



Murder on the Prowl

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As the principal of St. Elizabeth's, an exclusive private school that caters to Crozet, Virginia's, best families, Roscoe Fletcher has proven himself to be a highly effective and vastly popular administrator. So when his obituary appears in the local paper, everyone in town is upset. Yet nothing compares to the shock they feel when they discover that Roscoe Fletcher isn't dead at all. Someone has stooped to putting a phony obituary in the newspaper. But is it a sick joke or a sinister warning? Only Mrs. Murphy, the canny tiger cat, senses the pure malice behind the act. And when a second false obit appears, this time of a Hollywood has-been who is Roscoe Fletcher's best friend, Mrs. Murphy invites her friends, the corgi Tee Tucker, and fat cat Pewter, to do a bit of sleuthing. It's obvious to this shrewd puss that two phony death notices add up to deadly trouble. And her theory is borne out when one of the men is fiendishly murdered. "Harry" Haristeen, in her position as Crozet's postmistress, is the first to hear all the theories on whodunit - starting with the man's jealous wife. Then a second bloody homicide follows, and a third. People are dropping like flies in Crozet and no one seems to know why.

Murder on the Prowl Details

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Lindsay Endell says

Once again, a good story with a proper mystery. Sadly, there few clues to what was actually going on: one v slim final chapter in which something never previously mentioned turned out to be the cause of the mystery. Shame, because these are usually well thought out, with just enough clues that help you figure things out if you're concentrating!

Amy Webster-Bo says

I love her mysteries, she always keeps u guessing until the last min

Randee says

Working my way through this series chronologically and it's so much fun! Number 6 is another winner in both the mystery and the amusing antics/conversations between the animals. On to the 7th!

Christyn says

When I want a little mindless mystery filled with cozy characters and an intelligent mystery-solving animal (and human) cast I come to Mrs. Murphy series. There is no real thinking involved, I figured out the whodunit before they finished doing everything they did (and less than halfway through the book). So while not the most elaborate mystery it is still a fun read. I say this mostly because of Mrs. Murphy, Tucker and Pewter - the animal cast. Implausible though they are, I love 'em. Their interactions are just charming to me. The people - they develop slowly. Like, really slowly (I mean over the course of books slow - and still not really seeing much of a change in Harry - but she's a pretty steadfast character and sometimes that's what you want). But if you keep reading you get to know them.

In this particular book there is trouble going on at St. Elizabeth's, involving obituaries that come out (before the person mentioned is actually dead), students, a convolution of whose sleeping with who (a fairly common theme in these books is that apparently everyone is a "cheater"), and of course what's going on at St. Elizabeths school causing all this. The main "villain" is fairly obvious as the book unfolds, but there are more that are revealed towards the end (also rather expected). I would've liked a bit more development of the villain - I mean what made them tick - why were they such a sociopathic psychopath? Their choices weren't really explained - was it really as simple as materialistic greed and then revenge? But to be honest - I didn't like that character when they first appeared and by the end of the book I would've happily seen them shot or fed to a bobcat.

The mystery did take a while to get started and isn't the most elaborate, so if that's what you're looking for I'd suggest another book. If you're tired and not wanting to think too much and just want something light this fits the bill.

Grandma Mush says

Always enjoy Rita Mae Brown. I am not as keen on all the animal stuff so I just skip a lot but when they are working at solving the murders I try to think of them as human characters . Kept me guessing at the murderer. Not sure I agree with the choice. Can't say more cause I wouldn't want to give it away.

Laurel Bradshaw says

Not a review. These notes are for my own reference and may contain spoilers!

Reread on audio.

Opens in late September.

Centers around Susan Tucker's daughter, Brooks, and her classmates at St. Elizabeth private school. Brooks is 15.

Tee Tucker, Mrs. Murphy, and Pewter all have a significant role in this book. More interaction among the animals than in previous books.

Regulars:

Harry, Fair, Mrs. Hogendobber, Susan Tucker, Brooks, Big Mim, Little Marilyn, Boom Boom, Rev. Jones, Cynthia and Rick (police).

Fredrick Danysh says

Someone is placing obituaries in the newspaper for proplr who are still living. Then they are murdered shortly afterwards. The story development is slow and the numerous conversations between animals is distracting and not related.

Ewa says

I will admit - I'm not a huge fan of talking animals and I had to convince myself to keep reading this book (when I bought it I wasn't aware I would follow talking pets). Fortunately once I accepted this narration - I enjoyed this book. Mystery was OK, I liked the main characters (including animals of course). I will give other books from the series a try in the future.

