



Antique Blues

Jane K. Cleland

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Ever-crafty Josie must confront suspicious antiques dealers and her own friend's killer in *Antique Blues*, the twelfth mystery in Jane K. Cleland's beloved Josie Prescott Antiques Mystery series set in New Hampshire.

When amateur sleuth and antiques expert Josie Prescott is called in to appraise a Japanese woodblock print and vintage guitar for her friend Mo, she's thrilled—until Mo is murdered.

It doesn't take her long to pinpoint one suspect: Mo's sister's manipulative boyfriend, who sold her the print—and has now, conveniently, disappeared. Josie's antiques know-how and detective skills soon lead her down an increasingly perplexing trail, scattered with gamblers, extramarital affairs, and under-the-table purchases.

Readers will relish a return to Rocky Point with Josie as she works together with her friends—the ambitious young reporter Wes Smith, and Rocky Point's savvy police chief, Ellis Hunter—to sift through the conflicting stories around them and find Mo's killer.

Antique Blues Details

Date : Published April 24th 2018 by Minotaur Books

ISBN : 9781250148742

Author : Jane K. Cleland

Format : Hardcover 304 pages

Genre : Mystery, Cozy Mystery, Fiction

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From Reader Review Antique Blues for online ebook

Sherry says

So Many Blues.....

With every twist & turn, this page turner had me guessing. The characters are so real I felt like I could jump right into the book & hug them. I want to go to Josie's Tag Sales. I want to cuddle with little Angela. I want Josie Prescott as a best friend. I can see Rocky Pointe through Josie's eyes. And I can feel her love for Ty. The ending was perfect! I can't wait for the next book in the series.

Amy says

Ebook/ARC/Cozy Mystery: This book is a who-done-it mystery and just came out so no spoilers here; not that I guessed the murderer. I didn't even come close. This is book 12 and when I requested it from NetGalley in lieu of an honest review, I did not know that. Had I known that, I would have not requested it because I've been burned by books that start way off and I have no idea anyone's relationship and I get confused. This author knows what she is doing because there were a lot of characters, and I will assume recurring, but the author pulled it off with good writing. I glad I read this book. It was a simple read.

The title comes from a side plot of our heroine, Josie, appraising a guitar. The main plot is a Japanese block print. Josie and her Scooby's have to figure out their value and of course there is skullduggery abound. I like the character of Josie, but she does get life handed a little too easy. I guess her struggles were in other books. I usually judge cozy books or romance novels by the theory of "do I want to change my life and become (fill in the new occupation). In this case, I don't want to become an antiques dealer nor do I want to collect block art, but I started looking up orchids because I think I can do that now that my kids are out of the house.

As for the book, it was pretty good and there were no real boring parts. It took me a while to read because I'm reading other stuff too. (Hey, not everyone subscribed to Netflix to binge-watch and I like variety). The beginning was a little slow because I didn't know the characters, but it got better once the body hit the floor. I had to figure out Josie's relationship to Ty, Ellis, and Wes. Josie is not Anita Blake and only Ty is her man. Also, every time I read the name Ellis in a book, I always think of the cokehead in Die Hard that Hans shoots.

I did like that Josie is smart. When asked to get in a stranger's car by a henchman, she refuses. Instead she meets him in a diner where everyone knows her. The ending is pretty good, but confusing. I got it all wrong along with the burglary. I must be losing my touch.

Juli says

Antique Blues is the 12th book in the Josie Prescott Antique Mysteries series. This is the first book in the series that I've read. I will definitely be going back and reading the rest of this series!

Josie Prescott is an antiques expert and amateur sleuth. A friend asks Josie to appraise a Japanese woodblock

print that she just acquired. Mo Shannon bought the print from her sister's less than stellar boyfriend, Cal. The situation seems a bit off from the beginning, but even more so when Mo turns up dead and Cal disappears. Josie finds herself investigating not only her friend's murder but also some underhanded antique purchases.

The plot in this book is much more complex than the usual cozy mystery. There's a lot going on.....suspects, plot twists, investigation. The background theme of antiques and appraisals is an integral part of the plot instead of just background cuteness. I like the characters. Josie Prescott is one smart cookie. She knows the antique business and utilizes her resources and contacts to make progress in business and during investigations. The side characters are all interesting and come together to help solve the crime. I look forward to reading more books in this series. I really enjoyed this story!

