



The Perfectly Proper Paranormal Museum

Kirsten Weiss

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A Perfectly Proper Murder

When Maddie Kosloski's career flatlines, she retreats to her wine country hometown for solace and cheap rent. Railroaded into managing the local paranormal museum, she's certain the rumors of its haunting are greatly exaggerated. But then a fresh corpse in the museum embroils Maddie in murders past and present, making her wonder if a ghost could really be on the loose.

With her high school bully as one of the detectives in charge of the investigation, Maddie doubts justice will be served. When one of her best friends is arrested, she knows it won't be. Maddie also grapples with ghost hunters, obsessed taxidermists, and the sexy motorcyclist next door as outside forces threaten. And as she juggles spectral shenanigans with the hunt for a killer, she discovers there truly is no place like home.

Praise:

"A delightful new series."—*Library Journal* (starred review)

"A clever combination of characters."—*Kirkus Reviews*

"Humor, hints of romance, and twists and turns galore elevate this cozy."—*Publishers Weekly*

The Perfectly Proper Paranormal Museum Details

Date : Published March 8th 2016 by Midnight Ink

ISBN :

Author : Kirsten Weiss

Format : Kindle Edition 290 pages

Genre : Mystery, Cozy Mystery, Fantasy, Paranormal, Ghosts

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From Reader Review The Perfectly Proper Paranormal Museum for online ebook

HFk says

I wanted to go a little bit out of my comfort zone, and read me an new author among the cozy mystery genre. It might be me being stuck with my personal favorites, or it can be that *The Perfectly Proper Paranormal Museum* just did not live up to all the potential it had.

I have mentioned before that I do not need to like characters in a book to make it good and enjoyable read, but this is not usually the case with cozy mysteries. Amateur sleuthing is way much more entertaining when you have quirky and tolerable characters to follow. To me, cozy mysteries are like a comfort food; quick, delicious and something to lift up your mood with satisfying end results. Unfortunately, *The Perfectly Proper Paranormal Museum's* aftertaste was probably something a person feels when experiencing some sort of an anxiety after eating unhealthy food, and too much of it.

Paranormal museum should be a perfect setting for any book, but here I did not feel it getting to its full potential. There was enough fillings, but those fillings were rushed and the focus was more in dragging on the unimportant instead of flexing the diamond worthy promise there definitely was.

There was not enough focus on the murder mystery itself, and the story tried to be too much at the same time - double murder mystery, romance and chick lit with a paranormal twist.

The overall atmosphere was negative, which is odd in a cozy mystery. This comes from the MC being whiny ass who suffers from mommy issues, but also from her friends, romantic interest and other side characters being filled with negative and unappealing traits and behavior.

This actually puzzles me the most in a book that is labelled as cozy mystery.

Most actions had more negative feels around them than not - even a hug between friends was turning into the negative when the decorations on a shirt uncomfortable brushed our mommy issued MC.

Weirdo weird.

The Perfectly Proper Paranormal Museum had a few moments to stand out middle of all the ones that did not, but the story was not very well constructed and did not give a sense of fulfillment.

Cozy mysteries tend to focus on the humanfuel side too, and at least here the difference of pizzas and other junk food stood out from the rest by not being the feast of professional chiefery.

Need not to say, but I am not continuing with the series, less so when reviews are hinting the sequel being more bad romance than (cleaned up) bloody murder.

Throwing 1.5 turd stars for this one.

Laura Thomas says

I read Kirsten's Riga Hayworth: The Metaphysical Detective series and her science fiction/ steampunk book,

Steam and Sensibility, and enjoyed them very much. I was thrilled to have the opportunity to read her paranormal cozy mystery.

Maddie Kosloski got canned for standing by with her ethics and now she's back in her home town, San Bendetto, wine country.

She's soon tricked into taking over the quirky paranormal museum. It's purported to be haunted. Now, Maddie doesn't buy into that. But the museum cat, GD, (stands for ghost detection), has her wondering when he reacts to things she can't see.

