



## Vanishing Point

*Marcia Muller*

Download now

Read Online →

# Vanishing Point

*Marcia Muller*

## Vanishing Point Marcia Muller

In the latest installment in this critically acclaimed series, Sharon McCone is hired to investigate one of San Luis Obispo County's most puzzling cold cases. A generation ago, Laurel Greenwood, a housewife and artist, inexplicably vanished, leaving her young daughter alone. Now, new evidence suggests that the missing woman may have led a strange double life. But before McCone can penetrate the tangled mystery, she must first solve a second disappearance--that of her client, the now grown daughter of Laurel Greenwood. The case, which forces Sharon to explore the darker sides of two marriages, comes uncomfortably close on the heels of her own marriage to Hy Ripinsky, and she begins to doubt the wisdom of her impulsive trip to the Reno wedding chapel.

## Vanishing Point Details

Date : Published July 10th 2006 by Mysterious Press (first published January 1st 2006)

ISBN : 9780892968053

Author : Marcia Muller

Format : Hardcover 336 pages

Genre : Mystery, Fiction, Thriller, Mystery Thriller

 [Download Vanishing Point ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Vanishing Point ...pdf](#)

**Download and Read Free Online Vanishing Point Marcia Muller**

---

## From Reader Review Vanishing Point for online ebook

### Melinda Larson says

It was good getting back to San Francisco where this series takes place. Sharon McCone is a private investigator, who pilots her own Cessana and runs an agency. I have enjoyed these books since I began many years ago. It has been a while since I picked one up, but I did to escape the stress of my life. I wanted to lose myself in this one. And since I was traveling to my old home state/neighborhood so to speak, I decided it would be a good fit. Slow at times, plodding at times, it was not the best of the series. But I enjoyed coming back to some familiar characters and places none the less.

---

### Judy says

With all the books Marcia Muller has written, she hasn't lost the ability to come up with a superb plot. Sharon McCone is presented with a very "cold case" that becomes more and more involved. There are quite a few characters, and they come across as real. As I've said before, I also enjoy Mueller's books for the locations in which the action takes place--California central coast. Since I've read the McCone series from the very beginning, I'm familiar with her history and family. Otherwise, I think a reader might not be able to understand the interaction. So if you want to read the series, I advise that you begin with one of the early books.

---

### Phil says

This is Muller's 27th Sharon McCone mystery - formulaic, to be sure (I've read most, if not all). Unlike a lot of other series, though, the character ages and develops as we read the series. McCone was a young kid fresh out of the SFFD, struggling to learn the PI business. Now she's a successful owner of a good-size firm, with other people involved in the cases. If you haven't read the others in the series, you might feel lost in all the side characters.

That said, this was a good, quick read - doesn't take a lot of thought, and somewhat predictable, but do we all want to not know "whodunit" til the last page, or are we looking for a little adventure through the eyes of an old friend?

---

### LJ says

VANISHING POINT (PI-California-Cont) – G+

Muller, Marcia – 24th in series

Mysterious Press, 2006- Hardcover

\*\*\* Newly married PI Sharon McCone is hired by a woman to find her mother who disappeared without a trace 22 years earlier. When the client also disappears, is history repeating itself?

\*\*\* I always enjoy Muller's books, but this one not quite as much as some others. I do find I miss simplicity of the early McCone stories when she was on her own and there seems to be more action. In this 24th book, there are a lot of characters. Many of them are recurring characters, so one really needs to have read previous books to understand who they are and the relationships. Of the new characters, none of them are very

appealing or likable, which is always a problem for me. I also had a problem with the dialogue in that it just didn't seem to flow smoothly. But the plot was interesting and I did like the book's sub-theme of marriage. Still, it was a quick read with a plot that kept me interested.

---

### **Dagny says**

Excellent read with very likeable characters. At first I wasn't very interested in the actual case, but once I was drawn into it I couldn't put the book down.

---

### **Terri says**

A woman hires Sharon to find out what happened to her mother when she disappeared twenty two years ago. Decent book but I despised the mother.

---

### **Janice Llewellyn says**

Easy summer reading. Plot was okay; nothing too heavy. Characters , too many of them, were likable or unlikable enough. Eh..unremarkable but nice to read. Halfway through, I thought I had previously read it, but probably because the characters and plot were common. But Muller is pretty good at what she does. I would read another.

---

### **Cat. says**

This is the book In Which Sharon Gets Married. At last! She and Hy have been dancing around forever, and it's really about time they settled down. Of course, "settled down" for them is a thin veneer and once the celebration ends, they are each off on their own jobs. Sharon has been asked to look into the disappearance of the mother of a friend some 20 years ago.

In the process of what seems like a beyond-cold case, she discovers that some of the myths we like to keep around family and society are just that: myths. The corollary is that no one really knows what is going on within a marriage except those in the marriage, and when both parties are gone, it's hard to separate fact and appearance.

