

Only the Lucky

Linda Castillo

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Bucolic Painters Mill is plunged into darkness in this new short mystery, from the *New York Times* bestselling author of *Among the Wicked*, featuring Chief of Police Kate Burkholder.

It's Friday the 13th in Painters Mill and rumors of an Amish "rager"—a huge outdoor party rife with underage drinking—puts Chief of Police Kate Burkholder and her small department on edge. To make matters worse, Painters Mill is in the midst of a county-wide power outage. At the height of the rager, a teenage Amish girl is attacked with a hammer and left for dead. Kate is called to the scene—an abandoned farm teeming with loud music and rowdy behavior—to find the girl unconscious and bleeding from a head wound. With the girl in a coma and an unknown attacker on the loose, Kate must discover who would want to hurt her, and why, before it's too late.

Only the Lucky Details

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Author: Linda Castillo

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Genre: Mystery, Short Stories, Fiction, Thriller, Amish



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Lana says

It was hard to give one of Linda's books only 3 stars but i just wasn't feeling this...

I quite like these shorts stories Authors are coming out with at the moment and enjoyed Linda's other short stories in this series. This was very quick read and i worked out who the attacker was far too soon to make it interesting.

It was just a little too simple for my liking. With so few pages to tell the story, i was confused as to why Tomasetti got page time?

When it's less then 60 pages you need to make every word count!

Maggie61 says

This novella is a part of the Kate Burkholder series. I love these little stories of the series, there's an actual story told unlike some novellas that make you feel like you only got half the story, or the middle. I found this one a little predictable, however still enjoyable.

Anne OK says

Always excited to get something new from Linda Castillo that sends me off to the little Amish town of Painters Mill. No matter novella or a 400-page novel, I'm thrilled with the story this author has to tell each and every time, along with the mysteries and crimes to be solved. The writing never disappoints. A blackout, a raging party and a teenage Amish girl horribly attacked makes for questionable circumstances. And Kate and her team are on the case -- count on it being solved before the last page.

So excited that this novella will soon be followed by a new release of a full-length novel in July.

Fiona R says

I'd read anything Linda Castillo wrote and Kate Burkeholder is a fascinating character, but these short stories always have very rushed endings after a slower build up. I prefer the novels where there is room for the twists and turns and where the stakes are higher for Kate too.

Looking forward to Down a Dark Road.

?tsukino? says

Oggi è venerdì 13.

Casualmente stamattina ho iniziato (e finito) questo racconto breve che si svolge proprio di venerdì 13 ^^ Storia carina in salsa Burkholder.

Brenda says

Alma was excited as she was meeting her boyfriend that night at a party and she was sure he would ask her to marry him. Alma was Amish and her parents approved of Aden apart from his noisy car. But they weren't aware that the huge party would be much more than Alma told them.

Irene, Alma's best friend kept her company until she was to meet Aden in the barn after he'd finished work. But when Aden arrived he found Alma unconscious and bleeding from a head wound.

Chief of Police of Painters Mill Kate Burkholder was finding this Friday 13th had more than the usual "events" to keep the local police busy, including a complete power outage for the town, but when she was called to the old Davenport place because of a wild party, she had no idea she'd find a young Amish woman unresponsive. But would Kate be able to discover the perpetrator?

Only the Lucky is a short story (#8.5 in the Kate Burkholder series) by Linda Castillo, and just enough to whet her reader's appetites until the next full length novel is published:) And I thoroughly enjoyed it! I love this series and can't wait for the next. Highly recommended.

Debbie says

I just love Linda Castillo's books and when I saw this one on offer, I immediately requested it. Unfortunately, I did not realize it was a novella until I started to read it. I know novellas have a place for those who don't really have a lot of time to read. However, I just feel that I finally get into the book and then, wham, bam, thank you maam, it's over.

That being said, this was a typical Kate Burkholder book. A good story with a murder that has Kate investigating the crime. This crime was pretty much cut and dry (can't really sell the characters and tell a great story, for me, in 56 pages. I am still glad I requested it as I haven't been back to Painter's Mill in a while.

Thanks to St. Martin's Press and Net Galley for providing me with a free e-galley in exchange for an honest, unbiased review.

Diane S? says

A Kate Burkholder short. Probably the only book in this series, well technically a story, that I have not rated a four. Most of our families characters are there and the storyline does feature an attack on a young Amish girl but not enough time really to create that special atmosphere and intrigue. I did like it though, it was definitely a quick read but guessed the who done it way before the end.

Kevintipple says

For Alma Fisher, the party should be fun. She is going with a friend, Irene, and will meet up with her boyfriend, Aden Keim. Two years older than her as he is now 20, she knows Aden is a hard worker, and that she is in love. She is thrilled that he plans on being baptized into the church next year further proving his devotion. She has her sights on marrying him.