When a dead body is found in the museum and Maddie's friend is arrested for murder, she doesn't hesitate to do a little sleuthing of her own. Who knows, maybe one of the museum's ghosts will lend a hand.

That's just a taste of what lies in these pages.

There's a closet witch, I mean someone who doesn't want others to know she's a witch. A high school bully who keeps putting the screws to Maddie. The town uppity ups of the Ladies Aid Society want the museum closed. A strange man claims he knows something about the murder, but then disappears. A lawyer with questionable morals who gives Maddie the heebie jeebies. These are just some of the eclectic characters that make this cozy such a lively romp.

Mustn't forget the romance. There are two men interested in Maddie. The tall drink of water, Lieutenant Slate, and the man with the muscles neighbor, Mason. Either one sounded good to me. I do like a man in uniform. But I also like a rugged hunk who rides a motorcycle. What's a girl to do?

It took me some time to choose who I thought the killer was as I was having such fun I forgot to try to figure it out. I recalled a few tiny crumbs the author had sprinkled around. Talked it over with my son. Was pretty sure I knew. And when I got to the end I was....right.

There's a scene in the book that really tickled me. The character, Maddie, is reading a book, and it's one by this very author. I even remember the pie scene she was reading. I thought that was so funny.

Enough gushing. This review is getting too long.

Cozy up with a copy for yourself and have a spooky good time. I guarantee, when you reach the end, you'll feel like me. Hoping this will be a series.

I received a copy for my honest review.

Carole (Carole's Random Life in Books) says

This review can also be found at Carole's Random Life.

What a fun book! I am not really sure what it was about the book that first caught my attention. The word "paranormal" in the title automatically made me take a second look but I also really like the cover. I hadn't read a cozy mystery for years before picking up this book so I was also wanting to read something a little different from my normal pick. I am so glad that I decided to read this book because it was an incredibly enjoyable read in the end.

This book ended up being heavy on the cozy and very light on the paranormal. That was fine with me since I read a lot of paranormal and was wanting more of a cozy mystery anyway. The Paranormal Museum that was featured in the book was a fun setting with a lot of interesting exhibits to really set the atmosphere. I am not sure that I would ever want to set foot in the scary doll room.

I really liked the characters a lot. Maddie is trying to figure out what her next move will be when she is pushed into managing the museum for just a little while. When she goes to see the museum with her friend, Adele, they find a body just outside the door. Maddie soon finds herself trying to find out what actually happened to the victim when her friends is accused of the crime.

This book did a lot of things really well. There were times that the book made me chuckle with some of the more outrageous characters. There was more than a few crazy moments. The mystery was interesting and I wasn't quite sure who the culprit was until the end. There was a touch of paranormal which added a bit of fun too. I thought that the book was very well balanced.

I liked the way the book was written. The pacing of the story was well done with enough build up leading to the more exciting moments. I found myself quickly turning pages and never felt that the book dragged at any spot. The characters were all very vivid and unique with a wide range of individuals represented. Even the cat from the museum had a spunky personality.

I would recommend this book to fans of cozy mysteries. This is the first book by Kirsten Weiss that I have read but I wouldn't hesitate to read her work again in the future. I will definitely be sure to read any future books featuring this cast of characters.

I received an advance reader edition of this book from Midnight Ink via NetGalley for the purpose of providing an honest review.

Initial Thoughts

I thought this book was fun with a decent little mystery.

Elke says

Of course I was lured to this book by the "Paranormal" themed museum the main character gets to manage when coming back to her home town. However, the book turned out to be a very lightweight women's whodunit mystery, whereas the paranormal museum served only as an unusual setting. So, apart from the obvious murder, there is the GD (ghost detecting) cat and an unsolved historical murder case that our heroine gets intrigued with and starts to investigate. Also, some mysterious sounds, temperature drops and the like may hint at ghost activity, but unfortunately that's all there is to it.