And, in a seemingly offhand and somewhat cruel way, Hy has suggested that Sharon's home isn't quite up to snuff as a home for a married couple. Is this what marriage is all about??

Though the plot itself is a little threadbare, the scheme of the book is well-thought-out and enjoyable. I always forget--between books--how much I like Sharon and her friends and family.

---

## **Kathleen Hagen says**

Vanishing Point, by Marcia Muller, book borrowed from Library for the Blind but it is available through audible.com.

We begin this book with the wedding party of Hai and Sharon who have finally gotten married. But Sharon's former partner, Rae, comes to her with a cold case from a dear friend. Jennifer's mother disappeared 22 years ago. No one ever found a body or found out what happened to her. As Sharon begins investigating this case with Jennifer's husband, Mark, saying no expense will be spared, Jennifer too disappears. Sharon and her employees must track down Jennifer, and then try to find her mother, if she's still alive. As more facts become known, Jennifer and her sister Terri are in for disillusionment about both parents. Muller is back on track again. This is a very good book.

---

## **Kris - My Novelesque Life says**

1.5 STARS

"In the latest installment in this critically acclaimed series, Sharon McCone is hired to investigate one of San Luis Obispo County's most puzzling cold cases. A generation ago, Laurel Greenwood, a housewife and artist, inexplicably vanished, leaving her young daughter alone. Now, new evidence suggests that the missing woman may have led a strange double life. But before McCone can penetrate the tangled mystery, she must first solve a second disappearance--that of her client, the now grown daughter of Laurel Greenwood. The case, which forces Sharon to explore the darker sides of two marriages, comes uncomfortably close on the heels of her own marriage to Hy Ripinsky, and she begins to doubt the wisdom of her impulsive trip to the Reno wedding chapel" (From Amazon)

I did not like it...but could be due to the fact it I started in the middle of the series :(

---

## **Beth says**

Marsha Muller is an award winning mystery writer and I will definitely recommend her. This book is well written and has well-developed characters. The settings in various fishing towns along the California coast is also appealing. In this series her main character is Sharon McCone, a private investigator who has just gotten married to her long-time boyfriend. A cold case is brought to her by a woman who is haunted by the disappearance of her mother 20 years prior. As Sharon investigates it becomes apparent that the woman is not as devoted to her role of mother and wife as people believed.

---

## **Amy says**

Good quick read, detective book.

---

## **Dar Henning says**

### **For once mystery i didn't solve by chapter 2.**

I enjoyed the fact that this plot line was one i had never read before. It was completely fresh . Although the mystery was solved, the book still left you hanging.

---

## **Shannon Appelcline says**

In *Vanishing Point*, Marcia Muller offers up one of her most intriguing mysteries: a woman gone missing 22 years ago has long been presumed dead, and now Sharon McCone is tasked to figure out what happened.

The joy of this type of mystery is that the reader can imagine thousands of different possibilities. The danger is that the author can't live up to all those expectations. Fortunately, Muller does, offering up an intriguing answer to this mystery with a few surprises along the way.

As usual, one of Muller's strengths is the character building, and there are several haunting character portraits in here.

All told, a deftly told page turner.

---

## **Sharon says**

I've been searching for a good mystery series, and I think I've finally found one. These books are interesting and exciting, but not too "nasty." I've read about 6 in the series and there hasn't been any overly racy scenes, but at the same time there's romance. I really like that! The one downside is the "f word" is used several times. I can't understand why the author would choose to keep everything else clean, and then throw the "f bomb" in. Too bad! Other than that, I love them!

---

## **Nancy says**

Another great book in this series. keep them coming.

In the latest installment in this critically acclaimed series, Sharon McCone is hired to investigate one of San Luis Obispo County's most puzzling cold cases. A generation ago, Laurel Greenwood, a housewife and artist, inexplicably vanished, leaving her young daughter alone. Now, new evidence suggests that the missing woman may have led a strange double life. But before McCone can penetrate the tangled mystery, she must first solve a second disappearance--that of her client, the now grown daughter of Laurel Greenwood. The case, which forces Sharon to explore the darker sides of two marriages, comes uncomfortably close on the heels of her own marriage to Hy Ripinsky, and she begins to doubt the wisdom of her impulsive trip to the Reno wedding chapel.(le

## Heather says

This is the first Sharon McCone mystery that I have read. Perhaps if I had read others before this one, I would feel closer to the characters. As it is, the character of Sharon McCone, her husband, and her staff felt very one-dimensional. Sharon has no real personality; nothing about her stands out as being a unique voice. Poirot has his arrogance and fastidiousness, Elvis Cole has his humorous outlook on life. There's something about the view these detectives have on the world that make them interesting to read about. Sharon comes off as a dud. There's no real conflict in her personal life.

