



# Sentenced to Death

*Lorna Barrett*

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As the owner of Stoneham, New Hampshire's mystery bookstore Haven't Got a Clue, Tricia Miles can figure out whodunit in the latest bestseller way before she gets to the last page. But these days, Tricia is using her sleuthing skills for much more than the books on her shelves . . .

It's Founders' Day in Stoneham and the whole village has turned out to celebrate in the square, including Tricia's friend and festivities organizer Deborah Black. As everyone watches Deborah give the opening speech, a small aircraft crashes into the village gazebo, killing both Deborah and the pilot. While the Sheriff's Department is convinced that it was an accident, Tricia has a feeling that there's more to the story. And when she reads between the lines of the case, what she finds is worse than the most sinister whodunit

## Sentenced to Death Details

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Author : Lorna Barrett

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# From Reader Review Sentenced to Death for online ebook

## Cathy DuPont says

Coming off a Vachss ride into the depths of despair of the human race, I needed some little 'cozy mystery' to get lost in. Cozy mystery is my definition of a 'no brainer' which I'm sure many cozy mystery fans would emphatically object to.

Trish, owner of the mystery bookstore "Haven't Got a Clue" in Stoneham, New Hampshire, solves another mystery she's not supposed to get or be involved in.

And her romance life which is important to her is picking up finally with an officer of the court, a cop, surprise, surprise; all the easier to get the crime gossip/facts for Trish and straight from the horse's mouth so to speak.

Well, I wanted a light read and I got it here, so no complaining from me. Fast and easy; and guys, not to bother. Not to your liking, pretty positive and telling you upfront. You would get more reading a children's book and in fact, think pre-teens girls would enjoy these simple reads.

Think I'm through with this series, just too boring for my likes.

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(Cozy mystery defined: A subgenre of crime fiction in which sex and violence are downplayed or treated humorously, and the crime and detection take place in a small, socially intimate community.)

Note 1: Charlaine Harris wrote many cozy mysteries which is where I discovered the genre. Harris is the creator of the Sookie Stackhouse, True Blood series. Miss her cozy mystery characters but Harris is making a mint, I'm sure, on Sookie series so why bother with Aurora (Roe) Teagarden who at least had an interesting sex life?

Note 2: First page of reviews: Out of 30 reviews, six were one or two stars; 11, five stars, remaining mostly four stars with a couple of three stars. All but one (a man) posted by women and one, not sure of gender. That in itself says something.

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## Lynn says

I have read all of the Booktown Mysteries by Lorna Barrett and I must say this one is a little disappointing. Almost as if this is the start of a shift in the series and the author was not exactly certain how to take those steps of change.

Tricia, who is a character I love (how could a librarian not love a book seller?) seems to be in a quandary about the men in her life: her ex-husband sends her expensive presents, one past boy friend makes innuendos even though they have broken up long ago, and another ex-boyfriend asks to go out to dinner. She seems confused and though the relationship scenario is cleared up by the end of the story it does make for a thick

slog at points.

Debbie, the owner of the "Happy Domestic", ends up dead in the middle of chapter one and through the course of the book we learn a great deal about how unhappy this domestic was. This death is caused by a freak accident -- at least that is what everyone but Tricia believes. So while Tricia is busy setting up education funds for Debbie's son and trying to come to terms with Ginny getting a job as manager of Debbie's old store; she is also trying to figure out how a person can stage a freak accident.

I love the Booktown Mystery series -- I liked this book. Was it my favorite of the series? No not really, but with 5 books they can't all be your favorite.

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### **Leigh says**

This has to be the oddest mystery I have ever read before. A plane crashes in the middle of the town square, a town square filled with people and kills only one person. Crazier still it was murder and the intended victim was not the pilot but the person on the ground. It made little sense to me how that would work and how no one else was even injured. The plane ran out of gas and so there was no fire but still things fly off planes and buildings in accidents. So with that implausible set up Tricia guessed it was murder, how is beyond me, and proceeds to stick her nose in and badger the rest of the town in the process. Added to the mix are Ginny leaving to manage her own shop, which smacks of nepotism as her boyfriend is technically her boss and Mr. Everett thinking he can disguise himself with a moustache. Then there was poor Deborah who went from being a nice decent character to a liar, cheater and possibly a thief, Tricia's constant brooding thoughts about lack of romance and it was a typical Booktown mystery. However I did like that Tricia is lightening up a bit, eating cupcakes and saying "whatever" but then she blew it by whining about gaining a few pounds and that was over. But still it's a quick easy read and there are enough loose ends to keep me interested in what the next book will bring.

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### **Patrizia says**

4 stelle e mezza

Un'altra buona addizione a una serie che mi sta conquistando sempre di più. Confesso che vorrei dirigere una libreria dedicata ai gialli come fa la protagonista...

