



Heart-Shaped Box

April Henry

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Claire Montrose wasn't part of her high school's in-crowd. Too smart, too tall, too skinny, and too young-looking, she didn't have a lot of fun back then. But that won't stop Claire from attending her twentieth class reunion. After all, those former disadvantages now work very well for her, plus she's got a hip boyfriend named Dante. But someone else can't let bygones be bygones. Checking into her hotel, Claire receives a mysterious heart-shaped box with her yearbook picture inside. Then another heart-shaped box is found -- in the limp hand of former head cheerleader Cindy Sanchez, strangled in the parking lot. Claire's got to put all her smarts to the test and find a calculating killer before she, too, becomes a memory.

Heart-Shaped Box Details

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Author : April Henry

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From Reader Review Heart-Shaped Box for online ebook

Kris says

Publishers Weekly

Amateur sleuth Claire Montrose continues to beguile but is underutilized in her third appearance, following *Square in the Face* (2000) and the Agatha- and Anthony-Award-nominated *Circles of Confusion* (1999). At the 20th reunion for the Minor (Ore.) High School Class of '79, held at Ye Olde Pioneer Village Theme Park, some things haven't changed. Cindy is still a tease and a flirt, even if she does have a husband in tow. Sawyer was a dreamboat teacher; now he's a dreamboat politician and the guest of honor. Wade was strange then, but he's stranger now and was even institutionalized for a spell. Dick was a geek. Now he owns a high-speed modem company worth a fortune. He's still a geek. Claire was thin and shy and poor and smart. She's less poor now and the presence of Dante, her handsome boyfriend, ought to make her feel more confident. But reunions have a way of resurrecting old insecurities. Several women at the western-themed opening night receive mysterious presents: small, handcarved boxes. Cindy gets one before she dies in the theme park parking lot. The nondescript Kyle, a cop and a member of the returning class, does most of the sleuthing. Alert readers will ignore the slew of overly obvious suspects and quickly arrive at the true identity of the killer.

At least this was more of a mystery. Only read these if bored. She (henry) hasn't even picked up the heat with Claire and Dante. It's like an old movie. Lights dim, Lights come up.

Lisa says

Not my thing!

Francine says

Humorous a la Sookie.

Judy Goodnight says

Finally with this one, I liked the book enough to give it a third star. Claire and Dante are together (yay!) for Claire's 20th high school reunion back in Minor, OR. And we meet again Cindy Sanchez who was a secondary character in the previous mystery, *Square in the Face*.

Claire and Dante are on the scene when the first and then second bodies are discovered although the reader has access to the knowledge that Claire's old schoolmate, now the chief of police, has via his interviews with everyone who was in the vicinity of the first body.

Aside from a stint of dressing up in the school mascot costume in order to eavesdrop on conversations at one

of the reunion events, Claire figures out whodunit without any TSTL moments.

Aleta says

Contains a memorable quote: "She tried out a 'come-hither' look, but in the mirror she appeared simply to be a woman in search of her bifocals. Had she moved from being too young to being too old, skipping over the vital middle part of being just right?"

Shugga says

Did not read this book! As usual, goodreads got it wrong!

Patricia Solla says

I liked this book. It was enjoyable reading. It's about the main character going to her 20th high school reunion and a murder mystery ensues. The who done it was good. It's interesting to see what has happened to people after 20 years. Never went to a school reunion.

Kathy says

Read this right after Circles of Confusion, wanting to give April Henry an opportunity to improve her writing because I like to support local authors. Reading the descriptions of fictional Oregon settings, I realized what a tough job it is to keep everything authentic and consistent. I hope that Henry will keep honing her skills as she keeps writing and getting published.

Alex says

Okay, I'm definitely hooked on this series now. Claire has really grown on me, and each book is better than the last.

I was pretty sure I knew who the killer was, and I turned out to be right, but there were a few details along the way I hadn't quite figured out.

Looks like the next one is the last one, which makes me sad. I can't wait to find out how this ends, though.
