



Cracked to Death

Cheryl Hollon

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"A fresh and original new series!" --Krista Davis, *New York Times* bestselling author

When a treasure hunt leads to deadly plunder, it's up to glass shop owner Savannah Webb and her trusty investigative posse to map out the true motives of a killer . . .

It's the dog days of summer in St. Petersburg, Florida, and Webb's Glass Shop proprietor Savannah Webb has an eco-friendly plan to help locals escape the heat--a recyclable bottle-crafting workshop taught by reticent store manager Amanda Blake. Turns out, the class is a bigger smash than expected, thanks in part to a pair of staggeringly old bottles brought in by snorkeler Martin Lane . . .

Linked to a storied pirate shipwreck, the relics definitely pique Savannah's interest. But intrigue turns to shock when Martin's lifeless body washes ashore the next morning, another glass artifact tucked in his dive bag. With cell phone records connecting Amanda to the drowning, Savannah must voyage through uncharted territory to exonerate her colleague and capture the twisted criminal behind Martin's death . . .

"Cheryl Hollon clearly knows her glass craft, but better still, she also knows how to craft a good mystery." -- Sheila Connolly, *New York Times* bestselling author

Cracked to Death Details

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Author : Cheryl Hollon

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From Reader Review Cracked to Death for online ebook

Teresa Kander says

One of the things I enjoy about this series is that with each book I learn more about stained glass and glass products. It's a fun way to learn about the topic without being overwhelmed with too much information at one time.

All of the characters work so well together and are very relatable. I love that Jacob is learning to deal with his anxiety issues--it's amazing to see his character change and grow throughout the series.

Of course, there is a murder mystery to be solved--and this time, Amanda is a suspect. We find out she was keeping secrets from the others, but is one of those secrets that she killed Martin? I think you'll be just as surprised as I was by the reveal of the murderer and motive

I received a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review. All thoughts and opinions are entirely my own.

Daniele says

Cracked to Death is the enjoyable third entry in the Webb's Glass Shop Mystery series, full of interesting glass making tidbits, likeable characters, and plenty of red herrings.

Savannah is settling into running her father's glass shop following his death and is expanding to include more studio space and offering more workshops. Her office manager Amanda is teaching her first class in "upcycling" glass bottles to make useful items such as cheese trays and wall clocks. One of the students brings seemingly very old bottles to class, but Savannah stops him from doing anything with them, intent on researching their provenance and age. The next morning they learn that that student, a diver named Martin, has been found washed ashore with another bottle on his person. Could these bottles relate to local legend Gaspar the Pirate? Was Martin killed because he knew the location of sunken treasure? Just where did these bottles come from? Amanda's behavior becomes stranger as more is revealed about Martin, and the police discover her connection to him, making her a prime suspect. Savannah and her friends come together to find the real perpetrator before it is too late for Amanda.

Cracked to Death is the first book in the series that I have read, but it will not be the last. I had no trouble jumping right in with both the story and the characters. The characters are mostly realistically drawn and relatable. Savannah is a down to earth protagonist. Edward is charming. But, perhaps most endearing of all is Jacob and his service dog Suzy. To me, they are the best thing about the book. I must admit that I did not care for Amanda and all of her really bad decisions. I hope she is different in the other books.

The mystery itself is well thought out and sufficiently complex enough to keep me second guessing whodunit throughout most of the book. The history of bottle making and the pirate aspect kept me reading.

I recommend Cracked to Death to fans of cozy mysteries that have a heavy crafty influence and those who appreciate the inclusion of characters who are not the norm.

****I received an ARC from the author in exchange for an honest review****

Lola says

I received a copy in exchange for an honest review

This is one of those series that seems to get better with each book. It's so fun to return to this town with characters I already know and learn more about the glass shop. It's a solid cozy mystery series with fun characters and side characters and a new exciting mystery with each book. And every book has a murder mystery and some glass topics mixed in as well. I like how the characters have an active role in helping solve the mysteries. Next to the mystery there are some side plot lines as well. The new studio Savannah opened and Amanda is now teaching her first class. This series is a lot of fun and I really enjoyed this latest installment.

