



A Cherry Cola Christmas

Ashton Lee

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Christmas is coming to the small town of Cherico, Mississippi, and there's no better way to prepare than with the Cherry Cola Book Club's feast of good food, good books—and good people... Cherico's newlywed librarian Maura Beth Mayhew is back from her honeymoon and she and Jeremy McShay are settling into married life. Maura Beth's father has even given them the down payment on a charming cottage. But as the holidays approach, Cherico's economy is struggling. Beloved local shops have closed, jobs have been lost, and there's even a mysterious crime spree afoot. Amid the gloom, Maura Beth decides what the community needs is a healthy dose of Christmas cheer—which means a special meeting of the Cherry Cola Book Club...

Along with the delicious potluck offerings everyone has come to expect, Maura Beth has invited members and the public to share their most uplifting stories—and share they do. From poignant stories of grief and renewal to joyful stories of love and new life, Cherico's residents infuse the gathering with so much hope and courage they just might inspire a culprit's confession, and conjure a holiday miracle that could save the town—and Christmas...

"A *Cherry Cola Christmas* is filled with the quirky, funny and charming characters we've grown to love and whose poignant tales become the true blessings of Christmas. This book belongs under every tree this season."--Christa Allan

"An intrepid librarian, a book club feast, and a cozy, heart-warming Mississippi mystery--what's not to love?"--Jamie Ford, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet*

A Cherry Cola Christmas Details

Date : Published September 29th 2015 by Kensington

ISBN : 9781617733437

Author : Ashton Lee

Format : Paperback 304 pages

Genre : Holiday, Christmas, Fiction, Adult Fiction, Womens Fiction, Chick Lit

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From Reader Review A Cherry Cola Christmas for online ebook

Tess says

Ashton Lee has the right idea with his small town of Cherico, MS. Who wouldn't want to live there? I know that I would love neighbors such as these. Maura is a great southern librarian, soft and gentle, but as tough as nails if need be. Country music star Waddell is the perfect country singer. When he reached out to the town of Cherico, to help save them I know he melted this reviewer's heart. Having missed the previous books in this series, I will be sure to go back and catch up. I hope to see more of Ashton and the fine folks in Cherico.

have been given an advance copy of this book, in exchange of an unbiased review.

Sarah says

This is the fourth book in the Cherry Cola Book Club Series set in Small town Cherico, Mississippi. Maura Beth who is just recently back from her honeymoon is in charge of the town's library when the Mayor needs her help. Aside from the Mayor's request, the Book Club has a mystery spending spree, which makes everyone uneasy and the mystery must be resolved. One specific business is the main focus and the town is worried. The Book Club also has its own worries as they put together a public event to bring the community together. Can Maura juggle married life, the Mayor's request, the library and the makings of her first Christmas as a married woman?

Having never read the other three books in this series, this book can be read as a stand alone, but I feel like the book refers to many of the characters from previous books, which is why I gave it four stars. I believe it would have been helpful to have read the other three books, but that should not turn you away from this small town, delightful Christmas charm book!

Thank you to Kensington Books for allowing me to review this book. I was not compensated for a positive review, but was provided a complimentary copy through NetGalley.

Mystereity Reviews says

Cute book, but not really the style of book I usually read. This book takes place in Mississippi at Christmas time in a small town that is facing financial difficulties - businesses are leaving town, unemployment is up, and things are looking bleak. I have to say, the vernacular in this book sounded like a yankee trying to sound Southern (and didn't really work) and the dialogue was a little stiff. I was halfway through the book when I figured out the main character and her husband were in their late 20s/early 30s. I thought they were in their 50s by the way they sounded.

Overall, a cute book and a nice seasonal read.

Carla Johnson-Hicks says

This is the fourth in the Cherry Cola Book Club Series set in Small town Cherico, Mississippi. I did not read

the first three but had no problem following the story. The main character is newlywed and head librarian Maura Beth who has just returned from her honeymoon with her husband Jeremy McShay. She has just returned to work when she is summoned to town hall by the local councilman. She is informed that the Cowboy Boot company they have been counting on to build a factory in their newly established industrial park, has reneged and decided to locate elsewhere. Businesses can no longer remain in Cherico and residents are moving to find work. Maura Beth has no issues with the library staff due to a healthy endowment from a relative, but she steps it up to help the community. Another problem the town is dealing with is that someone in the town is on a crime spree making everyone just that little bit more uneasy. The book club members all have their own issues as well, so when Maura comes up with the idea of hosting a special Christmas event of the book club to lift everyone's spirits and remind them all what this time of year is all about. She opens it to everyone in town to participate. Fortunately for Cherico, they happen to know the right people at the right time to help them deal with their problems.

