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*Mollie Cox Bryan*

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## **Death of an Irish Diva** Mollie Cox Bryan

Spring is in the air, but the ladies of the Cumberland Creek Scrapbook Crop hardly have time to stop and smell the roses. Not when famed Irish dancer Emily McGlashen is found murdered in her studio just after the St. Patrick's Day parade--and one of the Crop's own members is the prime suspect. Vera's dance studio may have suffered when Emily waltzed into town, but the croppers know she's not a vengeful murderer. Lucky for her, co-scrapbooker Annie is a freelance reporter eager to vindicate her friend. What she discovers is a puzzling labyrinth of secrets that only add question marks to Emily's murder. Just when it seems they've run out of clues, an antique scrapbook turns up and points the croppers in the right direction--and brings them face to face with a killer more twisted than a Celtic knot. . .

## **Death of an Irish Diva Details**

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Author : Mollie Cox Bryan

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## From Reader Review Death of an Irish Diva for online ebook

### Spencer says

I don't know what it was about this book but I just never got into it. I thought the characters were boring; and the plot was artificial and dull. I usually enjoy reading these fluffy little mystery novels but I had to force myself to finish reading this one.

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### Lynn Farris says

With St. Patrick's Day, one of my children's favorite holidays, approaching this week, I decided to review "Death of an Irish Diva," by Mollie Cox Bryan.

This is the third book in the Cumberland Creek Mystery series. The first book, "Scrapbook of Secrets" was nominated for the prestigious Agatha Award for Best First Novel and made my list of the Best Books for Book Clubs in 2013.

As the story opens, Emily McGlashen, famed Irish dancer, is found murdered in her studio just after the St. Patrick's Day parade.

Emily was new in town and had been undermining Vera's dance school, by offering cheaper classes and preaching against the "archaic" dance form of ballet. This caused Vera financial difficulty to the point that she was renting her house out and living with her daughter, Elizabeth above the dance studio. When the police suspect Vera Matthews, her friends and fellow scrapbooking members join forces to find the real murderer.

I've enjoyed all of Ms. Bryan's books. One thing that makes them special is the core group female characters involved. They are strong, interesting and compelling. They include such varied characters as Annie, a Jewish reporter in a southern town, Vera, a dance teacher, Beatrice, a retired physicist and Sheila, the scrapbook store owner.

Read the rest of the review at:<http://www.examiner.com/article/read-...>

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### Patricia Romero says

The ladies of Cumberland Creek Scrapbookers Crop are back with a mystery that touches one of their own! This is the third book in the 5 book series.

Just as the annual St. Patrick's Day parade is over, Emily McGlashen, famed Irish dancer, is found dead in her studio. And the main suspect is Vera!

When Emily moved to town and started her own dance studio, teaching Irish dance and taking pot shots at Vera's ballet studio. It looks like Vera is the only suspect until the ladies get down to business. Annie, being the reporter takes the lead and there are so many twists and turns they are all stumped.

I really enjoyed the history and background in this story. Although you can never go wrong with any of Mollie's books.

There are quite a few scrapbooking tips and ideas also.

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### **Chi Dubinski says**

Young, beautiful and talented, Irish dancer Emily McGlashen had everything to live for. But when she was murdered in her studio after the St. Patrick's Day parade, another dance studio owner, Vera Matthews, is the prime suspect. Vera has been losing students to Emily, and with her divorce, has been scraping by with her young daughter.

Annie, a friend of Vera's and a freelance reporter, investigates. The police are puzzled by tattoos on the victim, which point to a local neo-Nazi group. Is there a connection?

The author has written a substantial mystery—there are layers of clues and connections that Annie and the police must unravel. Annie must also examine her attraction to a police detective and her feelings about her husband. The scrapbooking theme doesn't overwhelm the story, and helps tie together some of the loose ends.

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### **Jane Reads says**

I read a really good book recently, y'all. Let me tell you a little about this terrific Cozy Mystery.

*Death of an Irish Diva* , by Mollie Cox Bryan, is the third novel in her *Cumberland Creek Mystery* series. I enjoyed my previous two "visits" to Cumberland Creek, Virginia, in *Scrapbook of Secrets* and *Scrapped*, and this "visit" is equally fun and enjoyable.

The recurring characters in the series are believable, interesting, and likable. Among them are Vera, a former professional dancer who now runs a dance studio, and Vera's 83-year-old mother Beatrice. Bea is a retired quantum physicist whose late husband was a physician. Vera is recently divorced, in her mid-forties, and mother to 3-year-old Elizabeth. Vera and Beatrice are closer now; in the past, however, they had a strained relationship at times. Their interests are so different that they can have difficulty understanding each other's viewpoint.

