



Murder at TopHouse

Clair M. Poulson

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Officer Mike Denton can't shake the feeling that something isn't right. Since the shooting that nearly killed him, Mike has attempted to piece his life back together. Just when he thought things were starting to look up, false allegations leveled by his partner, Cal Granberg, have led to his suspension, and Mike begins to suspect that Cal may have played a role in the deadly attack. He has only one clue: a conversation he was never meant to hear involving guns in New Zealand. Suspicious that he may have stumbled on an illegal gun trafficking plot, Mike sees his suspension as an opportunity to conduct an independent investigation into the shady actions of his ex-partner. He prepares for a month-long "vacation" to New Zealand to find the proof that would clear his good name—but what he couldn't prepare for is lovely young New Zealander Skylic Yates, a woman with her own troubles. A dangerous enemy believes that Skylic is the key to finding a hidden fortune. The problem: Skylic claims to know nothing about the money. Now, Mike must set aside his own quest for evidence in order to discover who's behind the threats to the woman he's coming to care for. But when his two investigations collide and Skylic's life hangs in the balance, Mike finds himself in a race against time to unearth a corruption far deeper than he could have imagined . . .

Murder at TopHouse Details

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From Reader Review Murder at TopHouse for online ebook

Melanie says

Mike Denton is a police officer who has a run of bad luck at the beginning. When he recovers, he gets suspended and decides to set out on his own to get answers to what happened to him. All clues lead to New Zealand so he travels there and quickly meets Skyliie Yates who is headed home to New Zealand. Skyliie is in a dangerous situation and Mike decides to help her but it doesn't take long before he realizes that his troubles might be linked to hers.

There are lots of characters and situations introduced throughout the book and I enjoyed seeing how they all came together at the end. Mike and Skyliie are thrown into danger together right from the beginning so we don't get to see a normal relationship progress between them. They are always looking over their shoulders for several people who are constantly after them. I didn't feel too connected to them as a couple but I understood their attachment to each other.

I have read quite a few of Clair Poulson's books and enjoyed them all but it's been a while so I was excited to read his new release! There are multiple reasons I enjoy his books: the main characters don't get off easy and deal with some tough situations, they are suspenseful and clean and I know I will be satisfied at the end. This one didn't disappoint in those areas. The reason I didn't give it five stars is because I felt like it was heavy on the theories behind what was happening and, while interesting, it slowed the story down at times. There's also one character who seemed like a danger to them the entire time and then all of a sudden, he was fine and it just seemed a little abrupt to me. Also, the wrap up happened so fast and I wanted a little more at the very end.

There's still a lot to like about this book and if you're a fan, you won't want to miss this one. The last part of the book, I couldn't turn the pages fast enough! I'm looking forward to reading more of his books in the future!

I received a copy of this book to review. My opinion is 100% my own.

Mel's Shelves

Margaret says

a lot of twists and turns. Easy read and kept me interested.

Paul says

This is about an LA cop named Mike Denton whose crooked partner and sergeant have dealings with a Maori gang in New Zealand, and they get their captain to make Denton take a forced leave. Denton, who has overheard his partner's calls to the gang leader, decides to see what he can find out in NZ and books a flight to go there. While on that flight, he meets a girl who narrowly escapes a hit by one of the gang members. They become romantically involved during the course of their journey as they try to figure out her connection to the gang and try to exonerate him and catch the bad guys.

This was a good story, and there were some interesting plot lines, but it was a little cluttered with the number of bad guys and cops (in both New Zealand and Los Angeles), and it seemed like Denton was always getting phone calls with updated information. This wasn't necessarily bad, in a way, because it enables us to know what is going on elsewhere concurrently, but it is a bit confusing for a casual reader (and I must admit that I have short attention, so maybe it's just me) to have so many people to remember. Since Denton speaks in first person, but the narrative is third person when describing the girl's actions (they are separated midway through the book, but I won't spoil how that happens here), so it wouldn't be out of place for those updates to also be in third person.

Still, it's a good story that I enjoyed, and it makes me want to visit New Zealand (where my brother served a mission to Auckland) to see the places described.

Shauna says

Clair M. Poulson is DEFINITELY one of my favorite authors!
His books are AMAZING!

Officer Mike Denton has had a hard few months...

One thing after another just keeps going wrong.

After being shot life was really hard, but he now feels that things are finally getting better.

Then his supervisor surprises him with false accusations against him.

Forced to take a vacation, Mike chooses New Zealand as his destination.

Unbeknownst to his department, Mike isn't going there for rest and relaxation...

He is going there to follow a lead that might prove that his partner, Cal Granberg, is involved in something illegal.

One clue leads to multiple clues and Mike finds himself involved in:

- * Multiple murders
- * Illegal gun trafficking
- * A kidnapping
- * And more

GREAT TWISTS bring all these cases together...

Can Mike figure it all out AND clear is name?

LOVED! LOVED! LOVED! IT!

I really loved the details that bring this one alive!

SO. SO. SO. GOOD!

DO NOT miss out on this one!

Katie W says

This story is mostly told in first person, from Mike's view. Mike is a detective with the LAPD and after being shot in the head and put on leave, he decides to go to New Zealand for a break. On the way there, he meets Skylie, who is heading home after college, and discovers that she has troubles of her own. It's a race against time to discover who is after Mike and who is threatening Skylie.

