



Who Killed Mr. Chippendale?: A Mystery in Poems

Mel Glenn

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Nominated for the prestigious Edgar Allan Poe Award of the Mystery Writers of America

An ALA Top Ten Best Book for Young Adults

Award-winning author and poet Mel Glenn presents a unique mystery told through a series of free verse poems.

When popular Tower High English teacher Mr. Chippendale is fatally shot, everyone is a suspect. The killer could be anyone—one of his students, a colleague, or even an ex-flame. The aftermath of Mr. Chippendale's murder is a suspenseful story that will keep readers guessing who the killer is right until the last page.

** "More than a whodunit, this unique offering explores a multitude of issues in its pages."—School Library Journal (starred review)*

Who Killed Mr. Chippendale?: A Mystery in Poems Details

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Author : Mel Glenn

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From Reader Review Who Killed Mr. Chippendale?: A Mystery in Poems for online ebook

M.H. Smith says

Not bad for my first venture into poetry.

John says

John Jack

This book is a mystery
solved through its collection of poems,
each one about a page long:
free verse, stream of consciousness,
a constant change in narrator,
like an ADHD Faulkner.
There are a lot of characters
for a 100-page story,
but the characterization is weak:
each one sounds like the last,
with a new emotion on top, perhaps,
but the same core: naive,
melodramatic,
heart on the sleeve.
There is no real suspense, just purple prose,
the points of view all wrapped in tiny bows--

that is: all a bit too on the nose--
sparks of phony emotion
in a tiresome didactic story.
Don't play violent video games!
Don't have sex with your teachers!
Stay in school and study hard,
that's how you get ahead!

... unless you get shot in the head
in a mawkish afer-school special.

Cynthia says

This book made me realize how much thing are going on in life that I ignore and don't pay attention. That people die all of the sudden. It made me pay attention and open my eyes to what I have

Beth Hughes says

This book was on our school's summer reading list for years and was the one that most high school students chose year after year. So it has been on my To Be Read list for a while now.

It is only 100 pages, so it's really a novella, and it is written in poetry by several students, faculty members, and even police staff as they try to figure out who killed English teacher Mr. Chippendale. The murder happens on the opening pages, and the title is in itself a spoiler alert.

However there is no mystery here, there are too many characters to care about a single one of them, and the person you assume commits the murder is the one who commits the murder.

Sadly, I think the only reason this was a bestseller with the students is because of how short it is.

This was a disappointment, even if I were a part of the author's demographic.

Kimberley says

I enjoyed this. Glenn is quite talented at using poetry to convey character. Or, perhaps, it's just educators who completely understand the variety of view points in the poetic drama of public education.

Julie Suzanne says

So a teacher is murdered on the first page, and every page is a poem expressing the reactions of dozens of different people. Some of the poems are enjoyable and well-written enough to enjoy independently, but that's not why I liked it. The juxtaposition of sometimes completely conflicting perceptions of the same man, the same experience, or the same conversation was insightful & insight inspiring. This I see in life; something I do in my classroom is both something remembered fondly by some students and something loathed and resented by others... The feelings, reactions, perceptions of this man reveal a teacher's impact and his flaws as a person. The ending deals with the truth about our mortality and importance (from a cynic's point of view). A quick read, not very suspenseful, but this was well done. Best suited for urban high school students.

Warning: Some swearing, some adult content, characters are clearly from diverse but challenging backgrounds. I'm not sure my rural high school students would be as interested as those from Albany, for example. I'm not putting it out in my middle school classroom even though that's where I found it (from a previous teacher).

Megan says

i found this while i was moving and have no idea when it came into my possession. lot to unpack here

Terry says

This short murder/mystery is an interesting idea, if not such a compelling story. In 100 pages of 1-to-2 page first person poems, Glenn manages to introduce multiple perspectives on the life of the recently killed Mr. Chippendale. Some characters - his ex, the investigating officer, the assassin - speak up several times, while several others only appear on a handful of pages. Between a bit of profanity and a couple of gay characters and the dark subject, this is for an older audience than books by Sharon Creech and Karen Hesse, although it doesn't approach Ellen Hopkins intensity.

I can imagine teachers using this with lower readers to introduce ideas of unreliable narration as a readers theater. Some of the individual poems are especially pointed, some are ironic. There are themes of 'a life well lived' and 'what is the truth.' The many characters made following the story a challenge, and the conclusion isn't sufficiently powerful. I don't know that many teens will find it satisfying.

