



Last Licks

Claire Donally

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Last Licks Claire Donally Sniffing out a murderer...

When Sunny Coolidge's curmudgeonly boss, Oliver Barnstable, lands in rehab after breaking his leg, Sunny is stuck shuttling between their offices in Kittery Harbor, Maine, and the facility where Ollie is recuperating. And if putting up with temper tantrums from her boss wasn't enough, his rehab roommate, Gardner Scatterwell, is a shameless flirt.

But when Scatterwell dies unexpectedly in the night, Ollie is convinced it wasn't from natural causes. He gives Sunny a new assignment—find out who killed the old tomcat.

And speaking of cats, Shadow, Sunny's feline partner in crime, takes a peculiar interest in the rehab's resident angel of death—a calico cat called Portia, with an uncanny talent for cozying up to patients right before they pass away. Together, Sunny and Shadow will have to nose out clues to discover if Portia's jinx had anything to do with Gardner's passing—or if all his catting around finally got him fixed.

Last Licks Details

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From Reader Review Last Licks for online ebook

Rachelle says

I enjoy reading about the adventures on Sunny and Shadow. Shadow is smarter than some cats. I look forward to reading more about them.

Ruth says

Sunny and her cat Shadow solve another murder.

Susan Johnston says

Did I mention that I adore cats and love mysteries with kitties in them? This series has one very special kitty in Shadow. Ms Donally does not give him any magical or special powers, He is just a normal cat who adopted Sunny and wants to be sure that he doesn't end up on the street again as has happened before. When we read his feline POV, it is classic. I can see and hear him so clearly and it rings of authenticity. I am fond of his human compatriots especially Sunny who has a snarky inner voice the often tells her things she would rather not hear.

There were a number of new characters in the story, some human and some feline. Portia the cat and Luke the musician were treats. Some of the others, I could take or leave.

The death of a charming but despicable character at a rest home sets Sunny and her erstwhile boyfriend on a search to discover whether it was natural causes or murder. There were plenty of red herrings to keep you guessing.

If you are looking for a thought provoking read, this isn't the book for you. But if you are in the mood for some mind candy, and you have a soft spot for cats, this could be just what the doctor ordered.

Patrizia says

Ho già detto che adoro Shadow? E' lui che da quel qualcosa in più ad ogni libro di questa serie.

Per quanto riguarda la parte gialla, stavolta c'erano così tanti colpevoli possibili che non sono riuscita a beccare quello giusto. Anche se, alla fin fine, la soluzione per un mistero ambientato in uan casa di cura era quasi ovvio...

OpenBookSociety.com says

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

Brought to you by OBS Reviewer Jeanie

Sunny is the epitome of a good daughter and employee. She lives with her father, Mike, having had moved home to help with his needs while he recovered from a heart attack. Her return home also required a new job,

as she was laid off from her NYC job while at her father's. Her charming little Maine hometown was long on friendliness but sadly short on gainful employment. Her grumpy boss, Oliver Barnstable, becomes a patient at Bridgewater Hall, a "high-end" rehab and nursing home, while recovering from a broken leg and subsequent surgery. For a roommate, Ollie ends up with Gardner Scatterwell, one of Mike's former band members from his younger days. Having no evident family or friends, Ollie has Sunny deliver any work-related documents to him and pick up anything to be returned to the office. While there, she meets Portia, one of the 'pet therapy' cats at Bridgewater, and her litter mate, Patrick. It is rumored that if Portia spends time with a resident, that resident dies soon after. Does Portia have a special "knowing", or is she just a good gal with a bad cat rep?

A panicked 4 AM phone call from Barnstable sends Sunny and her father speeding into the night towards the rehab. Gardner is dead, and Ollie is certain that he was murdered. In his bed, in the same room, where the perp assumed that Ollie slept soundly. Sheriff Frank Nesbit, who certainly wouldn't win any Andy Griffith hometown leader's award, is more concerned with glad handing, future votes, and lack of crime news spin than with looking for an actual murderer. He's in denial that it could occur in 'his' county.

Ollie, with the agreement of Sheriff Nesbit, adds a new item on Sunny's job description. Sunny will be allowed to ask questions and review information to see if, and how, Gardner might really have been murdered. Sheriff Nesbit volunteers Will Price, a town constable and Sunny's gentleman friend, to help Sunny to make her information-gathering a bit smoother, and so he will know what is going on at all times. Mike is also involved in the investigation, since he was a friend of Gardner's back in the day, knows most people in Kittery Harbor, and wants to keep his daughter safe. He also has a sharp mind and healthy curiosity that makes him a valuable ally and partner-in-crime-stopping. What they find is that, in spite of health challenges faced by Gardner and by the long-term care residents in the nursing home wing, there was a higher-than-average number of deaths in Bridgewater Hall. There is no shortage of people who might have been upset with Gardner. Upset enough to kill him, though? Or is his death part of a bigger problem at Bridgewater?

Shadow, Sunny's cat, is adorably precocious, having learned the valuable skill of being able to escape from the house. He is still working on the even more valuable skill of being able to get back in the house safely. He is aloofly jealous of Sunny's time, until she comes home from Bridgewater Hall with the scent of another cat on her. The most enticing female feline aroma he has ever sniffed was all over Sunny's clothes. Will he find a way to find out who this enchanting feline might be?