The museum's paranormal exhibits - creepy dolls, a ghost cabinet (loved that one, never heard of such a thing before), an ouija board and other strange stuff - would have made excellent raw material for a supernatural story, but other than to throw them in for good measure the author seemed to have no use for them, which is a shame and definitely a missed opportunity. As is, I wouldn't have minded if the story played in a boutique, a jewelery or any other store. Those may even have been more fitting, considering the recurring detailed descriptions of the women's clothing style.

Overall, this is a perfectly proper murder mystery - nothing to say against that, but just not what I expected. So don't let yourself be fooled (as I did) to think the adjective "Paranormal" has any deeper meaning - like the museum's exhibits it seems to be there for decoration purposes only. However, I do like the cover image.

A relaxing easy read recommended for lazy beach days or boring train rides.

(I received a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review)

Angela (Angel's Guilty Pleasures) says

I was pleasantly surprised with how much I enjoyed this mystery. I've been look for a cozy paranormal mystery to dive into and was not having much luck until I ran across Caffeinated Reviews review of book 3 in this series, *Deja Moo*. That review made the series sound good and so, I went looking for book one at my library and low and behold they had the book.

I had such a delightful time getting to know the characters, the town, and this odd museum that is haunted and full of weird items.

Maddie got fired from her job for standing up for her ethics and now she's back in her home town, San Benedetto. Her longtime friend soon tricks her into taking over the quirky paranormal museum in town and things soon get interesting with a museum cat, a dead body found in the museum, and a few odd things happening in the museum.

Maddie doesn't hesitate to help her find out and do some sleuthing to figure out what really happened to a past resident of the town and the current murder. Their's a closet witch (they don't want anyone to know they are a witch), a high school bully, the towns uppity ups the Ladies Aid Society that want the museum closed, a strange man who claims to know about the murder, a lawyer with questionable morals, and so much more. The books full of interesting characters that make this cozy mystery a charming read.

Last, I can't forget about the love interests. Two men are interested in Maddie. We have Lieutenant Slate and Mason the museums neighbor. Either one sounded's delicious, but our main focus is on the current murder and solving a decades old murder.

As for who the killer is, well I had know idea until it was reveled. I was guessing all wrong along the way through the book.

I had a bewitching time with this cozy paranormal romance that I went out and bought the book plus I'm going to be diving into the next installment. *The Perfectly Proper Paranormal Museum* was a lot of fun!

Rated: 4 Stars

Heather says

My cozy mystery trend continues with another soon-to-be-published offering by Midnight Ink, and thankfully, this one is miles apart from the last one I read, *To Catch a Treat*. I wasn't thrilled with that particular title, so I was a bit unsure about picking up another Midnight Ink. But I'm glad I gave them another chance. I really, really liked this one.

One of the reasons I enjoyed this book was the leading lady, Maddie. She is a smart, charming, yet very

human. She doesn't try to be a Mary Sue, adorkable, or a manic pixie. She's just a normal person. And I love her for that. The other characters are equally believable and even, mostly, likable. Even the "villain" in Maddie's life (former high-school bully turned bully-with-a-badge, Laurel) is believable. Heck, even the cat was a great character. This book gets an all round A+ for characterization.

The mystery also played out well. It didn't drag or seem too rushed. All the characters made logical decisions based on the story and at no time did I feel the author trying to forcibly move the plot along via the characters. Best of all, I had no idea who the murderer was until the big reveal. The story had me guessing the whole time, yet once we knew the truth, you could see that there were clues that clearly pointed to the murderer. That's Agatha Christie-level storytelling. No easy feat.

GoodReads seems to indicate that this is the first in a series and, if that is true, I will definitely be picking up the next books, NetGalley or no. I highly recommend this for all cozy mystery lovers.

I received this copy via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review

Katie W says

First of all...just a minor mention: notice the cover? The author's name is spelled wrong. I did some research and yes, it really is spelled wrong. I borrowed a copy from the library and the physical book has the right spelling, but the digital one is wrong.

Moving on...I love a good cozy mystery, especially when I'm figuring out the mystery right along with the characters. This one has a lot of quirks and interesting situations that sets it apart. I mean, one of the town's main attractions is a paranormal museum.