This book had a very different feel again than the others and I like how each mystery is very different again. One of the students for the up-cycling glass class Amanda is teaching is found dead and there is some mystery surrounding his death and mysterious blue bottles that are linked to him. I liked the mystery and there are a few interesting twist related to it. We also get the detective his point of view a few times, which was a nice touch. The actual murderer wasn't too big of a surprise to me, but I did enjoy the overall mystery and the story. The plot and build-up and progression surrounding the mystery was well done and kept my attention. I would've liked getting to know more about the murderer.

In every book we see things change and develop with both Savannah the main character, her life and the glass shop. In this book she has opened a studio where students can rent space to work and Savannah should be running that while Amanda runs the shop. I liked seeing how Savannah expanded the shop and how we see the shop change this way. The new glass workshop was fun to read about too. We meet a few new side characters in this book as well.

I also liked how Savannah was linked to the mystery as glass expert this time. They try to determine where the blue bottles come from and she also calls in some of her contacts. And there are some great returning side characters again like Edward, Amanda, Jacob and the twins. Who all play a role in the story. And some new side characters are introduced. There is a bit of development with the romance, but it still stays very much to the background, it just moves to the next stage.

To summarize: this was a great third book in this series and with each book I am getting more invested in the series. It's fun to return to the sunny town, the glass shop and familiar characters. There are new plot lines going on and a different mystery. Savannah is linked to the mystery as she gets called in as glass expert due to some mysterious blue bottles that are linked to the death person. It didn't come as much of a surprise to me who the murderer was, but the mystery itself and the progress was done well and kept my attention. There are some twists earlier on which were fun and changed things up. All in all this was another great book in this series and I am already looking forward to the next book so I can return to Webb's glass shop again.

Carol says

Pirate Treasure, Diving, Mystery, Murder, Suspense, Intrigue and Secrets make for a good read!!!

Savannah Webb's father died leaving her the Webb Glass in St Petersburg, Florida. Various classes related to glass are offered. The current classes is upcycling. Each class member is to bring bottles with them. One of the class members brings blue bottles to class requesting an appraisal on them.

Well defined, colorful and vivid characters plus Suzy, Rooney and Charlie (the dogs) and Beowulf (the cat) are all well written into the twists and turns of the unpredictable plot.

This book is the third in the Webb's Glass Shop Mystery series. It can be read as a stand alone.

You will find directions for upcycling and all sorts of glass tips following the story. Plus resources for classes are included.

Thank you to Net Gallery and Kensington for this eBook. My opinion is my own.

Peggy R says

This is another wonderful addition to this series and I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book. While part of a series, I think these books can be read (at least to date) as stand alone stories and the reader will not feel like they have missed out on anything from previous books. Ms. Hollon has crafted a solid, intriguing mystery with plenty of viable suspects with believable motives. As with prior books, she weaves a history/education lesson with glass that is interesting without overpowering the story line. I enjoy the characters in this series because they are unique and well developed.

A full review will be posted to my blog closer to the release date.

I received an ARC from Kensington through Netgalley in exchange for an honest review. This did not influence my opinion and the thoughts expressed are my own.

Doward Wilson says

Savannah Webb is helping Webb's Glass Shop manager, Amanda, teach a class in recycling old bottles into useful and beautiful works of art. The class turns deadly when local snorkeler Martin Lane brings in two old bottles linked to a pirate shipwreck. When Martin's body washes ashore the next morning, Amanda is linked to him by cell phone records. In order to clear Amanda of pending murder charges, Savannah begins her own investigation. Has Martin really found the wreck of the old pirate ship or has he just stumbled into something that got him killed. Learning more about Amanda and Martin's history becomes a priority for Savannah. She also enlists some new friends with advanced underwater technology to find the location of the ship wreck.

The characters are well defined and realistic. The murder plots are well thought out and plotted. I really enjoyed learning more about crafting glass. Who can resist a tale of lost pirate treasure? A cozy mystery that can be enjoyed by everyone wanting an exciting armchair adventure.

