



## Murder at the National Cathedral: A Capital Crimes Novel

*Margaret Truman*

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**Murder at the National Cathedral: A Capital Crimes Novel** Margaret Truman

"One of her most enjoyable books."

ASSOCIATED PRESS

The brutal murder of a friend drags Mac Smith and Annabel Reed from their newlywed bliss into an unholy web of intrigue and danger. When a second murder is committed in England, which the honeymooners had just visited, the Smiths go back across the seas, and straight into the center of an ungodly plot of secret agents, a playboy priest, a frustrated lover, a choleric cleric...and a murder so perfect it's a sin.

## Murder at the National Cathedral: A Capital Crimes Novel Details

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Author : Margaret Truman

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**Margaret Truman**

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## From Reader Review Murder at the National Cathedral: A Capital Crimes Novel for online ebook

### Tushar says

With me being a guy who turns to books only when he needs to refresh and recharge his mind, this was the perfect match. The manner in which the characters and the plot have been depicted in the book is so fluent and so fantastic that you will find it hard to get away from the book once you start reading it. The language in which the National Cathedral is described is both subtle and sultry at the same time. It seemed to me as if the whole crime scene is taking place in front of my eyes and from the beginning till the end the set of suspects remains large enough to add a lot of vigor to the story. I would recommend this book to anyone who likes reading crime fiction.

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### Carolyn (in SC) C234D says

This is the first of this author's books that I have read. Shortly after Mac and Annabel Smith were married, the priest who performed the ceremony was found murdered. A similar crime is committed in England. Are they related? Not a bad mystery.

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### LeAnne says

I didn't dislike it, but it's not one of her best. Kind of slow getting started but the suspense finally built with several characters to pick from for the murderer. A little international intrigue involving religious affiliations in England, but Baldacci it's not. The last part of the story was more about what makes people act the way they do, psychologically. There were some likeable and some very unlikeable characters. The book was okay, but she has written better later ones.

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### Scott Drake says

You can read the synopsis in a variety of places, so I'll not cover that here.

Not Truman's strongest book. While I was intrigued with the set-up, there is too much waffling around on the story direction. It's obvious from the start that the boy saw someone connected to the first murder, and yet she chose to ignore that character until much later in the game. Furthermore, for the ending she provides, again there is much ado about nothing as there were so many false starts it was impossible to NOT figure out at least the motive, if not the doers.

You might want to read this after its 'prequel' which introduces the two main sleuths, who met in it and start getting married in this one. Perhaps it's the curiosity of them and their relationship that is supposed to carry this tale to its conclusion. Drudging my way through until the end was like dragging a body across a chapel ...

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## Judy says

I chose this book for several reasons. One was that I grew up in Washington, D.C. and have spent untold hours in the National Cathedral since the early 1960s. Yep, I'm that old. Anyway, it has been fascinating watching the Cathedral's construction over the decades. Both of my children were baptized in the Cathedral--one in the chapel where the murder in this book occurred. Another reason is that I have never read a book by Margaret Truman and I have been curious about her books set in Washington. Lastly, this book satisfied the Washington, D.C. setting for the mystery challenge that I'm involved in. That said, I doubt that I will be reading any more Margaret Truman books. I enjoyed the location of the story--the Cathedral, Foggy Bottom, and George Washington University, but the plot was thin and the characters were not very well developed. Also, being familiar with the Cathedral, the errors contained in the book drove me crazy. Truman referred frequently to the pews in both the Nave and in the Chapels. There aren't any pews, there are chairs. Also, she wrote about windows that could be opened in one of the chapels--really Margaret?--and about details in some of the chapels that don't exist. Other than that, the information about D.C. and the Cathedral was interesting and brought back many memories. An easy read, but fluffy.

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## Dale says

### Tedious at best

*Published in 1990 by Random House Audio*

*Read by Rene Auberjonois*

*Duration: approximately 3 hours.*

I have read a number of Margaret Truman's murder mysteries and was pleased to find this one as an audiobook so that I could enjoy it on my drive to work. However, this one was a true departure from her other works that I have read and approached what I was afraid that all of her books would be like when I first started reading them: the pretentious writings of a Washington insider. The murder mystery in and of itself is very simplistic. Truman brings in a vague ecumenical movement called "Word of Peace" and has everyone in the Episcopal/Anglican Church hierarchy express their doubts and fears about the group without going into detail why they should be afraid of it. Truman seems to think that an ongoing, out-in-the-open sexual relationship by an unmarried Bishop is not a big deal - and she would be wrong in that assertion.

