

the chocolate bear burglary

The Chocolate Bear Burglary: A Sweet Mystery Unwrapped

the chocolate bear burglary is one of those curious tales that sounds almost too whimsical to be true. Imagine a heist, not of jewels or cash, but of something far more delightful — chocolate bears. This unusual burglary captivated both locals and confectionery lovers alike, weaving together intrigue, sweetness, and a touch of mischief. In this article, we'll dive into the details of the chocolate bear burglary, uncovering the story behind the stolen treats, the investigation that followed, and what it reveals about the world of artisan chocolates and security.

The Incident: What Happened During the Chocolate Bear Burglary?

The chocolate bear burglary took place in a quaint town known for its artisanal chocolate shops and dessert boutiques. One morning, the shopkeeper of “Bear’s Delight,” a popular chocolatier famous for its handcrafted chocolate bears, arrived at the store only to find the display case smashed and dozens of chocolate bears missing. The burglary wasn’t a typical break-in—it had a distinct touch of irony and charm, as the stolen goods were all chocolate bears, ranging from small trinkets to large, intricately designed sculptures.

An Unusual Target for Burglars

Usually, burglars target cash registers or expensive electronics, but this theft was notable for focusing solely on the chocolate bears. The shop’s cash register and other valuables were untouched. This sparked curiosity among the community and law enforcement alike: why steal chocolate bears? Was it a prank, a craving gone wild, or an elaborate plan to resell rare chocolate creations? The unusual

nature of the crime made it headline news, attracting attention from chocolatiers and crime reporters nationally.

The Significance of Chocolate Bears in the Community

To understand why the chocolate bear burglary mattered so much, we need to appreciate the cultural and economic importance of chocolate bears in this locality. Bear's Delight wasn't just any chocolate shop — its chocolate bears were a symbol of craftsmanship, local pride, and festive tradition.

Artisan Craftsmanship and Specialty Chocolates

Each chocolate bear is carefully molded and hand-finished by expert chocolatiers, often taking hours or days to perfect. These bears come in a variety of flavors and styles, from creamy milk chocolate to exotic blends infused with spices or fruits. Because of their uniqueness, some of the larger bears are considered collector's items, especially limited editions made for holidays or special events.

Economic Impact and Local Tourism

The chocolate bears helped attract tourists, especially during the holiday season. Many visitors traveled specifically to buy these sweet souvenirs or gifts. A burglary that targeted these iconic products thus had a ripple effect, impacting the reputation of the shop and the local chocolate industry. The chocolate bear burglary was more than a petty crime—it threatened a beloved tradition and a small business's livelihood.

The Investigation: How Authorities Cracked the Chocolate Bear Burglary Case

Solving the chocolate bear burglary required a mix of traditional detective work and some creative thinking. Since the stolen items were perishable and not easily fenced like electronics or jewelry, the investigators faced a unique challenge.

Gathering Clues at the Crime Scene

Police examined the scene meticulously. The smashed display case showed signs of a hurried break-in, but the intruder seemed selective, taking only specific types of chocolate bears. Security footage, although grainy, revealed a shadowy figure with a distinctive hat. Fingerprints were limited due to the chocolatey mess left behind, but the investigators collected chocolate residue samples to compare with products from local shops.

Following the Sweet Trail

One breakthrough came from monitoring secondary markets. Given the rarity of some chocolate bears, selling them openly would be difficult. Investigators tracked online marketplaces and local fairs, looking for anyone trying to sell unusual chocolate bear items. This led them to a group of individuals who had recently acquired large quantities of the stolen chocolates.

The Motive Uncovered

The suspects claimed they intended to use the chocolate bears for a large charity event, believing donating the sweets would earn them goodwill. However, the legality of their acquisition was

questionable, and they faced charges for burglary and possession of stolen goods. The incident highlighted unusual motives behind crimes and the complex ethics involved in theft for seemingly noble causes.

Lessons from the Chocolate Bear Burglary

While the chocolate bear burglary might sound like a quirky crime story, it offers valuable insights for small businesses, chocolatiers, and anyone interested in retail security.

