



## And One to Die On

*Jane Haddam*

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## **And One to Die On** Jane Haddam

Not even five and a half decades of self-imposed exile on a rocky island off the coast of Maine can erase Tasheba Kent's fame. Her smoldering sexuality on the silver screen is as potent a symbol of movie glamour today as it was in her silent-film heyday. The love-hate rivalry she shared with her sister Lilith Brayne - a leading lady whose image was as wholesome as Tasheba's was otherwise - is the stuff of Hollywood legend. But what truly makes Tasheba Kent immortal is the way that sibling rivalry ended - with a very public battle for the love of Lilith's husband, handsome leading man Cavender Marsh. One night in 1938, Lilith fell from her terrace down a rocky cliff into the sea. Under suspicion but never formally charged, Cavender Marsh headed for Maine. Amid all the rhinestone-studded trappings of long-ago glamour, a killer stalks the island. And when death strikes, with a storm raging and power and communication out, Gregor must search the darkness - and Tasheba's past - to find and stop the murderer... or none of them will celebrate their next birthday.

## **And One to Die On Details**

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## From Reader Review And One to Die On for online ebook

### **Ricki says**

This books was just okay....maybe a little bit on the hokey side. The first one of the series that I was not engrossed by...But I will keep reading them!

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### **Pat says**

**Enjoyable. Worth reading.**

It took 14% of the book to just introduce all the characters. I knew the catch in the story fairly early on but as usual there was a leap at the end that was just no way he or we could have guessed.

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### **Joyce Lagow says**

#13 in the Gregor Demarkian series.[return][return]Fifty years ago, silent movie superstar Tasheba Kent and her lover, Cavender Marsh, also a movie star, left France under suspicious circumstances--the death of Lillian Brayne, Tasheba Kent's sister--and Marsh's wife. the French police rule the death an accident; Kent and Marsh go into seclusion on an island off the coast of Maine, shunning everyone except a few employees.[return][return]Now the couple (who never married, however) need money, and they decide to hold an auction of some of their memorabilia, the auction to be held through the services of Halbard's Auction House. But the auction is not open to just anyone. Kent decides to use the occasion to celebrate her upcoming 100th birthday, and the guest list is selective. Among the invited are Bennis Hannaford, a distant relative, and, as her escort, Gregor Demarkian. Also to be present are Marsh's long-estranged daughter, Hannah Graham; Richard Fenster, a wealthy Wall Street speculator who is also a rabid collector of Tasheba Kent memorabilia; Mathilda Frazier, as the harried representative of Halbard's, there to make sure all goes smoothly--or as smoothly as possible; Carlton Ji, a magazine reporter with an obsessive interest in the Brayne death; Lydia Acken, who handles the legal affairs of Kent and Marsh; Kelly Pratt, their accountant; and Geraldine Dart, secretary and general factotem for the couple.[return][return]But after a celebratory dinner in which kent makes a dramatic entrance, the scenario shifts to one of murder, as within hours, Tasheba winds up dead from a blow to the head.[return][return]All are isolated on the island as the weather turns too nasty to use a boat. Also, the solitary phone is out of order. with no way to reach the mainland and report the death, the company makes do. soon, however, it becomes obvious that one of their number is missing; sure enough, there's another murder victim.[return][return]With a violent nor'easter as background, the story takes on the character almost of one of the old silent movies themselves--all that is missing is the player piano music in the background. There are plenty of macabre details, including a bat attack. It's a fun story for aficionados of the old silent movies and those who have heard about them. The climax, which corresponds with that of the storm, is very well done.[return][return]Even without Cavanaugh St., a good read.

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### **Pam Bales says**

This is an older book from the Armenian-American Hercule Poirot Gregor Demarkian series. He's a retired

FBI profiler who helps people connected to his Armenian-American community. If you like police procedurals, this series should fit the bill.

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### **Susan says**

Gregor Demarkian visits the remote Maine island where famous movie star Tasheba Kent is about to turn 100, because her paramour and former brother-in-law is related to his friend Bennis. A storm cuts the island off, and mysterious--sometimes fatal--things happen, possibly related to the long-ago death of Tasheba's sister.

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### **Kyrie says**

It had elements of horror movie aspects, but she stressed it so much in her character's conversation, it was hard to miss. It put me in mind of Christie's "And Then There Were None".

I love her character descriptions - especially the over-plasticized Hannah.

Really liked the old house. I'd like to see one like it in real life and explore it. Minus the bats in the attic, of course. I was a bit surprised Gregor was held back by them.

Something about the story appealed to me - not sure what exactly. I liked it anyhow.

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### **Peggy Ritchey says**

I had read this before, but decided to read some of this series again. I think these are great books! The mystery is always very good and there is usually humor too. One of my favorites aspects of this series is that the author lays out the characters at the beginning of the book and tells you something about their character and motivation. Then the mystery starts and Gregor Demarkain is called in. He is a retired FBI agent who quit when his wife died, but is now a private consultant. I don't think of these as cozies although there is no gore, etc. In this book, two very elderly movie stars, who have lived on an island in Maine for the past 60 years, invite a number of people to their home to view items for an auction. Sure to come up is the fact that the 2 were involved in a love triangle 60 years ago and that the other woman died under mysterious circumstances. Then one of the movie stars is murdered.

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### **Sara says**

In the style of Agatha Christie, which helped me figure it out. Still very good though. A group of 8 people are invited to a 100th birthday party on an island off of Maine so when someone dies, it has to be one of the guests.

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## **Helen says**

quirky, fast-paced guessed early

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## **Bookish says**

I always enjoy time spent with ex-FBI agent Gregor Demarkian. This was no exception.

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## **Ariadne says**

It reads easily but Gregor Demarkian is no Hercule Poirot, and Jane Haddam is no Dame Agatha.

The plot is similar to that of Christie's *Ten Little Niggers* , at least the beginning is: a group of people is invited on a rocky private island, and bad weather will prevent calling the police after someone is killed, leaving the invited detective to deal with the investigation.

Much like the eccentric inhabitants of the island, Haddam likes to stage things a little too heavily, without much care for realism or loose ends, maybe having had in mind a television adaptation. Every chapter ends with a cliffhanger or some wise arse making a clever comment.

The final scene dragged on for far too long, and although the reader has figured it all a while ago, a lengthy conversation then happens, in a clumsy epilogue that is as tedious as unnecessary.

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## **Sara Bartlett says**

My first read of Jane Haddam. Good character development, Ill read more.

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