



## Swan Dive

*Kendel Lynn*

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It's Opening Night at the Ballantyne Foundation's production of The Nutcracker, but it's curtains for the Sugar Plum Fairy. When her body is found backstage, fatally poisoned by a cupcake she baked herself, rumors turn to suicide. But Elli Lisbon, director of the Ballantyne and coordinator of the ballet, smells something rotten amidst the sugar and spice.

As Elli applies her PI-in-training skills on the troupe of suspects, she discovers an eccentric herbalist, a temperamental chef, a stalking choreographer, and a bevy of backstage secrets. Between her off-the-record investigation, duty as director, and highly-charged love life, she finds herself caught in a dance to stay one pirouette ahead of a half-baked killer.

## Swan Dive Details

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Author : Kendel Lynn

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Genre : Mystery, Cozy Mystery, Murder Mystery

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## From Reader Review Swan Dive for online ebook

### Jo Dervan says

Elliot Lisbon is the director of the Ballantyne Foundation and also a wannabe private investigator. The Foundation, situated on an island off the South Carolina coast, is in the midst of the Christmas holidays. The annual Nutcracker Suite ballet is sponsored by the Foundation and on opening night, the star, Lexie, is killed. Elie decides to find the murderer even as others are killed.

This is the third book in a series about the aspiring PI who works and lives amidst Southern gentry. The author uses humor and complicated romantic relationships to define the main character and her genteel but wacky sidekicks.

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### Gena DeBardelaben says

ARC: Netgalley

Cozy mystery set on Sea Pine Island which I'm assuming is a play on Sea Pines Resort/Plantation on Hilton Head Island. The author refers to Beaufort, SC so it's supposed to be set in the low country somewhere in that vicinity. It was interesting to picture exactly where the book was set as my family has spent many summer days at the beach on Hilton Head

Looking forward to more in the series.

Edit: Upgrade to 4 stars. I went back and read another in this series (Whack Job) and the more I read the more I like Elliott Lisbon. When's the next?

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### Pamela says

Swan Dive is the third book in the Elliott Lisbon mystery series. It is a well written and professionally edited full length novel. While it could be read as a standalone, I suggest reading the series in order to have a full understanding of the characters and their motivations.

In her capacity as the director of the Ballantyne Foundation Elliott is attending a ballet, the Nutcracker Suite, when the lead ballerina is found dead in her dressing room. Elliott is tasked with assisting the police with their murder investigation and is soon embroiled in the world of dance, cooking competitions and botanical poisons.

The plot of Swan Dive is complex, circuitous and fast paced. Once I began reading I didn't want to put the book down. I was put off a bit by Elliott keeping so much evidence and information from the police. It bordered on obstruction.

The ending is a HFN and I look forward to reading future books in this series.

ARC provided by Henery Press via Netgalley.

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### **Laura says**

#### **Awesome Series!**

This is an awesome series; this is the third book in the Elliott Lisbon Mystery series by Kendel Lynn. This book can be read as a standalone, but once you read one you will want to read them all. Once I started reading this book, I did not want to put it down. Elli is the director of the Ballantyne and coordinator of the ballet. On opening night of the production of The Nutcracker, the body of the Sugar Plum Fairy is found. The police are saying that she was poisoned by a cupcake she baked and mixed in poisonous berries by mistake. Elli doesn't believe that her death was an accident and starts her own investigation on what really happened. This book has great characters and the story kept me guessing until the end. If you are looking for a great mystery, with some romance and humor, then you need to read this book. I can't wait until the next book comes out and see what Elli can get into next.

A Review copy was provided to me in exchange for a fair and honest review. The free book held no determination on my personal review.

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### **Lauri Rottmayer says**

Another wonderful book by Kendel Lynn. I read the book that came before Swan Dive and fell in love with the character of Elliott Lisbon. She's smart and, while she works running the Ballantine Foundation, she's also working towards her private investigator's license.

When one of the dancers in the foundation's production of the Nutcracker turns up dead, Elliott is right in the middle of the scene of the crime. She works to find out what happens because she feels the police are going in the wrong direction.

The relationships between Maddy and Ransom are sorted out in this book and I'm happy with how that turned out. Maddy seems like a really great guy but Ransom seems the one she should be with.

