



Green Living Can Be Deadly

Staci McLaughlin

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Thinking green comes with the territory at the O'Connell Organic Farm and Spa in Blossom Valley, CA. But could a festival be taking things too far, especially when it leads to a fresh case of murder?

When Dana Lewis organizes her Green Living Festival, complete with free range fauna and tempting delicacies of tofu and tempeh, she hopes to inspire Blossom Valley into reducing their carbon footprint. But for some participants, saving the planet should have come second to saving their skin, like green energy guru Wendy Stevens, just found dead in her Invisible Prints booth. Now Dana needs to work fast to stop a killer from turning her big event into the next great environmental disaster. . .

Praise for Going Organic Can Kill You

"A sprightly mix of humor and homicide, featuring an engaging heroine and a fast-paced plot that zips along to an exciting climax. 100% organic fun!" --Laura Levine

"A fun, light read." --*Library Journal*

Green Living Can Be Deadly Details

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Author : Staci McLaughlin

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From Reader Review Green Living Can Be Deadly for online ebook

Johnna says

3rd in the series....I binged read books 1-3 in two days. Held my attention with the different cozy setting and the humor.

Christina Lamude says

Excellent!!! Definitely read more of these!

Lacrecia says

This book was a great cozy mystery to curl up with during the ice, sleet and snow storms that shut down my part of the world this past couple of weeks. Just the name "A Blossom Valley Mystery" was enough to promise that better weather days were somewhere in the future.

Dana Lewis, the protagonist, was the organizer of the Green Living Festival in Blossom Valley where all the action begins, when one of the exhibitors is murdered in the tent right next to the one Dana is running for the O'Connell Organic Farm and Spa.

Dana's family and her boyfriend – newspaperman Jason – know this is like a red flag waving in front of curious, snoopy, inquisitive Dana, who indeed takes on the job of trying to get to the bottom of what it's all about -- in spite of being warned by one and all to stay out of it. While Dana is sleuthing, Staci McLaughlin, the author, introduces the reader to a colorful array of characters both in Dana's private life and at the O'Connell Organic Farm and Spa where she is the publicity/media manager. Every day Dana dutifully blogs about the wonders of the lodgings, cuisine, and the benefits of the spa and she posts helpful green living tips in spite of the murderous events occurring in the valley -- more than I would have been able to focus on!

In addition, the members of her family -- mother and hyper-active, ditsy sister -- and her acquaintances from around the valley add colorful notes to the action of the story. The cast of characters who occupy the farm are carefully drawn with a humorous, sensitive eye. Dana's relation to the others at the farm is caring and supportive -- even if Dana sneaks away occasionally for an "un-natural" fast-food burger and fried apple pie. She also includes the other farm fauna in her daily life -- I think you'll enjoy getting acquainted with Wilbur, the pig, as much as I did. (He's even got a front and center spot on the front cover! A fine perceptive fellow.)

Don't make the mistake of thinking this mystery is a laid back country ramble; it is a fast paced, lively who-dunnit. No time is wasted on irrelevant filler material. You won't want to put it down and will soon have the idea that the next page will be full of new surprises. The author doesn't disappoint.

I thoroughly enjoyed this book, and believe other cozy mystery readers will as well. The author offers a sensitive picture of those involved in the green living movement, while still reserving the right to poke a little fun here and there at the excesses to which we humans are so often victim. I think you will also enjoy the easy and healthy tips at the end of the book – included from Dana's daily blog from the farm.

I received this book for free through Goodreads First Reads and I am new to Staci McLaughlin's writing. This is a happy discovery for me and I am looking forward to reading her other books soon.

Marie says

In *Green Living Can Be Deadly*, Dana Lewis organizes the Green Living Festival for the town of Blossom Valley. She's also has set up a booth for her employer, the O'Connell Organic Farm and Spa. When green energy guru, Wendy Stevens, is found dead in the booth next door, Dana has to use all of her detecting skills to find out the truth before the whole festival is deemed a failure.

This is such a fun book. I really enjoyed reading it. It contained a pretty good mystery with lots of red herrings and plenty of suspects. I especially liked the cast of characters. There were those involved in the festival, those at the farm, those in her personal life, and those directly linked to the murder. All of them were varied, interesting and so much fun to read about, even the ones that were hard to like.

