced her uncle is inviting them all down to Arizona. The B.W.G. will spend break at Uncle Monty's Dude Ranch!

Yes....a dude ranch. Just the idea made me smile and whisked me back in time to the 1950s when spending time at a tourist ranch was considered an adventure vacation. :) And, this story was quite the adventure for the B.W.G!

Trixie Belden is a teenage amateur sleuth from Sleepyside, NY. Along with her two older brothers, her pals Di and Honey, and Jim, Honey's adopted brother, they form the Bob Whites, a club that always seems to find a mystery to solve. The Mystery in Arizona is the 6th book in the Trixie Belden series. This time around Trixie is in hot water -- she is failing a couple classes at school and fears she will be left behind as the group makes its trek to Arizona. Her brothers and Jim come to her rescue offering to tutor her while on vacation so that she can pass her midterms when they return. But Trixie doesn't count on a mystery at Uncle Monty's ranch making it hard for her to concentrate on math and her essay on the Navajo tribe. Each time she tries to

study, she finds her head impossibly bogged down in the ranch mystery -- why did the Orlando family suddenly leave Uncle Monty's employment with no explanation or warning? Trixie knows there must be an explanation, but each time she tries to discuss the matter with her fellow B.W.G.s she gets lectured about not studying and not working as hard as the other members. The group of teens spends vacation having fun, but also replacing the Orlandos as ranch staff -- cleaning, waiting on tables, washing dishes and doing whatever Uncle Monty wants them to do. Between the mystery and working at the ranch, Trixie wonders if she will ever get any studying done. But isn't it more important to find out what happened to the Orlandos? And, will any of her friends finally listen to her?

I love the 1950s feel of these stories. I guess that is why I owned the entire set in paperback in the 1980s. I loved getting the books as gifts on holidays or making a trip to Waldenbooks to pick up the next book in the set. I read the final Trixie Belden book when I was in high school. I remember feeling excited, but a bit sad, that there would be no more books in the series. And before I left for college that next fall, I sold my set of books to a mother who had two middle school age girls at home. I hope they enjoyed the books as much as I did! For me Trixie Belden out-sleuthed Nancy Drew and the Hardy Boys. I couldn't get enough of the B.W.G. and the mysteries they solved.

I was a bit hesitant to re-read the series as an adult because I didn't want my happy memories of the books to change, but once I started reading I was glad to be back in Sleepyside with my old pals. As an adult, I do find the plots use some long-gone stereotypes and ideas, but I know I need to judge the stories by the era in which they were written. For example, the brothers sometimes call the girls "squaws" and make commentary about them being lazy, needing to cook and serve them, etc. Brothers have been teasing their sisters like this since the dawn of time...ha ha....and although the verbage may have changed to "Why don't you go in the kitchen and bake me a pie!" or somesuch, the good natured sibling squabbling is still the same. I didn't let a couple words or phrases ruin my enjoyment of the book.

This book gives information on Arizona, local Native American customs and life on a ranch. Although outdated and overly simplistic at times, the story is still quite enjoyable. I found myself wondering as much as Trixie what possibly could have happened to make the Orlandos leave a job they enjoyed with no warning.

The mysteries in these books are age appropriate. There is no spurting blood or gruesomeness.....mostly the stories are about unusual strangers, missing or stolen items, or unusual occurrences. In this 6th book, the gang has a great time in Arizona, makes some money by helping Uncle Monty, meets some interesting people, and gets to solve a mystery! And poor Trixie gets to do math lessons and write a report on the Navajo....while complaining about it the entire time. ha ha

This 6th book is the last one written by Julie Campbell. The rest of the series was written by various authors under the pen-name Kathryn Kenny. The series was published from 1948-1986. There are 39 books in the series. The first few books were reprinted several years ago, but the rest of the series is currently OOP. However, most of the books are available to read online at www.openlibrary.org. The site uses the Internet Archive to give access to many OOP and rare old books!! All copyright laws are strictly adhered to. Books that are in the public domain are available for download. Others are offered as ebooks that can be checked out for 2 weeks. The site is free...just requires a quick signup and a working email address. I've read several awesome old books through this site! It's definitely a treasure trove for bibliophiles!

One thing I love about OpenLibrary is that if you read the text online, the pages are actual scans of a physical book. I got to read about Trixie and the Gang's trip to Arizona while seeing the awesome illustrations included in the 1958 hardback edition. :) It made the book so much fun to read!

Definitely a nostalgia read for me! I'm going to continue reading my way through the series. :)

Sheryl Tribble says

I think Julie Campbell's own marriage issues come through in this book (she and her husband were in the process of separating at the time) -- the boys and girls are more "rivalrous" in this book than in any other I can remember, practically settling into opposing camps at various points. It's also the most episodic of the Campbell books, with the fewest mystery elements (there's an on-going background mystery, but Trixie does no sleuthing on that one, and the other mini-mysteries are all rapidly solved pretty much by accident).

There are also whole chapters, and many, many pages, of infodumps on various subjects related to Arizona and its people, however when the kids actually go to a *Las Posadas* event, the reader doesn't go with them! And, while it's not surprising Trixie and her friends don't know the names of some of the food they eat, it's a little odd to have the cook and her son repeatedly refer to "this rice dish" or "that rice stuff" instead of naming whatever it's supposed to be.

Not one of Campbell's better efforts, but it does have some nice moments for the Trixie fan, like the girls decorating the Christmas tree or Trixie's sudden panic about homesickness and her mom's handling of it. And although Campbell's characterization skills fail her when it comes to Diana's uncle and I never get much feel for Maria or Rosita except as plot points (to be honest, I kept mixing them up, their personalities seemed so interchangeable), I like the "DGs" (three "Difficult Guests") and Tenny. They don't have the depth of characterization Campbell gave to most of her minor characters in the earlier books, but they're as good as your average Nancy Drew supporting role.

