

The Bubbles Yablonsky series

By Sarah Strohmeier

Bubbles Unbound [2001]

Meet Bubbles, the irrepressible heroine of this irresistibly entertaining new mystery series – a tall, blond, and gorgeous, local bleach-blond with a wacky family, a hot potential lover, and a bad case of murder. Convinced there's more to life than giving blue dye jobs at Sandy's House of Beauty, Bubbles Yablonsky has done what few in Lehigh, PA, would dare: she's gone back to school. And if her day gig, journalism classes, and on-the-job training at a local paper aren't enough, there's always her family to liven things up – from her bottom-feeding, social-climbing ex-husband to her precocious teenage daughter to her gun-toting mother, who just escaped from the Polish Old Folks Apartments. But when Bubbles stumbles on a crime scene on the way home from an assignment, she is suddenly up to her roots in a nasty murder investigation...with suspects ranging from a greedy steel tycoon to a sexy photographer named Stiletto. It could be the Big Break she's been waiting for. If it doesn't kill her first.

Bubbles in Trouble [2002]

New troubles for Bubbles: Her friend, bride-to-be Janice, never showed up at the altar, and everybody's blaming Bubbles for singing Lynyrd Skynyrd's "Free Bird" at the bachelorette party the night before. Now Bubbles has just found Janice's uncle Elwood dead on his bathroom floor – his skull bashed in and his Rolls Royce missing. The baffling murder could be her Big Break as Bubbles goes deep undercover in Whoopee, Pennsylvania (located between Intercourse and Paradise) as a "plain girl from Ohio" boarding with a local Amish family. That means no spandex, no showers, and...no makeup. When she's not helping out on the farm, Bubbles searches for clues - with the usual hilarious results.

Bubbles Ablaze [2003]

Bubbles Ablaze finds the redoubtable Ms. Bubbles Yablonsky heeding a call from her boss at the News-Times and racing her Camaro toward a potentially big news story. But when she arrives at an abandoned coal mine, she finds the love of her life, Steve Stiletto, knocked unconscious...and the body of another man with a sizeable hole in his chest. Moments later, Bubbles and Stiletto are trapped by an explosion. Convinced that

someone wants them dead, they search for their intended assassin in coal country, where they uncover a conspiracy at the Main Mane hairdressing salon, a cadre of women known as the Sirens of Slagville, and a hot spot called Limbo that's been burning underground for forty years.

Bubbles a Broad [2004]

After a cat fight at a historical society meeting nearly kills her career, Bubbles is given one week to prove her worth to her editors at the News-Times and earn a real job there by cracking her biggest story ever – finding out who really murdered Carol Weaver's steel-executive husband with cyanide-tipped fingernails.

Bubbles Betrothed [2005]

On her first day as a full-time reporter, Bubbles lands in jail with a murder suspect named Crazy Popeye, who grants Bubbles an exclusive interview shortly before keeling over herself. Suddenly, Bubbles's interview notes are a hot commodity among a romance-obsessed police detective, a Polish Mafioso, and a podiatrist on the lam. Meanwhile, her longtime boyfriend, Steve Stiletto, asks if she'll pose as his fiancé in order to stave off an overseas job transfer. When he plunks a Harry Winston rock on Bubbles's finger, only the specter of an all-you-can-eat pierogi wedding buffet down at the Polish-American Club, the inevitable result if her mother LuLu finds out, stops Bubbles from blurting out "Yes!"

Bubbles All the Way [2006]

For years the local ladies of Lehigh, Pennsylvania, have wished aloud that Debbie Shatsky would meet an untimely end – so they could get their hands on Phil Shatsky, sports-hating, dinner-cooking, massage-giving husband extraordinaire. But when Debbie gets hair extensions at the House of Beauty and dies from a reaction to the glue, it's salon owner Sandy who gets the blame. Her best friend Bubbles Yablonsky, reporter and sleuth, is determined to investigate – despite distractions from the two men in her life. And from a mysterious Santa Claus, who warns Bubbles not to cry, not to pout and not to scream...when he kills her

