



A Proposal to Die For

Vivian Conroy

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

A Proposal to Die For

Vivian Conroy

A Proposal to Die For Vivian Conroy

The first book in the new Lady Alkmene Callender Mystery series

A murderous beginning

With her father away in India, Lady Alkmene Callender finds being left to her own devices in London intolerably dull, until the glamorous Broadway star Evelyn Steinbeck arrives in town! Gossip abounds about the New York socialite, but when Ms Steinbeck's wealthy uncle, Silas Norwhich, is found dead Lady Alkmene finds her interest is piqued. Because this death sounds a lot to her like murder...

Desperate to uncover the truth, Lady Alkmene begins to look into Ms Steinbeck's past – only to be hampered by the arrival of journalist, Jake Dubois – who believes she is merely an amateur lady-detective meddling in matters she knows nothing about!

But Lady Alkmene refuses to be deterred from the case and together they dig deeper, only to discover that some secrets should never come to light...

The twenties have never been so dangerous

Don't miss the next Lady Alkmene Mystery

1. **A Proposal to Die For**
2. Diamonds of Death
3. Deadly Treasures

A Proposal to Die For Details

Date : Published September 19th 2016 by Carina (first published 2016)

ISBN :

Author : Vivian Conroy

Format : Kindle Edition 162 pages

Genre : Mystery, Historical, Historical Fiction, Historical Mystery, Cozy Mystery

 [Download A Proposal to Die For ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online A Proposal to Die For ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online A Proposal to Die For Vivian Conroy

From Reader Review A Proposal to Die For for online ebook

Melisa says

3.5 stars, rounded up.

A well done cozy mystery. London in the 1920's is a pretty fabulous time to read about. I enjoyed the main characters and am looking forward to seeing where they go in the other books in this series.

Thank you, Netgalley, for a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Ashley Gillan says

For fans of cozy mysteries and classic who-dunnits, the Lady Alkmene Callendar series offers a nice, quick read. 3.5/5, rounded up.

The debut novel in the series, "A Proposal to Die For," follows Alkmene as she meets a young woman, recently come to London to meet her rich uncle. When the uncle winds up dead, Alkmene joins forces with journalist Jake Dubois, to figure out whether his death was truly an accident or the work of someone out to get their hands on his vast fortune.

It's a pretty straightforward mystery, which has the leads following the clues to find the bad guy. For fans of intricate, tightly-wound thrillers, this won't be complicated enough, but I thought it was a nice breath of fresh air.

The story definitely picks up in the last third of the story, once Alkmene and Jake leave London to track down a backstory that could lead to the killer. I wish some more of the story had concentrated on this part; it was truly the highlight of the novel.

With a series planned, some loose ends are left open, and I'd be interested to see where they go.

Overall, a nice, light beach read or mid-flight escape for fans of light-hearted cozies.

Judy Lesley says

I received an e-ARC of this novel through NetGalley and Carina.

Whether or not you completely enjoy this debut novel in a new series set in England in the 1920s will depend on how much of a stickler you are for historical accuracy and feel. And so often it's the small things that can jerk me right out of the historical moment and cause me to become distracted. While it was technically correct for an unmarried woman's name to be written as Ms Steinbeck (yes, I researched it), simply by referring to her as Miss Steinbeck would have kept the feeling of the time period better, at least for me. Likewise there is a scene where Lady Alkmene joins a group at a table in a tea shop consisting of a Russian princess, her servant, and a journalist and yet Lady Alkmene is never formally introduced to him. I was 47% into the book before the man's first name was mentioned in the novel. Once again, these may be small things, but anything which pulls my attention out of the time period greatly influences how I feel about

a novel.