Liz Caldwell says

Pirate treasure, hidden relationships, and a little romance for glass shop owner Savannah Webb. Throw in a murder, and you have an entertaining tale by Cheryl Hollon. Savannah has agreed to have office manager Amanda teach a class on repurposing glass bottles. One of the students shows up with some remarkable antique bottles, which Savannah thinks may have some historical significance. But then the student washes up on shore, murdered. Savannah and her friends have work to do to clear Amanda when it turns out she knows more than she was telling.

This was an enjoyable book, and based on this book, I have bought the first in the series and will be getting the second as well. There were a couple of odd changes of voice that were a little jarring, and some repetition of the back story, both of which keep me from giving this five stars. I hope that the next in this series will be more tightly edited.

I received a copy of this book from the author in exchange for an honest review.

April Schilling says

Savannah Webb, owner of Webb's Glass in St. Petersburg, Florida, has decided to let her store manager, Amanda, teach an upcycling class. The class turns out to be a bit hit in no small part to the antique bottles one of the students brings in. Martin Lane found them while diving and is interested in turning them into cheese trays but, Savannah and Amanda talk him out of it so that they can do some research on the old bottles.

When Martin's body is found wash ashore, Detective Parker asks Savannah for info on the glass bottle found in his dive bag. But when it comes to light that Amanda had a secret connection to the victim, it looks like Savannah and her friends will need to investigate to save their friend.

This is the third book in the series but, the first one that I have read. And I really enjoyed it. I really liked Savannah, Edward and Amanda but, I think the characters that stuck with me the most were Jacob and Suzy. I have an autistic son and though he doesn't have a service dog like Jacob, I still connect with the character. Reading about Jacob, I see a lot of my own son and it made me smile some of the things that Jacob did or said. The book is wonderful in itself but, I really connected with Jacob.

I was given an advanced copy of this book for an honest review.

Kelly says

I couldn't wait to read the latest book in the Webb's Glass Shop series. I have read the other 2 books in the series and was anxious to see what Savannah and her friends would be up to this time. In each book a class is being held at Webb's Glass Shop and I like that aspect of the books as well as the mysteries that keep me

guessing until the end. This book was no exception. There were several red herrings and I wasn't sure who the killer was until the end. This book also included information about local legend Gaspar the Pirate that added to the story. I thoroughly enjoyed this book and would highly recommend it to readers that like a good mystery and a fast read.

I received this book from the author in exchange for my honest review. This did not change my opinion of this book. (less)

Nancy says

Savannah's glass art studio attracts an eclectic crowd. When one of her students turns up dead, she puts on her sleuthing hat to find the culprit. The bottles he'd brought to class look to be very old. Could the diver have stumbled onto pirate treasure buried off the west coast of Florida? Then why would someone go to the trouble to create a set of counterfeit bottles? When her colleague acts overly upset about the victim's death, Savannah feels Amanda is hiding something. So do the police, who take Amanda downtown for questioning. Can Savannah find the real killer before the detective arrests her friend for murder? The most interesting part of this story is learning about the variety of items you can make from repurposed old wine bottles.

Lisa Ks Book Reviews says

I have loved this series since book one, and it just keeps getting better!

One of the things I enjoy most about the Webb's Glass Shop series, are the classes available through the shop. I'd love to find something like them around where I live.

A adore each and every character author Cheryl Hollon creates for this series. The regular cast, as well as new characters introduced for each book. They are all so full of life, and depth, I get a very clear picture of them in my mind as I read, and I can hear their voices as clear as my own.

CRACKED TO DEATH started off with the same fun and energy as the first two books in the series. I was immediately pulled in, and captivated through the entire story.

As always, Ms. Hollon has written an excellent mystery. Detailed, riveting, and a hard one to guess! I was happily stumped all the way to the reveal.

After reading CRACKED TO DEATH, you'll see why this series is a sparkling success!

