

Button Box Mystery Series

by Kylie Logan

Take a button shop and a button expert, throw in a murder or two and you've got the perfect recipe for an addictive mystery series.

By Hayley Penrose



Josie Giancola is a button expert living a quiet life in Chicago, content to run her antique button store – the Button Box. Things are peaceful until the fateful day her store is robbed by two masked men and her life

is turned upside down.

From store owner to amateur sleuth overnight, Josie teams up with homicide detective Nevin Riley to try and solve the string of crimes in which she finds herself embroiled. Customers, policemen

and notable personalities – no one is above suspicion as the duo crack one case after another, all while Jose is adapting to life post-divorce.

The Button Box series will have you hooked from the first book with its entertaining characters, creative plot lines and easy to read format. Falling into the cosy mystery genre, the series is tight and with the clearly defined setting, each story's progression through plot to outcome is believable. The books are light-hearted and fun, with little blatant or overt graphic material, as many of the events are implied or happen 'off stage'.

Furthermore, craft enthusiasts will enjoy the buttons and related tools that are used throughout the series, although not always for their intended purposes – stabbing by button hooks, anyone?

The Button Box mystery series is written under the pseudonym of Kylie Logan by Constance Laux, a fulltime writer from the United States. With a degree in English, as well as experience

as a journalist and writing teacher, her passion for sharing stories is clear.

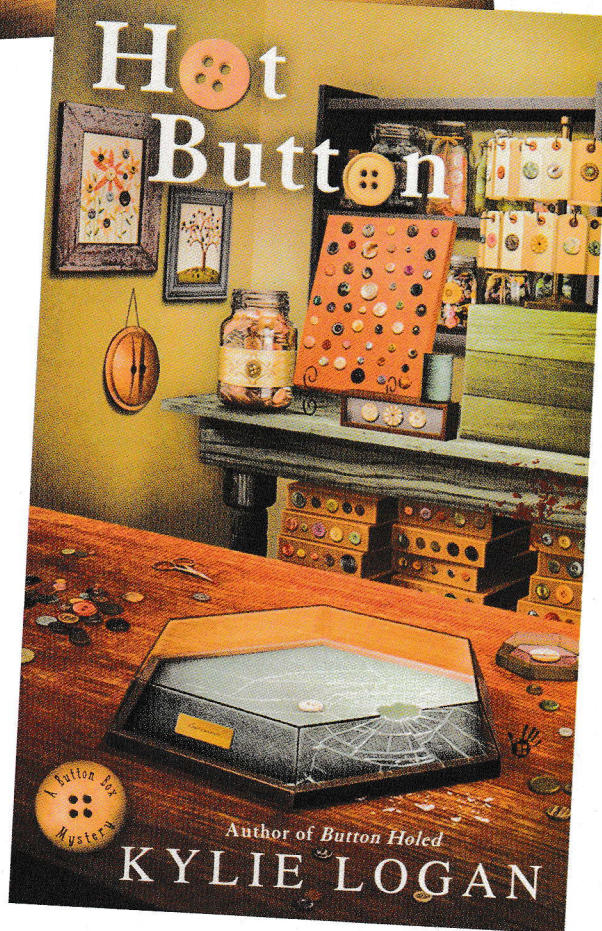
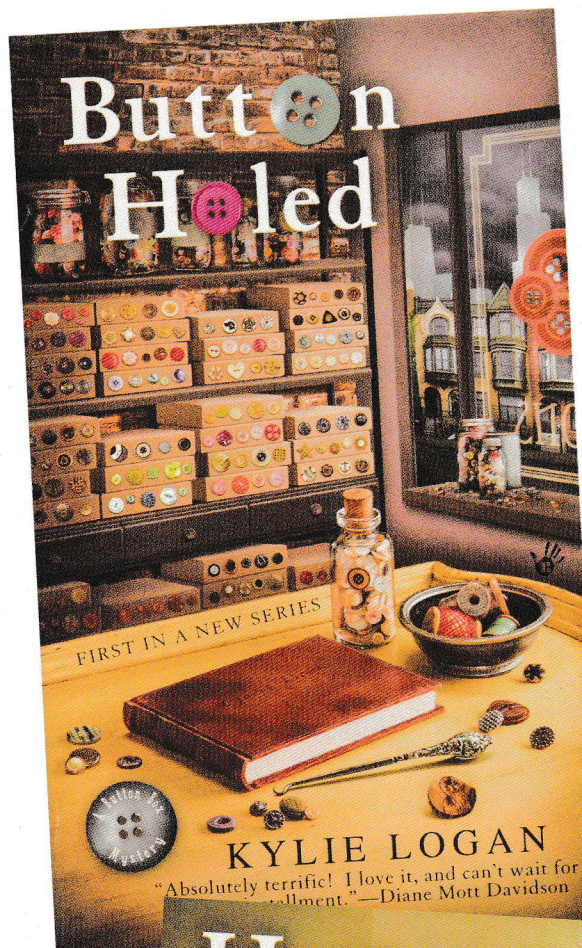
Her love of mysteries began as a child, no doubt linked to her father's work as a Police Detective in Cleveland. He introduced her to Sherlock Holmes and they would spend weekends driving the streets searching for stolen cars, instilling an early appreciation of solving mysteries. When he retired from the police force, her father became head of security at the Cleveland Public Library, cementing the foundation for her love of crooks and books.

