

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?

Six Feet Undertow

The residents of Somerset Harbor, Maine, are bursting with excitement. Members of a treasure hunting reality TV show have descended on the charming seaside town and promise that what they discover will put it on the map. As the crew dives into one of the town's best known historical disasters, the sinking of the *Abigail*, Maggie Watson finds herself adrift in a sea of media attention. She is the last living relative of ship captain Thomas Sedgwick, and she's soon caught up in a long ago tale of romance, tragedy, and scandal.

There are rumors of treasure aboard the wreckage of the *Abigail*: treasure that some believe to be the spoils of a bank robbery conducted by a team of Confederate criminals. Now it remains to be determined whether or not Maggie's ancestor was involved in the theft . . . making him a traitor to the Union state of Maine.

In the wake of this revelation, Maggie is left reeling, wondering if there are dark secrets beneath the surface of her family's history. And when disturbing "gifts" appear on her doorstep, Maggie grows worried. Is it a prank, or is someone trying to keep her from finding out the truth? When someone from the salvage operation is found dead in the icy waters of Somerset Harbor, Maggie fears the worst.

Join Maggie and her dear friends in the historical society as they set sail on an adventure and attempt to solve the mystery of the *Abigail's* illustrious cargo. Maggie is determined to bring the criminals, both past and present, to justice and to preserve the integrity of the town she loves. Will she manage to reveal the *Abigail's* secrets before anyone else goes overboard?

Death Takes a Holiday

Maggie Watson and the members of the Somerset Harbor Historical Society are setting out on a long-awaited trip to Weatherly Village, a living history museum in rural Maine. There they will spend the weekend admiring nineteenth-century antiques, attending craft demonstrations, and dressing in authentic Victorian era costumes. Maggie is looking forward to an exciting adventure, experiencing life as the early colonists lived. But upon her arrival, she learns of a modern-day mystery: One of the village employees, a dear friend of Daisy's niece, has gone missing.

Maggie and her friends agree to help find Amanda, but the further their inquiries take them, the longer the list of suspects grows. Maybe Amanda's ex-boyfriend, who has an ax to grind following their recent breakup, allowed his jealousy to drive him over the edge. Or perhaps the manager, who seems more concerned about making money than about the strange disappearance of one of his employees, found a reason to give Amanda a permanent vacation...

Meanwhile, Maggie is juggling complicated relationships of her own. She has been assigned the role of the lady of the estate for the weekend, and James, her good friend and Somerset Harbor's most eligible bachelor, is playing the part of her husband. As Maggie tries to get into the spirit of the weekend, she stumbles upon a secret door; one through which she overhears a conversation about a stolen inheritance, the plot to reclaim it . . . and Amanda.

Has Maggie located the source of the trouble in Weatherly Village? Or is this just one more stitch in the complicated tapestry of her latest mystery? Maggie and her Somerset Harbor friends are on the case, but when a different Weatherly Village employee is found dead in the manor house kitchen, Maggie knows she must find the culprit before anyone else becomes history.

Framed for Life

With her beloved daughter's birthday fast approaching, Maggie Watson is combing the rooms of Sedgwick Manor and her shop, Carriage House Antiques, for the perfect gift. After her daughter's departure for college and Maggie's move to the idyllic coastal town of Somerset Harbor, Maine, Maggie has had to adjust to a life spent apart from her sweet Emily, but she's grateful for the blessings she's received in her new home.

While exploring the antiques shop's wares, Maggie discovers something peculiar: an old photograph of a stranger posed in front of an eerily familiar backdrop. Maggie sets out to investigate the present-day setting, and finds that the picture was taken in one of the unused rooms on the second floor of Sedgwick Manor. After visiting that room, Maggie can't shake the feeling that some terrible memory is associated with the space.

What is it about the glaring eyes and sharp beaks of the carved wooden owls on the mantelpiece in the room that unsettles her? Maggie tries again and again to remember, but fails to capture the meaning behind the dread she feels . . . or the mysterious, faint cry of a child that isn't there.

As Maggie struggles to make sense of it, she must also contend with Jennifer, a tourist who stops by the Carriage House and injures herself crossing the slippery wooden footbridge on Maggie's property. Maggie takes her in so she can recuperate from her fall, but Maggie soon learns that the woman has a secret: a secret about her family's past that includes an unknown connection to Somerset Harbor and Sedgwick Manor. Maggie decides to investigate, but when frightening things start to happen at the manor, she begins to fear that the secret of Jennifer's family history might be best kept locked away.