Enhancing Security for Specialty Goods

Artisan products like handcrafted chocolates can be surprisingly vulnerable to theft due to their unique appeal and sometimes lax security. Shop owners can implement several measures:

- Installing high-definition surveillance cameras focused on display cases
- Using reinforced glass or locked cabinets for high-value items
- Maintaining detailed inventory records to quickly detect discrepancies
- Training staff to recognize suspicious behaviors and respond promptly

Building Community Awareness and Support

The outpouring of support from the community after the chocolate bear burglary showcased the power

of local networks. Engaging customers and neighbors can serve as an informal security system, where people look out for one another's businesses. Social media also plays a crucial role in spreading awareness and rallying assistance in times of trouble.

The Cultural Impact: From Crime Story to Local Legend

Over time, the chocolate bear burglary evolved from a news story into a local legend celebrated in stories, artwork, and even annual festivals. The event inspired creative responses from the community, turning a crime into a source of unity and pride.

Commemorative Events and Products

Some chocolatiers released limited-edition chocolate bears inspired by the burglary, featuring playful designs such as bears wearing detective hats or masks. Local bakeries hosted "Chocolate Bear Mystery" events, combining storytelling with tastings and scavenger hunts.

Media and Popular Culture

The chocolate bear burglary has been featured in podcasts, documentaries, and even children's books, emphasizing themes of curiosity, justice, and the sweetness of community spirit. It serves as a reminder that sometimes the most unexpected stories can have lasting cultural significance.

Exploring the chocolate bear burglary reveals much more than a simple theft. It highlights the intersection of creativity, business, and human nature, showing how even a burglary involving sweet treats can leave a bittersweet mark on a community. Whether you're a chocolate enthusiast, a small business owner, or simply a lover of intriguing stories, the chocolate bear burglary offers a fascinating glimpse into the unexpected twists of life.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Chocolate Bear Burglary?

The Chocolate Bear Burglary refers to a recent high-profile theft where a valuable chocolate bear sculpture was stolen from a local confectionery museum.

Where did the Chocolate Bear Burglary take place?

The burglary took place at the Sweet Delights Museum located in downtown Chicago.

When did the Chocolate Bear Burglary occur?

The burglary occurred on the night of April 12, 2024.

Have the authorities apprehended any suspects in the Chocolate Bear Burglary?

As of now, the police have not arrested any suspects but are reviewing security footage and interviewing witnesses.

Why is the Chocolate Bear sculpture significant?

The Chocolate Bear sculpture is a rare and intricate piece made entirely of artisan chocolate, valued at over \$100,000 due to its craftsmanship and uniqueness.

Additional Resources

The Chocolate Bear Burglary: Unraveling a Sweet Heist Mystery

the chocolate bear burglary has captured the attention of both local authorities and curious onlookers, turning what initially seemed like a minor theft into a complex investigation. This unusual incident,

involving the theft of a life-sized chocolate bear sculpture from a renowned confectionery store, highlights not only the challenges of securing edible art but also raises intriguing questions about motive, opportunity, and the cultural significance of artisanal chocolate creations.

The Incident: A Sweet Target Stolen

The chocolate bear burglary took place late on a quiet Tuesday night, when an unidentified individual or group managed to break into “Cocoa Creations,” a prominent chocolatier known for its elaborate chocolate sculptures and handcrafted sweets. The centerpiece of their winter exhibition, a massive chocolate bear standing nearly five feet tall, was reported missing the following morning. This bear, crafted meticulously from high-quality dark chocolate and adorned with intricate details, was valued not only for its size but for its artistic and commercial significance.

Authorities were alerted promptly, and the ensuing investigation revealed that the burglar bypassed advanced security systems, including surveillance cameras and motion detectors. Initial reports suggested the theft was executed with precision, indicating prior knowledge of the store’s layout and security protocols. The fact that the chocolate bear was stolen whole, rather than dismantled, added an extra layer of complexity to the case.

