

## Suspicious Plots

With beautiful summer weather providing the perfect backdrop for Orcas Island's upcoming Independence Day events, florist Kaylee Bleu can happily report that she's already seen an uptick in tourist traffic at her shop, The Flower Patch. Visitors are being drawn to Turtle Cove by a retrospective art exhibit at an upscale gallery and a writing workshop being hosted by mystery bookstore Between the Lines, and Kaylee and other local merchants are excited about the boost to their bottom lines.

Unfortunately, the pretty picture is threatened by the arrival of Emmet Baron, a mainland publisher of ill repute who is canvassing the town to drum up support for his latest scheme. Fellow business owners paint Kaylee an unflattering portrait of Baron, whose reputation for underhanded dealings and nefarious plots precedes him. No one seems to have any love lost for the cad, but that doesn't make it any less horrifying when he is found dead and the police suspect foul play.

Details remain sketchy about how Emmet met his maker. When Sheriff Eddie Maddox enlists Kaylee's help investigating an abstract claim buried amid the publisher's personal effects, she soon realizes that the real question is: Who didn't have a reason to erase Baron from Turtle Cove? From the young author he was exploiting to the grieving family of a painter whose masterpiece he tried to misappropriate, Emmet Baron's legacy as a con artist lives on despite his untimely end.

The farther Kaylee is pulled into the mystery surrounding Emmet's demise - and, for that matter, his life - the closer she comes to painting herself into a precarious corner. Can she draw the correct conclusions about Baron's final moments before she experiences her own brush with death? Or will a cold-arted murderer deliver her a fatal final stroke?

## Weeds of Doubt

Summer is winding down and florist Kaylee Bleu and the other residents of Orcas Island, Washington, are planting fall flowers and preparing for another bustling autumn tourist season. But Kaylee has a full course load. Turtle Cove High School's most beloved teacher has retired and is about to move off the island, and mild-mannered school librarian Wilma has begged Kaylee and the other members of the Petal Pushers garden club to help her assemble a last-minute class reunion so that everyone can say goodbye before he leaves town.

Unfortunately, there's nothing gym-dandy about the social when someone is killed on the beach. It's not a former-student body that Kaylee nearly stumbles over while walking Bear. It's the photography buff brought along as a date by one of the alumni, and other than Arnold, the poor sap, no one knows her. So who else would have a motive to kill her? Unless Wilma, who's harbored a secret crush on the dentist for more than a decade, got jealous enough to pick a peck of poison and ring the final bell on her rival...

It soon becomes clear that the dead woman was not who she seemed and that her interest in Arnold was absent any real affection. Now a whole lot of cliques seem to be interested in the photos she'd been clicking. Not only that, someone's been using innovative technology and hacking into the recesses of people's computers and phones. One of these former friends is on the dishonor roll, but who's throwing whom under the bus?

Kaylee will have to do some old-school detective work if she's to mow down a murderer; before someone else becomes dead of the class.

## Thorn to Secrecy

Congratulations are in order for Turtle Cove, Washington's favorite florist, Kaylee Bleu. She just beat out her prickly rival, Lorna Singer, for a major contract and will be decorating for the town's Autumn Jubilee, a weekend event celebrating the start of fall on picturesque Orcas Island. Unfortunately, Kaylee's rosy outlook is nipped in the bud when an important wholesale floral delivery she's expecting is delayed without warning and she has to put the petal to the metal to finish a big job on time.

That minor annoyance is quickly pruned from Kaylee's worry list, however, when both her home and her shop are ruthlessly victimized by a vandal; but the real thorn in Kaylee's side is that she has no idea why. Despite her confusion and growing fear, she is determined to focus on the festival decorations and not wilt in the face of adversity.

The situation goes from a downer to downright deadly when a well-known Orcas Island resident is discovered murdered, and Kaylee finds herself a suspect in the sheriff's investigation. Not only does Kaylee have to prove that she had nothing to do with the ghastly crime, but she must also uncover who tried to shift the blame onto to her. Who is framing her, why was her shop ransacked, and what other lies about her and The Flower Patch might be growing on the Orcas Island gossip grapevine?

Nothing is as it seems, and soon Kaylee is in a race against time; not only to complete the Autumn Jubilee decor, but also to weed out a murderer hiding in plain sight. If she lets the grass grow under her feet for too long, it won't just be her life in jeopardy... Kaylee's closest friends could be pushing up daisies right alongside her.

