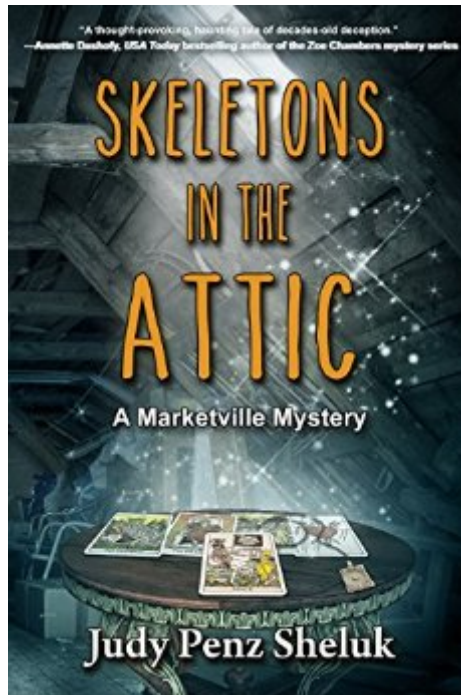


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# Skeletons In The Attic (A Marketville Mystery Book 1)



## Synopsis

What goes on behind closed doors doesn't always stay there | Calamity (Callie) Barnstable isn't surprised to learn she's the sole beneficiary of her late father's estate, though she is shocked to discover she has inherited a house in the town of Marketville—a house she didn't know existed. However, there are conditions attached to Callie's inheritance: she must move to Marketville, live in the house, and solve her mother's murder. Callie's not keen on dredging up a thirty-year-old mystery, but if she doesn't do it, there's a scheming psychic named Misty Rivers who is more than happy to expose the Barnstable family secrets. Determined to thwart Misty and fulfill her father's wishes, Callie accepts the challenge. But is she ready to face the skeletons hidden in the attic?

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The opening scenes of SKELETONS IN THE ATTIC set the stage for an intriguing mystery. I was hooked, immediately wanting to learn what, when, where, why, and, eventually, whodunit. The story is set in the small community town of Marketville situated north of Toronto. The plot, featuring protagonist Callie Barnstable, unfolds around a sketchy history of a mother who left her husband

and then six-year-old daughter, Callie. Decades later, with her father now deceased, Callie is tasked with learning why her mother disappeared without explanation or warning. The cast of characters is colorful. All tackle their roles with spirit and aid in moving the plot forward at a comfortable pace. They also fulfill reader expectation to entertain, some adding a touch of humor, others frustration or suspense. The author's descriptions of setting and action kept me reading non-stop, along with my desire to learn who did what along the way.

A fan of murder mysteries, I'm always on the lookout for new series with intriguing protagonists. And thanks to Ms. Sheluk, I have found a series based in my home province of Ontario and populated by an unforgettable cast of characters, among them Calamity (Callie) Barnstable, a hunky contractor, a slick lawyer, two psychics, and Nosy Parker neighbors. *Skeletons in the Attic* has all those elements that make murder mysteries so delightful to read—fast-paced, red herrings, unexpected twists and turns, and a budding romance. Next, please!

Callie Barnstable's father dies and leaves a straight forward will, except for the unusual codicil that even the lawyer had tried to hide from him to leave out. The codicil is simple enough.... Find out whether your Mother deserted us or was she murdered? It gets more confused as Callie learns her Father kept the house the family lived in during her first six years, before Mother disappeared. Again the codicil states Callie must reside in the home for a solid year, sending weekly reports to the lawyer regarding her investigation, or she for gives us money and the house for a total year. Callie takes the challenge and finds Tarot Readers, Psychics, Reporters, Jewelry, Photographs, Her Mother's Clothing, a casket filled with a skeleton and more to set her off on her quest. You will find that this tale takes you on a spinning trip to find out and ends with a shock. I do wish the Peanut Butter cookies got to Royce (you'll have to read to understand that comment. The ending was good but a bit abrupt. I have tons of questions left over and hope there is a book 2 on it's way. Good job!

Not ordinarily a reader of cozies, I found myself drawn into this one to the point that I laid aside my other books (I almost always have several going) in order to finish it. Callie Barnstable is an only child, so she expectedly inherits her father's estate upon his death. What she didn't expect was the title to a house in a small town near Toronto, and a codicil to the will requiring her to live there and investigate her mother's disappearance, an event that took place when Callie was only six years old. The writing is good, the plot nice and twisty, and the characters well-developed. Not a part of my usual reading fare, I said, but most enjoyable. Perhaps I should broaden my horizons a bit?

This was a book that I had not intended to read today but it seemed to have a mind of its own. I had hit the book next to it and Skeletons opened, second try same thing third try I just went with it and I am so glad I did. Calamity Barnstable lives in Toronto. It's been just her and her dad since she was 6. When he dies in an accident and the will is read Callie discovers that her dad has left her a house and enough money to fix it up and have enough left over to live for a year, catch she has to live in the house and find out what happened to her mother. I fell in love with this book. A 30 yr old mystery, is it murder or did her mother just walk away with a lover? The characters are complete and yet I want to get to know exactly what makes them tick. For me the story line was written as it should be. Told from Callie's point of view and only going back in time through her talking to people who knew her mom. I liked the short chapters, gave me an excuse to say I'd read one chapter, do so housework and read another chapter, which soon just became a whole day of reading because I couldn't put it down. For me the ending was a little off, of course that is my opinion. Will I read more books by Judy Penz Sheluk a hearty yes!

An only child, Cassie expected to inherit her father's estate. What she didn't expect was a house she didn't know existed in exchange for a promise to investigate her mother's disappearance. She's barely moved into the house when she learns of suspicions her mother was murdered and has a list of suspects. In exploring the house she uncovers a few surprises--including a coffin with a skeleton in the attic, Tarot cards and a locket with a photo of a man who's not her father. Cassie seeks clues from her neighbors, none of whom she fully trusts. Among them are a nosey woman who appears to have been her mother's friend; Royce, a handsome building contractor who is eager to assist in her quest, and several alleged psychics. When invited to visit Royce's wealthy family, she discovers they also have a number of skeletons in their history, including one that leads to a surprising climax. If you enjoy a small town mystery with a feisty heroine, a cast of quirky characters, a well-paced plot and plenty of twists and turns and a bit of romance, this is a book you'll want to check out.

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