Still worth reading for a Trixie fan, IMHO. Not Campbell's best effort, but no *Totally Wrong* moments, at least.

Deanna Anderson says

This is my least favorite of the Trixie series, but mainly because I am not a fan of southwestern culture. But, this one is enjoyable in that there is a wealth of knowledge about the culture to be read in the book, and the mystery this time actually does not involve any crimes. I also enjoy how some of the guests end up helping out the dude ranch of Di Lynch's uncle when his usual employees have mysteriously left.

Mystery in Arizona is the last of the books written by Julie Campbell. After this, it was in-house writers using the collective pseudonym Kathryn Kenney. Aside from the different name on the cover, it is not obvious in writing style that authors are switched. From here, the timeline gets a little skewed as well, but otherwise the characters are the same as Campbell wrote them and the writing style is similar.

Dawn Michelle says

Trixie and the gang head for Di's Uncle Monty's dude ranch in Arizona. Trixie is only allowed to go on the condition that she work on her algebra, her very worst subject at school. The trip turns out differently than expected when the gang has to go to work for Uncle Monty after members of his staff mysteriously leave.

(copied from The Trixie Belden Fan Website)

** this is the first one I ever read of this series and I fell in love with the books and the writing!!! Oh, and this is the "real" Uncle Monty! :)

My worse subject in school was Math, so I totally relate to Trix in this book!!!

Re-Read~November 10, 2013

I LOVED re-reading this one. I remembered WHY I loved these books from the first time I read this. [The copy I know own is a newer paperback. I no longer own the original hardcover that was given to me all those years ago by my Aunt and Uncle for Christmas. Makes me so very sad.]

Dayna says

The sixth book in the Trixie Belden series. I actually remembered this book quite vividly from what must have been my last reread of the series. I remember it because I was pretty unimpressed with the screeds of "facts" in large blocks that the author had inserted into the book, rather than adding it as atmosphere.

Most of the plane ride read like the authors "facts I learned about Arizona before writing this book." It was pretty dull reading for the most part, adding little to the plot and really was a big chunk of slowing the pace of the book.

As for the actual story, I quite enjoyed the actual mystery, but there was a whole lot of awful behaviour from the BWG's and the ranch guests. I didn't much enjoy some of the personalities and behaviour in this book, and that definitely bought things down a bit for me.

J.L. Day says

a HUGE and most dedicated fan of Trixie and her crew. This is odd, of course, because they were MEANT for teen and pre-teen girls, but I was a young boy that read everything he could get his hands on and when I first stumbled on my first **TRIXIE BELDON** book I was instantly hooked!

I immediately sat about reading them all, as quickly as I could get my greedy little paws on them. Trixie is the star, or "lead" character, followed by Jim and Honey (who quickly became the love of my young life, I had a total crush on a fictional character that only existed in ink) and this brave trio was constantly getting into trouble, solving mysteries and murders; that sort of thing.

It falls along the line of the Hardy Boys, Nancy Drew and other similar series, but the Trixie series carries more of the teenage angst and a subtle love triangle of conflicted who likes whom mystery that battles back and forth throughout the series. All of the while though, the same cheerful, effervescent and energetic positive attitude and domineering never quit/never let them see you down philosophy is the major subtext all through the books.

It is simply impossible to read these and NOT feel good about yourself and about LIFE, to have a sense of "all is well" in the world and a cheerful demeanor just naturally permeate your soul. I know, it SOUNDS crazy, but it is true.

I lost all of my Trixie books years ago, lending them to friends and that sort of thing. Since then, I have been on a quest to rebuild my collection of hardbacks. I find most of them at "Friends of the Library Sales" and things like that, but I am ever watchful at garage sales and places, for I do not have even a third of them built back

Lydia Dyslin says

The last book in the Trixie Belden series by Julie Campbell! I took more of my time with this one. The Kathryn Kenney books are okay, some are good and some are horrible, Kathryn Kenney is a pseudonym name so it really depends on the author.

Anyway, I loved this book, there wasn't really much of a mystery to it - it was just Trixie and the Bob-Whites trying to help many different people on an Arizona dude ranch they are staying at for the holidays.

I loved this book except for the fact that there was WAAAY too much Arizona history. When Trixie and her friends are flying on the plane from New York, there are about three pages with nothing but the flight stewardess talking about the origins of the name Arizona and things like that, I just skimmed through the educational parts. (Oh, and I KNOW what a burrito is!! Haven't you ever heard of Taco Bell? xD)

But other than that it was a great book! Four-and-a-half stars out of five.

Maureen says

This slight and silly Trixie is still good fun, though nowhere near as good as greats such as The Gatehouse Mystery. Not enough menace or concrete mystery to solve.

Susan Liston says

Haven't read this in ages and ages. Quite nostalgic, but wow are these books dated. Written in the 50's , I originally read them in the 60's when they weren't so much. Like this:

"The stewardess stopped beside their seats then and introduced herself. "I'm a full blooded Apache Indian" she told them. "Barbara Slater is my American name and I was educated in public schools." She slipped into the empty seat beside Di. "My Indian name is too long to remember. So won't you please just call me Babs?"

"You look divine in that trim navy blue uniform", said Di enviously. "When I'm old enough I'm going to try to get a job as an airline hostess."

Babs smiled back at her. "This particular airline hires only full-blooded Indian girls for the New York to Tucson run. Some of us are Papagos and Pimas, and a great many of us are Navajos and Apaches. All of us,

of course, have to be high school graduates."

Wow.