I was easily able to jump in at book 12 and enjoy this story. There were no real spoilers of earlier books. Character backgrounds carry over from book to book, of course, but I was easily able to pick up enough info to get the general idea of who was who and what relationships between characters were. So, readers could jump in anywhere in this series and still enjoy the story. I'm going to backtrack and start at book 1 because this is a very well written cozy and I want to see how these characters have developed over time.

The cover art is great! :)

I don't often give 5-star ratings to cozy mysteries, but this one is well-written, interesting and entertaining. Full marks from me!

I voluntarily read an advance readers copy of this book from St. Martin's Press via NetGalley. All opinions expressed are entirely my own.

Emris Lindsay says

Joz and her team did a great job in keeping your attention on the facts about antiquing and appraisal. The murder mystery of her friend Mo, was shocking and puzzling, with lots of finger pointing going on. This tale was one that captivated you from start to finish, with its intriguing and interesting storyline, along with its captivating characters. I enjoyed reading this book it got me so glued to its pages, I only wanted to put it down when I was finished, It was quite entertaining, great stuff.

Susan says

Not my favorite series, but this is a fairly strong entry. Josie Prescott is shocked when her friend Mo dies in what is probably not an accident. She was a philanthropic elementary school teacher who volunteered and used her family money for good. Who would want to murder her? Well, there's the man who is dating her sister, who also sold Mo a Japanese woodblock that Josie is trying to authenticate. And there's her ex-husband, who says he's trying to reconcile with Mo. As other suspects accumulate, Josie faces several big, big changes in her quite satisfactory life--the possibility of a merger with another antiques dealer, marriage to her long time beau, even the suggestion that she relocate from her beloved New Hampshire home.

Barbara Hackel says

As an antique lover, this book (as all in the series) is a wonderful look at the art of appraising an antique. However this latest in the series didn't captivate me as the previous books had. The main antique "subject" was a Japanese print that needed to be authenticated. For those of us uneducated in this subject, it was an opportunity to learn. And before you ask, yes...I am aware this is a fiction book. However, the author, who is knowledgeable about antiques, has interspersed the fictional murder with factual information. I felt that entire process was confusing due to the many mentions of the artist, the series, and even the painting using different names. Frankly I got confused more than once and had to reference previous entries to make sure I had it right. I even ended up doing some online research to clarify what they were discussing in the story.

The secondary appraisal was about a Martin guitar, and was easier to understand and consequently more interesting. Of course it was not tangled up in a murder, so right there it was less confusing!

Readers who are interested in fine antiques probably already know about this series, but in case you don't, you really should give it a try. I believe in reading series in order, however, if you read this book as a stand-alone, you will not be missing anything on the main points of the book. It is the building of the business and friendships throughout the other eleven books that will be missed.

A well written book that catches your attention and demands to be read. I am glad I read it.

Ann says

Just discovered a new cozy series that I need to read the previous books. This is book 12 in the Josie Prescott Antiques series and I loved it. I had no problems following the story line or all the auxiliary characters. I just want to know how they all became friends and co-workers in Josie's Antique business. Also how she met Ty and the ups and downs of their romance. Lots of great info about the world of Antiques and some great resources for learning more. The murder clues had me guessing for almost the entire book with a few surprises thrown in for good measure. I received a copy of this ARC in exchange for a fair and honest review. Jane K. Cleland just became a must read for me.

Patty says

Antique Blues

By

Jane K. Cleland

What it's all about...

Josie is an antiques dealer. She is planning a wedding. She has a lovely friend named Mo. Mo has been killed. The question...of course...is...who did it?

Why I wanted to read it...

I love cozy interesting mysteries. I loved the cover and the cover as well as the story summary...drew me to this book.

What made me truly enjoy this book...

I grew to really enjoy Josie and her relationships. She is curious as well as adventurous. There is both humor and mysterious circumstances in this book. I enjoyed the writing and the characters. I loved the cats.

Why you should read it, too...