This novel is a clash of classes. Jake Dubois is a socialist and Lady Alkmene is a member of the British peerage. The novel spends a lot of time working out how they feel about the English class system. Lady Alkmene doesn't have much character development so I'm afraid I spent more time being annoyed by her than being impressed. The mystery isn't very complicated and the discoveries came a little too easily for the intrepid investigative duo. What was it about these two that made people confess all just from being asked a question? The implausibility factor was too high for me to be overly enthusiastic about this detecting combination. Maybe the second novel will have seen our main characters develop more depth so they are more interesting. The cover art, by the way, sets the tone I think the prose was lacking. It's a lovely cover and caught my attention immediately.

Gail Abramowicz says

Fascinating

Liked the writing style, the era and historical references to the peerage. Characters are enjoyable. Interesting but predictable mystery. A light, fun read.

Elaine says

This is a delightful cosy mystery set mainly in 1920's London, involving Lady Alkmene and the multi-faceted journalist, Jake Dubois, as they work together to discover what really happened to Silas Norwhich. The wealthy art lover was found dead but was it accidental? What would the motive be and who carried out if it was murder? These amateur sleuths will work together to solve the mystery, even though they are from very different social classes in this inviting read.

The characters are well crafted, the plot engaging and it is a brilliant story to escape into. I love the author's writing style, taking the reader into the story and painting pictures of the scenarios in their imagination. With death, blackmail, double crossing, deceit and so much more this is a fun read. I look forward to reading more in this series and will be particularly interested in if and how the relationship between the disparate pair of sleuths develops in future!

I requested and was given a copy of this book via NetGalley and this is my honest opinion after choosing to read it.

Magdalena aka A Bookaholic Swede says

A Proposal to Die For is a very delightful cosy mystery novel. Lady Alkmene Callender finds herself drawn into a mysterious murder case together with the journalist Jake Dubois. They may come from different social classes, but they both want to find out the truth about the death of Silas Norwich who suspiciously is found dead after finding his lost niece. Could it be that she is behind her uncle's death or is there someone else that would benefit from Norwich death?

I found the book to be quite nice to read. Lady Alkmene and Jake Dubois is quite a wonderful team, of

course, totally unsuitable since they are worlds apart when it comes to social status. And, Jake Dubois never lets her forget that she is a Lady and Lady Alkmene does realize several times in this book what a sheltered life she has been living. But, you can feel the chemistry between them. It's just too bad, that Lady Alkmene father would never approve of a journalist as a son-in-law...

The case is not perhaps the most complex, but I found myself enjoying the book thanks to the colorful characters and the easygoing nature of the story. The culprit was not really a big surprise, but nevertheless, I enjoyed the book very much. I'm looking forward to reading the next book to find out what Lady Alkmene and Jake Dubois will take on next especially since they may have found out the truth about Norwich death, but they have yet solved the other case...

This is a perfect book for people who like the Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries books/TV-series.

I want to thank Carina UK for providing me with a free copy through NetGalley for an honest review!

Verity W says

*****copy from NetGalley in return for an honest review *****

I really wanted to like this - I have a Daisy Dalrymple/Phryne Fisher shaped hole in my reading and I wanted this to be the answer. It's not, but with a some editing and editorial guidance this could be quite good. As it is, the dialogue doesn't sound real and the plot feels forced. It's a shame because done right I could read the monkeys out of this.

Sandy *The world could end while I was reading and I would never notice* says

EXCERPT: 'Marry me.'

The whispered words reached Lady Alkmene Callender's ears just as she was reaching for the gold lighter on the mantelpiece to relight the cigarette in her ivory holder.

Freddie used to be a dear and bring her Turkish ones, but since he had been disinherited by his father for his gambling debts, his opportunities for travel had been significantly reduced, as had Alkmene's stash of cigarettes. These ones, obtained from a tobacconist on Callenburg Square, had a taste of propriety about them that made them decidedly less appetizing than the exotic ones she had to hide from her housekeeper - who always complained that the lace curtains got yellowish from the smoke.

'Marry me,' the insistent voice repeated. . .