In the Button Box series, she shares her passion for buttons too, with tips and information on antique button collecting in each of the four books. Learn all about shimmery mother of pearl buttons, collectable studio buttons and charm strings – you'll be so fascinated you'll probably want to do more research and a great place to start is The National Button Society's website - www.nationalbuttonssociety.org

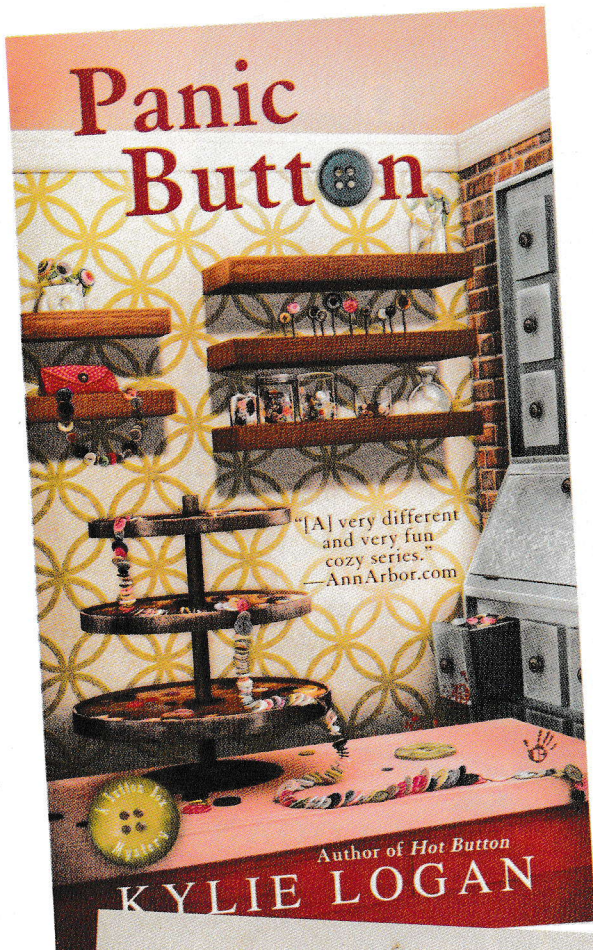
Button Holed introduces readers to the quirky, self-confessed button-expert, Josie and sets her on an exciting path of mystery-solving that is never too far from the world of buttons. A royal wedding, a dead movie star and a mysterious button on the floor that is not in the shop inventory throws her world into chaos, leading Detective Nevin Riley to request her expert advice in deciphering clues, not least of which is the murder weapon – an antique buttonhook.

Hot Button

As chairwoman of an international button conference, Josie has her hands full, especially when the guest of honour is found dead and an historic button goes missing. Josie's insight into button-collecting helps solve the case.



The popularity of button collecting ranks with that of stamp and coin collecting in the USA. As it grew in popularity, so too did the need to find and meet like-minded people. In 1938 the National Button Society was formed in the USA to exchange information and showcase samples, creating a system for collecting as well as a vocabulary for button collectors in the process. The British Button Society was formed in 1976, while the Victorian Button Collector's Club, based in Melbourne, was a relative newcomer, being formed in 1996.