Traci Tay says

Parts of this book, especially the words spoken from Micheal Curry's character felt all too relevant into what is happening today with shootings despite this being written 21 years ago. To grasp how there are both fictional characters and real life people that think this way. All too chilling, which made this book that much harder to put down.

Isabelle says

This book is a mystery. In the first few pages a teacher gets murdered while jogging around the track. He was shot. This frightens everyone at school and some even start bringing weapons to school, but they end up getting caught and arrested. Throughout the book different students and people give their thoughts about Mr. Chippendale. One of these people is the guidance counselor, who ends up being Mr. Chippendale's friend but also his ex. The principal and guidance counselor put on a memorial ceremony to try and get the killer to come forward and in the end they find out who the killer is. Some of the things I really enjoyed about this book is that it is a fast read and pretty easy to read. Another thing I really enjoyed about this book is that it kept me interested. One of the things I really didn't like is that it was pretty obvious who the killer was from the beginning. Another thing is that it took me awhile to get used to the poem style. I still really enjoyed this book so I would give it a three out of five stars because I have read better. I would recommend this book to people who like mysteries.

Read Between the Pages says

'Who Killed Mr. Chippendale?' is a 100 paged short mystery story written in free verse poems. I thought that 100 pages was too long for this story, and could have been shorter. It was a fairly easy read, and it was on my Summer Reading to go into the 10th grade. I thought this book was an interesting idea, and the layout was good. But the story itself it was lacking. The killer was painfully obvious from the first time he was introduced along with all the other students, and the author could have done a better job of concealing his identity. The ending page of the book also wasn't necessary. For a person like me, who enjoys reading the last line of books, that could have ruined it all. Luckily, I didn't do that this time around. Having a page

where we see where the characters are 13 years later wasn't needed. There wasn't enough depth to them even care in my opinion. Also, the ending made it seem as if a lot more should have been added, but the author made a quick decision to just cut it. I wish this book had more mystery to it, and maybe then it would have gotten another star.

Mallory says

Interesting to use for POV in the classroom. Raises questions about the value of education to today's student, immigration, and how most people remember how you made them feel. Valuable for discussion of empathy.

Alicia (PrettyBrownEyeReader) says

Book combines two of my favorite reading genres: poetry and crime.

Stefani says

I enjoyed this a lot more than I thought I would (I picked it up to be a quick read). But it is interesting to see how one person can mean so much to a few kids and so little to others. I didn't really get into the mystery of it all, as I got the kids mixed up a lot. But I did enjoy the story and the idea of making a difference, even just to a few, while not being able to reach everyone.

Skyler says

Who Killed Mr. Chippendale? A Mystery in Poems

The book "Who killed Mr. Chippendale?" by Mel Glenn is about a teacher getting shot and everyone's a suspect at the school. Mr. Chippendale was doing his daily routine at the school. He was jogging at the track field when he got shot but no one knows who killed him.

All the kids are on guard. Some of the kids are bringing weapons to school and getting arrested. Ms. Falcone is having to handle the kids, her friend's death and the police. On page 14, Ms. Falcone says, "his death doesn't match his life." She is curious who killed Mr. Chippendale and why. On page 30 Ms. Falcone is being questioned by detective Harry Baling. She is getting angry and frustrated.

There are mysterious notes being sent to Ms. Falcone. I believe the notes are a scare tactic. The first note say, "let him be forgotten, and me remembered." On page 40 I believe that the killer is writing the notes, because it says there are other people i can pick off. I think that the killer wrote this note because the killer was scared because Ms. Falcone was on the killer's trail. On page 77 the killer admits to wanting fame, but doesn't want to go jail.

Mike Curry who is a student at Tower High said, "who got shot, Mr. Chippendale? Had that teacher two terms ago. Boring no life to him." (page 7) Mike likes to watch gore and blood movies. When Mike goes out he goes to the movies. Mike sees some messed up stuff. He laughs at people dying , yells when an arm or

head falls off and he laughs so hard when a person gets caught in a lawn mower.

I am a seventh grade student and I like the book who killed Mr. Chippendale. the reason why I like the book is because it is a mystery and every one is a suspect but someone pulled the trigger. The book impacted me as the reader because I was surprised when I found out who the killer was. There is some bad words in the book so I would not recommend the book to younger students. Seventh grade and up would enjoy this book.