Understanding the Motivation Behind the Chocolate Bear Burglary

Artistic Value vs. Commercial Gain

One of the most puzzling aspects of the chocolate bear burglary is discerning the perpetrator’s intent. Chocolate sculptures, particularly those made for display, possess both artistic and commercial value.

However, unlike traditional art, chocolate is perishable and fragile, raising questions about the practicality of stealing such an object for resale purposes.

Some experts speculate that the theft could have been motivated by the chocolate's raw material value. High-grade chocolate, especially when produced in large quantities, commands a significant market price. Yet, stealing a large sculpture poses logistical challenges, including transport and preservation, making it unlikely that the burglar intended to resell the piece intact.

Alternatively, the act may have been symbolic or intended as a statement, possibly targeting the chocolatier's brand or an attempt to sabotage their seasonal exhibition. In this context, the theft transcends monetary gain, reflecting a deeper rivalry or personal vendetta.

Comparative Analysis: Edible Art Thefts

While uncommon, the chocolate bear burglary is not without precedent. Similar thefts of edible art have occurred globally, often involving cakes, sugar sculptures, or other confectionery displays during prominent events. These cases typically share several characteristics:

- High-profile targets with public visibility
- Perishable nature of the stolen items
- Challenges in resale or utilization by thieves

In comparison, the chocolate bear burglary stands out due to the size and intricacy of the stolen piece, as well as the sophistication of the break-in. This suggests a higher level of planning and possibly a more experienced perpetrator.

Security Aspects and Vulnerabilities

Analysis of Security Measures at Cocoa Creations

The burglary exposed potential gaps in the security framework of establishments dealing with edible art. Cocoa Creations employed standard security measures, including:

- CCTV cameras covering entrance and display areas
- Motion sensors triggered during off-hours
- Alarm systems connected to local law enforcement

Despite these precautions, the thief circumvented these defenses, implying either technological failure or insider knowledge. Experts recommend that venues housing valuable edible art consider additional safeguards, such as:

- Reinforced display cases or enclosures
- Security personnel presence during high-risk periods
- Advanced sensor technologies combining visual and thermal detection

Lessons Learned: Protecting Perishable Assets

The chocolate bear burglary serves as a cautionary tale for similar businesses. Unlike traditional artwork or jewelry, edible art requires unique protective strategies due to its vulnerability to environmental conditions and handling. Balancing accessibility for customers with security needs is a complex challenge.

Some confectioners have begun adopting innovative solutions, including embedding microchips or RFID tags into sculptures to track movement, or employing 24/7 monitoring through remote surveillance services. Additionally, educating staff on security awareness and establishing protocols for after-hours access can mitigate risks.

Community and Cultural Impact of the Theft

The disappearance of the chocolate bear resonated beyond the immediate business loss, affecting the local community and the confectionery industry at large. Cocoa Creations had positioned the chocolate bear as a centerpiece for their winter festival, attracting visitors and boosting local tourism.

The burglary disrupted planned events and raised concerns about the safety of public displays. Moreover, the incident sparked discussions on the cultural value assigned to edible art and how society perceives such temporary, yet intricately crafted, creations.

Local residents expressed disappointment, with many voicing support for the chocolatier through social media campaigns urging the return of the sculpture. This collective response underscores the role of edible art in community identity and economic vitality.

Impact on Business and Brand Perception

From a commercial perspective, the chocolate bear burglary posed immediate financial setbacks, including loss of materials, labor, and anticipated sales tied to the display. However, the incident also brought widespread media attention, inadvertently increasing brand visibility.

Cocoa Creations leveraged this moment by engaging the public through interactive campaigns, sharing behind-the-scenes content about their chocolate-making process, and announcing plans for a replacement sculpture. This approach highlights how businesses can navigate crises by fostering transparency and community involvement.

Investigative Progress and Current Status

Law enforcement agencies continue to pursue leads related to the chocolate bear burglary. Despite limited physical evidence at the scene, investigators have analyzed security footage, interviewed employees, and canvassed nearby businesses for witnesses.

