



## A Vintage Death

*Mary Ellen Hughes*

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### **A Vintage Death** Mary Ellen Hughes

As the new music box store owner and resident of Keepsake Cove, a quaint town full of collectible shops on Maryland's Eastern Shore, Callie Reed is eager to get more involved in her community. She volunteers to plan the Fall street decorations and welcome a visiting author who's come for a special book signing. But the celebratory mood is cut short when the local B&B owner is found dead, killed by a pair of vintage scissors.

Suspicion is cast on the victim's estranged wife, Dorothy, who owns Keepsake Cove's vintage sewing shop. Callie is sure Dorothy is innocent, and the visiting author agrees. Together, they begin their own investigation, only to discover that many people in Keepsake Cove have secrets. Secrets that are worth killing to keep quiet.

### **A Vintage Death Details**

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Author : Mary Ellen Hughes

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## From Reader Review A Vintage Death for online ebook

### Brooke Showalter (Brooke Blogs) says

A Vintage Death by Mary Ellen Hughes is the second book in the Keepsake Cove mystery series. I adored the first book and was so excited for this one to come out. In this installment, Callie is trying to figure out who wanted a local B&B owner dead – suspicion is on his estranged wife, but Callie knows Dorothy is innocent. She sets out (along with a visiting author, Lyssa) to prove Dorothy is innocent and track down the real killer. A Vintage Death has a great balance of time spent visiting with the characters we know and love in Keepsake Cove, and sleuthing out the mystery with Callie. I felt that the clues were presented in such a way that I didn't guess the ending too soon – I love that! This was a 5-star read for me. I'm already looking forward to my next visit to Keepsake Cove.

I received a copy of this book from NetGalley.

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### Kristina says

A Vintage Death by Mary Ellen Hughes returns readers to Keepsake Cove, Maryland. Callie Reed runs House of Melody, a collectible music box shop that she inherited from her aunt. Callie has volunteered to plan the autumn decorations for the town as well as the book signing event for Lyssa Hammond. She has the able assistance from her friend, Dorothy Ashby who owns Stitches Thru Time. After Lyssa arrives in town, Callie takes a welcome basket to her at the Foxwood Inn which is owned by Clifford Ashby. Clifford is a chatty fellow, but he makes people uncomfortable. On Monday, while the townspeople are decorating their shops with autumn décor, Callie is surprised to hear that Clifford was found dead in the park with a pair of vintage scissors sticking out of his chest. Dorothy, Clifford's estranged wife, becomes the prime suspect since the scissors came from her shop. Callie knows her friend did not commit the crime and, with the aid of an eager Lyssa, starts searching for clues. Several local townspeople had reason to harm Clifford who had developed a scheme to earn extra money. Which suspect committed the wicked deed? Before Callie and Lyssa can zero in on the killer another body is found in the park and, once again, the weapon is a pair of scissors. Can Callie solve this whodunit and save Dorothy from a life in prison?

A Vintage Death is the second tale in A Keepsake Cove Mystery series, but it can be read alone. The author provides Callie's backstory to bring readers up to date. We get to know more about Keepsake Cove, its adorable shops and its amiable characters. Each shop features a different type of collectible item which I find very unique. Callie has become friends with several of the locals and has begun dating Brian Greer who owns the Keepsake Cove Café. Lyssa was a nice addition to the book, and I hope we see her again in future installments. We get to know more about Callie in this story (good character development). Tabitha, Callie's shop assistant, is a off-beat character with her unconventional style of dress. She dresses up as a different character each day and her clothing is described in detail. I liked the author's conversational writing style (what I call easy breezy) which makes the book easy to read and enjoy. The mystery was intriguing with an unusual murder weapon and several suspects. I was not surprised by the killer's identity, but I appreciated how the mystery played out. The crime is actively investigated by our amateur sleuths. It has a dramatic ending and a twist that will surprise you. Grandpa Reed's music box is the paranormal element in the story. It will play out at times to aid Callie in her investigation. I am a fan of paranormal, but the music box is not working in this story. We do not know what the music box means when it plays out a tune (too vague). I hope it becomes clearer in future books in this series. A Vintage death a pleasing cozy mystery that with its quaint town, charming shops and friendly characters.

## **Sabine says**

In the first installment of this series I fell in love with the village of Keepsake Cove and I was happy to be able to come back for another visit. This little town with its unique small businesses just makes my heart jump in joy.

Lyssa Hammond, a well know author, is in town for a book signing . The owner of a B&B where she stays is found dead and the evidence is pointing to Dorothy who owns a vintage sewing shop. Lyssa and Callie don't believe that Dorothy killed her ex-husband and start investigating the murder.

I am happy that the paranormal element in this book is almost negligible and doesn't at all interfere with or influence the investigation.