Betty says

Savannah Webb looks at the two cobalt blue bottles and felt that they were old and might be valuable. She asked a knowledgeable friend about the bottles. The owner of the bottles is found murdered near the ocean. In his backpack a broken blue cobalt bottle is found. Savannah accepts a role as the consultant on the bottles. There are indications that the bottle was a pirate's treasure. Savannah must find answers so that

Amanda is not arrested for murder. The story has a number of turns that will charm you. Are the bottles part a pirate treasure or copies? I recommend the book.

Disclosure: I received a free copy from Kensington Books through NetGalley for an honest review. I would like to thank them for this opportunity to read and review the book. The opinions expressed are my own.

Penny Marks says

Great cozy mystery! Cracked to Death is book three in A Webb's Glass Shop mystery. I have not had the pleasure of reading books one or two but will be changing this very soon. I really enjoyed book three and look forward to the others.

Savannah Webb is the owner of Webb's Glass Shop in St. Petersburg, Florida where the sun is hot and the mystery even hotter. Amanda, the store manager is having her first class on up cycling bottles when a class member brings in a couple antique bottles from a recent dive. He tells Amanda that he found them in the area where the legendary pirate, Jose' Gaspar is rumored to have buried treasure. I am a huge history geek and loved how the author intertwined this pirate legend into the story. Amanda doesn't want to use the bottles in the class until she finds out more about them. This is where things turn upside down for Amanda. Martin the client who brought the antique bottles to class ends up dead on the beach! Things begin to unravel even more when the police find out about all the texts between him and Amanda. Everyone thought she didn't know him??? She has now become the prime suspect. Now she has to have faith in her friends to investigate to clear her name. It doesn't help her case that she has been very erratic lately so they have an uphill battle trying to clear her. She has a lot on her mind with her mom's health. The team really needs to find the real killer before he or she strikes again.

On the plus side they get to look for buried treasure and find out more about the allusive pirate Gaspar.

AaaaRrrrGggHhhh!

I recieved this book from NetGalley for an honest review.

Connie Stein says

Cracked to Death by Cheryl Hollon is the 3rd book in A Webb's Glass Shop Mystery Series. What could be better then Pirate Treasure, Diving, Upcycling, Murder, Mystery and Suspense all in one book.

Savannah Webb owns the glass shop and has been very busy expanding the business. Amanda, the shop's manager is teaching a new bottle-crafting class and Savannah has purchased a new building for additional space. The mystery begins when one of the students is found dead and Amanda is the primary suspect.

This was a fast read. The story and characters are very well developed, and the characters feels like friends I am catching up with. The author also makes glass making interesting and not too technical to stall the story. Plus, it gives you a little bit of the history of Gaspar the pirate and flordia. I love all the twists and turns in this cozy mystery, and look forward to the characters next adventure. This can be read as a stand alone book. I would recommend this book for cozy book lovers.

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

Valerie says

4 stars out of 5

When I was chosen as one of the reviewers for “Cracked for Death”, the third in the Webb’s Glass Shop Mystery series by Cheryl Hollon, I was thrilled! I’ve been meaning to try this series for a long time, but we don’t own it at the library I work for. I’d been waiting for a good time to get it thru interlibrary loan, but this is even better. I was not disappointed at all. Even tho’ it was the first book that I had read in the series, I felt that Ms. Hollon definitely provided enough details about the characters for me to get the basic idea of how the main characters know each other and where they fit in each other’s lives.

I found the setting and the characters to be charming and wonderful. I’m already in love with Savannah and Jacob. Edward seems so wonderful and down-to-earth, yet ready to support Savannah in whatever she needs. The plot line moved along steadily, even somewhat quickly. The villain ended up being someone whom I considered for a bit but then thought, no, not them, so it kept me guessing quite a bit.

The only thing that I didn’t like in the story line was that Amanda was so wishy-washy in telling her friends what was going on between her and the victim. I literally wanted to give the woman a “Gibbs' slap” to the back of the head.

Outside of that however, I enjoyed this book very much and I’m looking forward to reading the first two books in this series!

** I received a free copy of this book from the author in exchange for my fair and honest review. My opinions and views are my own and were not influenced by this. **

Originally posted on: Valerie's Musings
