



Against the Claw

Shari Randall

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Welcome back to the seaside village of Mystic Bay, where someone's been found sleeping with the fishes. . .

Ballerina Allie Larkin is still back home, healing up from a broken ankle and lending a hand at her aunt's Lazy Mermaid Lobster Shack. But now that the famed restaurant is branching out into the world of catering, Allie's help is needed more than ever--even on the lobster boat. The last thing she expects to find once she's out on the bay, however, is the dead body of a beautiful young woman.

When days pass and not even the police can ID the corpse, Allie takes it upon herself to learn the truth about what happened. Her investigation leads her all the way from the local piers to the secluded estates of Mystic Bay's posh elite. But how can she crack this case when everyone seems dead-set on keeping their secrets beneath the surface?

Against the Claw Details

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Author : Shari Randall

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From Reader Review Against the Claw for online ebook

Carrie says

Against the Claw by Shari Randall is the second book in the cozy A Lobster Shack Mystery series. The series is centered around dancer Allie Larkin who had to return home to Mystic Bay when she was injured and couldn't dance so she took up working with her aunt at her Lazy Mermaid Lobster Shack.

Working at the restaurant has been much more than just waiting on tables and serving up lobster to the customers for Allie. Aunt Gully has had her doing a bit of everything since she returned from helping with the lobster tasting to solving the murder that took place there.

Now Allie finds herself once again being asked to cover other jobs that come with running a lobster business when she's sent out on the boat to check the lobster traps. Allie didn't mind being out on the water until she pulls in a line and finds much more than lobster attached. Floating beneath the surface is the body of a young girl and once police are involved and not finding out what happened Allie once again goes about solving the mystery.

The Lobster Shack Mystery series is not one that is overly quirky so to me that is one element that keeps me from gushing completely about this series. The lack of that certain element often leaves the characters feeling a bit flat to me and wishing they would stand out a bit more. However, on the flip side I do quite enjoy the whole "lobster" setting of the books and find myself quite interested in the mystery side of things so despite the lack of my favorite dash of uniqueness to the characters I do still enjoy the books with each installment leaving me to rate at 3.5 stars.

I received an advance copy from the publisher via NetGalley.

For more reviews please visit <https://carriesbookreviews.com/>

Rima Aiello says

The first installment of this series charmed me, the second installment has me hooked! I love the family dynamics in this series, how normal yet dysfunctional it is. The author does a great job of setting the stage for a beautifully executed mystery! This is a book you can pick up again and again and just get lost in the settings, characters, and great food!

Lisa Morin says

Against the Claw is a fantastic book. I couldn't put it down. Allie, Lorel and Aunt Gully are such great characters, I felt like I was hanging with friends.

The story is intense and the writing flowed from page to page with so much excitement, I just couldn't stop reading.

The town of Mystic Bay is described in such detail that I feel like I've visited and have eaten at the lobster shack.

Thanks to the publisher and NetGalley for approving me to read and review an ARC of this book.

Mark Baker says

It's the week of the Fourth of July, and Allie and her aunt Gully are getting ready for the onslaught of customers the holiday weekend will bring to their town of Mystic Bay, Connecticut and the lobster shack that Aunt Gully has started. However, the holiday weekend takes a sad turn when Allie finds a dead body in the bay. No one seems to know who she was. But if no one recognizes her, who would want her dead?

I enjoyed the first book in this series, and it was a delight to return again. The characters are lots of fun, and it was great to see them again. The new characters fit right in; they were so nice, it was hard to believe there was a killer hiding among them. I did think the plot wandered a bit in the first half, but it picked up in the second half. When we reached the climax, I discovered there were some clues I hadn't even realized were hiding in the book. The location is charming; the perfect summer resort town. So if you are looking for a book to hold on to summer, pick this one up.

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

Brenda says

Against the Claw is the second installment in the A Lobster Shack Mystery series set in the coastal town of Mystic Bay, Connecticut and featuring Allie Larkin, a ballerina who is recovering from an injury by helping her Aunt Gully serve up delicious lobster rolls in the family's Lazy Mermaid Lobster Shack. Celebrity and modeling agency owner, Stellene Lupo has requested that the Lazy Mermaid caters her fourth of July party at her exclusive estate, Harmony Harbor and she only wants Aunt Gully, Allie and Lorel do serve up the tasty lobster treats.

In an effort to help lobster supplier Bertha Betancourt, Allie sets out for a day of pulling up traps. One of the traps contains not only lobsters but the body of a young woman. With no identification found on the body, Allie finds herself feeling responsible for locating the girl's family but the only clue she has to go by is the distinguished pitchfork tattoo circling the girl's wrist.

The ladies are shocked to learn that among the party's A-listers is the famed singer, Eden. Sneaking into the kitchen during clean up, Eden seems shaken that someone is stalking her and she begs Allie and Lorel to come stay the night with her on Stellene's yacht that is anchored in the harbor away from prying eyes. Delighted to have an opportunity to get to know the singer better the sisters agree. Morning dawns with a dead body in the inflatable boat tied to the yacht, and it's not long before Lorel becomes a prime suspect.

