

Clause & Effect by Kaitlyn Dunnett

Mikki Lincoln is a retired teacher turned freelance book editor, who also became an amateur detective after moving back to her hometown in upstate New York. After being widowed, she moved from Maine to her family home in Lenape Hollow in the Catskills. The village's 225th anniversary celebration is quickly approaching and Mikki has been tasked with editing the script from the bicentennial play. Except that it needs a major overhaul, and the original script can't be removed from the historical society, so she has to work on it there. The historical society building is being renovated, and while Mikki is there one day, a body is found that had been walled up in a fireplace ever since the bicentennial. But the cold case gets a hot new lead when another murder takes place. And Mikki's research for the play rewrite might hold the missing piece of the puzzle for the crimes.

Clause & Effect is the second book in Kaitlyn Dunnett's Deadly Edits series, the first being *Crime & Punctuation*. Both books are excellent and Mikki has become one of my favorite cozy mystery protagonists, since she's so clever and resourceful. She's definitely not perfect and still finds herself stuck in some dicey situations. I really appreciate Kaitlyn Dunnett's writing style, and the imagery of the Catskills that she deftly paints through her words. I've never been to upstate New York, but I feel like I can picture the village pretty well. And despite all of the murders, it seems like it would be a lovely place to visit. The cast of characters in the village are interesting and it's kind of funny to read about women in their 70's still holding on to high school grudges. It was also fascinating to read about the fictional history of Lenape Hollow, both the founding of the town and what happened during the bicentennial. I really enjoyed reading this one and look forward to the future entries in this series!

GK