



Parchment and Old Lace

Laura Childs , Terrie Farley Moran

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The *New York Times* bestselling author of *Gossamer Ghost* returns to the Big Easy and the historic Garden District, where scrapbook shop owner Carmela Bertrand discovers a bride-to-be murdered in the legendary Lafayette Cemetery...

Carmela couldn't imagine a finer evening than dinner at Commander's Palace with her beau, Detective Edgar Babcock. The food and the company are equally divine—with the exception of Isabelle Black stopping by to brag about her upcoming wedding. Resuming the romance with a walk in the evening air, the couple is interrupted once again—this time by a terrifying scream from inside the cemetery.

Having just seen Isabelle, Carmela and Edgar now find her lying across an aboveground tomb, strangled to death with a piece of vintage lace. Carmela would rather leave the investigating to Edgar, but she can't say no to Isabelle's sister Ellie, the tarot card reader at Juju Voodoo, when she asks her to help. As she untangles the enemies of Isabelle's past, Carmela hopes she can draw out the killer before someone else gets cold feet.

INCLUDES SCRAPBOOKING TIPS

Parchment and Old Lace Details

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From Reader Review Parchment and Old Lace for online ebook

Tess says

The latest Scrapbooking Mystery by Laura Child, is right on par with the previous twelve. Carmela, owner of Memory Mine scrapbooking store and her man friend Babcock are strolling back to Babcock's car when a gut wrenching scream pierces the air. As they both take off running toward the cemetery, Carmela soon loses sight of Babcock. Running past tombstones and mausoleums, imagine how frightened Carmela must feel when she finds herself trapped between a heavy cemetery gate and a wall of the crypt. Soon it's discovered that the scream belonged to a now dead woman, who was found strangled with a piece of old lace. How is anyone supposed to solve a murder with only a small piece of lace and a smaller piece of parchment as the only clues? Of course Babcock, Carmela and her wacky friend Ava set out to prove who-dun-it.

We can always rely on Laura to keep us on the edge of our seats. The fact that she generally gives us great scrapbooking hints and yummy recipes don't hurt a bit. It's almost time to snuggle up with a warm blanket, grab a seat near the fireplace and read, read, read. Please give Laura's offerings a chance, with three wonderful series to choose from, I'm sure you'll find one to suit you.

FTC Full Disclosure - A copy of this book was sent to me by the author in hopes I would give it an unbiased review. However, receiving the complimentary copy did not influence my review.

Anastasia says

Parchment and old lace by Laura Childs is the 13th book in A Scrapbooking Mystery series. Hearing screams while out for a walk, Carmela and Detective Babcock come across the body of Isabella Black strangled with a piece of vintage lace. Her sister Ellie works with Ava at Juju Voodoo and asks Carmela to investigate.

An enjoyable cozy mystery, although Carmela and Ava seem to be going a bit too far with there investigating and interfering, even resorting to breaking and entering and taking unnecessary risks. This spoilt the book a little for me.

Kimberly says

Another wonderful Scrapbooking Mystery. The characters are enjoyable, although sometimes they do silly things and end up getting into trouble. But, that is one of the things I like about this series. Can't wait to read the next one. :)

Chris Blackton says

I put off reading this book for a long time because the plots have become formulaic as proved true with this book. Still enjoyed it until the second last chapter when (in my opinion) Carmela shouted from a distance or

Ava to move away from the killer who of course reached out and grabbed her and took her hostage. The sheer stupidity of this really irked me. Just an okay read to my way of thinking.

Linda says

Hands-down, one of the most thrilling Cozies I've ever read! You'll be glued to the pages until you finish this one! Delightfully witty; set in the charm, mystique, and forbidden secrets of the Big Easy, with those good 'ole boy politics and under-the-table dealings going on to thicken dat gumbo in this superiorly plotted mystery.

It's November in New Orleans, and the Nancy Drew of the French Quarter---best known as Carmela Bertrand, owner of Memory Mine, a scrapbook lover's dream shop, is at a party with handsome beau, Detective Edgar Babcock. A romantic stroll afterwards ends when they respond to screams from the eerie, pitch black Lafayette Cemetary where they find the body of bride-to-be Isabelle Black, an associate district attorney, draped across a tombstone. The murder weapon? An old remnant of vintage lace was used to strangle poor Isabelle. Could her fiancé, or his hostile mother, have wanted her dead before the wedding? Well, light some candles and get out the Ouija board. Led by a mesmerizing cast of Cajun characters, this tale is not the big easy to figure out whodundat. The ending left me cheering and totally satisfied.