This was a sweet and perfect cozy read that would make great reading anytime but especially at Christmas. The characters are varied, which makes the book fun to read. There are eccentrics, bullies, introverts and know it alls, but they all come together for Cherico. A nice story for a cold weekend.

Susan Obryan says

The days are shorter, and the “to-do” lists are longer. “Jingle Bells” lyrics ring loud, and “ho, ho, ho” echoes through the busy stores and streets. Television programming is filled nightly with either violence or holiday reruns and specials.

Yep, it's that time of year when we make time for others, but sometimes forget ourselves.

In the midst of the hustle and bustle, what's the best way to kick back at the end of a long night or on a chilly weekend when everyone else is watching football? The best way to relax, of course, is with a book.

If Mr. Scrooge seems to be taking residence at your home, pick up the latest edition of Ashton Lee's “Cherry Cola Book Club,” a sweet collection with hope, friendship, romance (but little sex) and no violence. The latest by the Oxford, Miss., author is “A Cherry Cola Christmas,” which follows, in order, “The Cherry Cola Book Club” (2013), “The Reading Circle” (2014) and “The Wedding Circle” (2015). Books 5 and 6 are expected in 2016 and 2017, respectively.

Lee, who hails from Natchez, Miss., has created the fictional town of Cherico, Miss. It's a Southern community struggling with an older population, recession, development and sense of identity. Into town steps a young and enthusiastic Maura Beth Mayhew, determined to turn the dying library around and prevent its doors from closing.

In the first book. Maura Beth creates the Cherry Cola Book Club and becomes a part of the community. Potluck dinners and a love of mystery and gossip brings the town's residents together after so many generations apart. In book 2, the librarian uses unearthed information to force the town council, especially one particular scheming politician, to upgrade the library. In the third installment, she marries Jeremy McShay, a local English teacher, who shares his wife's love for history, Chico and its inhabitants. Along the way, Maura Beth must learn how to deal with family relationships to make her wedding a special day to remember.

With all that good news and merriment behind them, members of the Cherry Cola Book Club should be excited about the holiday season. Something is missing, though. Older friends are dying, local stores are

closing, and crime, though minor, seems to be on the increase. All are predicaments that the author understands since he also grew up in a small-town atmosphere where everyone knows your secrets and is eager to share them. Lee, himself a member of a large southern family, also knows the power of the potluck, how food and fellowship can bring people together for a common good time.

That's what Maura Beth and her friends do, and through that simple gesture of breaking bread with others, comes forth the spirit of Christmas, community and faith in others.

Just as with his earlier "Cherry Cola Book Club" novels, Lee draws upon stories, not the stories just found in a library, but the tales of people, their memories and their dreams. And as with any novel about the South, food plays an important part. Recipes are included in each book. For instance, the latest includes several favorites from Fat Mama's Tamales in Natchez.

For more information about Ashton Lee and his books, visit facebook.com/ashtonlee.net

Lisa Morin says

This is the first I have read in this series. I believe it would have been helpful to have read the other three books, but this is still a sweet, traditional Christmas story.

Since this is the fourth book in the Cherry Cola Book Club Series, I wasn't too familiar with the characters, but soon felt right at home. I enjoyed the heartwarming stories of all the people who live in Cherico. While Maura Beth is getting used to life as a newly married woman and keeping busy with the new library that is being built, someone in the town is stealing and this is causing anxiety as the little town is suffering some economic woes. The book club members are having their own problems dealing with illnesses, pregnancy, job loss and heartache. When it's decided that the Cherry Cola Book Club is in need of some cheering up, they have a Christmas party inviting everyone to come and enjoy the potluck dinner. It will be a time to share and reminisce, bringing them all a little closer during the holidays.

I liked how the stories were all intertwined and came together nicely at the end.

This is an enjoyable holiday story. I look forward to reading more in this series.

I received a copy from NetGalley.com in exchange for my fair and honest review.

Laura says

Another Christmas Book and since this is one of my favorite topic I chose this book and I have with many others this month because of its reference to Christmas or had Christmas in its title.

