

Antique Shop Mysteries

Stranger in the Looking Glass

Maggie Watson thought she would spend the rest of her life in Vermont, living in the picturesque cottage home where she'd raised her family. But after her husband's death three years ago and her daughter's recent departure for college, the empty nester knew it was time to start a new chapter in her life.

That chapter begins unexpectedly when Maggie inherits her aunt's nineteenth-century Colonial Revival, Sedgwick Manor, and the adjacent Carriage House Antiques shop located in the charming seaside town of Somerset Harbor, Maine. Maggie always dreamed of owning an antiques store and discovering the stories each item has to tell. But when she finds a photo of her aunt hidden in the backing of an old mirror, she discovers a story of mystery, danger, and the impossible. Standing beside her aunt in the recent photo is her uncle . . . a man who died twenty years ago.

With the help of the ladies in the historical society and James Bennett, a historic preservationist and handsome bachelor, Maggie uncovers shocking secrets about her aunt's final months and her uncle's past. As her search for clues continues, it becomes clear she isn't the only one looking for answers.

Cryptic messages of warning are left inside Sedgwick Manor, and a U.S. Marshal arrives in town asking unsettling questions. Maggie soon realizes the mystery is more serious than she first thought - deadly serious. She can't help but wonder if she should forget about everything, sell the property, and escape back to Vermont.

Will Maggie be able to make sense of it all before it's too late? And is Somerset Harbor the right place to start this new chapter in her life?

The Secret Letter

Maggie Watson's quiet empty-nester life is a lot less peaceful since inheriting Sedgwick Manor and the adjacent antiques shop, and she's still not sure it suits her. To help her decide, Maggie sets out to restore an old humpback trunk. After uncovering one page of a love letter tucked inside, she definitely can't leave town ... not until she finds out who wrote it.

In the letter, the writer—a vaudeville performer—confesses to a bank robbery. Maggie asks James Bennett for help researching, but his attitude about the trunk quickly grows dark. Is there something he's not telling her? After someone breaks into her house and tries to steal the letter, Maggie is determined to get to the bottom of things.

In addition to playing detective, Maggie digs into the treasures of Sedgwick Manor. Enchanted by her late aunt's Thanksgiving decorations, she resolves to make this year's dinner a feast to remember. But as the date draws near, it seems her daughter needs to stay at school and all of her new friends in Somerset Harbor have holiday plans. Adding to her frustration, she's at a dead end with her investigation.

Will Maggie be able to expose the history of the letter without losing James as a friend? And to what lengths will someone in this small town go to keep the secrets of the past buried?

The Christmas Riddle

It's Christmastime in Somerset Harbor, Maine, and the little town is aglow with the warmth of the holiday season. Maggie Watson -- together with her friends in the historical society -- is combing the Carriage House Antique Shop and the town for the perfect decorations to adorn the local Hayward Mansion in festive splendor. What begins as a typical trip to an estate sale quickly turns into a complex tale of intrigue when Maggie makes a shocking discovery amid the piles of unwanted junk: a beautiful mercury glass vase with a dark secret.

Nestled inside the vase is a heavy, jewel-encrusted key and an anonymous note pleading for help. It appears someone in Somerset Harbor has something other than peace and goodwill on their minds this season. But who has threatened the writer of the note? And when? Is the message as old as the vase, or does Maggie still have time to save the person who wrote it?

As Maggie strives to unlock the truth, she learns that Adele Kessler, the late owner of the vase, had become a recluse in recent years, surprising everyone after her many years of hosting renowned social events, including fabulous Christmas parties. Her estranged son hasn't been heard from since his days as a troubled teenager, and the only other person who might be able to provide answers -- a reporter -- has gone missing. There are secrets and lies at every turn, but each serves to strengthen Maggie's resolve to find out who wrote the note she found, and to save the mystery woman from whatever horrible fate awaits her.

This Christmas, Maggie once again finds herself in possession of the key to one of Somerset Harbor's captivating mysteries, and she must rely on her faith and friendships to guide her through the many twists and turns of her most riveting riddle yet. But when she finds what the ancient key unlocks, will she be prepared for what she finds inside?

Pieces From the Past

As February brings the frigid temperatures of a New England winter to Somerset Harbor, Maggie Watson keeps out the winter chill with the company of good friends, hot coffee at the Busy Bean, and anticipation of the annual Valentine's Day charity dinner at the Oceanside Hotel. She especially loves to pass the wintry days exploring the magnificent Sedgwick Manor for historical treasures.

