



You Bet Your Life

Jessica Fletcher , Donald Bain

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A SETUP IN SIN CITY

When her old friend Martha decided to get married in Las Vegas, Jessica Fletcher made the trip to watch her walk down the aisle. But what were the odds that she'd be back two years later—to watch Martha stand accused of her husband's murder?

Jessica's never been one to gamble, but she's willing to bet that Martha isn't guilty. Martha's husband was a high-rolling Las Vegas local with three ex-wives and plenty of jealous acquaintances. After joining Martha's defense team, Jessica combs through the man's past to find the real killer. But as the media attention grows—and Jessica is interviewed by the news anchors of Court TV—the stakes are raised, and Jessica learns how to play for keeps.

You Bet Your Life Details

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Donnie says

I loved it! Great mystery!

R. says

The character of Jessica Fletcher's innocent friend, Martha, was so annoyingly naive and whiney that she immediately became extremely unlikeable to me. Her only Las Vegas friend, "nonstop-talkative" Betsy, was exhaustingly annoying, too. The inserts of "Court TV" and their anchors' input were both distracting and boring, and they didn't add much to the storyline, either. In fact, with the exception of Jessica Fletcher and the Mexican housekeeper, I didn't like any of the characters in this book and as a result, I really didn't care what happened to them at all, especially poor innocent Martha!

Diane says

Another quick Jessica Fletcher read. Nice description of Las Vegas and well written characters.

Kellene says

I'm afraid this one was just okay. While I still adore Jessica and her Cabot Cove friends, too many other things pushed this one down in rating. Either Jessica is exceptionally smart or both lawyers in this one were morons, because she bested them both at every turn, as well as the villains. And there were just too many coincidences in this one to suit me. Oh well, they can't all be wonderful.

Mary says

Jessica's friend Martha got married in style to a Las Vegas casino high roller. But when Martha's whale of a husband turns up dead two years later, Jessica joins the defense team. Can Jessica navigate Sin City's gambling dens and run the gauntlet of Court TV reporters to prove her friend's innocence?

I greatly enjoyed this entry in the series. The fast-paced world of Las Vegas proved a good change of venue for Jessica, and the conclusion was satisfying.

Lisa says

One of my favorite Murder, She Wrote books so far. Simple mystery, yet cozy and well written.

Paul Lunger says

In "You Bet Your Life", Donald Bain takes us to Las Vegas where Jessica Fletcher is seeing a friend (Martha Kildare) accused of murder whose wedding she was at 2 years ago. This particular mystery isn't all that badly done & contains characters that are a bit believable & a twist that has our detective on the defense team for our accused. What also helps is that this is a crime we don't see & are playing fill in the blank for the majority of the story. Add in Court TV reporters & one gets something different enough for this series to make it stand out amongst others. Bain keeps the action moving at a quick enough pace to not bore the reader with details & the story is short enough as to not get bogged down in itself which helps.

Kate says

This book was alright, but it wasn't my favorite Murder She Wrote book. Jessica's friend is on trial for murder- and a hefty portion of the book revolved around the day to day comings and goings of the trial itself. As a lawyer I appreciated the research that the author did- he was on point with legal practice and procedure- but even I found the court room scenes a little slow. Still, this book was a good read.

Angela Barbee says

This one wasn't my favorite. I liked the setting, but there was too much time spent in court. I was a little bored.

Michelle says

This book is one of my favorites so far. I loved that the majority of it took place in court - the murder trial was very good. Twists, turns, lies and more kept me turning the pages and reading quickly. Love love love these books.

Puneri says

This one is also a comfort book from Jessica Fletcher series. I enjoyed reading it and remembering some good times in Vegas. However, one thing I was surprised to find that the tone Jessica uses while describing the Hispanic caretaker. She says something like this woman spoke excellent English (read in the brackets in spite of being Hispanic). Well, I have a little problem with this kind of attitude. Even in some other books Jessica says this openly. Now, first of all assuming that all Hispanics don;t speak good English is ridiculous. This is biased. And from the show I know that Jessica is not a biased person at all. In fact she is a warm and welcoming person, who finds friends at every place. perhaps the author would be more careful next time, while making such blatantly wrong statements.

David Caldwell says

Jessica heads to Las Vegas to lend moral support to an old friend that is on trial for murdering her husband. Jessica is drawn into helping the defense attorney to clear her friend. But will the real killer stop Jessica by any means possible?

I admit that I used to enjoy the Murder She Wrote TV show. Even though you could usually figure out who was guilty by just looking at the actors (they had a tendency to cycle people, especially the killers, on different mystery TV shows back then), they were always a solid mystery with characters that you could care about. Recently, I started watching reruns of the show. (It has been long ago that I really don't remember them.) so, when I saw this book, I decided to give it a whirl.

It is a solid mystery that will keep the reader guessing (either about the killer's identity or at least how Jessica will prove it). The story flows well and it is an easy read.

There are a few things that bothered me about the story. They are all fairly minor but I feel they are worth mentioning. First, the book is told from Jessica's point of view. This isn't really bad but it did throw it for a little bit. For most of the first chapter, it isn't confirmed that it is Jessica so I just had to assume it. Also, when she finds the big clue, it becomes a little awkward. Even though it is Jessica thinking, the reader has to still be kept in the dark mostly until the big reveal.

The second thing that bothered me was Las Vegas doesn't really seem like a Jessica Fletcher setting. Also, her helping the lawyer seemed so different from most Jessica stories. It almost felt more like a Matlock story to me (but again Las Vegas would have been a strange setting for Matlock as well).

Still, this is better than a lot of the TV adaptations that I have read. The mystery is stronger than a lot of cozy mystery that are being put out currently as well. I would rate this one 3.5 stars. Fans of the old TV show would enjoy the story.

Ellie says

You Bet Your Life by Jessica Fletcher was a very quick read that still felt too long. It's the first in the series I have read & since I loved the series, I'd hoped to feel the same about the books. I won't judge a series by just one book but this one was disappointing. The locale, Las Vegas, never felt either exciting enough or tawdry enough to be interesting, and except for Jessica's voice, which sounded as true as ever & enjoyable, and the accused murderer who was appropriately lovely & a pleasant Perry Mason scene at the end, the book was mostly flat & felt somewhat "churned out."

I look forward to reading another one in the series. Maybe back at Cabot Cove where Jessica was understandably eager to return.

Recommended: for true-blue fans of Jessica Fletcher.

Pat says

When her old friend Martha decides to get married in Las Vegas, Jessica Fletcher makes the trip to watch her

walk down the aisle. But what are the odds that she'll be back two years later-to watch Martha stand accused of her husband's murder?

Jessica's never been one to gamble, but she's willing to bet that Martha isn't guilty. Her husband was a high-rolling Las Vegas local with three ex-wives and plenty of jealous acquaintances. Joining Martha's defense team, Jessica combs through the man's past to find the real killer. But as the media attention grows-and Jessica is interviewed by the news anchors of "Court-TV"-the stakes are raised, and Jessica learns how to play for keeps.

I always enjoy Jessica's adventures, though I would not want to be her friend.

Sara says

I found this in my Little Free Library and the shoe is one of my guilty pleasures. The book is on par with the show.
