

“Librarian’s Shelf” by Rachelle McPhillips

Get in the Holiday Spirit @ your library

This holiday season, take a break from the hustle and bustle and curl up with a Christmas mystery or short story from your library.

“The Christmas Cookie Killer” by Livia J. Washburn, is a cozy mystery with all the right ingredients for a fast-paced read. Phyllis Newsom is all set to compete in the Christmas cookie bake-off. Her holiday plans change when she finds one of her competitors murdered in a pile of her own lime snowflake cookies.

The tag line of this book says, “You can’t sugar coat murder” but the author sweetens the deal with several yummy recipes at the end of the book.

Faith Fairchild and her family are spending the holidays in Maine in Katherine Hall Page’s, “The Body in the Sleigh.” The family intends to enjoy the tranquility of their Maine cottage, and gets a good start:

“...the Fairchilds walked back to their house under another brilliant, starry sky. Tom carried Amy on his shoulders. She reached up and grabbed a snow-covered pine bough, sending a dusting over the four of them... Seeing the lights they’d left on shining through the dusk, they ran toward home in one accord.”

Their peace and harmony is disrupted when Faith discovers the body of a young woman in an antique sleigh. The mystery deepens when a newborn is found abandoned in a local nativity. Page is an award-winning mystery author whose holiday whodunit will keep you turning pages.

In Agatha Christie’s “Hercule Peirot’s Christmas,” wealthy Simon Lee insists his sons and their daughters come home for the holidays. He is not interested in a warm family celebration, instead using the opportunity to tell his boys they have been excluded from his will. This makes for a long list of suspects when Lee is found murder on Christmas Eve. Hercule Peirot is called upon to investigate the death and won’t stop until he finds the killer.

The book jacket says it best: “A classic Christie puzzle, “Hercule Poirot’s Christmas” is the perfect escape from the frenzy of the holidays.”

If you’re looking for something a little less dangerous, or if solving murders is more than your to-do list can handle this holiday season, check out a short story by Ted Dekker or Jerry Camery-Hoggatt. Dekker’s “The Drummer Boy,” is under 100 pages and is beautifully illustrated. “My Mother’s Wish: An American Christmas Carol” by Hoggatt is a cozy story to sink into after a busy day of preparation and celebration.

If you have any questions about the Columbus Public Library, please stop in or call 402-564-7116 option 2. Have a safe and happy holiday season.