Allie sets out to solve the two mysteries and quickly begins to suspect that the recent deaths in Mystic Bay are connected and somehow also involve the Broadway by the Bay performance of Ondine that Allie has agreed to be a part.

A fast paced page turner from the first paragraph. The author does a fantastic job describing the cozy New England town and the locals who call Mystic Bay home. The lobster rolls and Aunt Gully's secret sauce will have you drooling for a trip to the shore.

I received an advanced copy of *Against the Claw* from NetGalley via St. Martin's Press. While not required to write a review I am more than happy to offer my honest opinion.

Lynn says

Shari Randall has given us another wonderful entry into the Lobster Shack Mysteries. Aunt Gully and her girls are asked to cater a 4th of July party for a well to do, famous resident of the area. Prior to the party, Allie discovers a body while out on the lobster boat early in the morning. The girl is unrecognizable and soon the town is wondering who she might be. Allie and her sister Lorel begin an investigation on their own and realize the ties to this girl strike very close to home. This is a strong entry into the Lobster Shack Mysteries and I very much enjoyed the thrill a minute adventure. Each of the story lines presented were well woven together and I appreciated the creative murder plot. This is a great, quick read and should be added to your beach reads this summer! I can't wait until the next entry into this series! #netgalley

Jessica Wilhoite says

This book was fantastic! There were so many twists and turns, I wasn't sure how it was going to come together, but it did. Tying up the loose ends ended with a couple of shocking twists...Shari Randall really served up a good story and Allie, once again, cracked the case. #againsttheclaw

I voluntarily reviewed this book on Netgalley.

Tari says

It was great returning to Mystic Bay to visit with Aunt Gully, Allie and Loren, who was home for the July 4th holiday to help at the Lazy Mermaid Shack. Loren had also taken back up with a guy named Patrick who ran the most popular bar/restaurant in town and who had a reputation of being a bad boy. Allie could never see what Loren saw in him, aside from his good looks.

While helping Bertha, known as Lobster Woman, Allie was on her lobstering boat when they pulled up a dead body. The young woman's body remained unidentified for quite awhile, but in the meantime, the restaurant was hired to cater a party at a wealthy woman's estate. Allie, Loren and Gully went over for it. Loren and Allie were to spend the night on the woman's yacht along with a famous singer and her friend. When the body of Lorel's ex-boyfriend Patrick was found in an inflatable boat that had been tied behind the yacht, Allie figured they were all suspects and was determined to find the real killer. With her friend Verity's help sleuthing as well as the occasional help from her friend Bronwyn who was a police department intern, the case slowly came together.

Meanwhile, Allie was appearing in a show while her broken ankle was still healing and she had to make sure she got to rehearsals, worked at the restaurant and did some sleuthing. While the showdown wasn't exactly with the main perp, it was still pretty awesome. Let's just say it involved Bertha chucking a vacuum cleaner over a railing at someone. I really came to like Bertha in this book and now she's another favorite character of mine, along with Aunt Gully, of course!

I didn't guess the actual killer but it didn't surprise me when I found out who did it. There were a lot of secrets being kept by different people and a few twists along the way that kept this plot moving along and so interesting that I had trouble putting the book down. I'm anxious to see what happens in the next book. Allie doesn't have a guy interest but I think she could be interested in Hayden, her old classmate, if he showed any interest in her. It'll also be interesting to see how soon her ankle becomes able to fully dance ballet again. Will she travel back and forth to Boston to dance an occasional show or will she decide that Mystic Bay is too much of a home for her to leave Aunt Gully and the Lazy Mermaid? I hope we don't have to wait too long to find out!

Holly Stover says

Allie was healing from an injury to her ankle and helping Aunt Gully in her restaurant in Mystic Bay. While helping a friend on a lobster boat she discovered a body in the water. This started a fantastically crazy chain of events that sent her back to her amateur sleuthing. When another murder was discovered things got out of hand. While trying to identify the first victim she was coming upon clues that connected both victims. This read was a wild and crazy adventure and I loved every page of it! This mystery is highly recommended!

Christine says

Still home in Mystic Bay, Connecticut recuperating from ankle injury, Allie Larkin helps out at her aunt's popular lobster shack, the Lazy Mermaid. On one of the days she is out of the water collecting lobsters with Bertha, they find a body of a young woman. With no identification, it is difficult for the police to find out who she is. In the meantime, the owner of a large modeling agency in New York who owns a house in Mystic Bay wants Aunt Gully to cater. When the evening arrives, Allie and Lorel head to the house to help with the party. Later in the evening someone is found dead and there are only four suspects: Allie, Lorel, and two guests.