## A Seedy Development

Autumn has arrived in Turtle Cove, Washington, and Orcas Island's Apple Fest Fly-In is ready for liftoff at the local airport. Florist Kaylee Bleu is excited to host a vendor booth at the event, not only to fuel sales for The Flower Patch but also to stay close to the action as pilots showcase their flying skills. She's also enjoying the chance to get to know her friend DeeDee Wilcox's godfather, Wilfred Bates, an aviator and organic fruit farmer with an orchard adjacent to the airfield.

Kaylee's enthusiasm takes a nosedive, however, when she overhears an argument between Wilfred and David Smythe, a real estate developer trying to get a fly-in community off the ground; and swindle Wilfred out of his land in the process. However, just when Kaylee thinks tension at the airport can't get any higher, she unwittingly discovers David's dead body... and her heart does a loop the loop when she realizes he was murdered.

The situation becomes especially tricky to navigate when evidence found at Bates Fruit Farm leads to Wilfred's arrest for homicide. Kaylee and DeeDee know that Wilfred is innocent... but who is guilty? More than one of David's fellow pilots may have a motive to kill, and Kaylee begins to feel like she's flying blind as she struggles to untangle several years' worth of aeronautical intrigue surrounding the Turtle Cove Airport.

On a wing and a prayer, Kaylee works to exonerate Wilfred before the court of public opinion can convict him of David's murder. But will the truth take flight before it's too late? If Kaylee isn't careful, she could be the next Orcas Island resident to crash and burn.

## Woes By Any Other Name

Turtle Cove, Washington, florist Kaylee Bleu is anticipating a low-drama autumn, but her expectations are quickly upstaged by the arrival of an attractive young couple opening a new theater on Orcas Island. Kaylee has never been one for the limelight, but her leading man, adorable dachshund Bear, is offered the opportunity to participate in the playhouse's first production as an understudy for its canine stars, Gilbert and Sullivan.

Although Kaylee would prefer to remain behind the scenes, she agrees to let her little dog join the fun at the theater along with some of her friends and several other Turtle Cove townsfolk. But Kaylee's potential stage fright turns to actual fear when a member of the troupe is injured and Sullivan vanishes. Was the actress attacked, or did she merely suffer from bad timing? And did the canine thespian simply run away; or is there something more nefarious at play?

Despite the unease surrounding the mysterious events, the theater owners decide that the show must go on. As rehearsals continue, Kaylee has a front-row seat to the drama unfolding both on stage and off. Resolved to pull back the curtain on the increasingly strange happenings at the Ropeworks Playhouse, she questions all of the actors about their respective roles; only to find that many of their answers cast doubt on the entire production.

When merely suspicious incidents give way to downright threatening attacks - and worse - Kaylee's determination to thrust the bad guy into the spotlight gets top billing. Can Kaylee uncover the truth before the madman waiting in the wings directs her toward a fatal final act? If she doesn't unmask the villain in time, breaking a leg will be the least of her worries.

## Noel Way Out

Christmas bells are ringing in Turtle Cove, Washington, where florist Kaylee Bleu and her friends in the Petal Pushers garden club are preparing for their annual Christmas Bazaar. As they deck the halls of the Old Cape Lighthouse keeper's quarters, they discuss local organic gardener Holly Shultz, a newcomer who's making Orcas Island her home for the holidays.

Intrigued by news of mulberry trees growing in Holly's greenhouse, Kaylee visits the gardener and finds her fretfully cleaning up after a break-in on her property. When Holly refuses to involve law enforcement in the situation, Kaylee begins to wonder if it's only the prowler that has disturbed Holly's peace on earth; or if it's dangerous secrets in the woman's past that are jingling her nerves.

All isn't calm for the rest of Orcas Island either. A fierce winter thunderstorm knocks the ferry port out of commission, downs power lines, and batters local homes and businesses. The storm also blows in the dreadful tidings that Holly's reclusive elderly neighbor, Warren Foster, is dead; and he's found covered in mulberry juice, which quickly pushes Holly to the top of the sheriff's naughty list.

Despite the harsh accusations of a cantankerous islander, Kaylee isn't convinced that Holly is to blame for Warren's suspicious demise. All Kaylee wants for Christmas is to understand her new friend's past and help her build a future in Turtle Cove that's full of good cheer; but with the ferry out of service, Warren Foster's unexplained death, and repeated break-ins at Holly's greenhouse, it's beginning to look a lot like Christmas on Orcas Island will be dark and dismal instead of merry and bright.

Will Kaylee and her friends find comfort and joy this holiday season, or will they have themselves a scary little Christmas?

## Rooted in Malice

With tourist traffic near zero, February is usually the quietest time of year in Turtle Cove, Washington, and Orcas Island florist Kaylee Bleu finds that off-season boredom isn't her cup of tea. On one of many visits to the bakery next door, however, she encounters two people who are anything but quiet: surly whale watch boat captain Roz Corzo and her boisterous friend Jeanette Colson. Despite warnings about high winds and choppy waves, Jeanette convinces Roz to take them out on her boat that night, proclaiming that the special herbal tea she's made will fortify them in the brutal weather.