Sheila, an avid scrapbooker and Vera's best friend since childhood, is the owner of a scrapbooking supplies shop and the host of the weekly Scrapbooking Crop for their friends. Other recurring characters and Crop members are schoolteacher Paige; DeeAnn, baker and owner of the local bakery; and Annie, freelance journalist who is also writing a book.

My favorite characters are Annie, because of her chutzpah, and Beatrice. Author Mollie Cox Bryan portrays Bea not as a stereotypical senior citizen who is slowing down physically and mentally, but as an independent, intelligent, active woman who is feisty enough to stand up for herself whenever necessary.

The storyline has a good flow to it, due in part to the unusual writing style. The narrative point of view varies from chapter to chapter, so the reader sees the plot unfold through the eyes of several characters. If a chapter

ended with a cliffhanger or a teaser, I found it very hard to put the book down. When I did manage to put down *Death of an Irish Diva* and return to the real world, it was easy to pick right back up where I (ever so reluctantly) left off.

I really enjoyed reading *Death of an Irish Diva* by Mollie Cox Bryan, and recommend it to fellow lovers of cozy mysteries, especially to those who are also scrapbookers or who want to begin scrapbooking. [The author, in the voice of Sheila, explains new trends and techniques in scrapbooking, such as digital scrapbooking and hybrid scrapbooks. There is a glossary of scrapbooking terms in the back of each book in the series, so even non-scrapbookers like me are not lost and confused with the unfamiliar terminology.]

{Review originally published at Jane Reads}

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### **Heather says**

I thought that winning an advanced copy of *Death of an Irish Diva* was pretty cool. I had never read anything by Mollie Cox Bryan, but I am a cozy mystery devotee, and I also love to scrapbook when time permits, so a scrapbook mystery sounded like a winner. I quickly realized I had hit the jackpot in a major way! As I started reading, I quickly realized that this book was not first in the series--it was the third. Enough back story was given so that the book was sufficient as a stand alone mystery, which is important, and I enjoyed it as such. So far my review does not live up to the five star rating I gave this book. That is probably due to the fact that I am the reader, not a great writer. I enjoy cozy mysteries in large part because of their simplicity. Though I love books that fit that mold, I found myself loving this book because it broke that mold. The characters in this book were well written, flawed, and human. The fact that they were a bit messy made them more realistic and likable. The plot zipped along, and though I was happy with the present mystery, I found myself a little desperate to read the previous books in the series. I am also feeling a little obsessed about the fourth installment coming out in May! I do not want to write a synopsis of the story or include spoilers, but I will say that the undercurrents running through the town and its characters will leave you anxious. The featured mystery in this novel was resolved, but a bigger mystery exists that began in the earlier books and continues. I am anxious to read the next installment of this series. Thanks for the chance to read an early copy of this book! I highly recommend this book to those who love a lively mystery, and if you hurry, you can probably read the first two in the series before this book hits the shelves! Enjoy!

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### **Rosaleendhu says**

I was fortunate enough to win a copy of this book. The plot turned out more complex than the cover suggested, which was mostly a good thing. (It was bad because it meant that I couldn't just read tiny bites during commercial breaks.)

It's the third book in the series, and I haven't read the rest of the series. I started to get a little confused towards the end of the book when there were suddenly a lot of references to events from past volumes, but there was never an info dump that summarized the other volumes. Most of the time, references to past books flowed in the narrative quite smoothly.

I'm definitely interested in reading the rest of the series.

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### **Jessica says**

This is an... odd cozy. I will admit that I haven't read the previous books in the series, but she didn't do any exposition on NMO until about 85% of the way through (very weird for a cozy). I got excited for the Irish dance and ballet, and it wasn't really there too much. Overall, it's alright but I wouldn't go out of my way to read any of the others

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### **Amy Reade says**

This was the first book I've read by Mollie Cox Bryan, and I was hooked. It wasn't the first in the Cumberland Creek series, but the history given in the book made it easy to pick up the story lines of the various characters. I'm looking forward to going back and starting from the beginning of the series. The plot of Death of an Irish Diva was sophisticated and grown-up, without being too violent or R-rated. I enjoyed reading about the family dynamics that twisted and turned deftly through the story. Another great touch: the scrapbooking glossary at the back. The scrapbooking scenes sprinkled liberally throughout the book inspired me to start a scrapbook of my own!

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### **Kathleen Kelly says**

Death of an Irish Diva is the third book in the Cumberland Creek Series. It features the ladies of the Cumberland Scrapbook Crop who put together lives in their scrapbooks. One of the 'scrappers', Vera is the chief suspect when an Irish Dancing instructor is found dead. Vera has moments of time when she can't remember what happened and also sleepwalks, so she is not really sure if she is guilty or not. Annie, a freelance reporter joins the police of this small town in investigating the murder.