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### **Kim says**

Up until this book I really have enjoyed the series as a whole. I can't figure out the "who dun it" until the end. This one, while still a good mystery, was a little too farfetched for me as a murder. A plane crash that only kills the intended victim and the pilot with no others injured or killed? I mean really! And this mysterious carry over from book 4 had better be addressed soon, or I am going to lose interest. As for Bob, I royally hope he gets what's coming to him. Angelica, the sister is still not endearing herself to me by now I and I think she either needs to be rewritten or written out!

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## **Patty says**

I truly enjoy my time spent in "Booktown". I like the characters and the development of the relationship between Tricia and Angelica is always interesting.

When the Founders Day picnic is just opening and Tricia's friend Deborah Black is getting ready to make a welcoming speech, tragedy happens. A small plane pulling a banner announcing the festivities crashes into the gazebo, instantly killing Deborah and the pilot.

Tricia (of course) can't believe it was an accident and sets out to find out why Deborah is dead, and who wanted her gone. Working with Angelica, and even Russ, Tricia manages to question almost everyone who had anything to do with Deborah over the last couple of years. There are some issues with neighboring shops, a "bit too happy" husband and a bitter mother.

The only problem I had with this book is that I thought Tricia was pushing a bit too hard. She went after the widower and the mother which seemed a bit at odds with her normal behavior toward people. Other than that I enjoyed the book a great deal.

I'll continue reading this series, I love the idea of a town full of bookstores, all very close together.

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## **Michelle Randall says**

A Booktown Mystery is probably one of my favorite series, and so when I was able to get my hands on book number 5, Sentenced to Death, of course I was all over reading it!

It's Founder's Day, a celebration that Bob Kelly had cooked up to drive more tourist traffic into town and promote the town. Of course Bob couldn't be bothered to do the leg work or give the opening speech, so Tricia's good friend, Deborah Black is doing it all. There is a plane pulling a banner behind it that is circling all around the town square, some loops are pretty low, and it has Tricia worried. Then Deborah climbs into the gazebo to give her opening speech, but she has to stop three times for the noise of the low flying plane to move out before she can go on. As she is talking Tricia notices the plane looks to be nose-diving the gazebo, and there isn't any sound, the engine is dead, and before anyone can say or do anything, the plane crashes into the gazebo. The pilot and Deborah are both gone in the blink of an eye.

As the days pass on, and Deborah's husband David sells his wife's store even before she is buried, refuses any help from his wife's family aside from leaving his young son with his wife's mother and never having a thing to do with him, then plans a funeral within days of getting his wife's body only for people to show up and realize there is no service, just a mingle time. Tricia has had enough, and she proceeds to give David a piece of her mind about his behavior, then she decides that something is wrong with this picture. She begins to investigate, and it takes her on a multi level trip through the lives of the pilot and his wife, Deborah and David, and the daycare center where little Davey broke his arm just a couple weeks prior.

Another in the series of well-written and enjoyable books by Lorna Barrett. I find myself wanting to be in a

town like Stoneham, to be a part of the lives of the people around there. It just draws you in and makes you want to read and enjoy the books. looking forward to the next book in the series.

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## **Ellen says**

All I can say is it's wonderful to find an author you can rely on.

Characters grown with situations. Relationships grow with amateur sleuthing. AS usual Lorna gave me believable characters that interacted with each on a level that was realistic and not overblown. This is a favorite series of mine and thankfully this author has not written herself into a corner. Situations leave openings for further development. A REAL COZY.

Characters: Tricia Miles-owner of Stoneham, New Hampshire's Haven't Got A Clue mystery bookstore.

Angelica -owner of Booked for Lunch (sister of Tricia)

Ginny-Tricia'

s right hand person at the bookshop.

Mr. Everett-Retired Part time worker at Tricia's bookshop.

Deborah Black - owner of the Happy Domestic

Elizabeth Crane- Deborah's mother

The story begins with the first murder(?) and so our amateur sleuth, Tricia, takes it upon herself to find the murderer of her dear friend. But...how much of her friend does she really know? The victim's family situation also begins to unravel as curtains are lifted on reality in the old homestead.

And what about the dynamics at the bookshop? What's changing there? Who's leaving and who's coming in? How will these changes effect the bookshop and Tricia's life?

Tricia's love life...does she have a love life she can count on? Is Captain Baker part of her future? What is going on with her former husband, Christopher?

I thoroughly enjoyed this book and it did more than hold my interest. I became engrossed in the story plot and the characters.

