

Victorian Mansion Flower Shop Mysteries

A Fatal Arrangement

For Kaylee Bleu, flowers have always been her life. A professor of botany and a PhD in plant taxonomy, Kaylee was endowed with a love of nature early in life by her maternal grandmother, Bea Lyons. But now Kaylee is caught in the middle of a tumultuous personal storm, one that has blown her back to her grandmother's door in the charming village of Turtle Cove, Washington.

Kaylee's position at a prestigious Washington state university has been lost to budget cutbacks, and no new jobs are forthcoming unless she is willing to relocate from her beloved Pacific Northwest. Her grandmother has a solution: She is considering retirement and offers to sell The Flower Patch, her floral shop, and Wildflower Cottage, her home, to her granddaughter. Kaylee, though reluctant to make such a life-altering change at the age of 40, has to admit it is a match made in heaven.

But when Kaylee and her canine companion, a dachshund named Bear, arrive on beautiful Orcas Island they are confronted almost immediately with evidence that her grandfather's mysterious disappearance five years ago wasn't just a boating accident. It was murder.

Kaylee and Bear quickly join forces with the Petal Pushers, Turtle Cove's garden club, investigating Edmond Lyons's presumed death. She also meets Reese Holt, the ruggedly handsome master carpenter who serves as Turtle Cove's handyman. When Reese discovers Ed's final journal and its final, ominous entry, Kaylee believes they are on the trail of a cold-blooded killer.

Meanwhile, the annual Writers Coterie, an assembly of famous and not-so-famous authors from across the nation, is meeting on Orcas Island. The daughter of Lorelei Lewis, a well-known romance writer, is using the occasion for her wedding, and The Flower Patch is recruited to provide the venue and the blooms. But then the preparations are plagued by problems that cannot be laid at the feet of coincidence.

Will Kaylee be able to unearth the solution to her grandfather's death? Will the wedding plans go off without a hitch? Join Kaylee and her newfound friends as they work to root out a very bad seed before someone else is pushing up daisies.

Bloomed to Die

Wedding bells are set to ring in picture-perfect Turtle Cove, where Kaylee Bleu and the Petal Pushers are readying the grounds of Orcas Island's historic lighthouse for the event of the year. Prodigal daughter Brooke Edgars has returned to the island to marry local millionaire James Stratford, but the couple's trip to the altar is altered when Kaylee makes a horrifying discovery: the groom's dead body.

Kaylee becomes even more engaged in the case when her trusty dachshund, Bear's, life is put in danger. She proposes to do local law enforcement a favor and help solve the crime -- even if it means putting herself in harm's way to protect her loved ones.

Thanks to her past life as a plant taxonomist, Kaylee determines that James has been poisoned with oleander, a native flower that's as beautiful as it is deadly. But that answer only leads to more questions: Did one of James's many enemies conspire to murder him? Could he have fallen victim to a fatal fiancée? And was he even the killer's true target?

Unconvinced by the sheriff's assertion that James was the intended victim and that Brooke was more black widow than blushing bride, Kaylee and her garden club friends vow to untie the knots surrounding this whodunit. As they dig up more dirt, they discover that not everything is what it seems. Childhood grievances, bad business deals, hidden pasts -- the motives keep piling up while the murderer remains on the loose.

Can Kaylee lift the veil on the mystery before the killer says "I do" to another murder?

The Mistletoe Murder

It's Christmastime on beautiful Orcas Island, Washington, and the entire town is brimming with holiday cheer. Kaylee Bleu, the new owner of The Flower Patch flower shop, is excited to deck the halls of Turtle Cove Mansion along with a group of interior designers. Their elegant seasonal displays will be auctioned off to benefit a worthy cause. But Kaylee's enthusiasm wanes when she realizes that not everyone is filled with goodwill. Her fellow designers have big personalities with egos to match and make the charity event feel like a competition.

The festive occasion takes a much darker turn when one of the designers is murdered.

For Kaylee and her friends in the Petal Pushers garden club, 'tis the season to track down a killer. They - along with Kaylee's inquisitive dachshund, Bear - investigate the death of prominent designer Kris Carroll, uncovering family secrets, bitter rivalries, and startling revelations. But more questions arise, and even Kaylee's work as a forensic botanist consultant doesn't help her separate the truth from the humbug. As Kaylee tries to decipher who is naughty and who is nice, she receives threatening notes, warning her to mind her own business . . .

