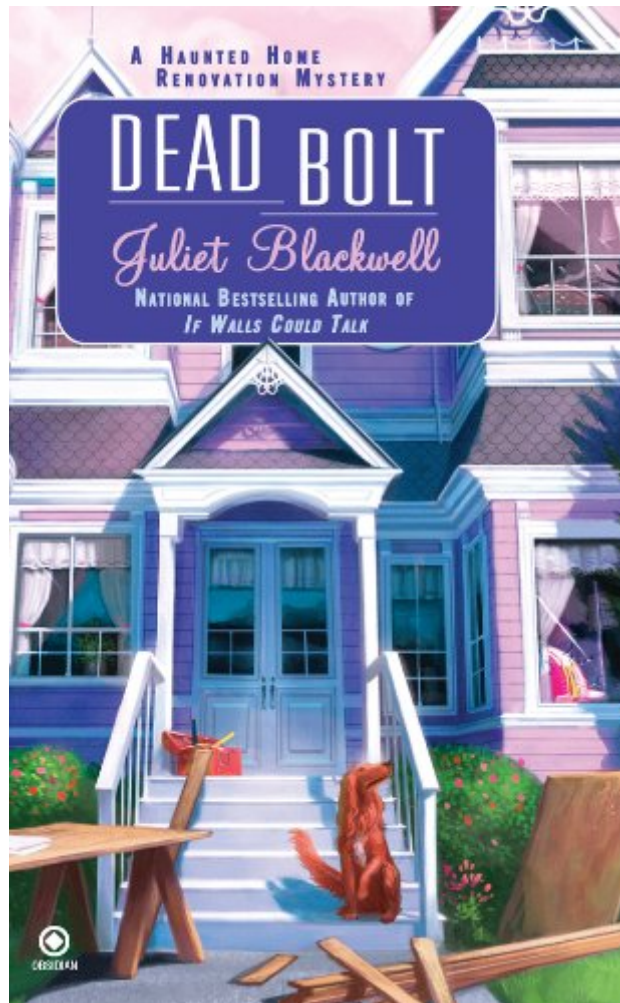




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# Dead Bolt: A Haunted Home Renovation Mystery



## Synopsis

Turner Construction's latest restoration project is a historic Queen Anne Victorian in San Francisco. This time general contractor Mel Turner has to work around the owners who insist on sticking around- along with some ghosts that insist in their own way that the work stops...The ghosts aren't the only ones standing in the way of the renovations. A crotchety neighbor, Emile Blunt, secretly wants this house, and could be behind some of the disturbances. But when Emile is found dead, it's Mel who appears guilty. Now she must restore the building-and her reputation-before it's too late.

## Book Information

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Ghosts

## Customer Reviews

I am new to the Juliet Blackwell series, but the books I have read have been excellent. The plots are well thought out, the characters do not do anything out of character, and the audience gets all the same clues that the protagonist does (no secret phone calls revealing new clues). In this book, Mel is coming to grips with her new found talent: seeing and communicating with ghosts. Her company is restoring a gorgeous Queen Anne Victorian, and she is frequently on site. A lot of unexplainable

events - handprints on the ceiling, tools disappearing as soon as they are put down, small accidents - have Mel wondering if there are ghosts residing in the house, but nothing has appeared to her. To make things even more complex, the family that owns the house is living in the basement apartment. The wife confides to Mel that she is frightened. Then the neighbor, a taxidermy practising upholsterer, is shot, and Mel's father is named a person of interest. Mel has no choice but to become involved. The author's knowledge of San Francisco, its culture, and its architecture is evident. Her knowledge of restoration construction is impressive. But it is her ability to write a well crafted story that I enjoy most.

The A Haunted Home Renovation series is a winner. They can be read as stand-alone but the books are better read in order. The Protagonist is Mel Turner, she is recovering from a divorce and her Father has major medical problems. Mel took over the family business of reconstruction and has been running it successfully. Other characters are Dog, a stray that she rescued. Her Father and his disabled friend, Stan. There is Calbel, her stepson from her marriage. Graham, her boyfriend. Olivier the go to for spirit matters. Annette Crawford, a homicide, Stephen, a barrister, and Zeke, a photographer. Mel learns in the first book that she has inherited her Mother's gift to see ghosts. The stories touch upon social problems and our opinions of spirituality. This is the second book in the series. Mel is working a Queen Anne Victorian home for a software developer and his Russian wife, Katenka, and baby, Quinn. Katenka is scared because of strange noises she hears and the workman noticed tools and other objects have moved. There is a door that has a Deadbolt on it. If a person gets near the door, the ghosts become active. Mayhem occurs in another part of the house. Mel is still learning about her gift and attempting to learn more about it. I highly recommend this book and series.

Mel Turner is restoring a Queen Ann Victorian 1890, the Cheshire House. The house is located in San Francisco, California. Mel has her hands full....the new owners insist on living in the basement of their house during the renovation, the owner's wife senses a shadow, handprints appear on the ceiling, wet footprints are seen. It appears the house is haunted!!! Combine ghosts, murder, blackmail, shaded hidden past with mystery, suspense, humor and shades of romance for an enjoyable, quick read. This is the second book in the Haunted House Renovation Mystery series. It can be read as a stand alone. Mel has a dog named Dog. There are several cats in the story. The murdered man besides reupholstering furniture was into taxidermy. Very interesting story.

This was a great read that had me turning pages as I followed the mystery trail and also laughing as I went. Melanie (Mel) Turner is running the family General Contracting firm for a restoration of a Victorian house with a history. And, boy does it ever have a history, complete with ghosts and voices and accidents...even a possession. Mel is learning that she has her Mother's knack of communicating with ghosts. It is truly coming in handy at this time for a Queen Anne Victorian Home with a young family that refuses to leave during the reconstruction. A neighbor who is a "PITA" (read book for translation,) is found shot in the chest by Mel's Father as he goes to intercede for his daughter. Mel knows he is innocent but it is up to her to prove it! I love this series. I love the fact that historic facts are blended in with the storyline. Treat yourselves to a great read.

This is the second book I've read in the Haunted Home Renovation series. The book hits several areas of interest for me: a story with a ghostly vein, a mystery and renovation of very old homes, The story grabbed my interest right away, it's a quick read and enjoyable for me. If you like reading about ghosts, reading mysteries, learning about how old homes are constructed or the details of bringing an old home back to its glory, and a story told from a woman's point of view, you'll find something to enjoy about this book and this series. Another thing I like is when I find a series of books where the main character becomes a "friend" of mine, and I get to share adventures with my "friend" through more than one book. Once I have read thru the books already written in this series, I know I can look forward to another visit with my "friend" when the next book comes out. I can't say that this book is a "blockbuster" or that it was written with deep meaning, impeccable literary style, etc. but it is something that I really enjoyed, thus my five star rating. I rate books for how much enjoyment I get from reading them and how difficult it is for me to put the book down so I can do the things I must get done (like getting back to work after lunch or turning off the light and going to sleep instead of staying up until 2am to continue reading). If you read this book, I hope you like it as much as I did.

Haven't read this one yet, but I love the series so far and I intend to read them all. I have a fondness for San Francisco, and I love the beautiful Victorian houses found there, so these stories are especially appealing to me in that sense. But I also love a good ghost story, as well as a great mystery seeded with a bit of quirky humor.

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