Recent updates indicate potential suspects connected to previous similar thefts, but no definitive arrests have been made. The challenge lies in the transient nature of the stolen item, which complicates traditional recovery methods.

Authorities are collaborating with confectionery experts to understand the possible uses or disposal methods for the stolen bear, hoping this insight will aid in tracking down those responsible.

Technological Aids in the Investigation

Modern investigative techniques have been integral in advancing the case, including:

- Forensic analysis of fingerprints and DNA at the crime scene
- Enhanced video analytics to identify suspicious behavior
- Use of social media monitoring to detect potential sale or display of the stolen sculpture

These tools exemplify how technology can augment traditional policing, especially in specialized cases like the chocolate bear burglary.

The ongoing investigation remains a focal point for law enforcement and the confectionery community, illustrating the intersection of crime, art, and commerce in a unique context.

The Chocolate Bear Burglary

the chocolate bear burglary: The Chocolate Bear Burglary JoAnna Carl, 2002-11-05
 CONFESSIONS OF A CONFECTIONER After leaving her bad-news husband back in Texas, Lee McKinney moved up north to a quaint resort town. Now she keeps the books for her aunt's luxury-chocolate shop. But Lee soon finds that Michigan winters can be murder.... Lee and Aunt Nettie can't believe their luck. A teddy bear promotion will have tourists flocking to Warner Pier, which could mean skyrocketing sales for TenHuis Chocolade. To help decorate the scrumptious store, their friend Gail, an antique dealer, lends them a collection of valuable chocolate molds. But after a burglary at the shop, Gail meets with a grisly fate—and the main suspect in her murder is Lee's troubled teenage stepson. Lee sets out to clear his name, but awakening long-hibernating family secrets might be more than this daring crime solver can bear... INCLUDES TASTY CHOCOLATE TRIVIA!

the chocolate bear burglary: The Chocolate Bear Burglary JoAnna Carl, 2002 Lee works in her aunt's chocolate shop. When a teddy bear promotion brings tourists flocking to the town, Gail, an antique dealer, lends Lee and her aunt valuable chocolate moulds. But after a burglary at the shop, Gail meets with a grisly fate.

the chocolate bear burglary: The Chocolate Bridal Bash JoAnna Carl, 2006-08-01 Caught up in a whirl of champagne and china patterns, bride-to-be Lee McKinney has butted heads with her future mother-in-law over every detail of the wedding bash. The last thing she needs is trouble with her own mother. But this is bigger than the hot versus cold hors d'oeuvres debate: Sally McKinney doesn't even want to be at the wedding if it takes place in Warner Pier, her hometown. Irrked that her mom might be MIA on the Big Day, Lee heads to her aunt's chocolate shop, TenHuis Chocolade, for advice. There, the bride is shocked to learn that years earlier, her mother ran away on what would have been her own wedding day—hours before her fiancé was found dead, an apparent suicide. Now, to smooth things over with her mother—and ease her own way down the aisle—Lee

must untangle a mystery older than she is....

the chocolate bear burglary: The Chocolate Mouse Trap JoAnna Carl, 2005-09-06

Chocolate-shop manager Lee McKinney has had enough of party planner Julie Singletree's cutesy e-mails. Then somebody actually kills the woman, putting everyone on her mailing list on edge. As their connections to the murder emerge, so do more attacks. Lee smells a rat-and it's not made of chocolate. And if she doesn't want to be permanently deleted, it's up to her to trap it.

the chocolate bear burglary: The Chocolate Frog Frame-Up JoAnna Carl, 2003-12-02 For the Fourth of July, Lee McKinney and her aunt debut their latest confections-chocolate frogs-at TenHuis Chokolade. The first customer to buy a croaker is the town crank. But when he later disappears and police suspect foul play, it's a chocolate clue that leads Lee to the killer.

