



The Snake Tattoo

Linda Barnes

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Carlotta Carlyle, ex-cop, struggling private eye, and 6'1" of long tall redhead, takes any case that walks through the door. This time the door opens twice. First in is her old partner, Lieutenant Mooney of the Boston police, unfairly charged with brutality, suspended, and desperate. The witness who can clear him is a hooker with a snake tattoo...and she's vanished.

The second client is a teenager with a missing wallet and a split lip. He's been roughed up on the Boston streets while searching for his runaway girlfriend. He's too young to be a client, and Carlotta should have turned him down. Shoulda, woulda, coulda...didn't.

Both investigation send Carlotta into Boston's Combat Zone and the dark alleys of the human heart. Hookers don't disappear and kids don't take off with good reason. Now Carlotta is coming face to face with the evil that men do, and what is she going to do about it? Tackle it head on....

The Snake Tattoo Details

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Author : Linda Barnes

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From Reader Review The Snake Tattoo for online ebook

Jean says

Enjoyed this book. Nothing over seriously but just a easy and fun read. First book I have read of Ms. Barnes. Going to look for rest of the series.

Gail says

Didn't finish reading it, due to language; don't remember that problem with the other book I read in the series.

Jan says

I had to buy this book in paperback because it is the second book in Linda Barnes's Carlotta Carlisle series, and it is not available on Kindle. During the reading process, I kept losing my place, taping unsuccessfully to turn a page and also unsuccessfully taping to get a word definition. An altogether cumbersome routine that I hope to have to rarely repeat! I was glad that I purchased the book as the mysteries were good and there was enough character information throughout that I would have been confused when it was time to read the third installment. Despite the manual labor, I'm still enjoying Carlotta and her Boston.

Laurie says

Really enjoyable read - and in my old hometown!

Judy says

This one was really good. She ended up taking two cases that had nothing in common, a young girl had disappeared and then a case that involved her old boss who was being framed.
Kept you in your chair, read it in about 14 hours.

Nick Sheridan says

My longer review of this book is posted at CrapLookingBooks.com

Carlotta Carlyle is a straight-talking no-swearing ex-cop by day and cab driver by night, and her world view can be summed up in the following made-up quote: "I used to be a cop, and it gives me an eye for detail that makes near-omnipotent narration in the first person so much easier."

Directly addressed as "you", whoever I am, it feels too much like me and Ms Carlyle have just met, and she's showing me around her shitty home and through her day, trying her best to impress on me that she's worth knowing and worth following. Unfortunately this approach fails to inspire any confidence in her abilities or intelligence, since her descriptions make it feel like she herself is opening her eyes and seeing everything and everyone for the first time, including her own face and a man with whom she's supposedly had an extensive love affair.

And the grand narrative conclusion? Her two cases unravel themselves pretty much without her help or intervention, and she makes up her mind over which of the remaining living male characters she'd rather fuck. Naturally it's the abusive arrogant one.

Maybe I enjoyed this one a little, but I'm a sucker for disappointment.

My longer review of this book is posted at CrapLookingBooks.com

Patty says

Like the characters and setting. Not as detailed as, for instance, Paretsky, but in the same vein.

Tony Hisgett says

My favourite part of the first book was Carlotta's relationship with her 'little sister' Paolina. This was only a tiny part of the book, but it was enough for me to try this one in the hope the author would make more of the two 'girls'.

Unfortunately, within the first few pages it turns out Paolina has gone to Bogota and the book is going to have to 'stand' on Carlotta alone. To make matters worse we then got the saga of the twin plumbers. Not an encouraging start to the book.

The case, actually two cases, progresses in a typical PI style with Carlotta asking questions and not getting anywhere. At one point it's clear somebody doesn't want her investigating as she is run off the road, but to be honest it is all fairly boring. There was nothing really wrong with the story, it was just so ordinary, nothing made it special and to exacerbate my boredom I had to put up with Sam again.

Eventually there is a little 'light at the end' and we see glimpses of Carlotta being a 'badass' PI, prepared to do what it takes to get it done. I think without the incidents protecting Valerie I may have only given 1 star at the end.

Gail says

I'm really enjoying this series. Carlotta is smart and tough. Roz is colorful and resourceful. Mooney is trustworthy if a bit crusty. Sam, Carlotta's love interest is hot but mysterious. The mysteries are engaging. This is the 2nd book in the series but 3rd book I've read. I'm going to keep reading them until I'm done with

the whole series.

I downloaded this as an audio book. Carlotta and company have been my dinner companions the last few nights. Very pleasant as even the crime scenes aren't too gory.