In this novel, she has just returned from marrying her long-term boyfriend, Hy, with whom she owns three homes. She also spends a lot of time flying (yes, flying not driving like a regular person) her personal plane to the locations her investigations leads her. The extreme amount of flying (Hy flies too while he works) distracted me from the plot because all I could think about was how expensive it must be to pay for all the fuel and upkeep on the plane. Her customers must get overcharged a lot to cover those expenses. She also has a lot of people working for her that she gets help from over the course of the story. None of these characters really stand out.

The mystery surrounds a search for a missing woman who abandoned two small children and disappeared many years ago. There's a parallel tale involving one of the daughters who follows her mother's footsteps and disappears also. As the search for the missing mother plays out, you get the idea that the only reason why she's been missing for so long is that no one bothered to look for her.

Overall the book was okay, but it does not make me want to read other McCone mysteries.

---

## Bridgette Redman says

Fans of Marcia Muller's Sharon McCone series will appreciate that after the heart-break McCone underwent during *The Dangerous Hour*, that Muller is letting McCone enjoy a little happiness.

*The Vanishing Point* opens with McCone's wedding reception. She and Hy Ripinsky have returned from their spur-of-the-moment trip to Vegas firmly wed. They fly back to find a surprise party waiting for them to usher them into married life. Given that both of them are independent workaholics, it is then appropriate that during the reception, Sharon gets approached with a job request.

McCone and her agency began investigating the 20-year-old disappearance of a wife and mother. The daughter has become increasingly agitated and feels she needs to know what happened to her mother. But digging up old history gets someone riled up.

Muller's latest offering once again showcases the efficiency of McCone's entire agency. This isn't a lone private investigator who single-handedly manages to solve the case, track down the villain, and get in a gunfight. She draws upon the resources of a diverse group of people with a variety of talents.

Granted, this means there are a lot of characters—each with their own families and myriad relationships. Sometimes it can get confusing to track all of these characters but for the most part they are distinctly drawn and the reader can quickly place them. This does give an advantage to long-time readers of the series as they'll be far more intimate with the backgrounds of the large number of recurring characters. However, Muller does provide enough information so that the newcomer to the series is not lost.

McCone also expresses some pretty hard-line attitudes about suicide and abandonment in this book. They're

not comfortable views and more than one reader might find it off-putting. It is these attitudes, though, that help to drive McCone throughout this investigation as she tries to determine what happened to her client's mother.

Vanishing Point also gives fans of the series their first look at the married life of Hy and Sharon. For anyone who was worried that they would settle into a domesticity that would alienate them from the adventures that make the mysteries fast-paced reading, have no fear. They are far from a conventional couple. Neither of them get much of a honeymoon as they are both pulled away by career demands almost immediately, able to share only a few hours here and there.

While Hy's career may be primarily a device to keep him from overly interfering with the plot line (and providing the occasional job for McCone), enough tantalizing hints are dropped that one almost wishes Muller would start another series covering Hy's adventures.

With the July 10, 2006 publication of Vanishing Point, Muller is a year away from the 30th anniversary of McCone's first appearance. With her marriage, McCone is beginning a new chapter of her life and the series seems far from over. More than a decade after Muller won the Private Eye Writer's of America Lifetime Achievement Award, she continues to prove that her achievements are still piling up.

---

### **Kirsty Darbyshire says**

The latest episode in one of my favourite series; I'm a fan, look elsewhere if you want criticism (even the constructive kind).

This is classic McCone, as good as ever. This time she's looking into the over twenty year old disappearance of a young mother; one of her now grown up children wants the case settled.

There's enough of the regular characters (now an enormous cast) but not too much, and plenty enough of a mystery, not too overloaded with twists, not too simple. Perfect as far as I'm concerned. Plenty more please Marcia!

---

### **Ed says**

#24 in the Sharon McCone series. Finalist 2007 Shamus Award for Best Novel. This 2006 entry from author Muller has her P.I. investigating a 22 year old cold case. Her client, Jennifer, hires her to investigate the disappearance of her mother, Laurel, and along the way Sharon winds up investigating the marriages of both Laurel and Jennifer (and contrasting them to her recent marriage to long time beau, Hy Ripinski. Muller adds flavor to the story with Sharon's observations of the color and texture of the Southern California coast. In a secondary plot arc, Sharon's investigation solves an old crime and a current cover-up and murder.

Two months after her father dies from pancreatic cancer, Jennifer Aldin begins obsessing about a subject he always refused to discuss: the disappearance of his wife Laurel 22 years ago, when Jen was only ten and her sister Terry barely six. Why, Jen wants to know, would a supposedly contented wife and mother abandon her family? Why, barely days after she left, did her husband burn every one of her paintings, products of what she called her "mental health days," when she'd go off alone to sketch? Tracking a case that's been cold for

22 years isn't easy, but McCone's persistence debunks the myth of a happy family and the supposedly selfless caregiving Laurel offered her dying cousin Josie. Finding the last two people to see Laurel alive, a dog-walker and a biker, offers more contradictions, but any hope of delving into them gets put on the back burner when Jen disappears. Like mother, like daughter?

---