Maddie "buys" this museum from her friend for a dollar, but can't decide if she really wants it or not. She definitely doesn't believe in the paranormal, but the discovery of a dead body leads to a mystery begging to be solved.

With a parade of shady characters, including GD the cat (Ghost Detector), a motorcyclist next door, a hottie detective, and a museum full of wacky props, this story is pure entertainment and fun.

Content: mild language; mild violence; very mild romantic elements.

Stewart Tame says

Fired from her most recent job, Maddie Kosloski returns to her hometown of San Benedetto, CA. A friend of hers, who owns the town's paranormal museum, offers Maddie a chance to buy it from her. She refuses, but reluctantly agrees to manage it for a while as a favor. The museum comes complete with ghost-detecting cat, vintage spirit cabinet, and creepy doll room ... and newly acquired dead body. And there's more murder to come, as Maddie finds herself drawn into the investigation ...

This is a nice, spirited (ha ha) read in the cozy tradition. The small town setting rings true, and Maddie is a highly likeable character. There's a tasteful whiff of the supernatural, but nothing so overt as to dismay the skeptics in the audience. This is a highly promising beginning to what looks like an enjoyable series. Recommended!

Leslie says

This is a perfectly proper cozy mystery. Maddie has returned to her home town in disgrace, in her mind, having been f..f....fi...fired from her high power job in European banking. Everyone in her family is an overachiever and her friends are rich, brilliant or both. In some ways that really got on my last nerve; everyone in the book is sort of a diametric opposite of say a Janet Evanovich Trenton character. Even the 'bad boy' is a college graduate motorcycle mechanic.

In her hometown there is a Paranormal museum which has ended up as the property of a friend; since she merely wants to open an upscale tea room she offers Maddie the museum for \$1. For that \$ Maddie gets more than some scary dolls she also gets a very current dead body; a women who broke up her friend and fiance. When the police arrive Maddie finds that her high school bully is a detective and still holding a grudge.

There are an appropriate number of odd characters, mysterious occurrences and dead bodies. But there was just something about the book that failed to enchant me.

This is one of those books that I am clueless as to how it ended up on my wish list. I vaguely remembered the opening chapter so I must have read the sample. I don't think I'll be continuing on with the series

Betty says

Maddie Kosloski has returned to her hometown after being "fire" her job for refusing to pay a bribe. She has sent out resumes but all she gets back are rejection answers. To aid a friend accused of a murder she takes over a Paranormal Museum. She meets some weird people including GD Cat, a Ghost Detecting cat, a motorcycle neighbor, a bookie, a witch and an old school friend who is now a cop. The murder occurred between an open partition between a tea room being remodel and the museum. Strange sounds occur at night. A cold breeze occurs during the day. Maddie is obsessed with a murder that occurred 150 years ago.. The convicted killer's picture keeps dropping on the counter and GD reacts each time.when cold takes over the museum. It is necessary for Maddie to find an answer before she becomes the next victim.

Disclosure: I received a free copy from Midnight Ink through NetGalley fo an honest review. I would like to thank them for this opportunity to read and review the book. The opinions are my own.

Lilyn G. | Sci-Fi & Scary says

Okay, given that this book is a bit outside of my normal reading genres, my view on it might be a little 'off'. So, take it with a large grain of salt.

This was a cute book. The title/cover made me chuckle, the setting was so small-town, and the characters so typical that it really did fit the 'cozy mystery' tag. I had to keep reminding myself that there was a mystery (there legitimately is one, by the way), because this was just such a light read for me that I couldn't take it seriously.

Light on the romance, just enough of the paranormal stuff to earn the title, two cops that seriously reminded

me of the blonde girl and her boss from Fringe, and the requisite motorcycle hunk plus the small-town girl discovering that she missed home after all (aww!), are all stirred thoroughly and written well enough to keep you reading.

Quirky, entertaining, and light, with a satisfying ending, The Perfectly Proper Paranormal Museum is perfectly proper (sorry) for a comfortable read on a cold night.