Truman's descriptions of church activities and goings on have no natural feel - which is unfortunate because her other books were so much better and somehow managed to "feel" right.

My audiobook version was read by Emmy award-winning actor Rene Auberjonois (from Benson and Star Trek: Deep Space Nine). he did a remarkable job with the many accents required. His female voices even sound like they were read by females! A+ for the reading.

<http://dwdsreviews.blogspot.com/2012/...>

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## Kathy Ryan says

It's kind of fun taking a book set in the city you are visiting on your trip. I went to the March for our Lives in DC last weekend and took Truman's book with me. It didn't disappoint. The mystery was decent but a bit

unraveled for me. I only wish we'd visited the Cathedral on this trip!

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### **Liesl says**

This was the first of her books that I read. The story is set in Washington DC, as the main characters get married and then the priest who marries them gets murdered. Definitely some conspiracy theory in this book, which I always find interesting to ponder, if not to wonder about. Easy to read, not so complex that you are confused by the number of characters or what is going on with them. I enjoyed it a lot. This has lead to me to take out several more of her books. Hopefully I will enjoy them just as much.

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### **Patsygermany says**

The book started off with a priest being murdered in the National Cathedral in Washington D.C. Soon after another priest was murdered in the same exact way in England. Both priests were active in a program to help the poor and needy. You will change your mind several times about who was the murderer and the reason for the act. Mac and Annabel Smith from another book are involved in this one also.

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### **Les says**

This is the first book that I read by this author. It is a simple plot. Paul Singletary a Episcopal priest who was murdered at the National Cathedral in Washington, DC. Mackensie Smith who is a professor of law at George Washington University. He had his own law practice, but gave it up when his wife and only son was killed by a drunk driver. He was asked to investigate the murder and if it was done by a member of the church to defend that person, he declined to defend the criminal, but will help with the investigation. Paul Singletary was one of the primarily members of the Word of Peace. Was one of members of this organization did the crime. Paul Singletary also performed his second marriage.

We also have MI5 investigating the crime. A priest in England is also killed the same way. Mack and his wife were in England at the time and he found the body. His new wife is almost killed by a women who was chasing her on Horseback.

The book is a fast read and if you enjoy mysteries, you will enjoy this book. The characters are great and very interesting,

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### **Kelly says**

Good ending but a little slow in the middle. I like the characters!

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### **Christopher Ramsay says**

A slowly evolving story of murder in the National Cathedral. In my opinion, not one of her better stories.

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Though we do see further development of some of her main characters, Mackenzie Smith, Annabel Smith, and Tony Buffolino.

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### **Richa says**

The author seems to have been 'inspired' by the Perry Mason series. The premise of the series is same -- a lawyer-cum-investigator, a female sidekick and staunch supporter, a male private detective-cum-friend working to solve a crime and successfully defend in court.

Although, it is fine to be 'inspired' and at times it creates something really beautiful (Hercule Poirot-Sherlock Homes), but here, I wasn't impressed by the inspiration.

I can appreciate that the author tried to make this racier (clear romance between Smith and Mrs Smith) and more interesting (arranging the murders in World Famous Monuments), but, well, it still comes across as a doppelganger than anything else... At times I had to check if it was a mystery book or a tourism literature, considering the amount of space and detail given to describing the architecture!

It is an ok-ok read. If asked to pick up a Perry Mason or Mackensie Smith, I would pick Perry Mason anyday.

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### **Jean Browne says**

Another quick read, but I do enjoy the Capital Hill series. This murder takes place in Washington's National Cathedral. A young priest is murdered at the cathedral and shortly thereafter another murder with eerily similar circumstances occurs in London. The two crimes are linked due to the relationship between the two priests. But, MI5, the CIA, FBI, and Naval Intelligence are quite interested as well.

Detective Mac Smith, and his new bride Annabel Reed, who just got married at the Cathedral, find themselves caught up in the thick of the action and perhaps a bit closer to murder than they want.

The quick, easy pace of this book, along with likable characters, ensure a fun read. Probably not really a 4 star, but definitely a 3.5.

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### **Karen says**

This was fluff, no two ways about it. Overall, it was decent, though the end was a bit abrupt. Still, a fairly enjoyable light read just to relax.

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