



## Vineyard Enigma

*Philip R. Craig*

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## **Vineyard Enigma** Philip R. Craig

Violent crime is a rarity on the tranquil shores of Martha's Vineyard, which is why ex-cop J.W. Jackson turned in his Boston badge to retire to the idyllic isle. And that's what makes a six-month-old murder so troubling to the perplexed locals. But Jackson's got troubles of his own -- including a loving wife, Zee, who's becoming curiously distant ... and the arrival of a mysterious visitor who's searching for a valuable set of stolen statues, and who's certain J.W.'s the man to hunt them down. It's an assignment that plunges the fisherman/chef-cum-private investigator into an unfamiliar milieu: the Vineyard's cutthroat world of art aficionados. And suddenly J.W. finds himself pitted against some of the island's most powerful and unscrupulous figures, uncovering lethal threads that may connect an unsolved mutilation/slaying with those who would stop at nothing -- including murder -- to add rare forbidden objects to their collections.

## **Vineyard Enigma Details**

Date : Published April 29th 2003 by Avon (first published May 28th 2002)

ISBN : 9780060511883

Author : Philip R. Craig

Format : Paperback

Genre : Mystery, Cozy Mystery

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## From Reader Review Vineyard Enigma for online ebook

### Brian O'Leary says

The weakest of the first 13

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### Wayne Zurl says

VINEYARD ENIGMA by Philip R. Craig.....

After reading the cover summary and first chapter I thought Philip Craig intended to turn J.W. Jackson into the Martha's Vineyard Indiana Jones. But it didn't turn out that way.

J.W. is asked by a couple of friends to help a charismatic African find two antique, carved soapstone eagles once stolen from the "Great Zimbabwe" historical site. The assignment isn't too farfetched or difficult, except J.W. knows nothing about the world of collectible African artifacts and those on the Island who qualify as experts (and apparently there are many) aren't in the mood to cooperate with an unofficial private investigator.

Soon he links the statues with an unsolved homicide which occurred on the Island, but the police won't give his theory credence.

Toss in J.W.'s wife getting the hots for the aforementioned charismatic African and our hero's work is cut out for him.

But in a roundabout way the obnoxious art collectors come around in the end, the homicide get's "exceptionally cleared" and J.W. and wife, Zee, are again free to fish the surf, smoke the bluefish and be parents to their two rug-rats who, thankfully, weren't taken along on any of J.W.'s field investigations in this novel.

After reading a couple of Craig's Vineyard Mysteries that I didn't think were up to snuff, this one really pleased me. Fast paced and exciting in a "cozy" sort of way. 4.5 stars.

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### Michelle says

these are one of my college professors books and I thoroughly enjoy them.His protaganist is wonderful and the recipes in his books are divine.I absolutely loved this one. I have not read him in a while and need to finish this series off. His protaganist JW is so wonderful his narative description makes you want to run off to Martha's Vineyard.

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### Ed says

#13 in the Martha's Vineyard Mystery series.

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Martha's Vineyard Mystery series - Former Boston cop J.W. Jackson searches for two ancient soapstone eagles allegedly stolen from African ruins, as well as for clues to his wife Zee's sudden detachment. Abraham Mahsimba, a cultivated and attractive African, may have given J.W. a fresh mission (and a new interest in priceless artifacts), but he's also struck Zee's fancy. A naked, headless and unidentified body and the murder of an art dealer complicate life on the island, and J.W. soon finds himself amid a thriving trade of stolen artifacts, a personal rivalry between collectors and a potential revenge plot. Eccentric locals a Native American couple, a distinguished art collector, a reluctant accountant and assorted nouveau riche islanders add zest. Does Mahsimba really work for Interpol, or is he after the eagles for selfish reasons?

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### **Ashley FL says**

Fine mystery. Loved the Martha Vineyard's setting; wasn't as enthusiastic about the main character.