I really liked Dana. She was determined to get the job done no matter what it was. Like with the previous book, Dana has her hands full with working at the farm/spa, family commitments, and a journalist boyfriend, yet she still manages to find the time to ferret out the murderer. Her investigative methods were orderly, making following along very easy.

I was amazed at some of the food that Zennia, the cook from the spa, came up with. It sort of gives healthy food a bad reputation. In the last book, I was chiding Dana because she didn't like "healthy" food, but even I wouldn't have eaten some of her food this time around, even though in general I enjoy lots of healthy/vegetarian options with some pretty weird ingredients.

McLaughlin including some tips from the organic farm at the end of the book. These include controlling garden pest naturally, making a banana smoothie, and learning to meditate. All good advice.

I've also read the second book in the series, *All Natural Murder*. I enjoyed it, too. This really is a fun series.

Highly recommended for cozy mystery fans.

For more information about this book or to browse inside, please visit the Kensington Books website.

For more information about the author and her other books, please visit Staci McLaughlin's website.

Thanks to those nice people from Kensington Books for this review copy.

Green Living Can Be Deadly by Staci McLaughlin, Kensington Books, ©2013. ISBN 9780758275028(Mass Market), 366p.

This review is also available on my blog, *Daisy's Book Journal*.

Jenny (rapid tortoise) says

The mystery part's pretty good for a cozy. Not to mention that I love the setting. Wish I were the owner of that spa:) Maybe some day.

Susan says

It irritates me that the owner refers to her business as a bed and breakfast, yet they serve 3 meals a day.

Dharia Scarab says

Since I don't normally write reviews unless I have something specific to say, here's the break down of how I rate my books...

1 star... This book was bad, so bad I may have given up and skipped to the end. I will avoid this author like the plague in the future.

2 stars... This book was not very good, and I won't be reading any more from the author.

3 stars... This book was ok, but I won't go out of my way to read more. But if I find another book by the author for under a dollar I'd pick it up.

4 stars... I really enjoyed this book and will definitely be on the look out to pick up more from the series/author.

5 stars... I loved this book! It has earned a permanent home in my collection and I'll be picking up the rest of the series and other books from the author ASAP.

Amie's Book Reviews says

GREEN LIVING CAN BE DEADLY (A Blossom Valley Mystery)

By: Staci McLaughlin

I received an ARC copy of this book in exchange for a fair and honest review.

There are two previous books in this series, however, it is not necessary to read the books in order. Each book is a stand-alone novel, however, they have some of the same characters and have the same setting.

Dana Lewis has organized a 'Green Living Festival' and has high hopes of attracting more business to the Organic Farm and Spa where she works.

At the festival she runs into an old friend from childhood, named Wendy, who runs a company that

specializes in helping people to reduce their carbon footprints.

That same day, her childhood friends is murdered.

Despite promising her family, the police and her boyfriend that she won't get involved, Dana is determined to find out who killed Wendy and why.

This book is well written and there are plenty of suspects. I enjoyed trying to guess who the murderer was.

I love the descriptions of some of the crazy concoctions the chef at the resort comes up with and even found myself cringing a few times. I can't imagine having to eat that food. It actually made me feel sorry for the guests who have the choice to either starve or eat what is offered.

With the ever increasing popularity of the 'Green movement' this book was released at the perfect time. People seem to be thinking Green when buying cars, clothing and even groceries, so why not books?

I give this book a 4 out of 5 stars rating.

You can read more of my reviews on my blog at amiesbookreviews.wordpress.com

Mary says

Liked the plot but the main character I didn't like, so it spoilt the story a bit for me

OpenBookSociety.com says

<http://openbooksociety.com/article/gr...>

Brought to You by OBS reviewer Mary

Dana meets her long-ago high school best friend, Wendy Stevens, who now runs a successful green energy company, Invisible Prints, at the opening of the environmental festival she helped organize to promote the Blossom Valley organic farm and spa. Shortly after their reunion, Dana's friend Kimmie runs screaming from Wendy's tent after finding Wendy's dead body. Kimmie, as usual, manages to make it all about her. It was rather laughable how she talked Dana into investigating while doing very little herself except to demand daily status reports. Dana convinces herself she needs to investigate because Wendy was her best friend and uses this as her entre to pester all and sundry.

