



Keeper of the Castle

Juliet Blackwell

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In the latest *Haunted Home Renovation* mystery from *New York Times* bestselling author Juliet Blackwell, San Francisco contractor—and reluctant ghostbuster—Mel Turner gets hired for a job that's to die for.

Lately, Mel has been worried about finding enough historic renovation work to pay the bills. But while Turner Construction is in need of a project, Mel's boyfriend, Graham, has his hands full managing the reconstruction of an ancient building shipped over from Scotland.

With the job plagued by rumors that the stones are cursed, Graham brings in Mel to look for paranormal activity. And while the ghost of a charming Scottish clansman does seem to be hanging around the site, the real shock comes when they stumble upon a body.

When the original construction crew starts running scared, Mel brings in her team to finish the job. Now all she has to do is nail down the killer, and put the spirits to rest, before anyone else winds up heading for the highlands...

Keeper of the Castle Details

Date : Published December 2nd 2014 by Penguin Random Group

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Author : Juliet Blackwell

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From Reader Review Keeper of the Castle for online ebook

SheriC (PM) says

First an explanation: This would have been another comfortable 3 star entry into the Haunted Renovation series, but I had to knock off a star because it made me mad. The one fictional trope that really chaps me is the mean-spirited nurse who inserts herself as a pointless barrier between patients and families, ruthlessly enforcing visiting hours and providing little to no actual care to the patient. And in this one, the author has "Nurse Ratched" not only kicking visitors out for no reason, she spends time reading fiction when she's supposed to be caring for her critically ill ICU patients. And this is actually what supposedly makes her a more sympathetic, approachable human?!? Nope, nope nope.

I really enjoy this series, and I was really happy that this one was available to me on audio, because Xe Sands is a perfect fit for the MC, reading with a wry humor and seemingly genuine affection for the characters and story. The mystery itself was promising, with the setting moving outside of San Francisco for the first time. Since the ghosts were tied to the stones of a medieval monastery, the historical timeframe was new, as well. I appreciate that the author is keeping the series from settling into a rut of sameness. But the Nurse Ratched caricature cost it this time.

Audiobook, borrowed from my public library. I read this for the **2018 Halloween Bingo** square ***Murder Most Foul: Any murder mystery***. In this story, a city building inspector is murdered by someone dropping a 60lb bag of mortar on his head. Ouch.

C. says

I enjoyed this novel.... until reaching an anticlimactic end, with a motive that fizzled. Both were dismissed hastily and left the outcome hanging. I can think of numerous ways **Juliet** could create éclat and closure, with several emotional scenes! They were missing conspicuously. I hesitate to give a favourite authors fewer than four stars. She is talented and original. However despite liking "**Keeper Of The Castle**" most of the way through; there were several weaknesses. Three stars reluctantly reflect that.

I looked forward to reading about the Scottish ruin. The focus is more creative than a redundant murder plot. There are oddly-matched ghosts and **Juliet** skilfully painted everyone with suspicion. Although a guilty party suddenly reveals all, Melanie consults a spectrum of resources. I wanted to see Luz's translation of the ghost tape and Olivier's reverence of it. Melanie invites him to explore the castle but doesn't share his reaction to its wonders either. Melanie's union with Graham too, was a disappointment. She does no more than promise to embrace him from now on! Women don't decline love when they find it. When I started anew, I forgot former beaus... gleefully!

Most unsatisfying of all was creating no moment when we speak with the lady spectre, after we understood who she is. Both mystery motives were flat. One character was accused of importing the wrong castle; without any confrontation or fallout! A troublemaker claimed two incidents were accidental and refused to snoop inside a warehouse with information he coveted. However he managed to plan two incidents that were violent. What makes this whole thread fall apart is that both characters had easy access to the castle for years. It's nonsense that a treasure legend was never acted upon, if one were obsessed enough to follow castle

fragments to another country.

Catherine says

A cozy ghost mystery, what's not to like. I find this series hard to put down. Grab a copy and set back and enjoy.

Lily (Night Owl Book Cafe) says

When Mel of Turner Construction has a difficult time finding jobs in order to pay her workers, the offer made by Ellis Elrich to take over the project of managing a reconstruction of an ancient building that was bought in from Scotland, couldn't have come in a better time. Too bad that the building also comes with possible hostile ghosts, and a murder. When the wrong man is accused of killing the building inspector on site, Mel and Graham seem to find themselves in danger. Now not only must Mel manage a construction of an ancient building, she must also put the ghosts to rest and find the killer before someone else ends up their victim.

Great story! I really enjoyed the writing. I thought it was fun, creative and flowed very easily. Mel and Graham were a joy and very easy to like. I enjoyed their characters and all their knowledge about constructions. I liked how Mel can see ghosts and somehow finds herself in situations where she tries to get to the bottom of the mystery of what is bothering them so they can cross over in peace. I love that she has a dog named Dog and a sarcastic type personality.

There story was fun. There was a lot of talk about construction and how things go, but that did not seem to pull away from the story over all. The mystery behind the ghosts was fun to follow and left me wanting to get to the bottom of what was going on. The murder mystery was interesting as well. Overall, Keeper of the Castle was a great read for me and I really enjoyed Mel and Graham.

I got a copy of this book from the publisher in exchange of an honest review.

