



## Christmas Cozy

*Kathi Daley*

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Christmas in Ashton Falls is always a magical time of year. The first big snow has arrived, the tree in the town square has been decorated, the window displays completed, and Hometown Christmas is just around the corner. Zoe finds herself knee deep in holiday shopping and Children's wishes as she and Zak play host to nine year old Scooter Sherwood and his friend Alex. Although a bit hectic, the magic of Christmas is in full bloom and things couldn't be more perfect until Zoe finds the body of history teacher Holly Jolly in the Ashton Falls High School Christmas Tree lot run by best friend Levi Denton and is pulled into a dangerous holiday investigation.

## Christmas Cozy Details

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Author : Kathi Daley

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## From Reader Review Christmas Cozy for online ebook

### Jean says

Peace on earth, goodwill toward men? The small town of Ashton Falls is decked out for the Christmas holiday, but someone harbors some ill will. The murder of Holly Jolly could happen at any time of year, but the question is, why does it happen at all?

Christmas Cozy by Kathi Daley is exactly what it says. There is a lot of fluff in this story – Christmas trees, snow, sleigh rides, caroling, and visits to Santa. Zoe Donovan, an animal control officer, discovers the body of a teacher, Mrs. Jolly, and decides to investigate on her own.

It turns out that while Holly Jolly was a very kind, generous person who was well liked by many, she was very private about her personal life. In talking to those who knew her, Zoe discovers that no one really knew Mrs. Jolly at all. Who was she, and why was she killed?

There are some truly delightful moments in this book. I especially liked the interactions between Zoe and the nine-year-old girl, Alex, who is more like a miniature adult. What I didn't like was that there are so many characters that it was hard to keep them all straight. This book is the eleventh in a series; the lack of character descriptions and introductions in this installment makes it challenging for a new Zoe reader like myself. Just a statement or two about who each person is would go a long way to help new readers feel more comfortable with the story, and it likely wouldn't bother longtime fans at all.

Other difficulties that I had were that the killer's motive seemed a bit weak, and one of the clues that Zak figured out to help Zoe with her investigation seemed too convenient. And why does the sheriff allow Zoe to poke around in the investigation to begin with?

Other than that, I found the book to be quite engaging. I enjoyed the way Ms. Daley wove the mystery into the holiday theme. Her characters were entertaining, and the addition of shelter animals was, for me, a plus. As a cozy mystery, I found *Christmas Cozy* to be a lot of fun.

4 stars

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### Marissa says

Kindle Copy for Review

It's Christmas time in Ashton Falls a magical time of the year. There is snow on the ground and the town tree is well decorated.

Zoe and Zak are busy preparing for the season and the arrival of Zak's buddy Scooter who is bringing a guest named Alex. While things are always hectic at this of time, Zoe finds herself helping out Levi at the local tree lot as part of his required school services.

Levi with his high school football manages to sell the trees for the season. When the school teacher advisor ends up dead on the lot, Zoe finds herself in the middle of the investigation once again. No one knows much of Mrs. Holly Jolly especially her neighbors only that she goes away for four weeks in July and she keeps to herself.

One of Levi football guys who has potential for a college scholarship is failing her class and needs a B in the upcoming exams to pass her class. He appears to be the most likely candidate but could he really kill her for that reason.

Zoe stumbles along once again as she finds herself in peril once again. Will Zak come to her rescue once again and enjoy Christmas with everyone? Can Ellie and Levi find the Christmas magic and become more than friends?

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### **Maureen says**

A fun Christmas cozy, which I enjoyed.

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### **Doward Wilson says**

This is a fun filled mystery series that will keep you turning the pages and going for the next book. Zoe runs a Rescue Shelter for domestic and wild animals, boyfriend Zac is a millionaire computer genius, friends Levi and Ellie are a teacher and restaurant owner. Together with their animal friends they solve murders. Zoe is helping Levi setup and run the Ashton Falls High School Christmas Tree Lot when the body of Mrs. Holly Jolly, a fellow teacher is found. Working to clear Levi of being a suspect keeps everyone busy as they prepare for a family filled Christmas. The characters are lovable and well developed. The murder plots are well presented. This time we are dealing with teenagers with secrets, murder and drugs.

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### **Vivian says**

A top-notch cozy mystery - Kathi's books just keep getting better! Christmas Cozy is full of small town Christmas atmosphere. This book isn't all sunshine and rainbows, however; there is the murder of teacher Holly Jolly to solve and some tough issues for Zoe and her friends to work through. Christmas Cozy is a solid addition to the Zoe Donovan series and one that cozy mystery fans should not miss!

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### **Mary says**

This is the eleventh Zoe Donovan mystery, but it is my first meeting up with Zoe, her betrothed, Zak, her best friends Ellie and Levi. They are all good friends and help each other with everything that is happening in their small town of Ashton Falls. Zoe likes to help the police with murder investigations in town, and it seems that there have been at least ten so far. Since this is number eleven book, you guessed it another murder.