When Roz wakes up on deck the next morning and discovers Jeanette has vanished, she lands in hot water as the main suspect in her friend's disappearance -- if not in the sheriff's eyes, then at least in the court of public opinion. Everyone seems to think she and Jeanette were imbibing out on the boat, but Roz spouts off to anyone who'll listen that all they were drinking was the "disgusting" tea Jeanette made for them.

At the sheriff's request, Kaylee examines the dregs of the tea and discovers valerian root, an herbal sedative present in a dangerously concentrated dose. Despite Roz's cantankerous disposition, Kaylee doesn't believe she tried to drug Jeanette ... which means that Jeanette was the one most likely to slip the herb into their tea. But why?

The deeper Kaylee digs into Jeanette's disappearance, the more she discovers how steeped in contradictions the missing woman was. Did she meet with an accident? Was she targeted by an enemy? Or was she brewing nefarious plans that Kaylee can't even begin to imagine?

The harder Kaylee strains to string together a plausible theory about the case, the closer she comes to a truth that just might be too hard for her to swallow. Can she distill the facts about Jeanette before her cup of trouble runneth over -- with fatal consequences?

## Absent Without Leaf

Florist Kaylee Bleu and her friends in the Petal Pushers garden club are branching out from their usual activities to host a spring break camp for schoolchildren on Washington's Orcas Island. They've got an entire week of fun events planned -- but the camp won't get off the ground if they can't get permission for their first field trip, a visit to the oldest tree on the island.

Kaylee eventually tracks down the estate's new owner, U.S. Navy Admiral Robert Newton, but the admiral isn't all she finds in that neck of the woods -- an old friend of hers, NSA agent Phil Haynes, has been called in to handle the fallout from a prowler at the Newtons' mansion the previous evening. Although the trespasser's identity is at the root of Phil's concerns, Kaylee is more worried about why the Newtons' neighbor, Tabitha, has vanished without a trace.

Despite warnings from Phil to bow out of the investigation, Kaylee won't rest until she determines what happened to Tabitha. Did the woman leave town of her own accord, or was she forced? And was her departure innocent, or was it connected to rotting limbs in her family tree?

As if the situation wasn't already confusing enough, Kaylee also finds herself entwined by matters of the heart. She admits that she had a crush on Phil twenty years ago ... but will his reappearance in her life reignite those feelings or prompt her to go out on a more uncertain limb with handsome handyman Reese Holt?

Without clear answers to any of her questions, Kaylee gets the sense that she's barking up the wrong tree. She's intent on finding Tabitha once and for all, but if she sticks to her pursuit of the truth, a villain hidden in plain sight might just chop her down to size -- permanently.

## Dormant Lies

It's a sunny spring day in Turtle Cove, Washington, and florist Kaylee Bleu is making a special delivery to the recently renovated Lily of the Valley Inn. It's not only beautiful bouquets she's dropping off, though. She and her new boyfriend, handsome handyman Reese Holt, are also checking in his family, who traveled from California to visit Orcas Island -- and meet Kaylee -- for the first time. However, Kaylee's nerves about making a good impression quickly take a backseat when they arrive at the converted Victorian house and discover that proprietor Natalie Parker has been enduring a host of suspicious mishaps.

Although cheery and hospitable herself, the young innkeeper has some personal baggage -- namely her aunts and uncle, none of whom share her mother, Ellen's, composed demeanor. Ellen's squabbling siblings seem to only agree on one thing: that Natalie should never have been allowed to buy their childhood home. But has one of them been wreaking havoc on her business venture?

Natalie's Aunt Marlene seems to harbor the most resentment about the inn, insisting that the estate's finances were handled without care. But in a shocking turn of events, the cantankerous woman is found dead, killed with Ellen's garden shears. Ellen skyrockets to the top of the sheriff's suspect list, but neither Natalie nor Kaylee is convinced that she had a hand in Marlene's murder. But if she didn't, then who did?

Despite being booked solid with Reese and his family's vacation activities, Kaylee makes time to unpack the case's confusing details. As she follows dubious clues off the beaten path, her investigation guides her on a frightening expedition to some of Orcas Island's most desolate areas. Can she trip up the murderer before it's too late -- or will Kaylee's journey end in her own downfall?

