



Hark the Herald Angels Slay

Vicki Delany

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Santa's summer vacation plans turn deadly in this festive mystery from the author of *Rest Ye Murdered Gentlemen* and *We Wish You a Murderous Christmas*.

The town of Rudolph, New York, has the Christmas spirit all year long—but when homicide heats up a summer holiday, it's up to shop owner Merry Wilkinson to wrap up the case.

In Rudolph, Christmas in July heralds Santa's arrival by boat to begin his summer vacation at the lake, and Merry Wilkinson, owner of Mrs. Claus's Treasures, is looking forward to a busy weekend. But she's caught off guard when her ex-fiancé, Max Folger, unexpectedly arrives with a team from a lifestyle magazine wanting to do a feature on the July festivities.

It's clear that Max's visit has less to do with business and more to do with winning back Merry's heart. Merry has too much on her plate to deal with an old flame, but when Max is found strangled to death in Mrs. Claus's Treasures, she must find out who wanted him dead—and stop a killer from ruining the summer holiday cheer.

Hark the Herald Angels Slay Details

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From Reader Review Hark the Herald Angels Slay for online ebook

Dawn Frazier says

Loved it, my favorite Christmas read this year!

Mark Baker says

Things are gearing up for Christmas in July in the town of Rudolph, New York, and Merry Wilkinson is looking forward to the town's new tradition, Santa arriving for his vacation in a boat parade. However, things get complicated when her ex-fiance, Max Folger, shows up in town wanting to rekindle his relationship with Merry. When he turns up dead in Merry's shop, she finds herself drawn into the investigation. Can she figure out what is going on?

I love this series for the Christmas spirit that author Vicki Delany infuses into every page, and just because this book is set in July, that Christmas spirit hasn't diminished at all. The mystery takes off into some surprising areas that kept me turning pages until I reached the end. The series regulars are their normal charming selves, and I was pleasantly surprised by the growth we saw in the suspects as well.

NOTE: I received a copy of this book.

Read my full review at [Carstairs Considers](#).

Jeannie and Louis Rigod says

Merry Wilkerson, proprietor of "Mrs. Claus' Treasures, " is shocked beyond words when her ex-boyfriend/fiancé suddenly appears and gives her a line about 'reconciling.' Even though, Merry's parents warn her about talking with him, Merry, whose heart is huge, goes out to dinner with him and off we go.

Later, a death will shock the Mrs. Santa to her core. Not only is it murder within Mrs. Claus Treasures, but, the killer used her store to kill in.

This series is a treasure. Lovable characters, good dialog, and quite a few action scenes. There is Matterhorn, Merry's 120lb Saint Bernard pup, there is Santa and his Toymaker. You will laugh, and smile and then gasp as you help (as a reader,) with solving these murders.

LORI CASWELL says

Dollycas's Thoughts

I love this series sooooo much!

This time Santa is on his summer holiday at the beach in Rudolph. It's Christmas in July and the town celebrates it up big. A magazine has even sent a crew to cover the event, the publication Merry used to work for, meaning her ex Max Folger is in Rudolph. She quickly sees he is there to try to win her back and using the promotion of the celebration to do it. When his current fiancé arrives in Rudolph she is not happy. Her mind should be on finalizing their wedding plans not him on a date with Merry.

Merry has too much on her plate to worry about the sparing couple. Santa is due to arrive by boat soon and she is his Mrs. Claus. She never expected the scene she found back at Mrs. Claus's Treasures after the parade. Max dead and her assistant missing. The last thing Rudolph needs is another murder! Could Jackie have killed Max and gone into hiding? Things will not be merry until the killer is caught.

Rudolph is full of Christmas spirit in December, in July, and all the other months of the year too. It is also the perfect setting for this cozy mystery series. The author takes us on a real journey around town with her words. There may not be any snow this time but the town is decked out in all its holiday trimmings. Just stepping into Mrs. Claus's Treasures is so much fun. I enjoy the way Merry's dad, Noel, rearranges the stock every time he comes into the store. I had a vivid picture in my mind as he moves the table settings from a focal point in the store to showcase more Christmas ornaments instead. Merry tries to get him to leave things alone but lets him do whatever he wants. He is Santa after all.

As you can see the setting feeds right in me telling you about these extraordinary characters. The relationship Merry has with her father is absolutely joyous, and they both know how to handle her mother. Jackie is unique in that she is so good with the customers but she has what I would call a strained relationship with her boss, Merry. Woodworker Alan Anderson is back too, working as Santa's elf and trying to find time to actually go on a real date with Merry. All the characters we meet in Rudolph are entertaining but some are not entirely likable. The crew from the magazine brings all the drama to the story. It starts and ends with them.

I think the mystery in this story was the best one in this series. A murder and a missing person and a bunch of out of towners that had their own agendas. It was complex and Merry seemed to be drawn right into it no matter how hard she tried to leave it to the police. The pace of the story had a slow build that leads to a surprising conclusion that did make sense but the actual killer was never on my radar.

This is a fabulous series, book 1, Rest Ye Murdered Gentlemen, was a perfect escape, and book 2, We Wish You a Murderous Christmas, made my Best Reads List in 2016, This one will find a place on my Best Rests of 2017. For maximum enjoyment, I suggest to start at the beginning, but if you are feeling ready for some warmer temps this Christmas season, escape to Christmas in July in Rudolph. It will warm you right up!