Visit Scifi and Scary's Book Reviews for many other Science Fiction, Horror, and Thriller reviews.

Disclaimer: Received a copy free from Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

Carrie Schmidt (Reading is My SuperPower) says

This was another fun find in the cozy mystery genre! And since it's the first in a new series, there is the promise of more fun on the way :)

While I normally avoid the paranormal genre, I do love a good ghost story. Emphasis on good. The story and the ghost. I'm not into evil or creepy paranormal beings, thank you. I very much enjoyed both the story and the ghost in The Perfectly Proper Paranormal Museum. It always helps when there is a compelling historic mystery surrounding the ghost, in addition to the present-day mystery plaguing our main characters. But not to worry – if you aren't into ghosts at all, this book is definitely more cozy mystery than paranormal suspense.

Along with the mystery – full of suspects that kept me guessing (my prime one was killed off early on... so much for my amateur sleuthing abilities lol) – a very light hint of romance threads through the plot. And when I say "hint", I do mean that. The hint solidifies into something more viable toward the end, but remains just out of reach & sets the stage nicely for further development potential in future books.

I'm not sure yet if there are one or two possible romantic interests for Maddie. The clear frontrunner is hunky Mason. But there's definitely some sort of electric connection between Maddie and Slate. I just can't tell if it's romantic or something else. Perhaps some paranormally-type connection yet to be revealed.

Bottom Line: The Perfectly Proper Paranormal Museum is unique, well-written, and fun! The quirky museum, the array of likable characters, a curiously intuitive cat, and a ghost who may have been wrongly accused – these elements all give a creative twist to the usual cozy mystery formula. With enough romantic potential to satisfy people like me, it also is the perfect choice for people who prefer more mystery than kisses. If you liked the TV shows Ghost Whisperer or Ghost Hunters, you'll enjoy Kirsten Weiss' new series!

(I received a copy of this book in exchange for only my honest review.)

Mary (Bibliophile) says

A very enjoyable cozy mystery with a paranormal twist. Likeable characters and a story that moved at a nice pace.

Autumn Is Azathoth The Haunted Reading Room says

REVIEW: A PERFECTLY PARANORMAL MUSEUM by Kirsten Weiss

A "perfectly" delicious cozy mystery with an endearing undertone of recognizing self-identity and life purpose, A PERFECTLY PARANORMAL MUSEUM was a one-sitting, I-can't-stop read. Truly delightful! I would love to see this extended to a series_especially as our heroine Madelyn comes to term with her paranormal experiences, and expands her mind

Carrie says

When Maddie Kosloski loses her job overseas she moves back to her hometown to try to find a new career closer to home. After Maddie's friend Adele tries to rope Maddie into taking over the Paranormal Museum, a town tourist attraction that is part of the property Adele bought to open a tea shop, Maddie figures she could at least help her friend while she job hunts.

Unfortunately, when Maddie and Adele go to inspect the museum they stumble upon a murder and find the victim is the woman Adele's ex-fiancee had an affair with. When Adele is arrested for the murder Maddie is sure that her friend is innocent.

The Perfectly Proper Paranormal Museum is actually a very nice little cozy mystery that has Maddie not only involved in the investigation of the current murder but she also gets caught up in an old case from one of the artifacts in the museum. Both were intriguing to follow and kept me guessing until the end.

There's not a whole lot of paranormal in the story but just a touch to make this a bit different than your normal cozy mystery. The museum and it's creepy contents was quite the original concept that gave the story just a touch of a creepy vibe here and there that just added to the story. Who wouldn't jump a bit when alone in a building surrounded by those supposedly haunted objects?

There was one little detail that I questioned that I won't specifically mention to not add a spoiler but I believe was added to expand the paranormal feel but was ignored in the end so I took a half star off my overall rating so 4.5 stars for this lovely read. Otherwise, I completely enjoyed the story, characters and setting and would recommend checking this one out.

I received an advance copy from the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

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