Mrs. Holly Jolly, yes that is her real name. She is a High School History teacher well liked by everyone so when she is found dead at the Christmas Tree lot run by the Cheerleaders and Football Players everyone is shocked and Zoe is set to help in any way possible.

Of course, she solves the mystery and sets out to go on another adventure, this time to Alaska. But it will not be out until January, 2015. So I have to wait! I am sure it will be worth the wait!

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### **Linda says**

It's a few days before Christmas and Zoe and the gang are selling trees for the Ashton Falls High School. When Zoe and her dog, Charlie, find a body in the woods behind the lot, Zoe's sleuthing unearths surprising discoveries about the victim. Scooter and his friend, Alex, are great additions to this holiday story. Zoe and Zac enjoy their company. Ellie and Levi both need to search their hearts for answers so they can move forward from past relationships. This is a fast-paced cozy--an enjoyable read at any time of year!

The author gifted me with a copy which in no way influenced my honest review.

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### **Debbie says**

I really enjoyed this book. I love the addition of Scooter coming back with a new friend. I always enjoy the interaction of the characters in this series, you really feel a part of their lives. The mystery was great when a well liked teacher is surprisingly murdered and people begin to realize that they know nothing about her. I kept guessing as to who I thought did it and was surprised when I found out who. I will definitely continue on with this series.

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### **Lisa Morin says**

This is book 11 in the series. I really enjoy this series and was pleased with this installment. I loved the recipes provided by some of my Facebook friends and I loved the name of one of the characters, Holly Jolly.

This book was fun to read and the mystery had some great twists.

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### **Mary Brown says**

Christmas Cozy by Kathi Daley is another great book in the Zoe Donovan series. Each book is better than the last.

It's Christmas time in Ashton Falls and Zoe and her friends are busy getting ready to celebrate the season. There are presents to buy, Christmas trees to sell and menus to plan. Oh, and a murder to solve. When Zoe finds the body of a teacher, her and her friends must figure out who killed her and hopefully before Christmas day. There are a number of suspects and motives, but not much is known about the teacher's private life. Zoe wants to learn more about her so that her memorial will be meaningful and feels sad that she

did not know the teacher very well. It seems like most everyone she questions did not know much about this well-liked teacher and Zoe wished she had taken the time to learn more about her.

As usual, the small home town feeling of Ashton Falls shines through brightly and makes you want to go there to visit. Reading about the activities and festivities puts you in the holiday spirit. When I read Kathi's books, I feel like I am reading a family holiday letter meant to catch you up on all the happenings in their lives. The relationships continue to grow and evolve and I keep wanting to know what's going to happen next in their lives.

I highly recommend this book as well as all of Kathi Daley's books. You do not have to read the Zoe Donovan series in order but I truly believe you will enjoy them so much more if you start at the beginning. These books would be a great addition to your Christmas wish list.

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### **Dawn Frazier says**

Another great book from Kathi! This is the perfect book to get you in the mood for Christmas. I enjoyed this one a lot, as it had not only the mystery of who killed Mrs. Jolly, but why Mrs. Jolly led such a lonely life. As in all of Kathi's books, it was fun to try to figure it out. Kathi is also so good at adding new characters into each book, that you just fall in love with. In this one, it was a sweet little girl named Alex. I really hope to see her in future books. My other favorite thing about this book, is all of the recipes in the back. Mine included! It was also a great surprise to find that I had a cameo in the book, on page 31! So if you want a fun Christmas mystery to curl up in front of the fire with, I suggest this one!!

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### **Dharia Scarab says**

This is a great series if you like Cosy mysteries.

Since I don't normally write reviews unless I have something specific to say, here's the break down of how I rate my books...

1 star... This book was bad, so bad I may have given up and skipped to the end. I will avoid this author like the plague in the future.

2 stars... This book was not very good, and I won't be reading any more from the author.

3 stars... This book was ok, but I won't go out of my way to read more, But if I find another book by the author for under a dollar I'd pick it up.

4 stars... I really enjoyed this book and will definitely be on the look out to pick up more from the series/author.

5 stars... I loved this book! It has earned a permanent home in my collection and I'll be picking up the rest of the series and other books from the author ASAP.

### **Mariko Tsubaki says**

Actually 4.5 stars but rounded up because I like the series.  
Although, I loved visiting with the gang of Ashton Hollow, I felt the ending was slightly rushed.  
Unfortunately I have a few unanswered question that hopefully will be answered in the next book.

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### **Bonnie Drummond says**

The Grinch is about town and he spoiled almost Christmas when a body is found on the Christmas Tree Lot.  
So some ELF'S will make all it right by solving the crime before another murder is committed.

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### **Meg says**

Another great addition to the series. A lot of focus, and time spent, on family, friends, and dogs, which is what I really appreciate about this set of books.

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