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## **Aaron says**

What more can one say about a cozy mystery that starts with the victim being killed when a small plane comes down and crashes into a gazebo in the town square while she is given a speech. Stoneham, NH, which has molded itself into a tourist destination by the establishment of a group of used and rare book stores and businesses nearby that have adopted a book theme. Tricia Miles, the owner of Haven't Got a Clue (a mystery book shop) finds herself thrown into the center of another mystery when the town is having it's first Founder's Day celebration. Her friend Deborah, who owns a home goods and decor and crafts shop, is one of the organizers. To celebrate, Bob Kelly, the head of the local business association has arranged for a small plane to fly around the area, trailing a banner announcing Founder's Day.

Things quickly go horribly wrong when the plane seems to sputter and come down. At the time, Deborah is

giving a welcome speech in the gazebo to the attendees of the event. Both the pilot and Deborah find themselves instantly dead. At first, it would seem like a simple accident, but Tricia quickly starts to learn some details about Deborah that indicate that she might have no shortage of enemies. Perhaps Deborah was not the nice woman and friend Tricia always thought she was. The town starts to see a rise in other crimes, including further murders, as Tricia gets closer and closer to figuring out who might have been driving it all.

As all of this is happening Tricia is also dealing with a couple of other things. First, her longtime assistant Ginny has been hired to be the manager of one of the other shops. It is a major loss as the two are such close friends, and Tricia had started to take Ginny on as a mentee. Secondly, Tricia receives another surprising gift from her ex-husband, adding some confusion to her already muddled romantic life.

As all of this is going on, Tricia's sister Angelica is still managing to run her little cafe, a cookbook store, and work on her second cookbook. She is just as fun as a side character as she always is.

This really is an example of the best that this series can be. It is a classic cozy with interesting recurring characters and even guest characters for just this volume. I always look forward to visiting Stoneham, or Booktown, when another volume is the next book in my pile. Can't wait for the next one!

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### **Rebecca says**

I really enjoy reading this series because I love the characters and the mysteries are always interesting, not to mention that it's focus is around books and food which I'm always keen on. I felt like I didn't enjoy this one as much as previous books in the series but it was definitely one that I enjoyed reading. I even managed to guess part of the mystery which was exciting.

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### **Jeannie and Louis Rigod says**

We have all had 'bad' days, but, the horrific day that our sleuth, Tricia is forced to endure beats them all. Tricia encounters the dramatic and chilling death of a close (or she had thought close,)friend, then her loyal (or was she?)head clerk quits, finally, the man she hopes to grow closer to, announces he may be leaving Stoneham for a new life/job. Honestly, what is a girl to do?

If you found yourself holding your breath as you just read the top paragraph, let me tell you that is nothing to what you will find when you venture into this latest murder novel in the New York Times Best Selling Series, "A Booktown Mystery: Sentenced to Death."

A funeral turns out to have me laughing out loud and reading passages to my spouse. Only an extremely talented wordsmith would be able to craft that scene and it was amazing to read.

This book caused the second forgotten dinner this past week. Soon, this series will be labeled 'warning: contains addictive reading material.'

The shocks, laughs, and dialog kept a steady rhythmic pace and kept me more than satisfied. Did I guess the culprit? No. I wasn't even sure if the crime was a crime and then wow! Multiple crimes presented themselves. The ending was neatly tied up and left me eagerly reading the promotion the next book, which

turned out to be for Lorraine Bartlett's upcoming book, "The Walled Flower" which sounds engrossing as well.

Pre-Order this book due out in June 2011. Don't wait as you will want to have a copy to discuss with your reading friends immediately. This is another Best Seller without a doubt.

I was given an "Uncorrected Proof" as a gift and had to write how impressed I was by this novel.

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## **Fred says**

Sentenced is the 5th book in the "A Booktown Mystery" series. I'm a mystery reader that enjoys being told a story that's not cumbersome to read and has a nice mix of mystery, humor and enjoyable characters. This book and series has all of them.

It is the Founder's Day weekend in Stoneham and a big celebration has been planned. As Deborah Black owner of The Home Domestic shop, is ready to begin the activities as soon as a private aircraft pulling a banner leaves the area. On it's last pass it's engine sputters and crashes into the gazebo where Deborah is standing, killing her. Since an aircraft is involved, the NTSB is in charge of the accident, and there main concern is what caused the plane to crash, not if it wasn't an accident. Then Deborah husband quickly sells The Home Domestic shop, lock stock and barrel to a company that is starting to invest in the Stoneham area. Tricia starts to ask question and finds the Deborah has a dark secret that point to her husband having planned this horrible event. Tricia soon discovers that some inventory is missing from the store and possibly it was someone else. Add to this turmoil, Tricia learns that Grant, a member of the sheriffs department will be retiring and possibly moving away. Tricia was hoping that they could be taking a friendship to the next level.