Will the murderer be brought to justice before the Yule log can be tossed on the fire? Or will there be no good tidings in Turtle Cove this holiday season?

My Dearly Depotted

Kaylee Bleu has traded in her previous life in academia for the fresh air and peace of Turtle Cove, Washington. Her florist shop, The Flower Patch, has grown on her, as have the new friends she's made in the Petal Pushers Garden Club. But when a colleague from the university where she once worked bugs her to join a camping trip at a nearby state park, Kaylee decides that sleeping under the stars for a few nights might be fun. Unfortunately, those plans may come back to bite her.

It turns out someone else has been roughing it upstairs in the Victorian mansion that houses "The Flower Patch!" Kaylee's ire is further sparked when she realizes that her dreams for her secret horticultural project, which she's been sticking to for a decade, have been doused. Her special plants are now squelched, and Kaylee's determined to dig in and smoke out the squatter.

But there's more trouble when Kaylee's uninvited guest ends up dead. The troop of professors who've trekked in from the mainland for the campout realize she's one of their own, and that more than one of them was toting a grudge against her. Even Kaylee herself isn't out of the woods. The deceased dragged Kaylee's name through the mud and got her chopped from her teaching position. Kaylee knows she didn't kill anyone, but what about those mysterious men who've staked out another site and seem to be watching her every move?

Kaylee will need all her skills, not to mention the assistance of her loyal friends the Petal Pushers and her intrepid canine scout Bear, to shine a light on this murderer before someone else is pitched headlong into the darkness.

Digging Up Secrets

Nothing is coming up roses for Kaylee Bleu. Not only are all of the plants in her flower shop going thirsty because of a busted well pump, but a competing florist on Orcas Island is stealing customers from The Flower Patch. As if that wasn't enough to turn her into Florist Grump, a new client who could be Kaylee's inroad to the lucrative country club set is also her most persnickety yet, and continuously threatens to take her business elsewhere.

But all of that seems like no big deal when Kaylee's plumber discovers a fractured skull in her shop's yard. The remains belong to Danny Lane, a troubled teenager accused of killing a high-school girl in a boating accident thirty-five years ago. The consensus around Turtle Cove was that the boy fled town shortly after the accident, but Kaylee thinks the holes in that story are as big as the grave-size pit dug up around her well pump.

Unfortunately, somebody on Orcas Island wants Kaylee to leave the past buried. At first, she refuses to be intimidated by menacing messages and frightful pranks. But when suspicious accidents begin to befall witnesses close to the cold case, Kaylee's seeds of doubt blossom into dread. She must decide how deep she's willing to dig to determine if Danny's death was an accident . . . or murder.

As her investigation continues, Kaylee seems to be reaping more questions than answers. Who is really to blame for Joelle Spiece's death all those years ago, and who killed Danny Lane? Who is terrorizing her with threats and pranks? Is it the charming congressman, the muscle-bound landscaper, the grieving father, or the grudge-holding curmudgeon? If Kaylee isn't careful, unearthing the answers could be digging her own grave.

Planted Evidence

It's October on Orcas Island, and the residents of Turtle Cove, Washington, revel in the cool weather and beautiful autumn colors as they gear up for the community's fall festivities. Kaylee Bleu, owner of The Flower Patch, is already busy as a bee, so when her only employee takes some time off, she enlists the help of her friend Amanda Denman. Kaylee recently encouraged Amanda and her daughter to move to the island, and she even helped Amanda land a job at the jewelry store in town.

Mother and daughter seem to be enjoying their new home . . . until Amanda is arrested.

Several necklaces and rings were stolen from the jewelry store, and the police discover one of the necklaces hidden in Amanda's house. It appears to be an open-and-shut case, but Amanda insists the jewelry was planted.

Kaylee and her friends in the Petal Pushers garden club set out to clear Amanda's name, but the task is no bed of roses. As they dig deeper, they face threats, and Kaylee must cope with a childhood trauma she thought had been buried long ago. The list of suspects continues to grow, and it'll take all their sleuthing skills to root out the thief. Will Kaylee and her friends hit pay dirt before Amanda is robbed of her freedom?

Loot of All Evil

Excitement about Thanksgiving is taking root in Turtle Cove, Washington, where Kaylee Bleu has much to be thankful for: thoughtful friends on Orcas Island, a successful flower shop, and the companionship of her cutie-pie dachshund, Bear. Plus, Kaylee's part-time florist, Mary Bishop, just planted the seeds of a revenue-revving venture at The Flower Patch, and customers are gobbling up her gourd-eous decorative pumpkins.