Any reader who loves cozy mysteries should enjoy this book. The only problem I had with this book is my unfamiliarity with the past experiences of Josie. I don't think that there was enough done to help the reader understand exactly who Josie was. I mean...I got it but I was often confused and I often had to go back into the book to reacquaint myself with these characters...Wes, Ty, Cal, Ellis...it was hard to keep track of them. It's really my fault for starting in the middle of a series.

I received an advance reader's copy of this book from the publisher through NetGalley and Amazon. It was my choice to read it and review it.

Viccy says

Josie Prescott is asked to appraise a Hiroshige wood-block print, *Meguro Drum Bridge and Sunset Hill*, from the series *One Hundred Famous Views of Edo*. But the owner is murdered just a few days later. As Josie investigates both the print and the murder, it becomes apparent all is not well in lovely Rocky Point, NH. However, Josie is happy, her business is doing well and she has gotten engaged to Ty Alvarez, her main squeeze and they are planning a June wedding. As the story develops, Josie arrives at some new business dealings and Ty has the opportunity to grow his career as well. I read this series for the great information about antiques and for all the characters the readers have come to know over the past 12 books. If you like cozies, I hope you are reading this series.

Grace Koshida says

Antiques expert Josie Prescott is asked by her friend Mo Shannon to appraise a newly purchased Japanese woodblock print. But before Josie's team can make progress, Mo is found murdered on the beach near her family home. Cal Lewis, who had sold Mo the print, has disappeared. Meanwhile Mo's father Frank has asked Josie to authenticate a rare 1930s guitar that was supposedly owned by the late blues musician Robert Johnson. Josie can't stop investigating Mo's death and is aided by persistent reporter Wes Smith, and Rocky Point's police chief, Ellis Hunter. Josie's upcoming wedding to Ty Alvarez is also a key subplot in the story.

This was another reliable entry in the Josie Prescott Antiques mystery series.

I received an eARC via Netgalley and St. Martin's Press with no requirements for a review. I voluntarily read this book and provided this review.

Sheryl says

Josie finds herself in a bind when her good friend Mo, asks her to appraise a Japanese woodblock print that Mo purchased from her sister's boyfriend.

Mo, who is an elementary school teacher who doesn't seem to have an enemy in the world ends up murdered after she gives Josie the woodblock print to appraise. Josie who is a bit of an amateur sleuth finds herself trying to figure out who would kill Mo and why? Several weird things are happening in Rocky Point and all things seem to point to this Japanese Woodblock print.

There are several subplots going on that keeps this mystery moving right along and there isn't a dull moment. I can see why this has been such a successful series.

This is the first book I've read in this series, as I stated above it's been a highly successful series and I see why. Ms. Cleland does an excellent job with her character development that I didn't find myself lost and trying to figure out who belonged to who or what, it's a pretty straightforward well-written mystery that had this reader hooked. I look forward to reading more of this series. I loved the New Hampshire setting plus it looks like Josie is in for some major changes.

Disclosure: I would like to thank the publisher and NetGalley for providing me with a copy of this e-galley in exchange for my honest opinion. The opinion I expressed above are my own.

Susan says

I'm always happy to read a mystery that both entertains me and educates me and I find both in the series by Jane. K.Cleland. In this, the 12th of the series, Josie is focused on Japanese woodblocks and guitars.

Unfortunately murder is included when her friend, Mo - owner of the wood block - dies and Josie suspects it wasn't an accident. The mystery turns to art fraud, affairs and gambling, giving Josie plenty to investigate.

It was nice to spend time with Josie and her boyfriend, Ty and the rest of her friends. Her relationship with the police is real, give and take, with Josie respected for her knowledge of antiques. She's not just a nosy amateur. The mystery plays fair with the reader with enough twists and turns to keep me guessing. No question, I will be reading the next entry as soon as it's available.

My thanks to the publisher, St. Martin's and to NetGalley for giving me an advance copy in exchange for my honest review.

Susan Johnston says

Princess Fuzzypants here: You can see why some series last for a very long time. This book is indicative of some of the reasons why. Books with interesting and intelligent characters where the mystery and the resolution seem to flow organically are fan favourites. Josie is a great character. She is savvy enough to build a successful business, carry on healthy and loving relationships and still solve crimes.

