

# Synopsis for Legends Can Be Murder

## **2-line Summary:**

Albuquerque investigator Charlie Parker finds herself drawn into the past while working in Skagway, Alaska, and discovering a box of Gold Rush-era letters which lead her to solving two murders.

## **Short Synopsis:**

In this fifteenth book in the Charlie Parker mystery series, Charlie and her husband have taken a helicopter job in Skagway, Alaska. Aside from the fabulous scenery and challenging flight conditions, Charlie finds herself drawn to the Gold Rush era when she finds a box of old letters that provide uncanny clues to solving two murders.

## **Medium Synopsis:**

In this fifteenth book in the Charlie Parker mystery series, pilots Charlotte “Charlie” Parker and her husband have taken a helicopter job in Skagway, Alaska. Amid the fabulous scenery and challenging flight conditions, she is soon called to the scene where a decades-old skeleton has been found in a cave. The police chief is busy with other cases and allows Charlie to follow the clues, but someone else in town doesn’t want her to learn the secret that has remained hidden for a long time. A second body is found, and Charlie finds that the two cases have eerie similarities.

## **Long Synopsis:**

In this fifteenth book in the Charlie Parker mystery series, pilots Charlotte “Charlie” Parker and her husband travel from their home in Albuquerque to Skagway, Alaska, for a job flying adventurous tourists to remote cabin sites for a sampling of the outdoor life and the chance to pan for gold. Amid the fabulous scenery and challenging flight conditions, she is soon called to the scene where a decades-old skeleton has been found in a cave. The police chief is busy with current-day cases and allows Charlie and her newfound friend, reporter Mina Gengler, to follow the clues.

A second body is discovered, this one dating back more than a hundred years. Charlie finds herself drawn to the legends of the Gold Rush era when she finds a box of old letters that provide uncanny clues to solving the two murders, and the reader is treated to a glimpse of Gold Rush life through the eyes of one stamper when his quest goes from wishful dreaming to desperation.

Meanwhile, as Charlie and Mina get closer to the answers, it becomes apparent that someone else in town doesn’t want the past to be revealed and will go to any lengths to protect old and dark secrets.

**Praise for the previous Charlie Parker mysteries:**

“Charlie is slick, appealing and nobody’s fool. Just what readers want in an amateur sleuth.” —*Booklist*

“Charlie is a fabulous amateur sleuth.” —*Midwest Book Review*

“Down to earth and very readable.” —*Library Journal*

“The flying scenes are a high point as well and make this thriller a good bet for fans of Dana Stabenow's Liam Campbell series.” —*Booklist*

“Connie Shelton gets better with every book she writes.” —*The Midwest Book Review*

**Points of Interest about *Legends Can Be Murder* (from the Author’s Notes at the end):**

Alaska, the land of such magnificent natural beauty that it is hard to fathom it all, was long a dream of mine and I went there with an eye for a place where a story could unfold. Skagway caught my eye, and my heart, and two trips there were not nearly enough. But that’s what I had to work with.

So many resources came my way, both during and after my travels. *The Skagway Story* by Howard Clifford painted many pictures for me of daily life on the streets of the town during and after the gold rush. The visitor center and chamber of commerce provided a bounty of maps and answered questions I didn’t even know I would run into while I was actually on site. (Who knew that over 6,800 abandoned mines exist in Alaska?) The local newspapers helped tremendously with both historical and modern-day facts, as did our friendly and helpful guides.

Despite the research, please keep in mind that this is a work of fiction and the entire story comes from my imagination. The events surrounding the death of Jefferson Randolph “Soapy” Smith, the funerals and burials of Smith and of Frank Reid are well documented in history, although there were discrepancies in some of the accounts and I could only choose one of them.

My sense of what Skagway must be like when the tourist season ends is just that—a guess based on my own experience having lived in places that rely heavily on tourism for their livelihood. Mainly, I hope you will sit back and enjoy this little adventure along with Charlie and Drake. I feel incredibly lucky to be able to pass it along to you.

---Connie Shelton, October, 2014

## Book Details and Purchase Information

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