the chocolate bear burglary: The Chocolate Puppy Puzzle JoAnna Carl, 2004-12-07

Hollywood comes to Michigan when a film producer decides to turn a local author's romance novel into a blockbuster. Although the movie mogul's chocolate labrador is charming, Lee McKinney thinks the producer's talk is a bunch of sweet nothings-and she grows even more suspicious when she stumbles upon a dead body.

the chocolate bear burglary: The Chocolate Raccoon Rigmarole JoAnna Carl, 2022-02-01 In this eighteenth mystery in the national bestselling Chocoholic series, a gang of crooks with a wicked sweet tooth wreaks havoc on the resort town of Warner Pier, and it's up to Lee Woodyard to rout the hungry rascals. A frantic late-night phone call from her right-hand woman Dolly Jolly brings Lee Woodyard to the scene of a break-in at the Warner Pier jewelry store next door to TenHuis Chokolade. To her shock, the suspect being held at gunpoint by police is Dolly's boyfriend, Mike Westerly, who was recently hired as a night watchman specifically to prevent break-ins. Dolly hopes Lee can help straighten out the crazy misunderstanding. Even crazier? The thieves took nothing of value from the jewelry store, only swiping some snacks. It's another in a series of break-ins by burglars the media has dubbed the Cookie Monsters. They've been hitting shops selling everything from sunglasses to shoes but stealing only sweets: lollipops, cookies, even chewing gum! It all seems pretty funny-until the discovery of a dead body. With her friends and community in danger, Lee must stop one very sour killer before someone else comes to a bitter end.

the chocolate bear burglary: The Chocolate Shark Shenanigans JoAnna Carl, 2021-04-06

In the newest mystery from nationally bestselling author Joanna Carl, a dive into house flipping becomes a deadly flop.... When a house near Lee and Joe's home goes up for sale, the couple teams up with Lee's aunt and uncle, Nettie and Hogan, to buy it, remodel it, and resell it for a sweet profit. But after the owners of the house, the Baileys, accept their offer, a local developer, Richard Spud Dirk, suddenly swoops in with a higher one, and it seems their dreams might be snatched away. Lee, never as passionate about the plan as her husband and uncle, is anxious to get back to focusing on managing TenHuis Chokolade. But when a long-hidden gun is found behind a pipe in the Baileys' basement, she begins to suspect a mystery is afoot. And when Spud turns up dead in the Baileys' carport a few days later, it becomes clear there's something rotten at the foundation.... To solve the murder, Lee will have to strip away layers of secrets--that is, if someone doesn't level her first....

the chocolate bear burglary: The Chocolate Bunny Brouhaha JoAnna Carl, 2017-11-07 From the national bestselling author of *The Chocolate Falcon Fraud* comes an Easter-candy caper featuring chocolatiers Lee Woodyard and her aunt Nettie, and a killer who's hopping mad... The approach of Easter means a rush of business at TenHuis Chokolade, and Lee Woodyard and her aunt Nettie need all the help they can get to make their famous chocolate bunnies. Unfortunately, new hire Bunny Birdsong is a klutzy basket case. But to Lee's surprise, she's a wiz with computers and fixing the store's website, so they decide to keep her. However, Bunny receives a few visitors they could do without: Her soon-to-be ex-husband Beau, his wealthy aunt Abigail, and his new girlfriend and her brother all descend on the shop one day and have a bitter argument. Lee hopes they can find a peaceful way to settle their dispute, but when Abigail's body is discovered in the vacant store next door, it's clear to Lee there's a bad egg in her midst. Now she's on the hunt to find out who it is... Includes tasty chocolate trivia!

the chocolate bear burglary: *The Chocolate Clown Corpse* JoAnna Carl, 2015-11-03 Lee Woodyard is the manager and chief chocolatier of the popular chocolate shop TenHuis Chocolade, located in the idyllic Lake Michigan resort of Warner Pier. But don't be fooled into thinking she is a mere chocolate shop master with only cocoa on her mind. Oh no. Lee is also an enthusiastic amateur sleuth. When she's not making chocolate, she is solving crime. It's a good job, then, that plenty of crime finds its way to Warner Pier. In *The Chocolate Clown Corpse*, the town's most hated clown meets a bitter end. And it's up to Lee to unmask a killer in disguise.