This is the first book I read of this series and just loved the story plot. It is a familiar story of a big company coming who will infuse monies into the community which never materialized and stores are closing and people moving. Into this mix someone had stolen the waitress tips and no one saw the culprit. Maura Beth invites members and the public to come and share their most uplifting stores caused a renewal of hope as Christmas is approaching. What can an unknown cowboy singer bring to this mix? Will it bring a sense of hopefulness which they need at this time? Can't tell you the ending just read the book.

Janet Robel says

This book with its small-town Christmas theme is a treasure. I just love a good holiday story. The town and its residents may have its share of strife, but when it comes to things that truly matter, they will come together like a family. A memorable tale with a great cast of characters that will keep you coming back for more. Book four in A Cherry Cola Book Club series is perfectly fine as a stand-alone. I recommend this book for readers who love small towns and no sexual content in their reading material.

Sophia says

It was the title. I freely admit that I was drawn in by the title. It was so cute that I had to check out the blurb and the promise of Christmas in a Southern small town and the Cherry Cola book club hooked me.

This was actually the fourth book in the series, but I didn't realize it when I snagged it. I ended up figuring this out quickly as I started reading. Thankfully, I had no problem getting into the story as there was enough explanations along the way.

The story opens with Maura Beth and her new husband Jeremy returning from their honeymoon to discover that their little town of Cherico, Mississippi is in trouble. The big cowboy boot factory has decided to locate nearer Nashville and that was the last big chance to keep people from moving away after jobs. And with the people, so goes the small town businesses. Practically the only good thing going is Maura Beth's new library. And added to the loss of businesses, there is a theft at Periwinkle's restaurant and Maura Beth's library desk worker's husband now has Alzheimer's. The mood of Cherico is low.

It's up to Maura Beth and the Cherry Cola Book Club and a determined city council member to save the day. With a little thought, home town generosity, luck, and hope, they bring together a Christmas gathering that no one will forget.

Alright, so this was a gently-paced, sweet small town contemporary. It's not deep or dramatic, but was a relaxing read. The characters were long established. Maura Beth is the lead and she is now fighting to help keep her friends' businesses in town, helping her friends at the restaurant with their thievery mystery, keeping an eye on a cunning city council member who has it in for her, compassionately helping her assistant through a family emergency, and chairing the quirky members of the book club all while adjusting to married life with her Jeremy. There was a lot going on. I enjoyed the engaging characters and all the story threads. There is humor, sweetness, and sorrow along with a few romances. There was a flavoring of Southern life and holiday festivity to it all. The atmosphere of Cherico and the holiday spirit was definitely a strong point.

I had a good time with this story and would definitely like to return for the early books as well as see the series continue. Those who enjoy both women's fiction and small town contemporary romance should take a look.

My thanks to Kensington Group for the opportunity to read this book in exchange for an honest review.

Kim j says

I must admit that I started this series because of the name; Cherry Cola because I collect Coke items & because I thought it was a cozy mystery. Its a cozy but not a mystery series. These books are nice to read in between what I really love to read which is murder, mystery, thriller books with classics & biography type books. They are really cheesy & everything seems to work out magically, even that language is cheesy because no one speaks that way unless on purpose. I have mixed feelings about the book but probably will read the next one if it comes out. I just don't know what else they can do to keep readers interested so I see this as a short series.

Donna says

Challenges: LizzieFayeCozyReads for this month; Holiday Bingo 2018 - Part of series (5), and red/green on cover (7), holiday lights on cover (1); also Baking recipes included for Twelve Days of Cozmas (2). Some really great surprises for the town of Cherico, Mississippi; some 'grinchy' behaviors of some of the residents are healed.

Lesa says

It was 80 degrees here yesterday, and Halloween is a week away. A little early for a Christmas novel? Christmas novels are coming out earlier and earlier every year. Honestly? Those of us who love them enjoy them any time of year. But, Ashton Lee will be appearing at one of our libraries soon, so I kicked off this year's holiday reading with the latest charming Cherry Cola book, A Cherry Cola Christmas.

Librarian Maura Beth Mayhew has returned from her honeymoon, and has some planning to do for Cherico, Mississippi's library. For the first time in her seven years as director, she has the money to hire additional staff. Maura Beth may be happy with the library's situation, but things aren't looking rosy for Cherico. Shops are closing, which means the taxes to support the town are less. And, Councilman Durden Sparks' dreams of bringing in a factory to the town's industrial park just collapsed. Townspeople are a little suspicious after tips were stolen at The Twinkle. And, some beloved friends are losing battles with their health. "Cherico and many of its citizens were hurting and needed to feel better about themselves as the holiday season approached."