I requested this book from NetGalley and am thankful that Midnight Ink and the author provided me with an advance copy.

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## **LORI CASWELL says**

Dollycas's Thoughts

I am so happy to return to Keepsake Cove and just in time for a big event too. Callie is starting to feel at home and is getting involved. She has volunteered to head up the committee decorating the town for Fall and helping with a big book signing for author Lyssa Hammond. Lyssa and Callie become fast friends after Callie delivers a welcome basket to the B&B where the author is staying. She also meets the owner of the B&B, Clifford Ashby. He is a strange individual who makes both Callie and Lyssa uncomfortable so Lyssa is happy to spend time away from the place with Callie. They can both understand why he and his wife, Dorothy, are living apart.

But when the creepy man is found dead the focus turns directly to his wife. She owns the vintage sewing shop and the murder weapon was a pair of vintage sheers. Callie knows Dorothy couldn't kill anyone and decides to prove it. Lyssa is by her side as they start to uncover secrets that may have sealed Clifford's fate. When another person is killed, the choice of weapon connects the cases and also proves even more clearly Dorothy is not the murderer. Now they just need to find the real killer and get them to sing a melody that lands them in the slammer.

Keepsake Cove is my kind of place, a collector shopper's dream come true. Ms. Hughes brings the place to life with her words. All the unique shops, the town square, the music boxes that fill the shelves of Callie's shop and more. The set up for the author signing was fun and Halloween themed right down to the author's arrival. I loved it!

The characters were already well developed in the first book, A Fatal Collection, but they continue to grow and evolve through this story. I really like Tabitha, Callie's assistant at the shop. Each day is a surprise because the way she dresses always has a theme. She and Callie work so well together, but the woman is more than capable at running the place while Callie is off solving crimes. I also enjoy that her new relationship with cafe owner Brian Greer is moving at a slow comfortable pace. There is also a special character that is quiet most of the time, a little supernatural element, a beloved music box that only plays to

help Callie stay on track.

Secrets are the keys to this mystery and the author draws readers in with an expert hand. She opens the door to a much longer suspect list than I had imagined and she twists things up in a way that I was just following along without doing my normal thing of trying to solve the mystery before the protagonist. The ending was suspenseful and surprised me. I really enjoyed the way this story was written and played out. I would have finished the book all in one sitting but my eyes just would not cooperate.

Another wonderful read from this author for this series. I truly can't wait for the next installment, my fingers and toes are crossed hoping for another visit to Keepsake Cove.

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## **Mary Brown says**

A Vintage Death  
Keepsake Cove Mystery, Book #2  
Mary Ellen Hughes  
5 Stars

Synopsis:

"A satisfying mystery. ... Suggest for fans of other mysteries set in cute tourist areas, such as Lorna Barrett's Booktown mysteries."--Library Journal

Callie Reed has put together a special event, but a killer is ripping it apart at the seams. As the new owner of a music box store in Keepsake Cove, a quaint town full of collectible shops on Maryland's Eastern Shore, Callie Reed is eager to get more involved in her community. So she volunteers to plan the fall street decorations and welcome a visiting author who's come for a special book signing. But the celebratory mood is cut short when the local B&B owner is found dead, killed with a pair of vintage scissors.

Suspicion is cast on the victim's estranged wife, Dorothy, who owns Keepsake Cove's vintage sewing shop. Callie is sure Dorothy is innocent, and the visiting author agrees. Together, they begin their own investigation, only to discover that many people in Keepsake Cove have secrets. Secrets that are worth killing to keep.

Praise for the Keepsake Cove Mysteries:

"Hughes kicks off her new Keepsake Cove series with a charming locale."--Kirkus Reviews

Review:

The characters are well rounded and well developed. Callie is a smart, caring, loyal woman. When one of her friends is wrongly accused of murder, she does not hesitate to jump in with both feet to find the real culprit. I liked that fact that this time she had the help of a visiting thriller/horror author. That added another level to the mystery solving and I enjoyed that. I really liked finding out what character, Tabitha, Callie's shop assistant, was going to be dressed as each day. She is a quirky character and has unusual fashion sense, which was great. And I even felt that Aunt Melody, Callie's deceased aunt was part of the characters through the magical music box, which I loved.

The writing style flows smoothly and the book is an easy read. The descriptive writing of the author pulled me into the story from the very beginning and pulled me along for a great read. The music box store came to

life in my mind and I would love to stop by and check it out.

The mystery was well plotted and carried on well throughout the book. There were plenty of suspects to consider and clues to sift through and the mystery was not easily solved. I kept changing my mind as to who the killer was.

I would recommend this book to anyone who enjoys a well-crafted cozy mystery. With great characters, a whimsical music box store and an intriguing mystery, what's not to like.