I received a complimentary copy from the author. My review is honest and not influenced by anyone else.

Sara Jane says

This plot was better than the last one of this series I read, but it's a good thing Carmela has Gabby on board or Memory Mine would fall by the wayside for lack of attention. It also seems as though Childs was roaming the thesaurus looking for new verbs to describe the act of walking. At one point, Carmela "ankled" to her destination. In another event, Carmela and Ava pushed through a crowd to the bar in what was, to me, a rather rude fashion. The farther I read in the story, the more amusing it was to find the next odd words.

Tammy says

A fun fast paced modern era mystery that takes place in New Orleans. The main character is a scrapbook shop owner that gives a peek at the crafty side of things when she isn't trying to solve a mystery. The characters are fun and colorful. You will get a view of the city while trying to figure out who done it. If I kept pace with Carmela I wouldn't need to diet. As usual I will not tell the story and spoil it for others, this is a review not a report. I liked it and will enjoy reading it again in the future.

Jamie Holzberg / Fluff Smut & Murder says

Every time I dive into a Laura Childs scrapbooking mystery I get inspired to race out to my local Michael's craft store and stock up on papers, embellishments, ribbons, etc to finally tackle all of my old photos to turn

them into works of art. Then a read a few more chapters, the buzz wears off and I can get back to doing the thing I enjoy most – reading. Seriously, the 13th book in the series doesn't disappoint and there are always new characters, modes of death, and interesting things to learn about New Orleans.

What I loved: Craft ideas AND recipes? Really easy, simply, yummy southern recipes? Sign me up!

What I didn't love: Just have her finally figure out her romance with Babcock already – its been going on for so many books, its almost getting boring...

What I learned: All about mourning clothes and differences between French and Belgian lace – and they said I'm too old to learn anything anymore...

Overall Grade: B

Donna says

I still like the characters and the setting but I was disappointed in this book. Carmela's total disregard for safety and protocol got her into preidcaments and it seemed a little forced and unnatural. I think she should morph back into someone more like she was in the earlier books - think Theodosia from the Teashop mysteries.

Mary Mathews says

This is the first book by the author that I have read. I have been reading the Kiki Lowenstein books by Joann Campbell Slan and couldn't help but compare them, though I see that this author was apparently first.

My problem with this book was suspending reality: anyone who eats like these characters are not going to stay slim without workout time and there are serious chain-of-custody problems. I could mention other things but I don't want to create spoilers because the mystery is actually very good.

I picked up this book to try to get my scrapbooking juices going again.

Mason Canyon says

Visions of New Orleans quickly fill your head when you begin reading PARCHMENT AND OLD LACE, the 13th installment in the Scrapbooking Mystery series by Laura Childs.

Childs, with author Terrie Farley Moran, bring New Orleans to life as they keep you in suspense in this latest cozy murder mystery. The rich descriptions of the historic Garden District and other areas places the reader among the characters as the story unfolds.

Scrapbook shop owner Carmela Bertrand and her beau, Detective Edgar Babcock, enjoy a romantic dinner, but have a brief interruption when Isabelle Black stops by their table. After bragging about her upcoming wedding, she leaves.

Minutes later on their way from the restaurant, Carmela and Edgar hear a scream coming from the Lafayette Cemetery. There they discover Isabelle, strangled with a piece of vintage lace, lying across a gravestone.

Carmela is pulled into the search for the killer by Isabelle's sister, Ellie. A tarot card reader, Ellie works at Juju Voodoo, owned by Carmela's best friend, Ava Gruix. Carmela has no choice but to untangle the clues before someone else dies.

The characters are likable, colorful and well-developed. The secondary characters add depth to the story, as well as bits of humor. The bonds of friendship are well defined drawing readers farther into the feel of the story.

The blending of a murder mystery with the daily disruptions of a store owner makes for an entertaining read. Moving at a good pace, the story keeps you marveling at what could happen next mixed with the right amount of tension and suspense.