Scott Rhee says

I don't like the term "chick lit", although I use it frequently, generally for aesthetic purposes. (It sounds better than "women's lit" or "feminist lit", in my opinion.) I use it to describe a vast amount of stuff that probably isn't chick lit, including everything from Camille Paglia to romance novels. Generally, I don't read a lot of chick lit, although I certainly don't have a problem reading women authors. Some of my favorite authors are women.

(Holy shit, that sounds awful...)

Okay, let me start over: In the rather amorphous and generally sexist-labelled genre of "chick lit", I have come to find that women who write in historically predominantly male-dominated genres (science fiction, horror, mystery) often bring to the genre an interesting and often fresh take. Not always, of course. Stephanie Meyer's "Twilight" series "girl"-ifies vampires and werewolves to the point that they are no longer threatening. They are warm and fuzzy creatures who have been de-fanged and de-clawed. Vampires and werewolves are SUPPOSED to be terrifying. They are NOT supposed to be warm and fuzzy. Then again, Charlaine Harris's Sookie Stackhouse series is an interesting and fun twist on the vampire mythos. Female readers can swoon over the romantic bits and the the vampires are STILL scary.

Within the mystery genre, women have made quite a name for themselves. Writers like Sue Grafton, Sara Paretsky, and Marcia Muller have introduced some tough female private eyes into the genre while still managing to maintain their feminine side. Even authors like Janet Evanovich and Casey Daniels, who tend to write more comedy than crime, have brought a new twist to detective fiction.

Linda Barnes is somewhere between Grafton and Evanovich. Her private eye, Carlotta Carlyle, is a tough, hard-boiled Boston P.I./ cab driver with a sassy streak. In her novel "The Snake Tattoo" (written in 1989, and I'm not sure where it falls in the series), starts off with Carlyle settling in for the night before being awakened by her cop-friend, Lieutenant Mooney, who is being investigated by Internal Affairs. Mooney insists he is innocent, and Carlyle believes him, only partly because she secretly has the hots for him. She takes on his case. Almost simultaneously, she takes on a case of a young suburban runaway girl.

I'll be honest, Barnes's novel started off like an Evanovich novel---silly, comedic, with a focus mainly on handbags and hair-dos, which is exactly the kind of chick lit I'm NOT into---but then gradually takes on a darker, more noir-ish edge, like Grafton, which is the kind of chick lit I like. Basically, "The Snake Tattoo" is just a good detective novel, and Carlotta Carlyle will be a fictional detective I will check out again in the near future.

Connie E. Reese says

P. I. Done right!

This was a very easy read, well written and it flowed smoothly. My first Barnes work and I thoroughly enjoyed it. I very much like Carlotta's character. She felt real from the start.

Ed says

#2 in the Carlotta Carlyle series.

Carlotta Carlyle series - Her old friend, Lieutenant Mooney of the Boston police, is under investigation for excessive brutality and Carlyle is trying to track down the lone witness who can clear his name, a blonde hooker with a snake tattoo. While on surveillance in Boston's Combat Zone, Carlyle (who drives a cab to make ends meet) accidentally gets a fare and a second case; a troubled teenage boy, freshly rolled for his wallet, tumbles into her cab and involves her in his search for a missing classmate. The boy's case takes Carlyle to the Emerson School, a mini-Harvard prep school, whose putting-green grass and stately buildings seem worlds removed from the Combat Zone's alleys and three-story flophouses. But after she discovers the body of Emerson's drama teacher, Carlyle realizes the spotless image is a facade.

Ruth says

as i said i like this series - like characters and dialogue - listening on cd and like the interpretation of the reader c.j. critt.

Dolina says

Carlotta Carlyle, private investigator and taxi driver in Boston, searches for a missing teenager and for a witness to a fracas involving her old mentor on the police force, Joe Mooney. The book has well-developed characters and moves right along.

Marleen says

As soon as you start reading one of the Carlotta Carlyle mysteries you know you're in for a great ride. Carlotta is my favorite P.I. of all times, because life isn't always smooth for her, but she takes it all in stride: Her financial state, her arty-weirdo live-in tenant Roz, and her not so clear on-off relationship with mob-son Sam Gianelli. She's a fighter and she has such a great personality. She's loyal, driven and has a code of honor that I admire in her difficult profession. Here, Carlotta finds herself investigating two cases: one involves her good friend and ex-colleague, Mooney, the other is more surprising: a young girl from her well-to-do neighborhood has run away, and the reason

why is anyone's guess till the very end of the story.

I've known since long that Linda Barnes doesn't disappoint, and here again, she takes the reader for a thrilling few hours of reading pleasure.