Season of Misdeeds

Maggie Watson has found that her knack for solving mysteries has centered on the rooms of Sedgwick Manor and her shop, Carriage House Antiques, for well over a year since she inherited the property from her beloved Aunt Evelyn. But when Maggie discovers a trunk laden with artifacts from the Revolutionary War, she needs her sleuthing skills to reach new heights.

But while the contents of the chest shed light on the world of colonial America, its very presence immediately stirs up questions from Maggie's present day. How did the exquisitely carved trunk end up in an abandoned outbuilding on the manor grounds? Who is the rightful owner of the chest and its priceless cargo? How far would someone go to get it back?

The answers could prove illuminating—or deadly.

Maggie's daughter Emily, who initially discovers the ancient trunk, channels Maggie's inner detective to help her on the case. A nursing student by day, Emily has been fascinated by Maggie's penchant for whodunits and wants to experience this new side of her mother. Along with their pet cat Snickers, the dynamic trio may prove to be unstoppable.

But who is behind the unseen force that keeps thwarting the investigation? Perhaps it is Jeff Davidson, a man who has spelled trouble for Maggie before. Arrested at the manor when Maggie first moved to Somerset Harbor, Davidson has wriggled his way out of jail just in time to become a thorn in Maggie's side. He says he represents a client who is interested in obtaining the chest at any cost.

Maggie needs to know the origin of the chest and its cache of historic colonial relics before the bidding escalates to murder.

A Chime to Kill

Picturesque Somerset Harbor, Maine, is getting a new bakery, and Maggie Watson has the fun task of decorating the interior with vintage fare from her shop, Carriage House Antiques. Things get a lot more interesting just outside the bakery, however, when a mysterious antique clock is unearthed during the renovations. Intrigued, Maggie takes it upon herself to dig up any information she can about the perplexing timepiece.

Maggie can't imagine who would have wanted to hide such a beautiful antique or why they would have buried it on that property, so she seeks out answers from a local expert, Mr. Zelenka. However, Maggie's sense of curiosity about the clock soon turns to unease as she notices someone following her around town. Is it a coincidence, or do they know something about the clock's history?

Working together with her friends at the historical society and handsome alderman James Bennett, Maggie pieces together clues that prove the clock has a value that extends beyond money. But it seems that someone in the town is determined to prevent Somerset Harbor's favorite amateur detectives from digging too deep. Does the beautiful antique have ties to murder, as a local legend indicates?

Things take a sinister turn as Mr. Zelenka is targeted by an unknown assailant and left for dead. Clearly, the discovery has someone so wound up that they are willing to take drastic steps to acquire the timepiece. Hot on the trail of the truth, Maggie finds herself in a dangerous game of "clock-and-dagger."

Will she uncover the its importance before time is up?

Deadly Prospect

Carriage House Antiques is abuzz with the news that a lost painting by famed 1920s artist Edmund Brooks may exist; the priceless artwork just might be located on nearby Prospect Island, where Edmund vanished in 1925. Maggie Watson has just been hired to inventory one of the enchanting summer cottages on the island, and she can't help but wonder: Does Briarcliffe Cottage hold more than antique books and porcelain teacups . . . does it hide the clues needed to solve these decades-old mysteries?

Maggie brings along two historical society friends to help, and they all immediately agree that Prospect Island and its regal cottages are pretty as a picture. But it's not long before unsettling discoveries and unexpected intruders paint an altogether more sinister portrait of the town.

To complicate matters, tempers are flaring on the island as billionaire investor Peter Stratton unveils plans to demolish homes and remodel almost every square inch into an exclusive resort. It appears that no one but Peter wants his plan to work, but what is he willing to do to succeed? And what to what lengths will the local residents go to ensure that he doesn't?

Isolated on the island, Maggie and her friends struggle to untangle the mysteries of both today and yesteryear. By determining what really happened to Edmund, the ladies just might be able to track down his missing masterpiece. However, someone else seems bound and determined to find it first, and they'll stop at nothing to get what they want - even, it would seem, murder.

Can Maggie uncover Edmund's secrets before she or one of her friends pays the ultimate price?