Brooke Showalter (Brooke Blogs) says

Just when I think one of my favorite series can't get any better, it does! In this installment, Merry Wilkinson and the other residents of Rudolph, NY, are putting together a Christmas in July celebration. Santa (Merry's dad, Noel) arrives in a boat parade for Santa's summer vacation. Merry is stuck dealing with an ex-fiancé who thinks he can win her back. When he turns up dead in her shop, she finds herself wrapped up in yet another murder mystery. With missing people and dead bodies piling up, Merry has to use all of her skills to figure out whodunnit...before she becomes the next victim.

I absolutely love this series. I preordered Hark the Herald Angels Slay as soon as it was up on Amazon, and

I'm so glad I was able to read it right around Christmas. Though, this series is fun any time of the year. Ms. Delany has penned a top-notch Christmas cozy, with twists that kept me guessing right up until the killer is revealed. The setting is spot on...you truly will feel transported to a Christmas town...even in the middle of July. I am already looking forward to more in this wonderful series. Hark the Herald Angels Slay is one of my favorite reads of 2017.

I bought this book on Amazon and am voluntarily sharing my honest review.

Becky says

Another great addition to the Year Round Christmas series!

Tari says

What an awesome book to read for a July book club discussion, perfect for Christmas in July, which is exactly what the town of Rudolph, NY was celebrating, only to have it interrupted by a murder that takes place (again) in Merry's shop, Mrs. Claus's Treasures. This time she definitely has an alibi, the detective on the case personally saw her at the beach when Santa arrived by boat (her dad, Noel).

Merry's ex-fiance, Max Folger, was in town with some of the employees from the magazine where Merry used to work. Max has another agenda though--he wanted to talk Merry into getting back with him despite the fact that his fiancée, Erica Johnstone, who happened to be granddaughter to the magazine owner, Jennifer, was planning the wedding of the season. After finding Max in her shop, Merry could only think that someone from the magazine must have had it in for him, and she actually got to eventually work a little with Detective Diane Simmonds, who unlike the local police officer, Candy Campbell, respected Merry's thoughts on the case. Merry's main employee went missing at the time of the murder, which was a big reason why Merry wanted to be on the case.

I had my suspicions about the killer but there was a good twist and I was off base quite a bit. Everything worked out and Erica honestly became somewhat likable. She and her grandmother came to an understanding about the magazine as well. I love how Merry could feel kindness toward the woman who had stolen Max from her, but possibly she thought of it as Erica doing her a favor, seeing how things turned out. I was glad that Merry finally felt she could move on and allowed Alan into her life more. I'm anxious to see what the next book brings! This series just continues to get better and better.

Hilary (A Wytch's Book Review) says

Rudolph is celebrating Christmas in July, so Merry's father will be reprising his on-going role as Santa and this year they plan to arrive by boat rather than the parade they have done previously. Merry is getting ready (including making sure there is plenty of stock in the shop), she is slightly derailed when a group arrive from the lifestyle magazine she used to work out, apparently they plan to do a feature on the Christmas in July and Rudolph, so far so good, but when Merry realises that one of the group is her ex-fiance and that he wants her back (not to get married you understand but to be his mistress!) things start spiralling out of control. It all comes to a head when Max (the ex) is found dead in the shop, Merry's assistant has gone missing, Max's

current fiance is being a spoilt Diva and no-one knows what is going on!

Karen says

I was sent Hark The Herald Angels Slay to review and it was great. This is a series I have bought and read since book one and book three is a lovely read. Lovely in that while I am reading it at Christmas time and it is a Christmas themed cozy, it takes place in the summer and somehow this is just perfect. Reading it while it is rainy and cold outside but in my head as I am reading it is warm and humid and still Christmas was awesome. The dynamic characters in this series really are what stands out most. Merry, her Dad Noel who happens to be the town Santa and even Merry's Puppy Matterhorn have hugely important roles in the town and the mysteries. I love a Santa Claus parade however I am not fond of being in the cold to watch it so the idea of a water parade in the heat totally appeals to me. The town of Rudolph itself sound like the perfect year round getaway, charming shops, great bakery, right on the water and with friends and family that look out for each other, it is the perfect place to spend the holidays! I liked this mystery as it read as though it was completely plausible. With a story that seems as though it could be featured in celebrity news, it was compelling and kept me guessing. A great holiday read.

Peggy R says

This is such a charming series and I look forward to each new book as it is released. It has a wonderful setting that gets the reader into the holiday spirit and is paired with wonderful characters that are a joy to read and a mystery that kept my turning pages. I can't wait for the next one in the series.

Toni (T.C.) LoTempio says

An excellent book!

Cheryl says

Rudolph Christmas is held year round and in July Santa arrives by boat to start his summer vacation. Merry who owns a Christmas store is looking forward to a busy weekend but her ex-fiancé Max show up as part of a magazine that wants to do a story on the town. Max is getting married to the spoiled granddaughter of the magazine's owner but he wants Merry back. Later Max is found dead and she has to figure out why he was killed and at her store.

Mary Ann says

This was a great book that introduced us a little to Merry's past life in New York. When these two worlds clash it's not pretty. I've grown attached to the town's cast of characters and they're all here- often adding to the problem Merry is trying to solve. Who killed her ex-fiance? I confess to having figured it out- eventually

but it took me most of the book. And that's okay. It's good to figure it out around the same time as our heroine- it means Delany is doing her job as an author!

ANNE says

I really enjoy Vicki Delaney's writing and this book is no exception. It was a wonderful addition to a great series!

Annette says

Charming series that seems to get better and better with each new book.