For the Chief of Police Kate Burkholder the evening in Painters Mill, Ohio has been a quiet one. It is a Friday evening in the spring and things are unusually quiet. She does not know about the party the local teens are having. It is not just the Amish teens that will attend; teens from the town and miles around will be there. It is only when local Amish farmer Aaron Yonder comes to the station and requests to see her that she learns what could be happening on this quiet evening. She has known Aaron since they were kids and she knows that he does not come to see her easily.

He knows what is planned in the coming hours out at old Davenport place. He has heard whispers and talk about the planned activities at midnight and has seen both cars and Amish buggies headed out there. He believes that the place is haunted and that "it is an ungodly gathering." The fact that it is Friday the 13th does not help matters. Nor does a murder.

While not at the level of the books, Only The Lucky: A Kate Burkholder Story by Linda Castillo is a pretty good one. It is significantly better than the previous short stories she has done as tie-ins to the series. In this case, all the usual characters are in place and the mystery has a couple of twists to it. Unfortunately, a couple of time discrepancies are apparent and that tends to cause the reader to double check the sequence of events as one works through the read. Despite the fact as well as the obvious fact that the short story is a marketing gimmick designed to wet appetites and interest readers into buying the latest novel, it does work fairly well on its own.

Only The Lucky: A Kate Burkholder Story Linda Castillo http://www.lindacastillo.com Minotaur Books (St. Martin's Press) http://www.minotaurbooks.com May 2017 ASIN: B06XKKFQBM eBook only 56 Pages \$1.99

I picked this up to read and review back last May using funds in my Amazon Associate account.

*Avonna says

Check out all of my reviews at: http://www.avonnalovesgenres.com

ONLY THE LUCKY (Kate Burkholder, #8.5) by Linda Castillo is a novella that lets you return to Painters Mill for a short period of time between full length novels and reconnect with the characters you love in this series.

It is Friday the 13th in Painters Mill and even though Chief of Police Kate Burkholder does not believe in superstitions the problems just keep on coming. Kate learns of a huge outdoor 'rager' on an abandoned farm, the town is having a complete power outage until morning and the department receives a 911 call about an unresponsive Amish teen found by her boyfriend in the barn at the party.

This novella is only 56 pages long. It is an entertaining story that assumes you are already familiar with the main series characters. The crime was easily solved, but still a good read. I will always pick up a novella or book by this author in this series to check out how my favorite characters are doing.

Sheila says

Kate investigates when an Amish girl is attacked at a forbidden party.

Joann says

Well I've never read a bad novel by Linda Castillo and thanks to a bestie here on Goodreads I was able to sample one of her short stories. How nice to start a book in bed and finish it the same night - in bed!!! A good book and I had the suspect figured out which is rare. So no murder in this one which was refreshing.

Brenda says

Short and sweet. Possibly a little too short and too sweet for my liking.

Jackie Lane says

It's Friday the 13th and let's see what can go wrong in Painter's Mill.

A black cat is seen.

An 18 wheeler takes out the power to the town

A girl ends up in a coma.

Alma Fisher and her friend Irene Miller were going to a party. Alma was excited because she thought her boyfriend, Aden, who was meeting her there later, would ask her to marry him.

Yes, something goes terribly wrong and Alma ends up in a coma.

Kate Burkholder, along with her team and Tomasetti work to find out what happened to Alma.

This one was a nice story, although I instantly knew who the person responsible was and guessed at the reasoning, I found I was intrigued throughout the entire book.

5 stars

Sheila Melo says

FINAL DECISION: This is a nice short story in the Kate Buckholder universe. The story isn't particularly complicated but gives a small sense of the overarching issues that are invested in the series -- Amish-English relationship and conflict, Kate's work as a small town police chief and her romance.

THE STORY: It is Friday the 13th in Painters Mill and plenty is going wrong. A "rager" is being held where both Amish and English are attending. Drinking, drugs and all sorts of problems that young people can get into are expected and enough to give Kate a headache. At the same time, an accident causes a power outage in town. When one of the Amish girls attending the rager is attacked and left for dead, Kate has to find out who wanted to hurt this young woman.

OPINION: I enjoyed this story although the solution seemed pretty basic to me and I figured it out almost immediately. I did like, however, this glimpse of Kate who seems much more settled and happy. I wish we had seen more of her and Tomasetti because I really love their relationship but we did see how peaceful they are right now which was nice.

Because of the length of this story, things happen pretty quickly. I also liked the secondary romance in the story and was surprised at how well everything dropped into place with all the moving parts of the story and the various characters.

The novels in this series tend to be much more angst driven so it was nice to see a more uncomplicated mystery for Kate to solve.

WORTH MENTIONING: This is a very short story and only gives a small taste of the series.

CONNECTED BOOKS: ONLY THE LUCKY is a short story that is 8.5 of the Kate Buckholder series. This story is a taste and introduction to the series for new readers and a bridge story for readers of the series.

STAR RATING: I give this book 4 stars. This review was originally posted on Top10RomanceBooks.com