

## Ho-Ho-Homicide

*Kaitlyn Dunnett*

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

# Ho-Ho-Homicide

*Kaitlyn Dunnett*

## **Ho-Ho-Homicide** Kaitlyn Dunnett

Business is booming at the Scottish Emporium in Moosetookalook, Maine, and Liss MacCrimmon Ruskin couldn't be happier--or busier. A romantic getaway at a rustic Christmas tree farm is just what she needs. But the property's mysterious past has her feeling less than merry. . .

Liss is surprised when an old friend from high school asks her to spend a week at the Christmas tree farm she recently inherited from a great-uncle. Realizing it would be the perfect chance for her and her husband Dan to get away from work, Liss happily accepts the offer and packs her bags for the tiny town of New Boston. Upon their arrival, Liss and Dan are greeted by a ramshackle farmhouse and unfriendly townsfolk. It's hardly the idyllic vacation locale they'd hoped for, especially when needling neighbors start raising questions about the farm's dark history. Who was the man whose body was found neatly netted in a shipment of Scotch pine? Why did the owner vanish into thin air? And why are the trees growing so close together, forming a maze more twisted than a Celtic knot?

The rumors pile up faster than snowdrifts in a blizzard, and as Liss starts un-wrapping the truth, she discovers something even more scandalous than murder hiding beneath the town's humdrum facade. When a series of "accidents" strikes the farm, she'll have to spring into action faster than a Highland Fling to find the killer who's been lurking among the pines--before she ends up in a pine box herself. . .

## **Ho-Ho-Homicide Details**

Date : Published October 28th 2014 by Kensington


ISBN : 9780758292834

Author : Kaitlyn Dunnett

Format : Hardcover 304 pages

Genre : Mystery, Cozy Mystery, Holiday, Christmas, Fiction

 [Download Ho-Ho-Homicide ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Ho-Ho-Homicide ...pdf](#)

**Download and Read Free Online Ho-Ho-Homicide Kaitlyn Dunnett**

---

## **From Reader Review Ho-Ho-Homicide for online ebook**

### **Julie says**

An old friend of Liss asks her to spend a week at a Christmas tree farm she has inherited to assess its viability as a business. It soon becomes clear that not everyone is happy to have Liss staying at the farm and soon accidents begin to happen. In this close knit community nobody is talking.

This was a fun mystery in an interesting setting. It had an adequate number of clues, suspects and red herrings.

Liss' almost compulsive list writing was annoying by the end, but not in a way that made the book less enjoyable. I found her best friend, Sherri, to be the most likable character.

Although this takes place on a Christmas tree farm, it isn't really a Christmas mystery since it takes place in November. It was snowy and a few trees were sold at the end.

---

### **Bertha says**

When an old high school friend asks Liss MacCrimmon to spend a week at the Christmas tree farm she inherited from a great uncle, Liss Happily accepts.

The ramshackle farmhouse isn't the idyllic vacation locale she hoped for, especially when noisy neighbors raise questions about the farm's dark history. Whose body was found netted in a shipment of Scotch pines? Why did the owner vanish into thin air? When a series of "accidents" strikes the farm, Liss will have to find the killer.

Great book for cozy mystery readers.

---

### **Susan says**

Just ok.

---

### **Nicole Wrightson says**

I got this book randomly at a library book sale. Now I want to read more of them.

A favor for an old friend. A tree farm that needs checked out to be figured out what to do with it. An old man that one day disappeared. A John Doe that turned up in a Christmas tree in New York. What on earth do they have to do with each other? Who is the John Doe? What started out as a simple vacation is anything but simple.

The longer they stay the more strange things that happen. But who could be the master mind behind all this? After Liss' husband takes a fall, two of her friends come for a visit to help her out. Liss really needed them

there to help her untangle the messy knot from seven years of cold case come to light. An accident that caused a broken bone, fires and a body being discovered, can they come out of this mystery alive?