Readers don't have to enjoy scrapbooking to be beguiled by this story. In fact, the scrapbooking tips and tasty New Orleans recipes are just an added bonus.

Like a good gumbo, PARCHMENT AND OLD LACE is a mix of all things mystery lovers will relish.

FTC Full Disclosure – A copy of this book was sent to me by the author in hopes I would review it. However, receiving the complimentary copy did not influence my review. The thoughts are completely my own and given honestly and freely.

Diane says

"Parchment and Old Lace" is the newest book in the Scrapbooking Mystery Series by Laura Childs. Carmella and her boyfriend, Edgar Babcock have gone out to Commander's Palace for a nice dinner. They run into Isabelle Black and her wedding party who is having a cake tasting for her upcoming nuptials. Carmela and Detective Babcock are walking to his car when they hear someone yelling for help in the Lafayette Cemetery. Detective Babcock goes to investigate. Carmela runs along after him. She stumbles across the body of Isabelle Black. she has been strangled with a piece of antique lace. isabelle's sister is Ellie Black. Ellie works for Ava giving readings at Juju Voodoo. Ellie asks Carmela to help find her sister's murderer. Edgar and Carmela both are investigating all the various suspects who could have killed Isabelle including her would be groom and mother in law to be.

Lisa Ks Book Reviews says

I have to start by saying, I was thrilled to see that author Terrie Farley Moran collaborated with author Laura Childs on this book. I adore both of them, so this was exciting news for me.

It looks like book thirteen in the Scrapbooking Mystery series is lucky #13 for Laura Childs! You may think an author who has written so many books in different series would run out of things to write about. But you would be Oh. So. Wrong! It seems every new book by this author is better than the one before.

PARCHMENT AND OLD LACE had main character Carmela Bertrand and her boyfriend Detective Edgar Babcock, hit the ground running by page six. The mystery and excitement only continued to grow from there. This extremely well written story was fast paced, with interesting, multi layered characters. Everything readers have come to expect of this author.

You're going to want to pick up a copy of this crafty mystery for yourself.

Don't scrap (see what I did there? ;-)) this book when you're finished with the story or you'll miss the crafting tips, yummy recipes, and the excerpt of DEVONSHIRE SCREAM, the new book by Laura Childs in her Tea Shop Mystery series!

You're also going to want to check out author Terrie Farley Moran's Read 'Em and Eat Mystery series with WELL READ, THEN DEAD being the first. Once you've read one of her books, you'll see how her writing "voice" blended so with that of Laura Childs.

Patrizia says

Ho voluto iniziare l'anno con un libro appartenente alla prima serie cozy mystery che abbia mai letto e non me ne sono pentita. Lettura scorrevole e piacevole, tanti colpi di scena possibili sebbene alla fine si sia dimostrata esatta la mia ipotesi che, come spesso accade, il cattivo sia poi colui che sembrava avere meno motivi, se non nessuno.

Josh says

I often pick up a mystery novel, begin reading, and can't figure out who committed the dastardly crime/murder. With this book, however, the minute a particular character was introduced, I said, "I bet it's them." Well, I wasn't wrong! What's also different for me is that I have only read the first book in the series. This one is number 13. I felt that I didn't want to wait many years trying to catch up to where Laura Childs is now, so I just jumped straight into this one. While there are some relationships and details I am missing because I haven't read the previous 11 novels, it wasn't that hard figuring everything out. I would be a complete idiot if I felt lost while reading this book.

I enjoyed this little scrapbooking mystery. It's not mindblowing or overly complicated reading which is fine. It's a simple story about a woman who is murdered in a graveyard one night after her cake tasting event. Carmela Bertrand, the owner of Memory Mine, a scrapbooking store, is tasked with discovering who murdered the woman. Numerous suspects are introduced with the spotlight constantly switching from suspect to suspect which includes her fiancé, her future mother-in-law, the best man, and several others. Again, I immediately pegged the murderer not because the character was so over-the-top or dripping evil, but because I have read enough mysteries and seen enough crime shows to suss out the guilty person.

What I particularly liked is how much of a character New Orleans plays in the story. Each page just drips with descriptions of the city, its rhythms, and its quirks. I really like this mystery series especially since I am a scrapbooker and many pages are dedicated to that art. Fun read!