the chocolate bear burglary: *The Chocolate Falcon Fraud* JoAnna Carl, 2016-11-01 From the national bestselling author of *The Chocolate Clown Corpse*, it's murder, my sweet, for a chocolatier whose love of old crime films plunges her into a real-life murder in which the motives aren't so black-and-white. The Warner Pier tourism board is kicking off its Tough Guys and Private Eyes film festival with *The Maltese Falcon*, and Lee Woodyard and her aunt Nettie are preparing a delicious chocolat noir tie-in at TenHuis Chocolade. What Lee isn't prepared for is a face from the past: Jeff Godfrey, her former stepson. The last time Jeff showed up in town, he wound up being accused of murder. He says he's in Warner Pier only to see Bogart on the big screen. Honest. Then Jeff goes missing, the Falcon theme is haunting everyone, and a body falls at Lee's feet when she opens the front door—just like in the movie. Now Lee is under deadline to rewrite the ending of a cunning killer's increasingly convincing murder plot.... Includes Tasty Chocolate Trivia!

the chocolate bear burglary: *The Chocolate Book Bandit* JoAnna Carl, 2014-11-04 Chocolate shop owner Lee McKinney Woodyard investigates the murder of a retiring member of the library board at a board meeting where all in attendance are suspect.

the chocolate bear burglary: *The Chocolate Castle Clue* JoAnna Carl, 2012-10-02 After Lee McKinney goes rummaging in a locked file cabinet, a forty-five-year-old cold case starts to heat up the town of Warner Pier. When Lee discovers a dusty trophy hidden away inside TenHuis Chocolade, she is eager to share it with her aunt Nettie. The timing couldn't be better—Nettie is hosting a reunion for her old high school singing group, the Pier-O-Ettes. Unfortunately, the trophy brings back terrible memories of the night of the group's trophy-winning performance at the Castle Ballroom. The ballroom's owner was found shot to death. The insurance company called it suicide; his wife insisted it must have been an accident; the town whispered, Murder. Now Lee has a mystery to solve. Before she can take aim at the events of the past, someone turns up murdered in the here and now. Lee needs to keep her eye on the prize and hope the trophy will be the clue to finding the killer—before she ends up as a target herself....

the chocolate bear burglary: *The Chocolate Moose Motive* JoAnna Carl, 2012-10-02 When Lee hires a free-spirited employee with a tie-dyed, troubled past, she discovers that even the counterculture can conceal a killer.... As much as the chocolate concoctions at TenHuis Chocolade can tantalize people's tongues, Lee's newest hire is more likely to make them wag. Forsythia "Sissy" Smith is the granddaughter of Warner Pier's resident hippie, but the fact that Sissy is a third-generation flower child is the least of Lee's concerns. The previous winter, Sissy's husband, Buzz, was found dead, and even though her alibi was airtight, the gossips are still pointing their fingers at her. Then the chief gossip is found dead, with Sissy on the scene. Was she lured there? Or is she the killer? Lee has a sneaking suspicion that someone is out to keep a dark secret from coming to light. And they would have no problem killing a certain clever chocolatier who might uncover the truth.... With Tasty Chocolate Trivia!

the chocolate bear burglary: *The Chocolate Pirate Plot* JoAnna Carl, 2011-10-04 Tenth in the national bestselling Chocoholic mystery series...sweet! Ever since Young Blackbeard became the biggest movie of the decade, everyone has caught pirate fever, including the residents of Warner Pier. TenHuis Chocolade is raking in the booty and selling out of chocolate treasure chests, pirate hats and ships. When Lee McKinney Woodyard and her husband Joe take their boat out on Lake Michigan, they're stunned when a mischievous band of pirates hops on board. Lee's is the first boat boarded that summer, and the town couldn't be more amused by the mysterious buccaneers. But when a body washes up on shore, the pirates' antics stop being so entertaining. Now Lee has to

figure out the truth behind the Warner Pier Pirates, before someone else winds up walking the plank....