Her contributions make sense.

She is an expert in antiques and she and her team investigate the provenance of two very different articles that are connected to one family. Josie's friend Mo is murdered shortly after Josie begins her research into a Japanese wood block that Mo purchased recently. Josie is determined to assist the police both in uncovering a possible fraud and the identity of the killer. There are lots of twists and turns where no one comes off completely innocent. It is a fascinating tale of human foibles.

Added to the riveting mystery, the reader also learns a great deal about antiques, particularly the process for confirming the value of an item. The search for proof is as interesting as the search for a murderer. Yet, Josie never oversteps nor interferes in the police investigation. She is, instead, valued as an important contributor. I like that.

In fact, I like the book and the series. I give it five purrs and two paws up.

Lesya says

I have to admit that I read so many mysteries that, over the years, I've dropped some series that I used to enjoy. They no longer seem fresh or the characters haven't changed. But, I always look forward to the next Josie Prescott Antiques mystery. Author Jane K. Cleland continues to explore the antiques and art world. Best of all, Josie Prescott continues to evolve while her friendships and loyalties remain steadfast. Fans of Josie and her world will enjoy *Antique Blues*, and welcome the heartwarming ending.

Josie and her fiancé, Ty Alvarez, are at a party for Mo Shannon when Josie overhears a troubling conversation. Mo's parents fear Cal Lewis, boyfriend of Mo's sister, Lydia, may be abusing her. Josie's suspicions are aroused even more when Mo asks Josie to appraise her newly acquired Japanese woodblock print. Cal sold it to her, and he protests that it's not worth appraising for insurance purposes. Then, Mo is murdered, and Cal disappears on the same day.

Naturally, Josie offers assistance to her friend, Police Chief Ellis Hunter. She's the one with the knowledge and staff who can work on tracing the history of the Japanese piece. It may provide a reason for murder. Josie also knows Mo's family and some of her friends.

Although the Shannons are in mourning, Mo's father, Frank, shows up at Josie's, and asks her to appraise a Martin guitar he owns, but he can only provide vague details as to its history. While tracing the provenance, Josie begins to add some of Frank's own story to the account of Mo's murder.

There are so many reasons I appreciate Jane K. Cleland's mysteries. Although Josie does have one *tstl* moment in this book (too stupid to live), that's an exception in this story. Josie respects her relationship with Police Chief Hunter, and she shares her knowledge and her suppositions with him. At times, he's able to shoot down her ideas. Cleland does not treat the police as idiots. It's only Josie's specialized knowledge that allows her to find clues the police might not discover.

The hunt for information about the antiques and art is fascinating. Cleland involves Josie's staff. Josie isn't the only one who works on these searches. Her staff knows experts, calls and communicates with them, and passes information on to Josie. She doesn't work in a vacuum. The information about the Japanese art work and the Martin guitar comes as a result of teamwork.

And, Cleland has one strong point going for her, from my point of view. Once Josie began to date Ty Alvarez, the two remain a couple. There is no romantic triangle, no cheating. That romantic triangle element that lasts forever in some cozy series is one of my pet peeves. It's a pleasure to see the strength, the humor, and the love in the relationship between Josie and Ty. And, it's a relationship supported by a close-knit group of friends.

Josie Prescott has grown over the course of the series. She embodies, and believes, that people change. "We get better. Stronger. More capable. At least, we do if we want to." Josie Prescott has grown, personally and

professionally, over the years. *Antique Blues* is the perfect example of Josie's growth, culminating in a wonderful ending for those of us who have followed the series.

Shelly says

This is a fairly good cozy mystery. Josie Prescott is an antiques expert and a self-described amateur sleuth. This particular mystery sees Josie investigating the death of Mo, a friend who had recently commissioned Josie to appraise a few items for her. The mystery takes several interesting turns as Josie tries to track down Mo's seedy boyfriend for answers. I would recommend this book to anyone who likes light and fun mysteries. I, personally, could not connect with the characters as much as I would have liked to. However, the plot is very well-written. The ending is rather nice.