In this little mystery series the reader meets all sorts of quirky characters and I would have to say that my favorite character is Beatrice, Vera's 83 year old mother who is a very spunky and tell it like it is lady. With enough mystery, humor, family issues and even scrap booking to keep the reader interested. Even though this is the first Cumberland Creek book I have read, I was able to catch on pretty quick as to who was who. Definitely a fun read of which I would like to read more of. If you like cozy mysteries then you will love Cumberland Creek mysteries.

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### **Mason says**

Combining Irish dance, scrapbooking, adoptions, murder and much more makes for a tantalizing cozy murder mystery in author Mollie Cox Bryan's DEATH OF AN IRISH DIVA.

The St. Patrick's Day parade in Cumberland Creek went off without a problem, but famed Irish dancer Emily McGlashen is found murdered in her dance studio shortly thereafter. The prime suspect is Vera Matthews,

one of the Cumberland Creek Scrapbook Crop, and Emily competitor.

Vera's ballet studio has suffered since Emily set up her Irish dance studio. The croppers, however, can't believe Vera is a vengeful killer and set out to shed light on the real killer. Leading the search for the murderer is Annie Chamovitz, scrapbooker and freelance reporter. The more she digs, the more secrets Annie uncovers. It takes an antique scrapbook to point the way to the true killer's identify.

Author Mollie Cox Bryan has created a cast of zany characters that are likable and realistic. She has given them strengths and flaws readers can relate to. The characters are a vast assortment of personalities including Vera's 83-year-old mother, Beatrice, who doesn't act her age.

DEATH OF AN IRISH DIVA flows smoothly and is told from a variety of viewpoints adding depth to the story. The pace is steady and the action filled with twists, turns and surprises.

The author has an eye for detail and draws the reader into the scrapbooking world. Scrapbooking trends and techniques are discussed throughout the book, but are not overwhelming to those who aren't fans of the craft. A glossary of scrapbooking terms is included to aid the non-scrapbooker through the story.

This is the third installment in the Cumberland Creek Mystery series, but can be read as a standalone book. Readers searching for an enticing murder mystery in the cozy genre look no further, Bryan will keep you guessing from beginning to end.

FTC Full Disclosure - This book was sent to me by the publisher in hopes I would review it. However, receiving this complimentary copy did not influence my review.

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### **Melina says**

This was a book that kept me on the edge of my seat. The only thing about this series is that if you haven't started at the beginning, you are a little lost. This was my first trip to Cumberland Creek, but it won't be my last. This book is filled with intriguing and quirky characters. Beatrice is a real trip and I think she is someone I would like to get to know. Mollie is a very good writer, so the story flowed really well. I highly recommend this series.

I received a complimentary copy of this book for my honest review.

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### **Gloria says**

This is a series centered around a scrapbooking group but it is not a light crafty mystery. Main character is the only Jewish woman/family in a small Virginia town. She is also a journalist looking into a shady group called the New Mountain Order. NMO has its hand in many murders in the area and is supposed to be a new

age/ neo Nazi group. It's darker than your usual craft mysteries but the characters are allowed to grow and the story line is excellent. Probably easier to get into if you read the series in order but each story does explain itself.

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### **Nora-adrienne says**

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Author: Mollie Cox Bryan

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What do you do when your friend's property is found near a dead person, and she becomes the main "person of interest" to the police? You call out the troops and find out who really killed the Diva from Hell. Emily McGlashen came into Cumberland Creek and opened up her Irish Dance Studio. After which she started courting Vera's students left and right. Poor Vera has had to rent out her house (to make the mortgage payments) and move into the small apartment over her studio.

Her friend Annie picks up the gauntlet and heads out to turn over every rock till she finds out just who this Emily really is and why she was killed (other than for being a totally disagreeable person) and bring the real killer to justice.

Mollie Cox Bryan has written two other books in this series but in my opinion this is the most daring and involved mystery to date. The number of possible suspects and the fact that Emily was so well hated make this journey to justice extremely tortuous.

FTC Full Disclosure: I received an ARC of this book from the publisher who only asks for a fair and impartial review.

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### **Shelley Giusti says**

Mollie Cox Bryan is a fantastic writer and story teller and once again she proves that with this amazing read. I really enjoyed this book and like that she pulls you in from the start. She keeps you reading till the end with her newest book in the Cumberland Creek Series. The characters are well written and strong. You feel like you are part of Annie's day as you follow her in clearing the name of her friend from murder suspect. This is the third book in the series and I always love going back for a visit to Cumberland Creek.