This is an interesting, well-written novel, with enough clues and plot twists to keep this cozy crazy cat lady content. The setting and action are so well-described that I felt as if I were there, yet not so defined that my imagination had no room to embellish. Character development is very good; those who are important to the plot are well-defined. Mike, Sunny, Will, and even Ollie have their own charm. The staff at Bridgewater Hall also has interesting quirks, some of whom are sufficiently creepy to keep me from wanting to have to spend time there. Even the four-legged characters – Shadow, Portia, and Patrick – could romp from the pages and come to visit. The cover art is terrific, a great portrayal of the catsonalities inside and would definitely attract my attention even if I knew nothing about the book.

Overall, this is an enjoyable book with an irresistible cast of characters! Last Licks can be read as a stand-alone novel, as I have not yet had the catnip of reading the first two. This can be read and enjoyed by young adults and adults of any age who enjoy a well-crafted cozy mystery that includes both cats and what Shadow calls people, 'two-legs'. I highly recommend this Sunny and Shadow mystery, and hope that this series will be around for a long time!

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

Julie says

The interpersonal dynamics were fine in the first book. They stagnated in the second. Now they are just irritating. Lots of passive aggressive behavior. I think I'll hang it up here.

NancyDrew says

Third book in series does not disappoint!!!!!!.....

Great continuation on this series, and another twist in "who done it"..... like I just THOUGHT I had it figured out!!!!!!.....I love Shadow's antics and telling things from a cat's point of view.....I love this small town!!!!!!.....

Melissa says

2.5 Stars. Didn't hate it but didn't really enjoy it either. Could definitely do without Sunny's inner voice. Or at least quit trying to attribute it to her former profession. Feels forced, as does any type of romantic relationship between her and Will.

Rona says

I love this cat! Shadow to the rescue. Shadow does not know who done it, he just shows up at the right moment. Shadow thinks like a cat and acts like a cat. He's no detective. I always find it stupid when the cat magically knows things that the people can't figure out; this series doesn't insult my intelligence that way. The people figure out who done it, but only as (or after) Shadow stumbles upon the evil one while he is busy being a cat.

I like the heroes of this series (Sunny and Shadow mysteries). Nice family. Nice town. The books have good scenery, good dialogue. There's a slow-burning romance or two (in this one there are three!)

In this one, I knew who gave the drink to the dead man. I also figured out the secret relationship early on.

But, it still didn't end the way I expected. Great misdirection! I like this plot best of all, so far, in this series.

D. Wickles says

I enjoy this series and not just because Shadow is a cat :)

Dennis Fischman says

Here's the kind of person you'd have to be to enjoy this book. You enjoy cats (real cats, not supernatural ones)

that talk) and appreciate an author that can capture a cat's POV realistically. You have to be relaxed about actually solving the mystery and amused by the progression of two romantic subplots, one human, one feline. You will need to be able to put up with a solution that involves catching someone in the act and getting that person to confess (which almost never happens in real life). Fortunately, I'm that kind of person when I'm ready for a fun read, and so I liked this book and look forward to reading more in the series.

Betsy says

Book #3 in Sunny & Shadow series. Good book. Best parts are the interactions with Shadow especially his being introduced to a paper shredder. Will continue on with series. 3.5 stars

Ellen Moore says

Sunny's boss Oliver has broken his leg and is in rehab. His rehab roommate dies suddenly, and Ollie suspects he has been murdered. He engages the help of Sunny and her policeman boyfriend Will to find out who killed Gardner. Of course, Sunny's pet cat Shadow assists and also is attracted to Portia, a calico cat who resides at the rehab facility and has a knack for getting friendly with patients right before they pass away. The investigation is interesting as they uncover many suspects and clues. I enjoy this series and find Shadow adorable.

Trish says

I'm not completely sure why, but for some reason I just didn't enjoy this instalment as much as the previous ones. I may let this series drop, as there are others I'm getting on with better.

LORI CASWELL says

Oliver Barnstable is the owner of Maine Adventure X-perience and Sunny's boss. In a freak accident he has broken his leg. After surgery to repair the bad break he has ended up in a rehab facility. This makes Sunny's life miserable, she not only has to run the office but make trips back and forth to the rehab center and cater to her boss's business needs as well. His roommate is no joy either, he is a hopeless flirt and a real pain.

Then in the middle of the night Sunny gets a call from her boss saying his roommate was dead and he knows it wasn't from natural causes. So now Sunny has a new assignment, find out who killed Gardner Scatterwell.

Dollycas's Thoughts

I love the way Claire Donally writes. She gives the perfect voice to not only her human characters but to her feline ones as well.

Last Licks takes us to a rehab center just outside of Kittery Harbor, Maine. In addition to a bunch of new human characters we meet the lovely female feline Portia, whose scent comes home on Sunny's clothes and

Shadow absolutely loves. Donally writing from the cats point of view is truly fun and unique.

She has also crafted a great whodunit that had me confused and guessing until the very end. Again Shadow plays a very important part in solving the mystery. His person, Sunny, is just too inquisitive at times and ends up getting herself in trouble. Shadow seems to have kitty sense (like Spidey sense) to know just when to show up on the scene.

This series is so much fun to read. If you have not read the The Big Kitty, start there and then move on to Cat Nap, and then Last Licks. You will absolutely love Shadow and Sunny too!!