This book was fun to read and kept me guessing until the very end. I'm looking forward to the next book! :-)

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### **JoAnne McMaster (Any Good Book) says**

Elliott Lisbon, Director of the Ballantyne Foundation, is at their production of The Nutcracker when she is called backstage. It seems the Sugar Plum Fairy of the production is dead, apparently from an accidental poisoning. But Elliott, of course, doesn't believe it, and is asked by the Ballantynes to find the killer. However, this doesn't sit well with Elliott's ex-boyfriend, Detective Nick Ransom, who wants her to stay out of the investigation, and tries to convince her the death was nothing more than a terrible accident, caused when Lexie inadvertently used a poisonous ingredient when she baked the deadly food.

But Elliott is having none of it. Lexie was only nineteen and had plans for her life, which has convinced Elliott she was murdered; so under the blessing of her employers, she is determined to find out the truth. But finding the truth is turning out to a lot more difficult, when nothing around her is exactly what it appears to

be, and secrets abound regarding almost everyone she speaks with. As the book progresses, we are party to those secrets, and drawn deeper into a mystery of why was this young girl killed, and who could have hated her enough to do such a thing?

I'm loath to say more, because I feel that this would be giving away too much of the book, but let me tell you that this is definitely very good. Elliott is an intelligent woman (although her eating habits are not the best, in my opinion) who is training to become a private investigator, has a fairly demanding job and is beginning to date her friend Matty while still on the fence about her ex-love Nick. She doesn't take unnecessary chances, or stupidly blunder into situations where she has no control. I like that, which is probably why I enjoyed the book - that, and the fact that it takes place at Christmas, another one of those things I really love...

What I don't like is Jane. She appears to not like Elliott for some reason, and got downright nasty with her, something a professional should not have done, regardless of the situation. That alone was enough to make me dislike her. We are also told that Elliott doesn't eat seafood (which is odd to me because I'd live on the stuff if I could), but we are not told why. I would have liked to have known this (I haven't yet read the first in the series but it appears I may have to in order to get an answer to this question.) Aside from these two things, the rest of the book flowed smoothly along, giving me a chance to sit down and dig deep into the mystery right along with Elliott. All in all, an enjoyable mystery that is highly recommended.

I received a free copy in exchange for an honest review, but this in no way influenced my decision.

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### \* **Jennifer says**

Another excellent entry in a very strong, well-written series. I love these characters and I'm thrilled the love-triangle seems to be resolved in this one. I can't wait for the next book!

Full review: <http://jenn.booklikes.com/post/115445...>

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### **Laura says**

*Swan Dive* by Kendel Lynn is the third book in the Elliot Lisbon mysteries. Elliot Lisbon has been learning how to be a Private Investigator. She is supposed to use her tools of the trade to find out who murdered the Sugar Plum fairy backstage at the first night of the performance of the Ballantyne's production of the Nutcracker. It's murder by cupcake and the curtain goes down on the dancer.

Elliot is the director of the Ballantyne and as such feels she needs to try to solve this mystery before something else tragic occurs. As the mystery progresses, it's like nothing and no one is exactly quite what they seem to be or want to be.

While this book is the third one in a series, it can be read as a standalone. Everything you need from clues to suspects is included in the book. The protagonist, Elliot Lisbon, is a very human sleuth. She is a smart woman, but will sometimes still make mistakes about how much she should share with the police, especially Ransom, her handsome next door neighbor and one of the 2 men she is dating at the time of this book. The murder occurs early in the book which is a plus. You won't find yourself reading 40 pages of back story here before the action begins. It's off to a strong start and the revelations come at a good pace.

I give this book 4 stars. I would definitely buy it for someone as a gift. I think it would make a great Christmas gift because of the timing of the mystery, but would be enjoyable at any time of the year.

Disclaimer: I received a copy of this book in exchange for my honest opinion.

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### **HENERY PRESS PUBLISHING says**

“Elli conducts her detecting with confidence and an occasional lack of foresight, but she has the skills and intelligence to pull it off. The enjoyable worlds of professional dance and cooking elevate this mystery, and Elli is an admirable and engaging heroine. Deft writing and clever dialogue further ensure that readers will be looking forward to the next installment in Elli's adventures.” – Kings River Life Magazine

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### **Betty says**

Elliot Lisbon is overseeing the Ballantine production of The Nutcracker when she learns the lead dancer is dead in her dressing. To make matters worse she is daughter of long time friend of Mr and Mrs Ballantine. Elliot has her hands full as she needs to find the answer to the death amid Christmas activities at the Foundation. The story takes several turns as Elliot examines the facts. The ending is surprise. This is worthy addition to this series. I recommend it.

