



Murder to Music

Lesley Cookman

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The eighth title in the Libby Sarjeant series. Libby Sarjeant and her friend Fran are invited by Fran's creative writing tutor to investigate a house that is reputedly haunted. For once, Libby can be as nosy as she likes without ploughing straight into a murder investigation, for the only deaths here appear to have occurred over a hundred years ago. But perhaps someone alive today doesn't want Libby to continue? And if so, will she be safe?

Murder to Music Details

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From Reader Review Murder to Music for online ebook

Mary Scott says

Another good read, with a couple of good twists.

Lesley Cookman says

The eighth in the Libby Sarjeant series.

Adele Symonds says

This is a murder mystery with two mid-fifty year old women as the main investigators of the mystery. As the protagonist is not the Inspector assigned to the case the author is able to tackle the book from a slightly different angle with having to include lots of detailed police procedural information.

This means that Cookman can concentrate on the complicated plot and lead the reader through it clearly. With the added use of lots of dialogue it makes this book a very easy read. There are no gruesome, detailed descriptions of crime scenes but enough information is supplied for you to visualise what is necessary.

This is the 8th case in a series but works well as a stand-alone book.

I loved the main characters and enjoyed reading the book.

Personal read 4/5

Group read 2/5 as there would not be much to discuss but it is a good read.

Nancy says

The eighth title in the Libby Sarjeant series. Libby Sarjeant and her friend Fran are invited by Fran's creative writing tutor to investigate a house that is reputedly haunted. For once, Libby can be as nosy as she likes without ploughing straight into a murder investigation, for the only deaths here appear to have occurred over a hundred years ago. But perhaps someone alive today doesn't want Libby to continue? And if so, will she be safe?(less)

Book #8

Jakenv says

Interesting mystery and characters just seem more and more like old friends. Always a new twist which keeps story interesting.

Ellen says

Not the greatest mystery I have read. And Indians are not always wicked!

Valchera says

Loved this book. Just as good as the 7 previous books in the series. A light, humorous "cosy". A fine example of the genre.

Clare O'Beara says

This is a slow and dragged-out mystery which only picks up pace or interest in the final quarter. Two ladies of mature years in an English village form the main characters. They spend more time on the phone arranging how, when and why they will meet, than they do meeting.

A recent arrival to the village claims to be having dreams about a possibly haunted house which is isolated and for sale. She couldn't possibly investigate herself but asks these two ladies to do it for her. When they go there, they hear faint piano music; instead of saying "I wonder where that's coming from" and tracing it, they get scared and leave, just like in Scooby Doo. There's a lot of back and forth as contrary ideas and histories are proposed, including discovering that the house was part of a work house and then a sanatorium. The ladies constantly form a suspicion and go and ask the suspect about it, just before the police, who are also informed, get there to question the person. At the very least they should have been charged with interfering in a police investigation.

The author seems to have done no research at all. We are told the police find graves of varying ages but they are not described; we are not told how a new grave looks different from one a few years old or that from one fifty years old. Or how to tell it's a grave and not a vegetable patch left fallow. To aid identification for the two ladies, an overgrown grave has helpfully been tidied up and fresh flowers left. Which everyone with something to hide would do. Crime scene details are scant or absent throughout and we hear more about relatives we never meet and the convoluted village backroads than we do about forensics.

Mysteries don't have to be all about action or gore but nor do they have to be heavily padded with the monotony of daily life, and missing crimes for most of the book.

Damaskcat says

Libby and her friend Fran are asked to investigate an old house - White Lodge - which Fran's writing tutor keeps dreaming about. The house is empty, reputed to be haunted by a ghost which plays Debussy, and has been for sale recently. Libby decides to pose as a buyer and go and look at the house, taking Fran with her.

Libby and Fran feel the house has a very strange atmosphere and yes they hear the music. Both women are interested in the house and relieved that they have been given something to investigate which won't put them

on a collision course with a police investigation but their relief is short lived when they discover what appears to be a recent grave.

I found this a totally fascinating mystery in which the two amateur sleuths find themselves in danger and do not really know who they can trust and who has their own agenda. The plot is complex with plenty of strands to it which the author weaves together into a satisfying whole.

This is one of the books in this series which could easily be read as a standalone novel as well as part of a series. I am thoroughly enjoying reading and listening to this well written series. It has interesting and believable characters and well researched backgrounds.

Mary Byrnes says

Another great mystery

I just love these characters and the things they get into together. The history behind the stories draws me in every time. Looking forward to reading the next in this series

Poornima says

This was the first book I read of Libby Sarjeant. Libby and her friend Fran are middle aged sleuths who are called upon by Rosie to help sort out her recurring dreams about a particular house.

Libby and Fran undertake the investigation and what turns up is the ingredients for perfect English, countryside mystery: right from deserted house with haunting music to bodies buried in the grounds to hidden history. What connection does Rosie have to the house? What secrets are hidden there?

Good read with Libby and Fran helping Inspector Ian to solve the case. The sleuthing is different compared to Miss Marple/Miss Silver and more 'outdoorsy' and modern. The camaraderie between the characters adds to the charm of the book.

This is the 8th book in the series and has some references to previous cases and background regarding the characters, but didn't hamper reading as a separate story.

Donna says

Probably one of the most engaging books of the series. A famous author calls Fran and Libby to find out about a continuing dream she is having about a real place. The dream turns out to be a clue to a real mystery.

Once again the characters make the book, but this mystery was also intriguing.

Elaine says

Just another great read in Cookman series. As usual there are twists & turns some predictable but most not anticipated. Characters seem like old friends if you follow series. No need to read in order but would make more enjoyable. A series with promise which delivers.

Maureen Vincent-Northam says

Murder To Music sees Libby Sarjeant investigating a house that's believed to be haunted. A one-time sanatorium, there's more to the place than meets the eye and the graves Libby and her friend, Fran, discover in the grounds are not a little suspicious. Plenty of twists and turns and all the usual characters makes this a great read for all cosy crime fans.