While restocking their supply of pumpkins at Madrona Grove Farm and Orchard, Kaylee runs into librarian Kathy Fitz, and Kathy's untrustworthy ex-husband, true crime writer Boyd Parsons. For better or worse, Kathy appears to be falling once again for Boyd, who has returned to Orcas Island to harvest information about loot that went missing from a 1930s bank robbery. Kaylee soon finds herself swept up in the mystery as well, helping the former couple track down the lost plunder.

However, it quickly becomes clear that they aren't the island's only treasure-hunting inhabitants. Suspicious events begin to plague Kaylee and the people around her, and things go from troubling to nearly tragic when Boyd winds up in the hospital. The situation worsens exponentially when Kathy is arrested for assaulting her ex, and Kaylee is partly to blame.

Kaylee knows Kathy is innocent, and she refuses to let her wither on the vine. She and handsome handyman Reese Holt join forces with Boyd to figure out who attacked him and where the money was squirreled away decades ago. Who is to blame for the increasingly dangerous hijinks afoot on the island? Is it another one of Boyd's jilted exes? Someone he wronged with one of his tell-all books? An unknown assailant trying to spoil their search?

If Kaylee doesn't leave things alone, she might be the next person on Orcas Island to have her hopes squashed, permanently.

Pine and Punishment

Florist Kaylee Bleu is celebrating Christmas in Turtle Cove, her home on Orcas Island in the Pacific Northwest. She and her trusted employee and friend, Mary Bishop, are adorning The Flower Patch with poinsettias and pine boughs in anticipation of a merry holiday season. It isn't long, though, before Kaylee's roped into joining the town's Festivities Committee. Packing one more task into her tremendous to-do list isn't exactly the direction she wants to go, but Kaylee can hardly refuse. Besides, as a member of the committee, she can try to revive Turtle Cove's tree-lighting ceremony, which was discontinued years ago for mysterious reasons.

When a young woman arrives at Kaylee's door, begging for help, Kaylee isn't sure she has the stamina to take on yet another challenge. But the weeping widow's words of woe tug at Kaylee's resolve. It seems Jake Beckett died of a heart attack, leaving behind a cryptic message before he met his maker. Kaylee quickly recognizes the jumbled numbers on the crumpled scrap of paper: they're GPS coordinates. Will they blaze a tantalizing trail leading to treasure? Or will Jake's final message turn out to be something better left buried?

Kaylee's pulled down another path when a former resident, now a tourism consultant, arrives on the island. She wants to use The Flower Patch as the starting point for her promotional campaign. The extra publicity will be welcome, but Kaylee can't help but wonder if the marketing maven has a hidden reason for returning to Turtle Cove. She seems overly interested in the dead man's cache of clues. Signs point to her having a connection to Jake before his death. and to the tragic death of another young man years before.

When it's revealed that Jake was actually murdered, Kaylee finds herself hot on the trail of a killer. More than one person with hidden motives might have been seeking Jake's demise. But can Kaylee complete her trek to the truth in time to prevent another victim from being bushwhacked?

Herbal Malady

Spring is beginning to bloom on beautiful Orcas Island in Washington, and the green-thumbed gardeners of Turtle Cove flock to The Flower Patch. Shop owner Kaylee Bleu is overwhelmed with the surge in business, but she delights in every minute she spends assisting her customers.

That is until Vivienne Gherson enters the shop seeking Kaylee's professional expertise as a forensic botanist. She asks Kaylee to analyze an herbal supplement her brother-in-law purchased from Tyrone Greene, aka Dr. T. She believes Dr. T. is leading him down the wrong path, and she wants Kaylee to prove the supplement is a fake.

Kaylee hesitates to get involved, but while she mulls over the request, the unspeakable happens. Vivienne is murdered.

When Kaylee analyzes the herbal supplement, she discovers garden variety tea and a rare herb cultivated by Dr. T. Is it really the miracle supplement he advertises? Or is Dr. T. a snake oil salesman, scamming people out of their money? Did Vivienne's concerns about his product have anything to do with her murder?

As Kaylee and her friends in the Petal Pushers garden club investigate, they conclude this is no tempest in a teapot. More irate customers of Dr. T.'s grassroots organization come forward, and the list of murder suspects continues to grow. When it seems as if the stakes couldn't get any higher, someone targets Kaylee.