Full Disclosure: I received a free copy from HENERY PRESS through Netgalley for an honest review. I wish to thank them for the opportunity to read and review this book. The opinions are my own.

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### **Kim says**

The Sugar Plum fairy is found dead on the opening night of The Nutcracker run by the Ballantyne Foundation. She was poisoned by a cupcake that she had baked herself and suicide is suspected or is it murder?. Elliott Lisbon runs the Ballantyne Foundation and is also yearning to be a Private Investigator. She decides to investigate the murder herself.

She is busy with her job, the investigation and a busy love life- and tries to find out who is responsible. A lovely setting off the Atlantic- a great place to live. This is part of a series that I haven't read before- nice easy reads.

With many thanks to the publisher and Net Galley for a copy of this book to review.

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### **Lynn Farris says**

This is the third book in the Elliott Lisbon Mystery series by Kendel Lynn. The first book in the series, “Board Stiff” received a prestigious Agatha Award Nomination for First Novel.

“Swan Dive” opens with the Sea Pine Island Community Theatre’s production of the Nutcracker, sponsored by the Ballantyne Foundation. During the show, Elliott Lisbon, the director of the Ballentyne, gets a text message announcing the fifth calamity of the night. But this time the issue is larger than a nutcracker’s tassel popping off, the Sugar Plum Fairy, Lexie Allen, is dead. When the police determine her death was due to the poison berries in the cupcakes she baked herself, they wonder whether it was a suicide or an accident. Elliott, suspecting something far more nefarious, decides to investigate.

The investigation takes you to an herbalist’s garden, a cooking show and a dance studio, a mashup of “Chopped,” “Dance Moms” and “Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil.” The result is lots of fun. However, there are some serious issues addressed in the book which makes it an interesting book for book clubs.

To read the rest of the review see: <http://www.examiner.com/article/enjoy...>

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### **Debbie says**

I loved this book! I'm always excited when I see another Elliott Lisbon book available for me to read and review. This was my third in the series and I desperately await for the next.

Elliott Lisbon is in charge of running the Ballantyne foundation and it sounds like a pretty nice job. She is taking PI courses to help out the Ballantyne's and the members of the board, who it seems one of them or someone close to them is always getting into some kind of trouble. And then there two "special" men in her life. One is the local headmaster and one is the chief of police who never keeps her completely in the loop on the cases they are working. Even though she is usually the one that actually solves them.

The location, off the Atlantic coast and typically warm, and the quirky characters that keep showing up really help to make this a delightful and entertaining read. I would just like to hang out with this character and knock back a few margaritas!

Thanks Henery Press and Net Galley for providing me this free e-galley in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Conny says**

I got this book for free from Net-Galley in exchange for a review, which I am happy to provide. This was my first book by Kendel Lynn but it sure won't be my last. It is the 3rd book in the series, and I am always a bit hesitant to jump into the middle of a series, but I did not feel lost at all and I quiet enjoyed this book. It made me want to read the first two books, just so I get to know everybody better, plus it was a fun read. I loved the characters and the plot line and it did keep me guessing until the end. I can't wait to find out what will be next for Elliot, perhaps a little bit more romance for her in the future?

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### **Jenna says**

Swan Dive has so many of my favorite things: The Nutcracker ballet, Christmas, wit, humor, and, perhaps most importantly, sparkling writing by Kendel Lynn. This is the third Elliott Lisbon mystery and my

favorite, thus far. I finally decided if I was Team Ransom or Team Matty and, in the sign of a great plot (in my humble opinion), was completed blindsided by the culprit.

Nothing dampens an opening night like finding the body of a principal dancer. But, as we all know, the show must go on. That catch phrase follows Elliott Lisbon around throughout Swan Dive, whether the show in question was The Nutcracker, the Palm & Fig celebration, or decorating the Ballantyne Foundation Christmas tree. Somehow, she always pulls it off admirably.

I really love the warmth in the way Mr. & Mrs. Ballantyne are written, as well as the sharply distinctive personalities attributed to characters like Zibby and Jane. Working with a board for a nonprofit at The Day Job, I can appreciate the nuances of the Foundation staff and board members. (And, like previous books, I am reserving the right to nab some of Elliott's creative ideas for events and gatherings!) Elliott is funny and smart, full of wit and many other attractive qualities; she's the kind of character you wish you could befriend. And, like Elliott, I finally decided which Team I'm on with regard to the men in her life.

Swan Dive is a great read; I highly recommend adding it to the top of your to-be-read pile.

Many thanks to my friends at Henery Press for the advance copy of Swan Dive!

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