When Maura Beth's mood needs uplifting, she naturally turns to her friends and the library's Cherry Cola Book Club. She doesn't see the town's losses as the death of her beloved small town, as Councilman Sparks does, but she knows everyone can use some Christmas cheer. So, she proposes that the club members meet in December, and bring an uplifting story to share. The citizens of Cherico need to rally to support each other, and their town.

Despite the downturn in the town's economy, Ashton Lee's latest book has an optimistic, hopeful tone. It's a feel-good, reflective novel, more so even than the other books in the series. Once again, Lee gathers his appealing characters to support their beloved small Southern town. The stories told by the members of the Cherry Cola Book Club are inspirational, reminding readers how far the characters have come in their lives. The story is warm and comforting, just what a Christmas tale should be. And, it's filled with the atmospheric touches that make this Mississippi small town come to life.

When you have time to settle in for a Christmas comfort read, don't hesitate to reach for the A Cherry Cola Christmas. It's a warm, comfortable visit with old friends.

Kim says

This is a lovely Christmassy story which is part of a series. I look forward to reading the rest of the series now. It's set in a small town in America and I love these types of book. I love the setting and you get to know the other characters as you would if you lived there.

The cover is really lovely and would make me pick this one up to read.

You follow the Cherry Cola Book club members who are all going through various life challenges. The town is struggling financially and there are a spate of crimes which make everyone uneasy.. Mary Beth organises a special festive book club meeting. They share personal stories.

It would be perfect for curling up with a hot chocolate on a wintery evening on the build up to Christmas.

With many thanks to Net Galley for a copy of this book

Maryellen says

Author Ashton Lee takes us right back to the quaint town of Cherico, Mississippi in his latest installment of the Cherry Cola Book Club Series. When we last left Cherico, our fiery red-haired librarian, Maura Beth Mayhew, just married Jeremy McShay. **A CHERRY COLA CHRISTMAS** finds the newlyweds adjusting to married life quite nicely. (Oh, to be young again!) However, things in the town of Cherico have fallen apart as there has been a bit of a crime spree as well as dwindling jobs and the economy plummeting.

Leave it to Maura Beth to come up with a plan!

With all of the struggling that has been going on in the town, there has been a lot of good too and Maura Beth wants her friends at the library and the members of the Cherry Cola Book Club to share in a meeting of uplifting stories that she hopes will bring some Christmas cheer to one and all.

There is nothing I like more than a book that can lift your spirits and get you into the Spirit! As mysteries are solved, confessions are made and two of our most controversial and adversarial characters in this book have moments of clarity and humility, the pages turn quickly in this novel. Author Lee gently touches on the sensitive topics of prejudices that should be a non-issue, yet it isn't; as well as the subject of depression and where that depression can lead.

Please pay special attention to the passages that are taken from Linwood Locke's dearly departed wife's journal that she left for him after her death. Even though we have never met Pamela Locke, I feel that her presence is always there. She left much in the way of healing to her husband and to a town who needed it. My favorite quote comes in this one sentence... *"...The beneficiary of worshipping is the worshipper..."* Isn't that an amazing truth?

A CHERRY COLA CHRISTMAS was a joy to read!

4.5 Stars

Edel says

This is book four in the Cherry Cola Book Club Series set in Small town Cherico , Mississippi featuring main character Newly wed Maura Beth who is just back from her honeymoon with husband Jeremy McShay . The staff at the library have kept everything afloat since she was gone but she is only just back when the Mayor requests her presence and needs her help! Businesses in this quaint town are suffering with the downturn in the economy and the Mayor needs her help to lift spirits.

While Maura Beth is getting used to life as a newly married woman and juggling her work and the book club someone in the town is on a crime spree making everyone just that little bit more uneasy especially when local businesses get targeted . The book club members all have their own woes too which makes a special Christmas event of the book club open to the public a necessity to lift everyone's spirits , and remind them all what this time of year is all about.

This was a sweet and perfect cozy read that would make great reading anytime but especially at Christmas. Definitely add this to your TBR list!

I received this book throughout lovely folks over at Netgalley.