## Best Laid Plants

Cameras are rolling on Orcas Island as a TV crew arrives to shoot 'Restaurant Restarts,' a makeover show turning the rundown Madrona Grove Farm and Orchard into an upscale farm-to-table restaurant. Many folks from Turtle Cove are contributing to the renovation, including florist Kaylee Bleu and her boyfriend, Reese Holt, who's serving up impressive transformations as the job's general contractor.

The activity at the farm is leaving a bad taste in at least one local's mouth, however. Native American herbalist Georgine Snowbird, who lives next door to Madrona Grove, has some serious reservations -- in fact, the Lummi herbalist insists the land is cursed. The showrunners ridicule Georgine's warnings at first, but they're forced to eat crow when the show's host, Gabe Forester, is discovered dead of mysterious causes. Did the curse factor into his death? Was his demise just rotten luck? Or was murder the main ingredient?

Unfortunately, Gabe's death is merely an appetizer for other frightful events to come, and Kaylee finds it hard to sugarcoat the situation when even Reese falls victim. The dangerous incidents could be the producer's half-baked schemes to boost ratings -- but they could just as easily be the work of an unseen villain with a more nefarious reason to whip up chaos.

Tensions at Madrona Grove soon reach a boiling point, and Kaylee struggles to make sense of the peculiar goings-on. Try as she might, though, she can't get anyone on set to spill the beans about the mysterious mayhem afoot on the farm. Can Kaylee figure out who's behind the foul pranks and could-be murder at Madrona Grove before her goose is cooked, or has she bitten off more than she can chew?

## Pocket Full of Deadly

Puffy clouds in a bright, blue sky have cultivated a summertime vibe in Turtle Cove, Washington, but the dispositions of some Orcas Island residents are anything but sunny. Not only is florist and forensic botanist Kaylee Bleu having a hard time sowing seeds of inspiration for a science journal article she's writing, but she keeps getting interrupted by the sound of men arguing outside her shop, The Flower Patch.

With his dementia worsening, confused widower Fred Dorman has begun obsessively over-weeding gardens all around town. The mess he's made in some new planters on Main Street is a thorn in the side of many business owners—especially High Tide Outfitters owner Vince Mack, who angrily insists that the ruined display in front of his store is scaring away customers. Although Kaylee and her boyfriend, Reese Holt, quickly nip the latest altercation in the bud, tension in Turtle Cove remains high even after Fred is escorted home.

The situation goes from tense to tragic when Kaylee and Reese return to Fred's house to check on him and find the poor man frightfully ill. At first, it appears that Fred's near-death experience was an accident . . . but if so, then how does that explain the suspicious bruising Kaylee notices on his face? Realizing how concerned Reese is about his elderly friend, Kaylee determines to root out what really happened to Fred.

Relying on trowel and error to further her investigation, Kaylee quickly unearths a bone-chilling discovery that could be the key to Fred's mishap. Unfortunately, she can't help but second-guess her own detective skills as the complicated case becomes increasingly perplexing. Despite her hesitation, however, there's no time to beat around the bush—will she prune back the lies before it's too late, or will Kaylee dig herself a hole she can't get out of?

## To Hive and to Hold

Preparations for this summer's Orcas Island Lavender Festival are keeping Turtle Cove, Washington florist Kaylee Bleu busy as a bee at The Flower Patch. However, she wouldn't dream of denying a special request from her dear friend and assistant, Mary Bishop: hosting the wedding of Mary's niece, Layla, and local real estate agent Douglas Miller in the picturesque lavender fields surrounding Kaylee's home, Wildflower Cottage.

Wedding and festival plans buzz along splendidly, especially thanks to a visit from Kaylee's grandmother, Bea Lyons, who lessens Kaylee's load at the flower shop while Mary concentrates on Layla's nuptials. Unfortunately, the season's sweetness turns sour when angry bees attack the happy couple's engagement party and the groom suffers a life-threatening allergic reaction. Although being stung could have been an accident, a second, more obvious, attempt on Douglas's life proves that someone is trying to stir up a hornet's nest -- with deadly intentions.

Encouraged by her friends in the Orcas Island Sheriff's Department, Kaylee begins combing the island for clues to Douglas's foe. But in the midst of the attempted murder investigation, Kaylee finds herself swarmed by fears that her relationship with handsome handyman Reese Holt isn't what it seems. Although Reese insists that she's his queen bee, she can't help but worry that he's keeping secrets from her -- and that the truth could send her entire world into a tailspin.

Despite the bee in her bonnet about Reese's devotion, Kaylee forges ahead with her investigation, determined that Layla and Douglas should live happily ever after even if she might not. Soon, though, it becomes clear that if she doesn't stop nosing around about Douglas's would-be murderer, she'll be the next Orcas Island resident to get stung ... with fatal consequences.