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### **Kathryn Bain says**

Pretty good read. This is especially good if you like a lot of history about art, different cultures, and Martha's Vineyard. It wasn't really my style, but it was done well enough you could skip over if you don't care for it. I'd check out another Craig book.

Very little cursing, not sexual content.

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### **Barbara M says**

Philip Craig always writes an enjoyable mystery with the great Martha's Vineyard setting, wonderful fishing and great food (he includes many recipes). JW Jackson and his lovely family are always fun to 'visit' but there's a true mystery with plenty of danger. This time JW is asked by a friend to help Abraham Mahsimba find a stolen African artifact. Mahsimba is a from Zimbabwe and studied in England. JW has a great deal on his mind, he's been worried about Zee who was involved in a shooting in the last book. He thinks the work might help him distract him. Zee has not herself but she's quite taken with the charismatic Mahsimba. The way JW handles this is perfect.

Craig's research and this story have enlightened me greatly about Zimbabwe and has also sent me to do some of my own research. I love it when a book does that. I'm glad I've gotten back to reading the series since I dropped it way too soon and for no good reason other than "too many books, too little time."

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### **Shrimpo says**

In this book a guy named J.W Jackson who lives on Matha's Vineyard is asked by a friend to help a guy named Mahsimba from Zimbabwe find two stoned birds. The birds were stolen from Zimbabwe and they want them back. Once Mahsimba gets to the Vineyard J.W and him go around and start talking to other art dealers. The first person they go to see is a guy named Matthew Duarte, but when they get to his house they find him dead. After many days of searching for the birds J.W realized who killed Matt and another guy that

was connected to the birds. Duarte killed a guy named Brownington who tried to take the birds from him. He then had a guy named Miguel to the guys head and hands over to America so nobody could figure out who he was. Since Miguel runs his own food service Matt thought that would be an easy way for him to get rid of part of the body and for him to transfer art products. But Miguel got mad at Matt because he was having an affair with his wife so he killed him. In the end a guy named Charles Mauch had the birds and gave them back. What I liked about this book was that it was very interesting because I learned a lot of new stuff. What I didn't like about it was that it is very confusing because a lot of things are happening in it.

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### **Lisa says**

The crime on Martha's Vineyard continues as the search for missing African art statues intensifies. Several people are interested and are willing to kill to get them! J.W. is hired to help find the pieces. There is description about the beauty of the island in this quick-read thriller.

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### **Linda Hanchett says**

OMG! I forgot I should write and give feedback. Sorry. It was pretty good. Not the best of his I've read. Sorry, but I've read about 5 books since I finished it and really don't remember. I'll try to do better on next book.

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### **Casey says**

3.5 stars. I enjoyed this book a lot more than the last few of Craig's Martha's Vineyard series. Being in the history field, I found the main story line about recovering lost artifacts, repatriation, and the illegal art trade to be really interesting. I wish Craig wouldn't have included the side plot regarding Zee though. Not only was it unnecessary, it also made me really dislike her character. Zee has always been one of my favorites and I know she's still dealing with the aftermath of the events of the last book, but that story line was frustrating.

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### **Ann says**

J W Jackson is hired to locate two ancient stone eagles from Africa that may have been illegally shipped to someone on the island. He is joined in the search by a representative from Zimbabwe. He wants to help but can't help but worry when his beloved Zee seems to be falling in love with the visitor. But a body has turned up with no head and no hands and he needs to make sure his family is safe. Good series. Good characters.

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### **Carol Jean says**

Heavens -- I guess in order to continue with the recipe section, the family is now eating PORK!

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### **Carol says**

Another enjoyable Vineyard mystery.  
I'm having New England Clam Chowder for supper.

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### **Laurie says**

Read this on vacation and on the plane. It was a pretty good read. I'm not much into mysteries, but this is the alumni book club book and since I'm free the night they are meeting to discuss it I thought I would read it. Pretty good, but not sure how we are going to discuss a mystery. I'll update you after the book group meets.

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