



The Sudoku Puzzle Murders

Parnell Hall

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Cora Felton, the Puzzle Lady (who actually couldn't solve a crossword puzzle to save her life), is surprisingly good at sudoku, so it's no problem when a Japanese publisher asks her to write a sudoku book. But when two Japanese publishers show up in Bakerhaven to vie for her services, Cora is a little confused. Which one did she actually sign with? Which one has the stunning geisha wife? And which one is about to be arrested for murder? The two men are archenemies and will go to great lengths to ace out each other. But would they stoop to murder? Someone is littering the town with sudoku, crossword puzzles, and dead private eyes. It's up to Cora, with the help of her niece, Sherry, to solve the puzzle, the sudoku, and the murder, before the killer strikes again.

Parnell Hall delivers another entertaining, puzzle-packed adventure with his delightfully untraditional sleuth, featuring for the first time sudoku puzzles by *New York Times* crossword editor Will Shortz.

The Sudoku Puzzle Murders Details

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Author : Parnell Hall

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From Reader Review The Sudoku Puzzle Murders for online ebook

Leslie says

Waste of time. This book was in my mom's discard pile, and now I see why. Convoluting plot, annoying characters. I know it's a fantasy, but as a retired journalist from a small-town daily, I wish the author had done some research. I could not believe that the story's newspaper reporter was unable to do his own reporting, but instead got all the information for his story from Cora. The chief of police left the case file on his desk for Cora to read, for goodness' sake! If I were that reporter, I'd stroll in and read it myself. And I could not believe the newspaper got put to bed as early as 5:30 or 6 p.m. the previous day — and that the journalist claimed he preferred to wait (many hours) for home delivery instead of getting his paper hot off the press. What actually could happen is that a special section is run early and includes the staples such as puzzles. But regular press run has a regular press time.

Debbie Heaton says

In Hall's mystery novel, Cora Felton, otherwise known as "The Puzzle Lady", prefers numbers to just about everything else. But when bodies begin to pile up in her Connecticut hometown, things just don't add up. There are the strangers from Japan who appear fascinated with her ability, and then her niece's jealous and very intoxicated ex puts in an appearance as well. Topping off the list is the Sudoku and crossword that tags each dead body found. With no choice in the matter, Cora puts her gift for figuring out puzzles to work as she sets out to put an end to this nightmare.

As always, a unique and enjoyable mystery.

Mark Baker says

Now the murder victims in Bakerhaven are appearing with Sudoku and Crossword puzzles on them. Can Cora solve the latest case? The book was still fun, but I am getting very tired of the stories involving the main character's personal lives. It's been the same for several books now. Really time to move on.

Read my full review at [Carstairs Considers](#).

Sarah says

Although Cora Felton, the famous Puzzle Lady, secretly relies upon her niece Sherry for all matters crossword-related, she is actually a sudoku wizard. Thus, when a Japanese publisher asks her to write a sudoku book, she happily agrees. However, it turns out there are a surprising number of Japanese publishers around, not to mention dead P.I.s with crossword and sudoku puzzles at the Tastee Freez. Cora tackles the murders with her usual brassy flair, violating protocol, churning out preposterous theories, and generally misbehaving. This fluffy bit of absurdity includes three crosswords and four sudokus, and weirdly enough the latter actually advance the plot.

CoffeeTimeRomance andMore says

This quirky mystery was previously published and has been rereleased by Harlequin. The story is fast paced with some mighty outrageous twists and turns that will keep the reader engaged. I highly suggest picking up the other books in the series to get a fuller picture of some of the subplots going on.

Kaitlin

Reviewer for Coffee Time Romance & More

Official Review @ Coffee Time Romance & More

Debby Mcconahy says

Couldn't finish.

David says

I'm more a Sudoku person than a murder mystery reader, but this was fun. Because I had a library copy I could not solve the crosswords in the book, which yield clues, but that was not a major impediment to understanding. Brisk pacing, short chapters, and relatively easy to follow plot kept me going. The main character's snappy dialogue may grate on some readers after a while.

Earl says

The Sudoku Puzzle Murders by Parnell Hall. The 9th book in the Puzzle Lady mysteries proved to be another fun and fast read with familiar likable characters and clever dialogue. When the plot became too convoluted, I just read through it and enjoyed the many twists and turns. Having actual- in this case sudoku-puzzles to solve always added to the fun of the books.

lynne naranek says

This was a random pick-up from the library, and my oh my did I regret it! I plodded through it only to find out whodunnit, but once I got there I realised it really hadn't been worth it.

Perhaps it was the entire premise of the tale: that elderly Cora Felton (think Miss Marple meets, um, Broom Hilda?) is living a lie as the tiny community of Bakerhaven's "crossword lady" -- it's her daughter who's the crossword puzzle expert and creator, Cora just pretends she creates and solves them... so a big part of this book was all about trying to avoid the discovery of this lie. My internal moral compass totally disagrees with this set-up.

Then there's Cora herself -- I'm not sure if I've ever met another literary character as annoying as she is. While some might say her dialogue is realistic and snappy, all I found it to be was cringeworthy.

Really, don't waste your time on this.

Kat says

Dawnie got me this book from the library (no surprises there - not sure what I would read without my dealer). Perfect "put me to bed" book for my killer work week. I leave the house at 7am, get home at 10pm to an empty house and fall into bed. I'm half way through the book and only have a vague memory of the plot, however, it is absolutely satisfyingly serving it's purpose.

Finished, if it tells you anything, I forgot to read the last chapter of this book. It was convoluted and pretty boring. The main character, the puzzle lady, is the only redeeming quality. If I had bought the book at an airport, I would have been able to do the puzzles - a good gimmick.

Michaela Shea says

It's not the worst book I've read. The fast-paced "witty" dialogue is really disrespectful to the murder victims and feels like something out of "Diagnosis Murder". If only the murderer had thought to shove his samurai sword into Cora in the first chapter.

It's my own fault. Mum goes to the library and brings back a swathe of books and I'm prepared to read all of them.

Barb says

An okay book, too confusing with the twists of who was following whom and who had hired whom and who was married to whom. Let alone that the famous Puzzle Lady was not able to do the crosswords that made her famous!

Barbara says

This is written by Parnell Hall. I have read other of his books but it has been a while. His books have puzzles which have to do with the murders....solving them gives clues. This particular book has a lot of what if description in it. The puzzle lady describes lots of things that could be happening. I thought this was over done but the book was still interesting.

Cynthia Repsher says

The ending was a little confusing. I enjoyed the book and the hilarious reasoning of Cora Felton.

Anthony Yvonnica says

Another fun light read. Very entertaining. But as with many of this type of book, the pace is guided by the actions of the characters and not necessarily by common sense. The puzzle in that the detectives ask the wrong questions and give the wrong answers. That's what makes this book light and fun, but slows the pace of the book all the way down.