I couldn't seem to put this book down. Every time I thought of it, I had to pick it up again and then it was a struggle to put it down for whatever I needed to do. I love books that can keep me hooked from almost page one until the very end.

---

### **Anna says**

This was a quick read, murder at Christmas time, but not in Moosetookalook, Maine. Not the best of her mysteries, but fun. I like the Scottish emporium mysteries better. Dunnett doesn't need to go on vacation.

---

### **Kristi says**

The plot the story was fine, but I think I've read too many of these now and I need to take a break. I figured that out when I read the details like she put whole-wheat toast in the toaster and Sherri drank 8 ounces of orange juice and I thought to myself, did I really need to know those details? That's when I figured out that I think I need a break from these characters and this writer for a couple weeks perhaps.

---

### **Kaitlyn Dunnett says**

The read-a-thon to note details for continuity continues, and even though this one is set (mostly) outside of Moosetookalook, I did pick up on a few things I'd forgotten I set up. Sherri's newfound appreciation of Moxie, for example. I'll definitely have to bring that up again in the one I'm writing now. For those who don't know, Moxie is a Maine manufactured soft drink that, shall we say, is an acquired taste.

---

### **Ashley says**

Hi!! Spoilers below, beware!!

So during the first few pages of this book I happened to realize that I had accidentally picked up a book from the middle of the series. However reading the first few books in the series is not necessary to understand this story. I enjoy mystery novels where they have the same protagonist and life story/some characters that surround him/her, but don't make you rely on reading the previous books to understand everything. I have undoubtedly spoiled myself, as I believe Liss and her husband Dan were not married at the beginning of the series. Nor was Liss the owner of Moosetookalook Scottish Emporium. Her friend Sharri may or may not have been the chief of police and married to Pete (another police officer), but well I guess I'll have to read the rest of the books in the series to see how badly I've spoiled myself haha.

Liss' old high school "friend" comes into town, and asks for a favor in the disguise of a vacation for Liss and Dan. Gina Snowe has become the new owner of a Christmas tree farm after her uncle disappeared 7 years ago, although she just tells Liss he has died and needs someone to assess if the farm is a money maker or not.

Liss doesn't really want to, but is strong armed into it by this so called friend. I have an idea this chick was one of those mean girls in high school and Liss was probably a lucky. There might even be a previous book about her, but well I haven't read it so this is all I've got to go on from her character. Liss tells Dan and they head off to New Boston, Maine to the Christmas Tree Farm.

Once in town everyone starts giving them suspicious looks and whispers. They quickly find out Gina was not entirely truthful about what happened to make her the heiress of the estate. Apparently Gina's uncle Simeon Snowe disappeared 7 years ago after a body was found amongst his recent shipment of Christmas trees to New York. He is now presumed dead and the estate can now be passed onto the heir.

During this trip Liss and Dan meet the caretaker, Andy. They find out this young woman has worked for Snowe since she was 16 years old, putting her at 23 when the story begins. She has been looking after the estate for all 7 years, and no one can figure out why. Since she was not getting paid it seems a very strange thing to do. They also meet a woman named Rowena, who happens to be Snowe's girlfriend. She is the proprietress of an occult shop in town, and seems to be a bit out there. Liss and Dan learn that Rowena has had 5 husbands, all deceased, except the 5th...Is she a black widow? And then there's Juliet, Rowena's estranged daughter who owns a dance studio. She's extremely aggressive and rude, and Sharri suspects there might be more to the operation than meets the eye.