I voluntarily reviewed an ARC of this book provided by the publisher, Midnight Ink, and NetGalley, which I greatly appreciate.

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### **Leslie aka StoreyBook Reviews says**

This is the second book in the series about a touristy town that has a lot of specialty shops and our protagonist, Callie, runs a music box shop. It is interesting to read about various types of music boxes and the music that is within the box or other housing. And her aunt seems to haunt a heirloom music box that they keep in the shop. I think it is her aunt's way of looking out for her and warning her when something bad might happen.

The mystery kept me guessing about who the killer was and let me tell you I didn't get it right at all! I was very surprised at how things turned out and perhaps those that died got what they deserved because they were not nice people at all. The author does a great job of weaving in past events into the present that makes different characters seem guilty even if they are not.

There is an author that is visiting the town to do a book signing, Lyssa, that has her own secrets too but nothing as bad as others! It looks like Lyssa might become a regular character since she has bought a home close to Keepsake Cove. She is quite quirky and I think she will add some dimension to the books and help round out a trio of friends which includes Tabitha. Tabitha is another fun character because she likes to dress as various characters/people and keeps people guessing. I always wonder who she will portray next.

On the romance side, Hank is still trying to keep his hooks in Callie despite the fact that she has told him goodbye. At least he doesn't live in town! Her friendship with Brian is developing and I wouldn't be surprised if this turned into a romance down the road. Even if it doesn't, they have a great friendship which needs to be treasured.

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### **Peggy R says**

This was a solid second entry in the Keepsake Cove Mystery series. Callie is settling into her new role as the owner of aunt's music box store. She has made some friendships with the other local shop keeper and there is the start of a nice romance between her and the owner of the cafe across the street. The book has a good steady pace and the mystery is intriguing. Callie must determine if two murders in Keepsake Cove were committed are related while trying to clear her friends name. I like the cast of secondary characters. They are diverse in age, gender and personalities. There is a new character introduced that appears to have the potential to be a regular in future installments. There are some twists thrown into the story to keep the reader

distracted and off balance in deciding the identity of the real killer. I wasn't surprised by the reasons for the two deaths and how they played out but I think the author did a nice job of wrapping them up in a climatic fashion.

I voluntarily read an advanced reader copy provided to me by the publisher through Netgalley.

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### **Christopher says**

In "A Vintage Death", the latest book in the Keepsake Cove series, Hughes delivers another satisfyingly complicated page-turning cozy mystery featuring Callie Reed. As I noted of the first book in the series, Callie's character brings to mind Isabel Dalhousie from Alexander McCall Smith's Sunday Philosophy Club series--a somewhat introspective amateur detective with a great deal of empathy for her friends and neighbors, and a perceptive way of reading the personalities of those around her as she sifts through conversations and mannerisms in her efforts to solve a murder. Callie isn't a meddler, but her genuine interest in helping a friend leads in her into an investigation of her own when a murder takes place. Hughes is particularly effective at showing how Callie notices tone of voice, choice of words, facial expressions, and body language as she talks with people and constructs a sort of psychological map of the town in the course of her sleuthing. Hughes introduces a fun new supporting character, thriller writer Lyssa Hammond, who is in town for an author event and ends up helping Callie with her investigation. Overall, a great read with a good balance between a plausibly intricate plot and realistic characters.

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### **Lisa Ks Book Reviews says**

I've just had another wonderful visit to Keepsake Cove and I'm already looking forward to my next trip!

A VINTAGE DEATH was a book impossible to put down. I know I often say that about books I read (What can I say? I'm addicted to reading!), but it's never been truer. Author Mary Ellen Hughes has upped her game in this second installment of her Keepsake Cove Mysteries. I wouldn't have thought she could have topped book one, A FATAL COLLECTION, but I really should have known better.

I love a story where I can spend some time with the characters before the mystery begins. It's a great chance to get to know more about the people involved. In A VINTAGE DEATH, there are a few chapters before the discovery of the body, and I was able to learn a bit about Keepsake Cove, and its merchants. Now, on to the mystery . . .

There are not one, but two murders in this story, with each victim being killed by a unique choice of weapon, vintage sewing scissors. It was very intriguing searching for the who and why of it all. Like knotted thread, unraveling the true truth wasn't an easy task. But author Hughes expertly ties everything together in a reveal that had me riveted to my seat.

Cozy mystery at its finest, I give A VINTAGE DEATH 5 out of 5 stars. Heck, I give it 10 out of 5 stars!

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### **Tari says**

Ohhh this was so good, and I didn't want it to end! I was wishing I could just hang around a bit longer in

Keepsake Cove after the really awesome ending this book had.