Amanda says

This is a fun read from start to finish! I love the New England seaside setting, especially the lobster shack, The Lazy Mermaid. Protagonist Allie is still in town, living and working with her Aunt Gully, owner of The Lazy Mermaid. Allie's sister Lorel is in much of the book, with some focus on her on-again, off-again boyfriend Patrick. We get to see more of Allie's friends Verity, Bronwyn, and Hayden, Allie's acting friends, and the Mermaid's crew, along with meeting some celebrity newcomers. It was hard to put this book down, as it's a puzzle with many well-sprinkled pieces. It's a nicely complicated mystery with just enough of regular life and the Fourth of July holiday happenings to give it some balance. I really liked this second Lobster Shack mystery, wishing I could take a walk down the road and have lunch at the Mermaid. Here's hoping for many more books in this delightful series!

I received an advance copy of this book, and the honest opinions in this review are my own.

RO G'ma says

Against the Claw is the second book in Shari Randall's A Lobster Shack Mystery series. This is the first book I've read in this series, but there is great background information and I didn't feel lost. The mystery is well plotted, the characters are well developed, and the location is charming. This is a great, quick read with a creative plot that kept me guessing until the reveal. I'm looking forward to reading the next installment in this series.

Allie Larkin, a ballerina who is recovering from a broken ankle, is staying with her aunt and helping at her lobster shack, The Lazy Mermaid, in Mystic Bay, Connecticut. Allie goes out with Bertha Betancourt, known as Mystic Bay's Lobster Lady, to help her collect lobsters from her traps when they make a gruesome discovery ... the body of a young woman. The woman is unrecognizable, but has a distinctive tattoo, but when the police are unable to identify her, Allie decides to see if she can. Zoe Parker, personal assistant to Stellene Lupo, an influential island resident, contacts Aunt Gully to hire The Lazy Mermaid to cater Stellene's annual Fourth of July bash at her estate, Harmony Harbor. One of the guests, Eden, a popular singer, insists Allie and Lorel spend the night on Stellene's yacht, Model Sailor, with her and another guest. The next morning, Lorel finds the body of her on-again/off-again boyfriend, Patrick Yardley, in a ridge-hulled inflatable that's tied up to the yacht. Since Lorel recently had a somewhat public confrontation with Patrick, the sisters worry she might be a suspect and Allie decides to try to identify the person responsible for Patrick's death.

I received an Advance Reader Copy of this book from NetGalley and voluntarily reviewed it.

Linda says

Against the Claw is a rollercoaster ride of plot loops that will challenge reader's to correctly guess whodunnit. Allie Larkin and her Aunt Gilly are kind-hearted characters who simply want to successfully run the Lazy Mermaid, Aunt Gilly's lobster shack. They have loyal employees and numerous friends helping them. Allie is relieved when her sister, Lorel, finally breaks up with two-timing town bad boy, Patrick Yardley, but the tense moments don't stop there—they become deadly.

I was pleasantly surprised by each twist and turn of this cozy mystery. Somehow, a mysterious death that's connected to a second, not-so-surprising death, immeshes the sisters and their aunt in a web of deception, addiction, and lies. I was astonished at all the secondary characters who were not as they appeared to be. A pageturner with an ending that left me wanting more adventures with the cast of the Lobster Shack Mysteries! The author provides a delicious recipe at the end.

I read and reviewed an arc provided by NetGalley and St. Martin's Press. Thank you.

Patty says

Against the Claw by Shari Randall is the 2nd book in A Lobster Shack Mystery, and it is great. Allie Larkin is a ballerina who is recovering from a foot injury by working at her Aunt Gully's lobster shack, Lazy Mermaid. One morning while helping out a neighbor, Allie and the women found a dead body hooked to the lobster trap. No one can identify the women, so Allie is determined to find the truth. That is only one story line in this book. Lorel, Allie's sister, is dating her ex boyfriend, which Allie knows is bad news, and they are catering a 4th of July party for a rich business women on the island. I loved this book, it kept me interested from the first page to the last. I am looking forward to the next book in the series. I strongly recommend this book for all cozy mystery lovers.

I received this book in exchange for a fair and honest review.

Katherine says

Allie is back in the second, Lobster Shack Mystery. As the result of a broken ankle, Allie continues to remain in Mystic Bay helping Aunt Gully at the lobster shack. Allie ventures out on a lobster boat, assisting a friend, when they discover the body of an unidentified girl caught up in a lobster trap. Once again, Allie is caught up in a mystery and this one involves her sister.

I thought this book was well-written. I enjoyed the descriptions of coastal life and the 4th of July celebrations. I like Aunt Gully, Allie and friends. Aunt Gully is busy at the lobster shack, making lobster rolls and catering a party. And! Allie, a ballerina, is readying herself to perform locally, careful with her healing ankle.

The mystery all comes together in the end. These lobster shack mysteries are enjoyable reads and I look forward to reading more of these stories in the future. 4.5 ***** stars!

I received a complimentary copy of this book from St. Martin's Press through Netgalley. Opinions expressed in this review are completely my own.