Stop by Stoneham and see what is happening with Tricia sister, Angelica, and the latest news from Ginny, Tricia's employee. And of course Mr Everett is around too.

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## **Jessa says**

I love a light hearted mystery and wrongly assumed this would be one. To begin with she killed a character in a completely ridiculous manner, and threw in an early introduction to the victim's 2 year old son. The reasoning seemed to be that the lead in this story was best friends with the victim something that never translated. If we are to believe this woman watched her best friend die I would expect more grieving. As someone who did lose their best friend while I am aware that everyone grieves differently this book seemed to overlook grieving all together. She didn't seem to even experience the shock anyone would have been in. It felt like the author took on a topic far beyond what she was capable of articulating. Plus killing of a character with a young child in my mind requires a lot more compassion and depth which we never felt. All that aside I had no clue who the characters were most of the time. They seemed really similar to me. Finally, I never finished the book which is a first for me. Ever. I just found it dull and confusing, and perhaps it hit close to home with the death a woman with a young child but I have to believe the author has never lost someone close to her or else simply failed to draw on that experience. It was really disappointing. I only made it a third of the way through.

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## **Drebbles says**

Bookstore owner Tricia Miles is devastated when a close friend is killed in an accident. Well, the police say it was an accident, but Tricia isn't convinced – the more she learns about her friend's life the more she is convinced it was murder. While Tricia is investigating the murder, things are changing around her and she begins to wonder if it is time that she too makes some changes.

“Sentenced to Death” is the well done fifth book in Lorna Barrett's “Booktown Mystery” cozy mystery series – a series that gets better with every book. Barrett has created a wonderfully complex heroine in Tricia Miles – a character I at times sympathize with and at other times dislike. Tricia seems to be at a crossroads in her life and she is a very believable character – flawed yet a good friend to those she cares about. She is understandably upset by the death of her friend and it is nice that she does what she can to solve the case but at times she is blunt and not very tactful, even unlikable when questioning people she thinks may have had something to do with the death. Her relationship with her sister Angelica is also complex – it has grown throughout the series and I'm glad to see the two grow closer in each book. Tricia's love life is a tangled one and it doesn't look like it is going to be untangled soon. Barrett has created a wonderful setting in Stoneham, New Hampshire and the characters grow in each book. I've come to care for the characters and what happens to them, especially Ginny who seems to continue to have poor taste in boyfriends. The mystery aspects are well done and the murder weapon is certainly a unique one! The mystery has plenty of twists and turns and surprises and while there aren't a lot of suspects, I still didn't figure out who the killer was. Besides the murder mystery there is another mystery throughout the course of this series – who is the mysterious Nigela Ricita who is buying up so much of Stoneham? I have some ideas and can't wait to find out if my suspicions are correct!

“Sentenced to Death” is another well done cozy mystery by Lorna Barrett.

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## **Cheryl Landmark says**

This was another well-done mystery in the Booktown series. Tricia Miles continues to grow as a character, as do the others in the small town of Stoneham. Tricia is not always a nice person or the most tactful when questioning people during her sleuthing, but I think that's what makes her so relatable. She has human flaws and less than desirable attributes at times and isn't some perfect super woman solving mysteries right and left. The relationship between her and her sister, Angelica, is complex, complicated and, at times, funny and heartwarming. I still like Ange and think that Tricia's unkind thoughts of her are sometimes unwarranted and exaggerated.

The book started off with a bang...literally. A small plane trailing a banner for the Founder's Day celebrations crashed into the town square gazebo where Tricia's friend, Deborah Black, was about to give the welcoming speech for the festivities. Deborah and the pilot were both killed instantly in what at first looked like a tragic accident. But, Tricia's suspicions were aroused and she set out to investigate what really happened. Unfortunately, she turned up some rather nasty secrets about Deborah that had her wondering just how well she really knew her friend. David Black, Deborah's husband, was a class-A jerk and I found myself disliking him immensely.

Tricia's love life, or lack thereof, left her feeling a little out-of-sorts and depressed and questioning the direction her life was going in. Expensive gifts from her ex-husband only added to her confusion and uncertainty. I sincerely hope she isn't thinking of get back together with Christopher because he, too, seems like a moron and a jerk! But, things may be looking up with Captain Baker in the future, so we'll see what happens on that front.

I had no inkling of the murderer in this one and that's a good thing. Ms. Barrett did a fine job of keeping me in suspense until the end.

No car chase involving Tricia and Angelica in this story, but there *was* an incident with a hit-and-run driver. And, the usual mass get-to-gether in Haven't Got a Clue at the end did take place again. It's becoming a little bit tedious but not so much so that it takes away from my enjoyment of this series.

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