



## Must Be Murder

*Jen Carter*

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Jill D'Angelo never dreamed scandal could unfold at her family's winery—that is, not until a wine tasting guest turns up dead in a vat of fermenting wine. Now the winery is at the center of an investigation, and Jill isn't so sure the blustery detective assigned to the case will figure out what really happened. Is it up to Jill to solve the mystery? Probably not. But will anyone be able to keep her from trying? That's even less likely.

## Must Be Murder Details

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Author : Jen Carter

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## From Reader Review Must Be Murder for online ebook

### Nicole Normand says

- I received a free copy from the author via AXP; this is my honest review.
  - I usually do not like any mysteries where the sleuth is an amateur and this one did not disappoint. I still gave 4 stars because it is well written.
  - The characters are well developed. The environment could have used more descriptive thoughts.
  - The people from the prequel kept their own attributes, except the part where Jill feels guilty of almost everything that's going on in her life and of her close ones - I didn't see that coming.
  - The mystery starts slowly but surely - I liked the pace of it; it's funny and engaging, scary with some suspense, but it's still a mystery. The guilty one came as no surprise except for the out-of-character twist at the end.
  - It's mostly believable except for Jill's behavior towards authority, which she completely disregards because he's not good in math (?). For sure the detective should have threaten her with obstruction of justice.
  - Don't get me wrong, this is a good read and I will not hesitate to read the next book in the series. I'm a bit biased about detectives since my husband works with them all the time and they are intelligent folks with university degrees.
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### Joanne Robertson says

It wasn't until I was a good way through Must Be Murder that I realised it was a play on words and that "must" is the grape juice that contains the skins, seeds and stems of the grapes and is the first step in winemaking. So full marks for a great title!

The rest of the book isn't too bad either. Jen Carter has a fantastically easy-flowing writing style that hooks you in straight away. Her characters are well rounded and interesting, especially English teacher Jill, and I just loved the setting of Otto Viti! This is a very unique mystery and so is the cause of death in Must be Murder, when the mother of the bride is found dead in a vat of wine during a hen party celebration. Jill suspects foul play and ends up clashing heads with the police investigator who isn't so convinced. But amateur sleuth Jill is determined to find out the truth.

I can see why this cosy mystery managed to be selected for publication on the Kindle Scout programme. It draws the reader into Jill's world easily with a comfortable style of writing that doesn't let the reader go. And I'm sure it will develop into an interesting and intriguing series as there are plenty of quirky inhabitants to investigate further. If I have one niggles it's that I prefer my endings to have the loose ends tied up totally during the last few pages and this was a little bit too open ended for me. I do have a huge affection for Jill though and I will be keen to see how she unfolds further, especially in her relationship with Nico.

This reminded me of Murder She Wrote at times and I think it would also translate well to tv. If you are a fan of either Murder she Wrote, Midsummer Murders or Death in Paradise then you will adore this book. I am now looking forward to seeing what comes next for the inhabitants of Otto Viti!

I received a copy of Must in Murder via the author and have chosen to read and review it.

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### **Rebecca says**

Good story. I enjoyed most the parts about the winery. There were enough details without it overtaking the entire story. Uncovering the murders is not your spine-tingling type, as the mystery of the murder unfolds slowly with the usual red herrings and false identifications of the murders. Little clues throughout to identify the real murderer. A lot of characters, but you need that for a mystery so the author can spread doubt about the motives of each. A good read.

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### **Emmie says**

This book was a bit slow to start, but I suppose it is natural for the first book in the series. There is a lot of background that has to be established.

The plot was good, with quite a few twists and turns that were quite unexpected. Unusually I did not recognize the murderer in the first few chapters. I was actually a bit surprised when the murderer was revealed.

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### **Greg Meritt says**

I enjoyed this story from the very first page. The author's prose is smooth and easily engages the reader from the beginning. Must Be Murder begins with a joint bachelor bachelorette party at a winery. Turns out that Jill, the main protagonist, was once engaged to the bachelor that is visiting her family's winery. The characters are well-drawn and well-defined. Without giving anything away, suffice it to say that after a body is discovered in a vat of wine, Jill D'Angelo begins her own investigation, not having much faith in the local law enforcement. A fun, cozy mystery that I highly recommended. I am anxiously waiting for the next installment!

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### **J.G. Gatewood says**

I really enjoyed this quick read. I liked the characters and thought they were, for the most part, well developed. It was a quick read, with a surprise ending. My only complaints were the slow pacing. We are eighteen percent of the way into the story before anything of import happens (i.e. the murder) but I understand this is going to be a series so there is a lot to set up.. I also thought Jill got away with too much. I think any officer would put a quick stop to her shenanigans. She seems to do what she wants without any concern of blow back. I found Det. Fitts to be way too clichéd and I think this character could use a little work (if he is in further books). Maybe if Jill and Fitts had more of a confrontation, some of this would be alleviated.