I found myself looking forward to Detective Palmer's appearances. He managed to insert sarcastic wit, while often pretending not to pay any attention to Dana's Nancy Drew antics. Unlike some cozy law enforcement officials, he wasn't totally arrogant and obnoxious. She, differing from some amateur sleuths, did inform

Palmer of the information she uncovered, mostly reported her whereabouts, and continually ignored Det. Palmer's, her mother's, and her boyfriend Joe's admonitions to stay out of the investigation. And, true to cozy formula, she left herself open to the murderer finding her alone and vulnerable. They never learn.

Several suspicious characters were thrown in the mix with very creditable motives for murdering Wendy, including a brother, a husband, and several unhappy investors. Dana plodding manages to find alibis for most of them but, as usual, overlooks some crucial clues. Although I guessed the perpetrator early on, one of the other characters had me wondering for awhile if I could be wrong.

Back at the farm/spa, the manager, Gordon, appears to have had a personality makeover making Dana highly anxious. Zinnia, the spa cook, is still concocting outlandish dishes that no one wants to eat. Who would put up with things like cod liver oil dressing and weed salad in the real world? I do like her occasional New Age spoutings as she brings calm to the otherwise hectic goings on.

In her personal life, Dana's boyfriend throws her for a loop by asking her to meet his parents. Their relationship seems to be moving along. Meanwhile, her mother continues to recover from the death of her husband and spends more time with her boyfriend and her sister is as ditzy and boy crazy as ever.

I wouldn't hesitate to recommend this book as I felt it was a little meatier than the first in the series. This is a good indication that the characters and mysteries are developing. Those who want a little bit of escapism, likeable characters, and a light mystery will certainly not go astray by taking time to read this one.

A.K. Frailey says

I just picked Green Living Can Be Deadly up at a bookstore on a whim and I stayed up later than planned reading each night all week. I enjoyed the main character's voice and her relationships with others in the story. It felt very authentic and yet not "gritty." It was also very visual and had a lot of current technology references so I could easily imagine this really happening. Well done!

Patricia says

Originally, I was going to give this book 5 stars but decided to give it 4 instead. The reason was because towards the end of the book, when you're trying to figure out who the killer was, it just kept going and going in circles. It took me by surprise, though, to find out who it really was. I did enjoy reading it and there were a lot of interesting characters, each with their own special personality. I had a few chuckles and generally, I was entertained pretty much through the whole book. Thank you.

Danielle Gonzalez says

This was another cute mystery in Blossom Valley. Dana is working at a festival when the person in the booth next to her is killed. Dana's sleuthing skills are always entertaining.

Debbie Ballard says

I received the wonderful, mystery novel full of action, suspense, romance, and humor in the highly recommended story *Green Living Can Be Deadly* by Stacy McLaughlin free from Goodreads.

Dana Lewis is putting out her supplies for the O'Connell Organic Farm and Spa at the Green Living Festival. Right next to her booth is found the dead body of Wendy Hartford, someone Dana was friends with in school and Dana wants to find out who killed Wendy. Right before Wendy's body is discovered, Marvin is accusing her of stealing money from him. When Wendy's mom passed away, Wendy's brother, Nick did not receive any of the inheritance. Wendy's husband, Preston, was not happy in his marriage and wanted children. Dana's boyfriend, James, is the lead newsreporter on the case. Wendy's coworker, Helen, was planning on leaving the company and another employee, Drew, was in a relationship with Nick, Wendy's brother.

Read the highly recommended suspenseful, action packed, humorous, romantic, well-written story with engaging characters *Green Living Can Be Deadly* by Stacy McLaughlin.

Patricia Gligor says

Life in Blossom Valley is never boring for Dana Lewis. Although her job as marketing director at the O'Connell Organic Farm and Spa often includes performing such mundane tasks as feeding the animals, serving dinner to the guests and cleaning the rooms, there's never a dull moment. In "Green Living Can Be Deadly," Dana is manning the spa's booth at a local festival when Wendy Stevens, a woman who was a good friend of Dana's in high school, is murdered in the tent next to hers. Never one to let a murder go unsolved, or to leave the investigation to the police, Dana is highly motivated to solve her friend's murder and bring the killer to justice.

I highly recommend "Green Living Can Be Deadly."
