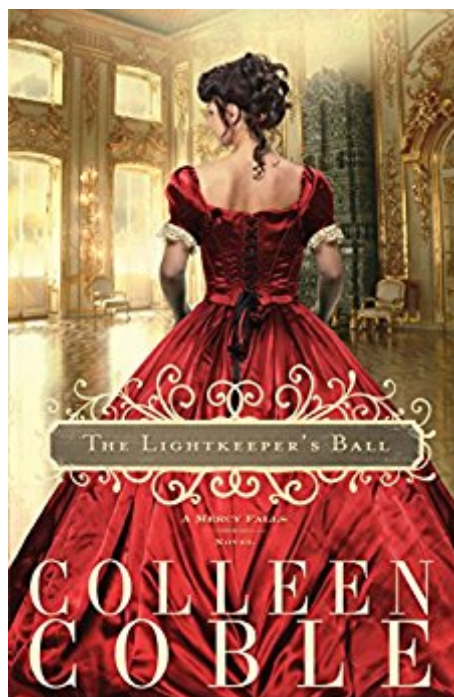


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The Lightkeeper's Ball (A Mercy Falls Novel Book 3)



Synopsis

At the elegant Mercy Falls masquerade ball, Olivia's hidden identity will be revealed. It is the dawn of a new century and Olivia Stewart is heiress to an empire. Her family numbers among the Four Hundred—those considered the wealthiest and most distinguished in America. Unfortunately their wealth has nearly disappeared, and now their security rests upon the Stewart daughters marrying well. Olivia's sister, Eleanor, was engaged to Harrison Bennett, one of the nation's wealthiest men, but has since died. Now the pressure is on Olivia to take her place, despite her suspicions about Eleanor's fiancé. Using her family's long-forgotten English title, Olivia travels to Mercy Falls, California, as Lady Devonworth, hoping to learn more before committing to marriage. There she finds that Eleanor's death was no accident. And Harrison is not the man she thought he would be. When Mercy Falls holds a charity masquerade ball to raise funds for the new lighthouse, secrets—and truths long hidden—will be revealed. But can Harrison really love Olivia when he finds her true identity? Can she live with the repercussions of failing her family, or will she finally realize that nothing—not money, family, or romance—will ever compare to God's unconditional love?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

1 cup suspense + 1/2 cup romance + 1/2 cup mystery + dash of action = recipe of new murder mystery in Mercy Falls. This third in Colleen Coble's series is as compelling as 1 & 2. Although the stories from Mercy Falls do have a few characters carrying over, the primaries involved are new and this can be read as a stand-alone book. After reading "The Lightkeeper's Ball," expect to return to the scene of the crime for the two earlier murder/romance mysteries, "The Lightkeeper's Daughter" and "The Lightkeeper's Bride." Coble's recipe for murder mystery gets spiced up with history.

Haley's Comet visits (April 20, 1910 for real) and plays a part in Harrison's bi-plane adventures. He desires to defy the commoner belief that the comet will bring the worlds end, by flying through the comet's tail. Well before any of this can happen, Harrison's father attempts to have him wedded to Olivia, an arranged affair after Olivia's sister is drowned. Sis had been engaged to Harrison, but to his status-seeking dad, either sister will gain him the society influence he craves. There is a tangle of family members in NYC and California society, Mercy Falls locals, and even among the servants. And a beach-full of secrets. Olivia travels to Mercy Falls and the family's Stuart Hall, under a different name in an attempt to look into her sister's suspicious death. Murder almost takes her own life, and Harrison proves to be as suspect as anyone. She is saved and housed at the lighthouse, till a gale & disaster strikes. Here you get reacquainted with the Jespersen's and North's. While sleuthing for her sister's murderer, Olivia plans "The Lightkeeper's Ball" to replace what was lost in the storm. But can she ever find out the truth about Harrison?

I chose this book because I thought it sounded exciting and interesting and it had a beautiful cover. When I received it in the mail saw it had less than 300 pages, I was almost disappointed. I was sure the story would be over too soon. Unfortunately, once I started reading, the ending couldn't come soon enough. The best way to describe how this book made me feel, was like watching an old movie where they jerk and jump between scenes with no warning. There was just no flow. The characters felt like puppets to me, and the author pulled their strings in often contradicting directions. page 1) deliver devastating news to heroine that her sister has drowned page 2) cut to heroine standing by boat railing, a mysterious assailant pushes her overboard page 3) heroine is saved by her page 4) after being rescued, heroine decides not to reveal her true identity and thereby creates a major plot point page 5) hero takes heroine to a jewelry shop *cue record scratching* Wait, what? Why are they

in a jewelry shop? Didn't they just wash up on a beach? It just jumped around and struggled between wanting to be a murder-mystery and wanting to be a romance/feel-good tale of a woman making new friends and helping them plan a charity ball to rebuild their lighthouse. I felt like the author was throwing every plot device she could think of at me, and none of them were working.

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