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The Blood Spangled Banner: A First Ladies Mystery



Synopsis

Welcome to the First Ladies White House Dollhouse Shop! Who would have thought that running a dollhouse shop could be so dangerous? Liv Anderson's shop specializes in historically accurate recreations of the White House as it was in the era of famous First Ladies. Liv is thrilled when a famous department store owner asks to pay a visit – but death soon follows!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I enjoyed the book, as a history novice. I mostly enjoyed knowing the places in Minneapolis, that I grew up with. I could imagine where they were, throughout the story. It was disjointed in a few spots, but I could follow most of it. Well done for her first book.

A charming new series based on the setting of a Dollhouse Shop featuring models of the White House filled with historically correct furnishings along with accurately dressed First Ladies. Owner Liv Anderson is anxious to impress Jackie Newell, the powerful buyer of a national chain store's toy department, but instead of a record number of pre-orders, Liv finds Jackie's bloody dead body in one of her doll houses. Follow Liv as she investigates the murder and get a little enjoyable history thrown in for your entertainment. Can't wait for the next one.

A good first book with a unique main character, who promises to become eccentric in a most readable way. Paced well with mystery and a touch of romance, Liv vAnderson talks with her First Lady dolls as she works in her store/ workshop. Liv is young, with a boyfriend who is ready to tie the

knot, but events seem to get in the way. He is patience personified. Waiting for the next installment of First ladies mystery!

enticing. Barbara Schlichting's book is set in Minneapolis, where the protagonist has a dollhouse business. In the first few pages, she is attacked by a masked intruder and we're off with a mysterious family secret, a murder, more intruders, and a handsome policeman fiancé. One of the strongest parts of the book is its family relationships. Schlichting captures the sweetness between grandparents and granddaughter, and the gentleness of a loving relationship with the fiancé. This ties nicely into the family aspect of the mystery, where all the members of the family are involved in solving the case. Another strength is the delight the writer takes in sharing her knowledge of the first ladies. At one point, we learn the main character has a PhD in history. I would have liked more of this knowledge, and perhaps a bit more logical follow-through in the character herself, given what it takes to complete such a degree. There are some other intriguing characters that I hope to see more of in future novels: Max, her helper; the psychic next door who tells her to stay out of small rooms, and the character of Minneapolis itself. I don't know that area of the country well, and I'd enjoy experiencing a bit more of it through this character's eyes. The author cleverly uses historical artifacts as part of her character's search for the truth, and makes the reader think about how our familial histories—both of the dead and the living—affect our current lives. It's certainly a question that is influencing this election. The Blood-Spangled Banner is a light-hearted read, good for the dog days of summer accompanied by a large glass of lemonade.

It has a very good plotline. I am usually good about who dunit, but I could only narrow it down to four people. Being from the Twin Cities I appreciated the references to the locations and culture. I also liked the historical facts that were scattered throughout the book.

Liv Anderson owns a shop that sells doll houses and dolls of the White House throughout the years and the dolls that go with it. She is a relative of Dolly Madison. A lady comes into the shop and tries to take two of the dolls and talks about a family secret. She is later found dead. Several thefts, a murder and odd clues finally lead Liv to the answer. It was disappointing to read at the end that it was all made up so if you are expecting facts written into a mystery you will be upset.

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