It was fall in Keepsake Cove, and all the business owners were decorating and getting ready for all the extra business they hoped that author Lyssa Hammond's book event would bring them. When a local B&B owner was found stabbed with a pair of antique scissors, his estranged wife Dorothy was the major person of interest. Callie was determined that her friend wasn't going to go to jail, because she knew Dorothy wouldn't do something like that.

Callie and Lyssa had become fast friends and did a lot of sleuthing together, which I thought was awesome, since up till now, Callie hadn't really had a girlfriend close to her age. The showdown was really exciting and the ending was super satisfying. I had read the first book, which I really enjoyed as well, but this could work as a standalone. The main characters are the type that you meet and feel like they're good friends. This book makes me want to go back and read over the first one, just so I can spend more time in Keepsake Cove while waiting for the next book.

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## **Carrie says**

A Vintage Death by Mary Ellen Hughes is the second book of the cozy Keepsake Cove Mystery series. Each book in the series is centered around it's own mystery so they can be read as a standalone if choosing to do so however there is some character building carried over story to story.

In the first book of the series Callie Reed had gone to visit her aunt Melodie in Keepsake Cove where her aunt owned a collectable music box store. However shortly after arriving Callie found her aunt murdered and with faint hints of help from a favorite music box Callie had to find a murderer.

Now Callie is settling into Keepsake Cove and running the shop she inherited from her aunt and settling into the community. Callie has planned to volunteer for the fall decorations and welcoming a visiting author but celebrations are halted when another dead body is found in the small community.

When reading the first book of this series Keepsake Cove quickly became one of those charming little places that I wished I could visit with all of it's specialty shops and cozy cottages so the setting alone is enough to return to book two. But this series also holds likable characters and good mysteries to go along with the wonderful setting too. There's only a touch of paranormal to the book with the mysterious music box but it's just enough to give the story an extra touch of uniqueness. Will be looking forward to seeing what Callie and friends have in store in the next installment.

I received an advance copy from the publisher via NetGalley.

For more reviews please visit <https://carriesbookreviews.com/>

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## **Linda says**

Keepsake Cove is a wonderful town to live in and to visit. There are charming shops to explore, and great places to eat. The protagonist inherited her aunt's music box shop in which her grampa was the original collector. I enjoy the author's descriptions of the music boxes and the tunes they play. Featuring some

wonderful secondary characters like her shop assistant who likes to dress as ‘famous characters’, and a great new author friend, Lyssa, who has a bubbly personality, plus the male romantic interest who owns a restaurant across the street—the story is fast to pull you in and hold your interest for hours. The murder mystery is captivating and readers may be surprised at the villain. I enjoyed book two slightly more than I did book one and definitely recommend both books to cozy mystery fans.

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### **Kristin Cochran Schadler says**

Very enjoyable! Also very timely tie-in with everything going on today. This was very entertaining and kept me guessing throughout. I love Tabitha and her crazy outfits and love the blossoming friendships in this series. Very well written and excited to read more in the series!

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### **Amy says**

This is the second installment in the Keepsake Cove series. Callie is settling into life after her Aunt Mel's passing. She has made a new friend in visiting author Lyssa Hammond. She is staying at the local B&B owned by Clifford Asby. He and his wife, Dorothy, have been separated for some years and she owns a vintage sewing shop. When Asby is found dead, apparently stabbed with a pair of antique sewing shears, Dorothy becomes the chief suspect. A second murder occurs shortly thereafter with a similar object, motivating Callie and Lyssa to clear Dorothy's name and find the real killer.

I really enjoyed this cozy mystery. It had all the classic elements that I like: a small town, close-knit friendships, a budding romance between Callie and café owner Brian. The pacing was just right. There were interesting plot twists, old secrets, and a very surprising ending.

Thanks to NetGalley for a complimentary advance review copy of this book. My review is voluntary.

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### **Carrie Schmidt (Reading is My SuperPower) says**

A Vintage Death is the first book I've read in the Keepsake Cove series but it was fairly easy to catch up with who is who and the mood of the community. For its own part, Keepsake Cove is a charming collection of shops with adorable names and intriguing characters with their own set of eccentricities. Would love to vacation there and browse all the delightful shops!

The mystery is well-plotted with a couple of intriguing twists that were right up my alley. Callie is a relatable character in her own right, and the addition of quirky Lyssa Hammond (visiting author) to the amateur detective mix nicely complemented Callie's more laidback style. Additionally, the music box angle – specifically the boxes that ‘randomly’ play on their own in key moments, almost as warnings, add a whole other layer of intrigue and curiosity.

Bottom Line: A Vintage Death is a charming cozy mystery with great characters and a whodunit with interesting twists. Keepsake Cove is delightful to read about, and Callie & Lyssa make a nice team. After the last sentence, I'm even more eager to read the next book and see what happens next!

(I voluntarily reviewed a complimentary copy of this book)

first seen at Reading Is My SuperPower

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