Tara says

This isn't my favorite of these mysteries but it's ok. I really like the continuing characters in this series

though. I like how their characters are developing.

Lindsey says

I read this book in 2 days because I enjoyed it so much I didn't want to put it down. These cozy mysteries are fun, light reads with likable characters and creative storylines. This installment in the Mrs. Murphy series actually dabbled in some pretty sketchy topics not previously explored (no spoilers here), and the ending was a little bit dark. Granted, these books are about murders, but this one had some real-life, hard-hitting issues that came up in addition to the murders of St. Elizabeth's headmaster Roscoe Fletcher and his associate, film director Maury.

One of my favorite parts of this book came when Harry sat down with her ex-husband Fair, who was trying to win her back, and she told him that she liked being her own boss and not having to answer to anyone anymore. I think the exact quote was, "I don't want to bring out the best in you, Fair. I want to bring out the best in me." I LOVE that Rita Mae Brown set up the foundation for a love triangle among Harry, Fair, and Harry's neighbor Blair Bainbridge, but then had Harry keep being her own independent self. Her neighbors and friends took Fair's side when she filed for divorce, and she hadn't forgotten how lousy that felt, and as a result, she is in no hurry to welcome him back in with open arms. And Fair is a really sweet guy, I love his character, but he messed up big time by stepping out on Harry and then getting bent out of shape when she became friends with Blair.

Boom Boom's foray into all-natural curing essentials (essential oils, anyone?) made me snicker, because every single one of us has been badgered by a friend or coworker to purchase some kind of snake-oil tonic or join a multi-level marketing scheme. I really like her character, though, and even though she's easy to make fun of, she's not entirely a one-dimensional cliché. Her husband was murdered in the first book in the series, and since then she's found herself without any kind of purpose or real friends, so I can see why she's flitting around different self-help programs and multi-level marketing rackets. She married Kelly Craycroft to be a happy trophy wife, and without him, she's kind of lost.

The critters are as cute and entertaining as ever. Pewter is spending her nights at Harry's house with Mrs. Murphy and Tucker, and she helps to save the day again. The animals provide some great philosophical points throughout the series, and this installment delivers more of them. Mrs. Murphy reflects on how people worry about abstract things in the future that may or may not even happen, but they neglect to remember that they might not wake up in the morning and so they don't enjoy their days. Even though these books are cozy mysteries, they offer many of these valuable life lessons, and I think I enjoy them so much because they get me out of my own anxious thoughts and remind me that there's more to life than worrying about the future. Animals have a lot they can teach us, and sometimes it's best to just slow down and watch them play.

Lugene Lancaster says

This one leaves you hanging till the last few pages. A lot more investigating by the animals as they solve the crimes and try to lay hints for their humans.

Morven says

This is the first book of the series that I've read, so I don't have the backstory or really know "Harry," but it kept my interest and I wasn't totally lost, which is why I'm giving it four stars. I wish Audible had a 3.5 because that's what I'd probably give it because I wasn't quite satisfied with the way the mystery was wrapped up. Maybe I would have liked it better if I read the series starting with book #1, though, which is why I gave it a 4 and not a 3.

Another reason I bumped it up is because I absolutely love the dialogue and relationship between the animals. And for that reason, I will indeed read the rest of the series, starting with book 1.

George says

Another in the "Harry" Haristeen Crozet, Virginia mystery series. The background setting is a private school in the town with a number of related staff problems along with problems among the student in relationships. Harry, with her two cats and Welsh corgi are in the middle of an investigation regarding two murders as well as unraveling the various personal relationship problems affecting several characters.

Terralyn Brown Barfield says

3 1/2-4 Stars. I really enjoy these characters, and I'm pretty picky. ?

Oceana2602 says

Ok, I'm going to do a standard review for the rest of the Mrs. Murphy books I read, because I really can't think of something smart to say about every single one of them. Actually, it's hard to come up with something smart to say about any one of them, because they are not really smart books.

Though, no, that's not true. They aren't trivial as such, they aren't too easy - or, in other words, they don't hurt my brain while I read them. But I think we can all agree that they are also not "great literature", and certainly not intellectually challenging, and as such, they are a bit of a guilty pleasure for me. (that and the talking animals, of course)

But they are pretty straight-forward crime stories, not overly complicated, but also never boring. They live from the interaction of the characters and the settings, both of which Brown handles brilliantly. That she also manages to make the reader fall in love with the characters, not only the familiar ones, but also the new ones she adds in each book, shows what a master she really is.

And so I have no problem admitting that I have read and loved every single one of the Mrs. Murphy books, and I'm convinced that I'll continue to love them for as long as she continues to write them, which I hope will be until forever.