Even with what I mentioned above, I really wanted to keep reading once the action picked up, and I'm sure you will too. It was a fun mystery and I will have to check out more of the Author's books in the future.

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## **Margaret Watkins says**

I first met the D'Angelo sisters in Honeymoon in Italy, each one so different to the others, and each with their own strengths and weaknesses. Jill just can't help herself. When events at the winery turn up a dead body floating in a vat of fermenting wine, Jill's mind won't leave the matter alone and between the three sisters and their friends on the estate, more questions than answers churn up the muddy waters. Stella has an unfortunately history with the detective investigating the case, which makes him prejudiced towards the sisters. However, with a small community made up of artistic individuals, the investigation becomes complicated especially when the Council of Elders becomes involved. Despite the seriousness of the situation, there was humour and hilarious occurrences which made me laugh out loud. Jen Carter's writing style is smooth and easy to read, making this a most enjoyable book. I was glad that Nico eventually made an appearance after having met him in Honeymoon in Italy, and Stella's husband Jason has to be one of the kindest and most long suffering men in the universe! A good clean read with eccentric characters in a beautiful setting.

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## **IslandRiverScribe says**

Slow, well written, good editing, but slow. The death does not occur until the 20% mark of the novel. In fact, there is not even the hint of foul play until that point. So lots of set-up, info dumps and character backgrounds are provided until the body is summarily found. And the investigation by our main protagonist is a stutter-stop process at best. So, slow is the operative word here.

Now that part could be considered realistic since our heroine is a high school English teacher with no law enforcement or investigative training whatsoever. She means well; she is trying to find answers; she is really trying to help clear suspects. And she tries to go about it all legally, keeping the police aware of what she discovers. She never thinks that she is better than the detective, just that she is not hampered by the same processes as they.

On the negative side, the author has used a few stereotypes within the plotline that get to be aggravating to read after a while, such as the egotistical detective, the aging hippies, and an obnoxious bridal party. And the saved-by-the-bell ending stopped just short of a deus ex machina.

This novel was provided to me free through the Kindle Scout program. No review is required by the program.

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## **Catherine Johnson says**

### **Wine becomes mystery**

Fun to read about adventures of three sisters, Julie, Stella and Holly, at their Grandpa's winery. Including friends from around the OV and the group of elders who were particularly entertaining.

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### **Montzalee Wittmann says**

Must Be Murder (Otto Viti Mysteries #1) by Jen Carter is a kindle scout book and not a bad one. It is a cute story, easy to figure out but has everything a good story needs. Worth the read.

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### **Laura Greenwood says**

Must Be Murder was not what I was expecting if I'm completely honest. And the ending...again not quite what I was expecting! I don't think I had it figured out until Jill had really. Though there were still some fun theories in the way!

I thought that Carter wove together the different elements of the story in a great way, with the wine making details, along with Jill's English teaching, really adding to the depth of the story.

This had mystery, friendship, fun and a tiny bit of romance, which all added up into a great read, if somewhat unexpected!

I received a copy via Kindle Scout.

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### **Bernadette Cinkoske says**

I really liked this book. I wish I could visit Otto Viti. The characters are wonderful. What could possible go wrong when there is an old fiance at a bachelor/bachelorette party? Jill and friends are really well written. The murder kept my interest - with way too many suspects!

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### **Michele says**

This is the first book in a charming cozy mystery series set in wine country in California. It focused around Otto Viti, '8 vines', a small enclave of various shopkeepers and residents. Out heroine, Jill D'Angelo, is the granddaughter of Aldo, the resident wine maker. When her ex-fiancee comes to OV with his batchelor party and his bride's batchelorette party, it not only seems like an unlikely choice on their part but it isn't long before a member of the bridal party is found dead at Jill's family's winery. Inadvertently drawn in, Jill begins to run a parallel investigation of her own much to the chagrin of the gruff, local detective. Nice, easy read, well written and well paced with a charming cast of characters.

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### **Tulay says**

#### **Short cozy mystery.**

Start slow, being the first book in this series author had a lot of things and characters background to write about. D'Angelo family all support each other and love what they have. After a bridesmaid party, mother of the bride was found dead in the vast of fermenting wine. Jill is the youngest of the three sisters, she is

determined to find out who did this. Fun book to read.

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## **Heidi says**

Received this book from Kindle Scout

Jill is a teacher and works part-time for her family's villa. She usually works in the tasting room and the book starts out that she has to give a tour to her ex-fiance and their bachlor/bachlorette parties. They are extremely rude and the mother of the soon to be bride ends up dead.

I was not impressed with this book. It was slow and there was no connection with the book. There also didn't feel like there was really an ending. Very disappointing because when I read the synopsis of this book for possible publication it sounded so good. The synopsis was better than the book.

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