On one of these excursions, Maggie discovers an ornate black box hidden away in a storage room. Inside it, she finds pieces of an unfinished antique friendship quilt, the interrupted work of a quilting guild from 1898. She's delighted to piece together the story behind yet another of the mansion's beautiful antiques, but she is led down a twisted path of deception and intrigue beginning with a cryptic note written in her late aunt's diary about keeping a secret -- one that might be connected to one of the town's most puzzling mysteries.

At the heart of this connection is the captivating story of Sarah Monroe, a young woman born to privilege near the end of the nineteenth century. The heiress was destined to marry against her will, but she disappeared without a trace before her wedding day. No one knows what became of the young lady, but it soon becomes clear that someone, over a century later, will stop at nothing to keep Maggie from finding out. Meanwhile, a town landmark is in danger of being sold to greedy outsiders, and Maggie begins to worry that some of the new arrivals in the picturesque seaside town aren't who they claim to be. As she delves deeper into the mystery of the quilt blocks, despite receiving threats from an anonymous source, Maggie enlists the help of her historical society friends -- and the support of handsome alderman James Bennett -- to help her sew up the mystery and bring the truth to light.

A Ring of Deception

When a nervous young girl arrives at Carriage House Antiques looking to sell an extravagant gold-and-emerald ring, owner Maggie Watson is intrigued. Where would the teen have come across such a valuable relic? And why is she so desperate to sell it?

Maggie soon learns that the fascinating ring bears the insignia of Soloman Zane, a bloodthirsty pirate who terrorized the coastal town of Somerset Harbor, Maine in the 18th century. Zane's fate is a mystery, but one that seems irrevocably linked to the family history of one of the town's wealthiest and most well-connected matrons, Willa Ravenhurst.

As the story goes, Mrs. Ravenhurst's ancestor was kidnapped by Zane's band of cutthroats and held for ransom. The incident was resolved under strange circumstances, and Maggie is left to wonder why a priceless piece of Zane's jewelry should show up at her shop now, over three hundred years later. Yet when Maggie begins to dig deeper, she starts to connect the dots between the Ravenhurst family lineage and the sudden reappearance of the ring.

Willa Ravenhurst has been known to tell her family's story of adventure on the high seas to anyone who would listen, but lately she seems reluctant to discuss the event. Have recently unearthed secrets made her change her tune? Maggie's investigation is hampered when a local blogger bent on circulating salacious gossip about the town's past closes in on her latest acquisition. With each new development, the mystery of the ring -- and the fate of its murderous owner -- continues to slip through Maggie's fingers.

She turns to the local historical society, her dear friend June McGillis and handsome town alderman James Bennett for help. The more she learns, the more convinced Maggie becomes that this series of unusual events is begging for answers; and that she needs to be the one to find them. As she inches closer to the truth behind the ring, however, she makes a startling discovery: the ring of Soloman Zane has been replaced by a fake! What has become of the original artifact? And what could have driven the culprit to steal it ... or worse?

Loom and Doom

Maggie Watson, a recent transplant to the idyllic seaside town of Somerset Harbor, Maine, has been tasked with organizing a 25-Mile Antiques Sale and auction as part of the town's annual Arts and Music Festival. She's adjusting well to her new life in her beloved late aunt's hometown, but she's anxious about making her mark as chairwoman of one of the area's biggest annual events.

Initially, everything seems to be going as planned. Several antiques dealers along the scenic New England coast participate in the sale, and the auction generates a lot of buzz. On opening night, excited tourists vie for their favorite antique pieces at the auction. But when the auction ends, one disgruntled attendee is found in a dark alley nearby, having lost something far more valuable than a bid . . . his life.

Determined to root out the identity of the killer and ensure a safe holiday weekend for her friends and fellow townsfolk, Maggie learns that the victim was interested in two specific items at the auction: a pair of sprockets and a carpetbag. Both items appear to have connections to a mysterious previous owner with ties to the town.

As Maggie follows the clues, she starts to question whether the antique items the murder victim coveted might hold more secrets than just their origin. Armed with determination and the fierce desire for justice, Maggie and her friends set out to track down the killer while danger looms close behind. Can they uncover the truth before another unsuspecting victim is going, going, gone?