



A Killer in King's Cove

Iona Wishaw

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A smart and enchanting postwar mystery written for fans of the Maisie Dobbs series by Jacqueline Winspear.

It is 1946, and war-weary young ex-intelligence officer Lane Winslow leaves London to look for a fresh start. When she finds herself happily settled into a sleepy hamlet nestled in the idyllic interior of British Columbia surrounded by a suitably eclectic cast of small-town characters she feels like she may finally be able to put her past to rest.

But then a body is discovered, the victim of murder, and although she works alongside the town's inspectors Darling and Ames to discover who might have possibly have motivation to kill, she unknowingly casts doubt on herself. As the investigation reveals facts that she has desperately tried to keep a secret, it threatens to pull her into a vortex of even greater losses than the ones she has already endured.

A clever postwar mystery that will appeal to fan of historical mysteries with women sleuths like the Maisie Dobbs series by Jacqueline Winspear or the Bess Crawford series by Charles Todd.

A Killer in King's Cove Details

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From Reader Review A Killer in King's Cove for online ebook

Cindy Burnett says

Lane Winslow served as an MI-6 agent during World War 2 and is ready to leave that life behind when the war ends. She moves to a small town in Canada in hopes of starting over. But the weary and intelligent protagonist is not to find peace in Canada when a murder happens soon after she arrives. Wishaw fabulously creates a sense of place in the tiny Canadian town and populates the town with likeable (mostly) and unique characters. I really enjoyed the mystery and the budding relationship between Winslow and a local police officer. I look forward to reading the next book in the series soon.

Liz Mc2 says

Wishaw's debut mystery has an interesting and beautifully-evoked setting—post WW II in a tiny town on Kootenay Lake, BC—and a strong heroine in Lane Winslow, who has come to this remote-ish spot to escape her memories of wartime intelligence service. This reads like a debut, with some uneven pacing and awkward cutting between points of view. The plot was a little melodramatic (and also it took a long time for Lane and Inspector Darling to catch on to what seemed like some obvious clues). Overall, though, I enjoyed the cast of characters, the end was pretty gripping, and I will probably read on in the series. I was tickled to discover that Wishaw wrote a picture book, *Henry and the Cow Problem*, which my kids used to love.

Ruth Linka says

A great first book in a series featuring a female sleuth. She's a lovely character who was a spy during the second world war in England and has moved to rural BC to get away from her old life. I look forward to more in the series.

Stacy says

It took me awhile to finish this one. I like mysteries from this time period and the setting was interesting. I liked the main character, in spite of some of her questionable decisions. But, as other reviewers have mentioned, parts of this book moved very slowly. I wish the mystery had been revealed a little later; it felt like we were let in on too much, too soon. This being the first in the series, there was a lot of will they/won't they in the relationship between the main character and the police inspector, but his underling's observations about it are pretty funny and apt. I will try another one of these. Such a small little town—hope we don't end up with Cabot Cove syndrome.

Clare says

Delightful mystery set in the Kootenays of British Columbia. This is the first of a series and I look forward to the rest.

Marta says

**1/2 Way too long. It could benefit from some editing. Also very predictable for a mystery.

Elinor says

I really enjoyed this cozy mystery for a bunch of reasons:

- the time period (right after the Second World War, with flashbacks to the heroine's wartime experiences as a spy);
- the plucky heroine Lane Winslow (who moves from war-shattered England and buys a farmhouse in rural Canada to start her life over);
- the setting (the fictional King's Cove is located somewhere near Nelson, British Columbia, with wonderful descriptions of the gorgeous West Kootenay landscape);
- the murder mystery itself, which was trickily done;
- and finally, the sparks between the heroine and the local police officer, which are hopefully destined to burst into flame at some point in the series.

Oh, and did I mention the cover? I love the vintage look and feel of the cover. I might even buy the paperback version so I can leave it artfully lying around!

Kayla Heffner says

I read the back of this book and thought it sounded really good. It took me 100 pages to get into it before the murder even happened. Incredibly predictable and slow developing plot. Some chapters nothing even happened, just small town people talking. I really didn't care for the writing style either. It jumped narratives mid chapter and was just repetitive details or inner dialogue from the character that was just fluff writing.

Julie says

perhaps I am being harsh because this is the third consecutive poorly-written mystery I've picked up. Plenty of promise here in terms of characters and set up, but the author cannot write in a way that creates interest or tension--at least for me. Complicated plot--multiple time settings matter. But i think this one is in the one-and-done category. Unless I hear that subsequent ones are just great. Sigh.

Susan says

This book is part of a series, it seems and based on this one that I read, I will not be reading any others.

I wanted to like it. It's a mystery, which I enjoy, by a Canadian author, and had been given a decent review somewhere. I added it to my reading list and up it popped.

I only finished the thing because I was curious to know how she ended it. To get to the end involved a lot of skimming, I can tell you. This book needed a serious editing job. It was so long-winded. And repetitive.

Probably everyone who reads mysteries tries to guess the outcome as they read along in the book. Me included. To me, a good mystery is one where I don't know the outcome or can't figure out who the bad guy is. At least I don't want to have figured it out until I'm close to the end. Not this book! The "bad" guy pops up fairly early in the book and I thought "oh come on, surely he's not going to really be the bad guy, is he?" And sure enough, he was. And so stereotypically bad. Angry to the point of being demented. A boor, sexist, damaged. Ugh.

And the heroine is simply a twit. Sure, let's go out, in the dark, to the forest, because you live in a very remote area and you've just moved there from another country, so you know next to nothing about the area. But let's go out while there is a murderer roaming around, and not phone anybody because gee, you've only got suspicions and let's walk into the desolate forest to see if the murderer has left any more clues. Plus we may or may not lock the doors to our house because we like the freedom of not locking doors.

Honestly. It just didn't do anything for me.

Carolyn F. says

Overall, I really enjoyed this book. There were some inconsistencies of hair color. The raspberry subterfuge was so ridiculous a child could have figured it out. And the plot took forever to finally move along, but other than that I really enjoyed the book, enjoyed the characters, enjoyed the landscape. I'm planning on reading more of this series.

Jess (Primrose) says

Absolutely loved this book. I devoured the entire series and have preordered the next installment. Most definitely one of my new favorites.

Jen Jones says

4.5 stars. Really enjoyed the setting, era, and characters in this charming mystery. I don't read much mystery, but I plan to read the rest in the series. If you enjoy Alan C. Bradley, Alexander McColl Smith, and even perhaps Colm Toibin, you'll love this.

Jackie says

Could have been condensed and had some better editing. Jumped around a bit too much. But since it's local to my area and a first time author, I will give the second book in the series another try.

Beverly says

I was really looking forward to this book, being set post WW II in British Columbia, and being touted as a book for those who love Bess Crawford and Maisie Dobbs. I have to confess it really took me awhile to get into this story. The beginning felt disjointed and I was frustrated rather than enticed by the things that were left hidden and unsaid in the waiting for Lane's past to be revealed.

I am glad I stuck with it however. The story of this small village in the interior of BC near Nelson being shaken up by a murder of a stranger in their midst began to gain momentum. The interesting residence, with their personal pains and joys that were slowly being discovered over the course of the investigation and as Lane became more acquainted with her new neighbours, added to my growing interest. And then the story of Lane, who had moved to this remote region with the hope of regaining a sense of peace and hope for her future that had been scarred by her involvements in the war began to take shape and I found I enjoyed seeing how Lane had grown during that time.

I look forward to trying a second helping if Iona Wishaw is dishing up any more Lane Winslow mysteries.