Will Kaylee and her friends remedy this mystery before someone else is prescribed a permanent cure-all?

Deadhead and Buried

If there's one thing flower shop owner Kaylee Bleu knows for dead certain, it's that where her flirtatious friend Nick Durham goes, romantic intrigue will follow. However, the notorious sheriff's deputy indicates he might be ready to settle down when he introduces his fellow Orcas Island residents to his lovely new girlfriend, Felicia Lewis; a woman who happens to look a lot like Kaylee. Unfortunately, Nick's budding romance goes from his-and-hers to his-and-hearse when Kaylee discovers Felicia's body inside a casket at the local funeral home.

As if his girlfriend's murder weren't bad enough, Nick is dismissed from the case by the sheriff along with a warning that he's a potential suspect. Dying to find out who killed Felicia, Nick asks Kaylee for her help in an off-books investigation. Certain her friend is innocent of the crime, Kaylee agrees; but is she knocking on death's door by doing Nick a favor?

As Kaylee digs deeper into the grave mystery, events that had seemed merely odd before Felicia's murder take on a deadly serious cast: the suspicious sedan that ran Kaylee off the road, a public display of aggression from the victim's ex, Felicia's strangely fearful reaction to a crowded ferry. Was Felicia trying to bury something from her past? If so, what was she dead-set on hiding?

The situation takes an even darker turn when the participants of a summer teen program get pulled into the chaos surrounding the murder. Determined to protect the innocent visitors, Kaylee redoubles her efforts to unearth Felicia's killer; but will her investigation be the final nail in her coffin?

If Kaylee isn't careful, the next funeral in Turtle Cove could be her own.

The Lily Vanishes

Florist and forensic botanist Kaylee Bleu has seen her share of drama since she's been living on Orcas Island. Still, when legendary movie producer Bernard Martin offers her the chance to provide flowers for the set of his new venture, a moody thriller being filmed at his secluded estate, Kaylee can't sign the contract fast enough. Her friend and fellow Petal Pusher, Jessica Roberts, and Turtle Cove's favorite handyman Reese Holt have also been invited to get in on the act. The gig seems scripted for fun, and Kaylee can't wait to perform her role.

Kaylee and Reese are on the scene when Bernard's private plane lands, but they're not prepared when Blair Holt, Reese's cousin, alights from the craft. Seems she's not only headlining the movie, she's Bernard's leading lady in real life too. But Bernard has been married twice before, and both unions ended in tragedy. Audrey fell off a cliff, and Lily - for whom Blair is practically a double - drowned in the pool. Bernard's backstory is shot through with plot holes, but Blair lights up when she's around him. Kaylee and Reese are determined to find out what Bernard's angle is before Blair's dreams are cut short.

Meanwhile, the cast and crew are sent reeling when the film's director is found belly up on the beach, and neither method nor motive are clear. Who would want the cinematic superstar dead? Filtered through any lens, the murder doesn't make sense; until one of the cast members goes on the lam. As if that tension weren't enough, another actor reaches a final conclusion inside a chamber of the creepy mansion, gripping a handful of water lily seeds. Suddenly everyone's a suspect and, with a big storm about to hit the island, no one knows where the boom will be lowered next.

Kaylee is ready for her closeup examination of the evidence. But can she clip a killer before the set goes dark on someone else?

A Cultivated Crime

Kaylee Bleu anticipates a quiet Monday morning at her shop, The Flower Patch, in Turtle Cove, Washington. But it's the death knell for her relaxing plans when local coroner Giles Akin bursts through the door in a panic. He's hosting a dinner to kick off a convention for his fellow funeral directors, and he forgot the flowers. Now Kaylee has only a few hours to put together the floral arrangements.

Kaylee finishes the project in the nick of time, and she breathes a sigh of relief. But her relief soon turns to shock when she drops off the flowers and discovers a dead body.

Mitchum Landsdowne's death is ruled a homicide, and Kaylee and her friends in the Petal Pushers garden club undertake their own investigation. They learn that not all the bereaved hope Mitchum rests in peace. He was an ambitious funeral director, but his obituary fails to mention that his ruthless actions infuriated some of his colleagues and even his own son. Did one of them plot the ultimate revenge?

Kaylee and her friends must narrow down the long list of suspects. Will they locate the murderer before someone else is six feet under?

