



Poison

Ed McBain

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Jerome Edward McKennon was found sprawled on the carpet, the phone clenched in his fist. It was a gruesome poisoning, and the clues lead to gorgeous Marilyn Hollis. When Detective Hal Willis finds himself falling in love with Marilyn, he knows the only hope for their love is to prove her innocence, before passion turns to Poison. HC: Arbor House.

Poison Details

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Author : Ed McBain

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From Reader Review Poison for online ebook

Karmen says

One of the two detectives investigating the murders of a woman's lovers falls for her. Murdered by nicotine, knife, nicotine in liquor

Aileen Bernadette Urquhart says

Good intricate plot, leaving Willis with a big problem at the end. (No spoilers!)

Kurt Reichenbaugh says

This one is a reread for me. I'd originally read it way back in 1988 in paperback, about a year after it was published. The novel focuses on Marilyn Hollis and her tortured relationship with one of the 87th Precinct detectives as the mystery of who is killing her friends unfolds. If you've read a lot of the 87th precinct novels you'll be familiar with the cast of cops here. Typically Detective Steve Carella takes center stage in working the case at hand. He's often paired with Bert Kling in the later novels. This one however takes a detour and brings Detective Hal Willis into the spotlight. Willis has been around for a number of 87th precinct novels, but typically given only a cameo appearance for squad room banter. POISON fleshes him out as he and Carella investigate the murder of a young executive. One of the earliest suspects is a woman of mystery named Marilyn Hollis. Soon Willis begins having a sexual relationship with Marilyn. This presents all kinds of problems for the investigation at hand. Especially when more of Marilyn's "friends" are murdered and each clue points to her. This is a good one. I will recommend not reading this one first if you haven't read any others in the series however.

David Highton says

Hal Willis is the key detective in this story, for a change, getting into a complex relationship with a potential suspect

wally says

just finished this one, april 1st, just before eight pee em. still light out. snow is melting. melting. had 260" this winter and maybe, maybe it is over with. still lot of ground cover yet. this is a great story. in this one, mcbain goes into a bit more detail in the life of one of the characters, not one of the main characters, one unique to this story, marilyn hollis, time in mexico in a nasty prison, time in argentina. haven't looked...but i've no doubt someone has read this and caught the fabled perp on page twenty, give or take. me? nope. as the end drew near, yeah, okay...

good read. check it out.

Cathy says

A good story. Detective Hal Willis is the lead (cop) character in this book; he's been around for quite awhile, but usually plays second banana to Carella, Hawes, Meyer or Kling - or used as background filler. Nice he got his own story. Multiple murders stacking up and it looks more and more like the guilty party is Hal's new girlfriend. Her backstory gets more convoluted every time she tells it - she definitely still has secrets, but can Hal trust her? It's nice McBain has finally done more with Hal's character. It was well written as usual; I enjoyed it.

L says

I love McBain's 87th Precinct series. Just love it.

Sue says

This was one of McBain's 87th Precinct novels. It seemed quite dated, published in 1987, but was a pretty good story. Not one of his best but worth a read.

Krystle Kouture says

It was refreshing to read a crime novel where the detectives didn't have cell phones or the internet.

Nikmaack says

Very enjoyable. Romantic for an Ed McBain book. A gripping plot and fun characters. Probably one of the better Ed McBain books I've read so far. Plus it's about Willis. We never hear much about him except for his judo.

What else can be said without spoilers?

I read this while on holidays in Bolivia. I finished it on a bus between Sucre and Potosí.

James Thane says

Marilyn Hollis is drop-dead gorgeous and financially independent, thanks, she says, to her wealthy father in Texas. When a man she is dating is poisoned to death, Detective Steve Carella and his associates from the 87th Precinct come calling on Ms. Hollis. She's sorry to hear the news, but informs the detectives that the victim is only one of the men that she dates. She is very open-minded and free-spirited and expects the same

sort of attitude on the part of her beaux.

As almost always happens early on in these books, the detectives are stumped. They prowl through the victim's life but can't find anyone who might have wished him harm. Then a second man in Marilyn Hollis's life comes to an untimely end as does a third. Sensing a pattern here, the detectives hone in on Ms. Hollis and those around her, looking for the perpetrator.

Detective Hal Willis, in particular, hones in on the lovely Ms. Hollis and before long, in violation of what we hope would be department regulations and certainly in violation of common sense, Willis moves in with her, even though she's a suspect in an ongoing investigation. Willis insists that Marilyn is an innocent victim in all of this and couldn't possibly be guilty of anything. Steve Carella is not so sure, but Willis seems to be beyond reason in this matter.

This is another good entry in the 87th Precinct series and it's fun to watch it all play out. Fans of the series will certainly want to look for it.

Skip says

3.5 stars. A man is poisoned with tobacco and another is stabbed to death in another precinct. The only link is an apparent wealthy woman, who was seeing both of them. Then, Hal Willis falls in love with her and her sordid past is revealed to him bit by bit, as she is an obvious suspect, especially when a third drops dead shortly after she visits him to break it off. The 87th Street team solves the murder, leaving Hal in a quandary as to his strong feelings for her.

Pamela McLaren says

One of the most interesting of the 87th Precinct books by Ed McBain, which is rare because all of his books are interesting, the stories quirky and always a touch of humor. This one had less and perhaps its because of the storyline.

Dets. Hal Willis and Steve Carella are assigned the murder of a man killed by nicotine. With few obvious clues, they focus on the last call he made and the number kept on his answering machine, and they find out that its a woman named Marilyn Hollis. Through their interviews, they find that she dated and slept occasionally with the man, and others. And that one of the others is soon found stabbed to death.

She becomes one of the prime suspects but she also falls hard for Det. Willis, and he with her. The escalating relationship complicates the case and makes the investigation that much harder.

This is perhaps McBain at one of his best with a story that mixes murder, love and uncontrollable violent passions. As with his other writing McBain writes a gritty description of the town, its people and its crimes. This is very good reading.

Don says

four men are found dead and detectives carella and willis investigate. all four victims had one thing in common: they were all involved with the same woman. To add to the complications, detective willis also becomes involved with her.

While the end of this one is, perhaps, a tad over the top, I enjoyed it quite a bit, largely because of the way McBain builds the relationships.

David Riester says

Hal Willis is featured. He enters a relationship with murder suspect, Marilyn Hollis.