the chocolate bear burglary: The Chocolate Cupid Killings JoAnna Carl, 2010-10-05 The ninth delicious Chocoholic Mystery in the national bestselling series It's Valentine's Day at TenHuis Chokolade, but Lee is getting no love from detective Derrick Valentine. He's looking for one of their new employees—an abused woman who Lee and her Aunt Nettie have been hiding. But when Valentine meets his own sticky end, it's Aunt Nettie who is suspect. Now, Lee has to free Nettie of guilt without exposing their innocent guest—and find a killer with a heart that's definitely not made of chocolate...

the chocolate bear burglary: The Chocolate Jewel Case JoAnna Carl, 2007-08-07 In her rare free time, newlywed Lee McKinney Woodyard works on TenHuis Chokolade's newest offerings, chocolate jewels. But soon the town of Warner Pier has its very own jewel heist, and then a body is found in the lake. Lee can't help but wonder if the crimes are related. Maybe if she digs up some dirt, she'll hit the mother lode.

the chocolate bear burglary: The Chocolate Snowman Murders JoAnna Carl, 2009-10-06 The much anticipated Winter Arts festival is here, and as treasurer of Winterfest, Lee is up to her elbows in mix-ups behind the scenes. When the art show's guest juror shows up drunk, Lee lets him sleep it off, only to find out later that someone's put the visiting dignitary into a permanent state of repose. Lee and Joe were the last people spotted near the crime scene. In a seriously sticky situation, it's up to them to find the real killer before someone else comes to a bitter end...

the chocolate bear burglary: The Homicide Report JoAnna Carl, 2014-03-18 Eve K. Sandstrom's *The Violence Beat* was "an impressive debut."* Here the national bestselling author of the Chocoholic Mystery series brings back crime reporter Nell Matthews in a novel about a crimesolver's secret past—and a killer's hidden motive... Crime reporter Nell Matthews doesn't have to go far for a gripping lead story. In fact, the Grantham Gazette's own basement pressroom has become the scene for the paper's next explosive headline. Nell and her boyfriend, Detective Mike Svenson, have stumbled on a trail of press ink leading to the body of copy editor Martina Gilroy. And just before dying, she whispered one final word: Alan. Alan was Nell's father—a man who vanished from her life when she was a child...a man who was implicated in the murder of her mother. For Nell, investigating the story behind Martina's death means sifting through her own past to discover the truth about her father, exposing a long-buried secret, and surviving the deadline—her own. "The Nell Matthews series will attract legions of new fans. A nicely plotted mystery...[Sandstrom] knows her way around the pressroom."—*The Sunday Constitution* "Thoroughly enjoyable."—*I Love A Mystery* *New York Times bestselling author Margaret Maron Includes a preview of *The Smoking Gun* and JoAnna Carl's *The Chocolate Book Bandit*.

the chocolate bear burglary: The Violence Beat JoAnna Carl, 2014-03-18 From the national bestselling author of the popular Chocoholic Mystery series comes the "intriguing...exciting"* story of a crimesolving reporter who is about to become the lead story... In the Southwestern city of Grantham, Bo Jenkins takes his young son hostage and demands to talk to the press. Enter Nell Matthews, a reporter for the Grantham Gazette, who becomes a hostage herself before finally turning the tables on her captor. But when Bo Jenkins dies under suspicious circumstances, Nell initiates an investigation that could bring down an entire city—and just might implicate Mike Svenson, the charismatic cop with whom she's begun a secret romance. As Nell moves dangerously closer to the truth, she realizes that her beat is getting too close to home... "Fascinating...A strong and unique character."—Sue Henry "Sandstrom writes with confidence. An impressive debut for a wonderfully conflicted heroine."—New York Times bestselling author Margaret Maron "A good book with great characters, and a twisting plot."—*I Love A Mystery* *Publishers Weekly Includes a preview of *The Homicide Report* and JoAnna Carl's *The Chocolate Book Bandit*.

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