Liss has a bum knee due to an injury as a Scottish dancer, and likes to exercise regularly. She goes into a dance studio and asks to take a week's worth of lessons there. Juliet, the owner, is rude to Liss the whole time. She finds it odd that someone whose entire revenue lays in the hands of return customers would be that rude, but she brushes off her weird encounter with thinking that New Boston is like other small towns: not keen to outsiders. Liss and Dan then go to the store to stock up on more food, since the food Andy put in the cabinets at Snowe's house are not exactly to their liking. Liss encounters the chief of police's mother, who believes that Liss is snooping in the wrong areas. She defends her son, and throws Andy under the bus. She has read articles about Liss, and tells her she doesn't like people who think they're better than the police. Once everything is paid for Liss and Dan head to the truck, only for Dan to slip and hit his head on the door.

He's rushed to the hospital. They diagnose him with a concussion, and tell him he cannot go home. He is on strict bed rest for what seems will be the rest of their vacation. Dan tries to get Liss to return, but she reminds him of what the doctor says and is now more intrigued than ever about the mystery. She has spotted on her clothes, where she kneeled to help Dan up, a stain of olive oil. Someone wanted him to fall! Liss compiles a list of people she talked to during the past two days and sends it to her friend Sharri.

We switch over to Sharri searching databases and Pete suggesting they go up to New Boston, since the both of them had a few days off coming up to help Liss out.

They show up, and Liss tells Sharri that she has not told Dan about her suspicions. She's worried he will demand they go home, which would be detrimental to his health, but also her ego. Because she's totally caught up in this mystery. Liss and Dan had also found on their first night out a maze made out of Christmas trees that they presume to be a present for Rowena. The maze is frightening. Liss and Sharri decide to check it out, but get nowhere with it.

Liss also goes to the aerobics class a couple times. She finds the girls nice, but strangely a couple of them only talk about sex. Sharri has a suspicion that this place is a front for a prostitution ring. The sketchy flier in the front window about private dance lessons, that only men seem to be taking up has sparked this train of thought. So Sharri goes around town and asks people if they both recognize the photo of John Doe and if they know anything about the dance studio. Only a cashier seems to remember him as a customer of Juliet's.

Some townspeople make comments that they know what has been going on, but don't really care since it seems to be a harmless crime. Sharri tells Liss this, and Liss feels bad for Rowena. Especially since she knows that Simeon took private lessons with Juliet, presuming that he actually had relations with both mother and daughter.

That night the Christmas trees from the maze are set on fire.....The chief of police comes by and accuses the vacationers of arson like the scumbag he is. He demands they don't leave town, since they are now persons of interest. Liss has a suspicion that Simeon might actually be at the middle of the maze, and low and behold he was. But why would someone burn the maze to reveal his body??

Liss tells Rowena about what happened. She is distraught, and talks about a storage unit for some reason. They go there, and find a dead body in a freezer. He is Rowena's runaway 5th husband. She is accused of murder and taken in by the police. Now, I don't know about you but something seems pretty fishy here. By this point in the book I've pretty much solved the crime but am waiting just to make sure.

The house is then set on fire in the middle of the night, and everyone must get out quick!! Liss sees a figure running in the woods and chases after it. She finds out it was Juliet, and pins her to the ground. The police come and all is revealed. Juliet killed the 5th husband, because he was a loser that just wanted Rowena's inheritance. Then Simeon was killed, because he knew about her prostitution business and wanted her to come clean, and she thought he would be a great scape goat for the murder of John Doe. John Doe was killed, because he was a member of the mob, who wanted in on the prostitution activity. The chief of police was in on it by receiving payoff money and being in love with Juliet. He didn't want to kill Liss and Dan so he just set the maze on fire. Unfortunately that backfired and led them to Simeon's body.