Panic Button

In Victorian times, girls strung buttons together to make charm strings. Once the string reached 1,000 buttons, with no two the same, legend has it she would meet her beloved. Appraising one such charm proves difficult for Josie as the owner insists it's cursed, and is then found dead.

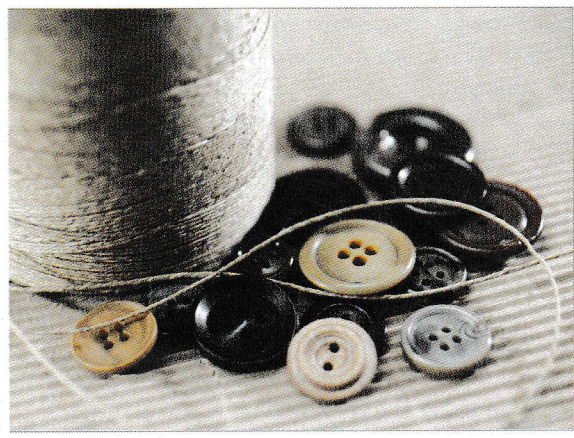
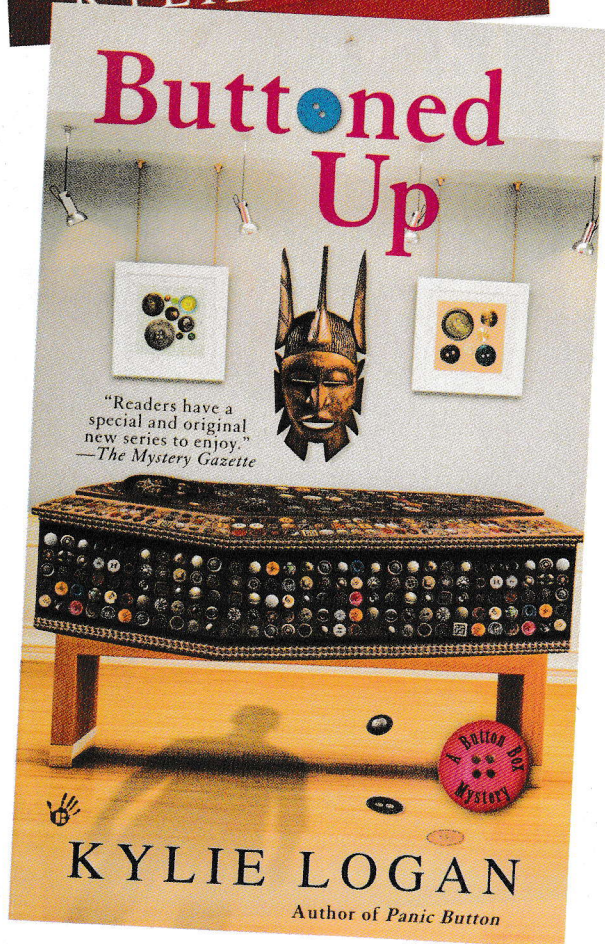
Button Up

Artist Forbis Parmenter has invited Josie to the opening of his latest exhibit of voodoo-inspired works. He plans to make a show of completing the centrepiece — a button-encrusted box with a very scary statue inside — when Josie arrives with the final button. But just as the big moment comes, Forbis bolts out of the gallery in panic. Is it another of his publicity stunts, or is something more sinister afoot? Josie gets her answer when the eccentric artist is found dead in the arms of the statue—his eyes and mouth glued shut with buttons. A voodoo curse, a long-lost love and an intriguing ally add to the mystery that Josie's got to solve before a crafty killer slips through her fingers.

You may have come across other works by Constance before and not known it as she writes under several pseudonyms, including Miranda Bliss, Casey Daniels, Zoe Daniels, Connie Deka, Connie Lane and Connie Laux, as well as Constance Laux and Kylie Logan, writing in a number of genres including historical and contemporary romance as well as children's fiction.

When she's not busy writing, Constance enjoys weaving and knitting, classic books, visiting antique stores and exploring cemeteries, but it always comes back to mystery as one of her favourite past times is exploring cemeteries and uncovering the hidden secrets there.

Once you've solved the mysteries of the Button Box series, be sure to look for more Kylie Logan mysteries, including the League of Literary Ladies Mysteries. For more of her work and to see what else she has written under other names, visit www.kylielogan.com



Ask for the Kylie Logan Button Box Mysteries at your local bookshop or search for them online.