Ian says

San Francisco contractor—and reluctant ghostbuster—Mel Turner gets hired for a job that's to die for.

Lately, Mel has been worried about finding enough historic renovation work to pay the bills. But while Turner Construction is in need of a project, Mel's boyfriend, Graham, has his hands full managing the reconstruction of an ancient building shipped over from Scotland.

With the job plagued by rumors that the stones are cursed, Graham brings in Mel to look for paranormal activity. And while the ghost of a charming Scottish clansman does seem to be hanging around the site, the real shock comes when they stumble upon a body.

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highlands...

I love these haunted Home Renovation Mysteries by Juliet Blackwell. They are entertainingly, well plotted and written mystery. With a great set of characters.

Mel Turner has her hands full this time with a Scottish castle rebuild. The only problem is that it is haunted by a Scottish Knight and a Lady in Red. Someone kills the building inspector (and everyone hates building inspectors) and the lead contractor is arrested. Then Graham gets attacked. Something is definitely amiss with this job, and Mel needs to find the missing pieces to solve the puzzle on this one..

If you like the review and would like to read reviews on other books I have read, visit my blog at [www.finalchapterreadersgroup.wordpress...](http://www.finalchapterreadersgroup.wordpress.com) like, comment and follow.

Suzanne says

I love books that take place in a setting I'm familiar with, and that is one of the reasons that I love Juliet Blackwell's Haunted Home Renovation Series! This latest in the series was really fun to read as it delved into the renovation and relocation of an ancient monastery from Scotland to the Bay Area. There were a lot of references to William Randolph Hearst, as he did the same thing for Hearst Castle and other buildings, and it was really fun to learn more about the history. The addition of the ghosts, a mainstay in Blackwell's novel, also made it fun! I would highly recommend this book, and her other mysteries to anyone who enjoys history, architecture and a fabulous ghost story!

*** Jennifer says**

This is one of my go-to mystery series; I can always count on Ms. Blackwell to write a great story, with great characters and to write them well. This one did not disappoint, although I'll admit I preferred the first four a bit more for their stronger connection between the ghosts and the plots. I'd highly recommend this book and series to anyone who enjoys cozies and ghosts. I can't wait for the next one!

Full review: <http://jenn.booklikes.com/post/109392...>

Heidi (Yup. Still here.) says

This one was not my favorite in the series but I am still a fan and will be back for the next one. It felt like the ghosts were kind of an after thought and not a major part of the mystery so that could have been part of the problem. Still a decent read though.

Minx -The Genre Minx Book Reviews says

Huge fan of the paranormal aspect of this series!

Melodie says

I love Juliet Blackwell's 2 paranormal cozy series! However, this one was a bit disappointing. The ghosts were mostly superfluous. Felt like they were an afterthought, kind of like, "oh, crap! I've gotta get a ghost in here somewhere!" Still worth a read, just not up to previous books in this series or her other series.

Betty says

Business is slow for Mel Turner's construction company and she is worried about meeting payroll. Her boyfriend, Graham has problems with his reconstruction of the castle import from Scotland. Mel is offered the job after a couple of contractors walked off the job because a huge Scottish warrior chased off the men trying work at the site. Mel is reluctant to take on the job as she will needed to live near the site. The location has a number of other problems. Protesters are picketing the site for several reasons. Shortly, after arriving at the site Mel encountered a building inspector who is refusing to certify the work and threatened to shut the site down. Mel checked out the tower and see the inspector's ghost and than find his body in the next room. There are many twists and turns to hold your attention as Mel tried to talk with the Scottish ghost and learns of the presence of a lady in red. Will Mel succeed to vanished the ghosts so the construction can be finished? I highly recommend this book and series.

Susan says

A decent read, but not my favorite in the series.

Christine says

THis is the fifth book in the home renovation series. Mel Turner is offered the job of restoring an ancient building from Scotland. Numerous contractors walked off the job because of ghosts plaguing the construction site. She of course stumbles upon a body and has to investigate.

It is always fun to catch up with the crew from Turner construction. They are great characters and the mystery is always well done.

Anne says

Cute mystery with lots of interesting twists along the way. Castles, ghosts, and all the usual characters that have become familiar throughout her stories. Could be read as part of the series or a stand alone, like rest of the series.

TheGeekyBlogger says

Listened for Review (Tantor)

Overall Rating: 3.75

Story Rating: 3.50

Character Rating: 4.00

Audio Rating: 4.50 (not part of the overall rating)

First Thought when Finished: Keeper of the Castle by Juliet Blackwell was not my favorite in the series but still full of the characters and solid writing that I love!

Overall Thoughts: Juliet Blackwell writes my favorite cozy mystery characters! She really does have a great way of bordering that amateur sleuth without knocking down the police in the process. Both of her series are excellent. I was a little disappointed that the ghosts weren't a bigger part of the mystery in Keeper of the Castle but otherwise the case was solid. So overall this was a great listen and as always you will learn a bit of history surrounding her current renovation (always a nice bonus)!

Audio Thoughts:

Narrated By Xe Sands / Length: 7 hrs and 57 mins

Xe is excellent at this series. Seriously she nails it and in this one she displayed some great new accents for new characters. It was a fantastic listen!

Part of my Read It, Rate It, File It, DONE! Reviews

NOTE: Love that the book she is reading during the story is Keeper of the Castle---clever Juliet, Clever!