There were moments when I was really caught up in this crime story and there other moments when I wanted just a little more. This author does a really good job of drawing a reader into the suspense. He really knows his stuff and knows how to weave a good story. Being a woman and a romantic at heart, there were times when I wanted to see the relationships, romance, and friendships unfold instead of being told that they happened. For the most part, the story moved along at a nice pace, but there were occasional moments of too many things going on at once and it overwhelmed me.

I didn't feel that I knew Mike or Skylie really well, but I did like that they were both proactive and took charge of their situations, instead of sitting back and letting life happen to them. Mike was quite mature for a late-20s man and I liked that he was a clear thinker. Although Skylie was in her early-20s, she was clever and resourceful.

I really like a book that takes a unique setting and places twists, turns, and suspense into it. I've read books by this author before and will continue to do so.

Content: Mild romance; moderate violence (deaths, blood, kidnapping, etc--not graphic or gory); no language or religious elements.

I received a copy in exchange for an honest review

Susan says

One of the best mysteries I have read.
Excellent, perfect in every way.

Irene says

Mike Denton is a good cop but after a shooting that nearly killed him he knew something wasn't right. Then he is suspended by false allegations of his partner, Cal Granberg. Mike decided to go to New Zealand for a month long vacation. On the plane he meets Skylie Yates, a woman with her own troubles. A dangerous enemy believes that Skylie is the key to finding a hidden fortune. Skylie claims to know nothing about the money. Now Mike must set aside his own quest to discover who's behind the threats to the woman he's coming to care for. But when his two investigations collide and Skylie's life hangs in the balance, Mike finds himself in a race against time to unearth a corruption for deeper than he could have imagined.

Becca says

I picked this book up the other day because I had heard some great things about it. I just want to preface my review by saying not every book is for every person, and this book just wasn't for me.

1. I HATE insta love. I may like a relationship but I will always fall back on "they don't even know each other".

I will say the few things I did like about this book though. I liked where it was located. I have always wanted to go to New Zealand. The story itself was interesting, I just didn't like how it was put together. I did love the cover as well.

Laura says

I liked the premise of this novel. A LAPD cop helping solve a mystery in New Zealand isn't a typical plot for a novel. Add the romance and it was a winner of an idea. I think the romance was a little faster than realistic, but a fun addition to the mystery. The frequency of the characters bumping into the bad guys was totally implausible, but the thing that bothered me the most was the epilogue. In some cases, it is better to say something like "we are going to see where we end up" rather than trying to wrap up every possibility for the future. Overall, 2.5 stars.

language: clean, heat level: mild

Ashley says

Very poorly written, it was really annoying to read this book.

Tarah says

I've never read anything from Clair Poulsen before, but this sounded intriguing so I thought I'd give it a try. I will admit that I don't love the cover (and we all know what a cover snob I am and the white background totally threw me) so it took me awhile to actually pick the book up and start reading it.

Mike seemed like a good solid person who had a lot of tragedy in his life. I know he was supposed to be a young detective, but I just kept picturing someone older so when he connected with Skylië it was weird until I remembered he was supposed to be younger.

There wasn't much to Skylië. We don't really get to see her and Mike's relationship develop, we are just kind of told that it does, so while I didn't love her, I didn't not like her either.

I don't know anything about cops and police work, but everyone in the book acted different than other cop books and movies I've seen :) and let's face it, I just really struggle with first person writing. I guess I feel like I'm being told stuff instead of just being in the story with someone. For parts of the book the perspective changes, and I enjoyed that writing a lot. I was able to really get into the story in those parts. Plus, it made me want to visit New Zealand really bad :)

I appreciate the clean writing. A lot of junk could have been thrown in there, but there wasn't any, and it's nice to be able to read something like that. So while this particular book wasn't my cup of tea, I will try more

from this author.

*I received a copy from the publisher in exchange for a review.

Verona says

This was another good Clair Poulson read. We listened to the audio version and enjoyed the narrator's British accent. Most of the book takes place in New Zealand, and the narrator did a fine job of letting us feel the flavor of those people. A Maori couple was also featured in the story which added interest. This time Clair Poulson wove a very nice love interest into the mix as the murder mystery developed. My husband and I really enjoyed this latest of his books. It makes the long drive up and back to Show Low for his dialysis pass faster, and we also enjoy the story as we ride along.

Jennie says

One of his best!

Susan says

I really enjoyed this book. It had plenty of twists and turns and unfolds at a good pace. I couldn't put it down. Very good

Lisa (Bookworm Lisa) says

Mike Denton is a good guy and police officer. Life happens to him and turns his world upside down. He faces many personal trials, but continues to push ahead and do the best he can. His big problem, he has a corrupt partner who sets him up for a suspension and release from the force.

This book is told from Mike's perspective. The voice is in the first person. Events unfold through his experiences and thought process. Clair Poulson did a great job at keeping the story consistent and interesting. I enjoyed the plot twists, detective work, and action.

At first it appears as if there are two separate cases going on. Mike meets a young woman, Skylic, on an airplane headed to New Zealand. His protective nature immediately takes over when it appears as if she is in danger. It quickly becomes apparent that the cases are linked. The story and plot take off from there taking the reader on an adventure with danger and mystery.

There is violence in the book.