Now this book for me was a 7/10. I love the amateur sleuth angle. I love small town settings, but there was just something lacking in this book. There was a great mystery, just not a great way to solve it. I pretty much pegged Juliet from the start due to lack of characters and motive. I didn't know the chief of police had done some sabotaging, but he was really stupid about it. You would think someone smart enough to cover up criminal activities would be able to figure out that making someone get a concussion would not get them out of town. Also strange that after the fire he forced them to stay, when he just wanted them gone. Reverse psychology doesn't really work when you're under threat of arrest. What also didn't tie in was the mob angle. Wouldn't they be worried one of their guys disappeared?? Also how did they hear of prostitution in such a little town? How did Juliet's mom never know? I don't see why Juliet would keep dead husband number 5 around. It seems like a bad move, unless you're going to frame your mom for murder. But barring her death, she wouldn't get any inheritance if her mom went to jail. So basically minus 2 for plot. And minus 1 for character involvement. There are some great amateur sleuth in small towns books. I recommend the Mrs. Murphy series. Harry is a wonderful detective. So while this book may not be at the top of its game mystery wise, it's still an enjoyable read. Especially around the Christmas season :)

---

## **Jonny R says**

I may be the minority here, but I did not enjoy this book at all. The mystery was so-so, and honestly, I guessed the culprit about a third of the way through. That wasn't my problem with the book, however.

I found the characters to be incredibly boring and annoying, not to mention one-sided. For example, if a dance instructor is rude and not interested in your business, why would you cut a check for a hundred and fifty dollars like Liss did? After reading the book, it's still unclear what Liss looks like or what she likes

besides Scottish dancing, kilt pins, and thistle jewelry. Her husband was equally boring and oddly devoid of any real opinions, and the only thing we learn about him is that he looks good and has ripped muscles.

Perhaps the most irritating bit in the book for me was the fact that Liss kept attempting to solve a mystery no one cared about. It happened years before, and if no one found it important enough to care, why did she? The only smart thing her husband said was that they should've left and gone back to Moosetookalook days ago.

I did try to finish this book, but as far as cozy mysteries go, it was slow, boring, and the characters so unlikeable I couldn't even feel sorry for the husband when he slipped and fractured his ankle. It wasn't my cup of tea, but someone else may like it.

---

### **Jeanie Jackson says**

#### **Great mystery!**

This is a series that I will be digging into more thoroughly! I loved the characters and the plot was excellent!

---

### **Susan says**

Liss doesn't really want to help her bossy friend Gina, but going to the Christmas tree farm that Gina inherited would create a much-needed break for the storekeeper and her furniture-building husband Dan. They haven't stopped working since their honeymoon, more than five years ago. But the little village of New Boston, near the farm, is largely unfriendly, and some of the accidents that keep happening seem suspicious to Liss--not to mention that Gina's great uncle disappeared seven years ago after an unidentified body was discovered in a shipment of Christmas trees!

---

### **Wanda says**

Liss and her husband, Dan, go to a Christmas tree farm to access it's condition for her friend Gina. Gina's great uncle owned it but disappeared years ago and has been declared dead and Gina wants to do something with the property.

Liss stumbles upon some small town secrets and reluctantly tries to figure out what happened years ago and what is going on now. She is aided in this by her friends who are cops. She befriends the neighbor girl who is helping out on the farm. They find the body of the dead great uncle and are almost killed along with Dan breaking his ankle.

Dan and Liss had been hoping for a short relaxing vacation and to decide if they wanted children instead of getting involved in solving some crimes.

A fun holiday cozier involving small towns and secrets.

---

### **Dawn says**

I really enjoyed this book. I had started reading A Wee Christmas Homicide a few weeks ago. I couldn't get

into it and was afraid to read this book for book club. I'm glad I gave it a shot. I enjoyed the mystery. It certainly kept me guessing. After reading Ho-Ho Homicide, I plan to give Kaitlyn Dunnett another try.

---

### **Mahala Church says**

What a pleasant surprise to find a Christmas cozy mystery so carefully plotted! I like the unique and smart nosy protagonist and her cast of friends and family. Dunnett definitely has a new follower for her series. Can't wait to read the first in this series and work my way forward.

---

### **Chris Kenney says**

It's not a bad story. It is simply told with simple dialog. And, a bit predictable. Small town secrets, corrupt police, body in a stack of Christmas trees...

---