ABOUT THIS BOOK: The first book in the new Lady Alkmene Callender Mystery series

A murderous beginning

With her father away in India, Lady Alkmene Callender finds being left to her own devices in London intolerably dull, until the glamorous Broadway star Evelyn Steinbeck arrives in town! Gossip abounds about the New York socialite, but when Ms Steinbeck's wealthy uncle, Silas Norwhich, is found dead Lady Alkmene finds her interest is piqued. Because this death sounds a lot to her like murder...

Desperate to uncover the truth, Lady Alkmene begins to look into Ms Steinbeck's past – only to be hampered

by the arrival of journalist, Jake Dubois – who believes she is merely an amateur lady-detective meddling in matters she knows nothing about!

But Lady Alkmene refuses to be deterred from the case and together they dig deeper, only to discover that some secrets should never come to light...

The twenties have never been so dangerous.

MY THOUGHTS: 'The best pleasures are the unexpected ones.'

I wasn't expecting a great deal from this book, but it was a light amusing read that provided more enjoyment than expected. Like a refreshing sorbet between main courses, it cleansed my palate, and my mind, between two 'grittier' reads. It was really just what I needed.

This tale contains the requisite beautiful heiress, an intimidating stranger, a feisty and determined Lady with time on her hands and a sharp mind, and a death made suspicious by a snippet of overheard conversation.

I didn't bother to try to solve the mystery as I read, in fact for some time I wasn't even convinced that there was a murder to be solved; I just enjoyed the read. And yes, I would read another in this series if I stumbled across it.

Thank you to Carina UK for providing a digital ARC of A Proposal to Die For by Vivian Conroy for review. All opinions expressed in this review are entirely my own personal opinions.

Please refer to my Goodreads.com profile page or the 'about' page on sandysbookaday.wordpress.com for an explanation of my rating system.

This review and others are also published on my blog sandysbookaday.wordpress.com

Holly says

I just want to start off saying that I'm a huge fan of cozy mysteries. Especially when they are done well. This one, I'm happy to say, was one that was. I really enjoyed the characters. Lady Alkmene and Jake Dubois, were two people that I fell in love with. Jake was charming and I liked that Alkmene was a 20's girl wanting a little adventure. Together they were the perfect combination. I loved their interactions together:) The mystery was done well and I loved the setting of the 1920's. I will definitely be reading the rest of this series.

I want to make a point of saying that I don't rate books on whether they are perfect or that they're a literary masterpiece. I rate books (mostly) on how they make me feel. This book made me happy and all I wanted to do was get my housework done so I could re-enter this world. If the characters are people that I fall in love with and I can't wait to read more entries about their escapades....their story deserves five stars.

**Thank you to the publisher and Netgalley for an ARC in exchange for an honest review.

Kate says

The Lady Alkmene Callender Mystery books were ones I initially saw on social media, and as a sucker for

pretty cover I was instantly intrigued. Thankfully the plot of the book sounded interesting enough to carry my interest past the pretty cover and once I started reading I knew I would be caught up in the excitement of the mystery.

Set in the 1920s, A Proposal To Die For is a cozy mystery. Lady Alkmene along with journalist Jake Dubois looks into the death of Silas Norwich, unofficially of course because the police believe there has been no foul play. They make a good team, from vastly different social standings which becomes almost a running joke from Dubois, reminding our amateur female sleuth that she is a lady after all.

The mystery element of the story whilst not complex and convoluted, is still enjoyable. The whodunnit was not a complete surprise, but the story is such that the reader can happily curl up with this book and become immersed in the warmth of the tale.

The author's style of writing is very pleasing, it invites the reader to sit back and be carried away with the tale, the descriptive details conjure very clear images, and the characters that have been created are equally well described. Alkmene is a likeable character, perhaps a little more adventurous and less restricted than most women at the time, and this in turn makes her very interesting. Dubois is a charmer, and compliments so many traits of Alkmene well. The casual way that they could work side by side had moments of hilarity as well as professionalism - a fantastic pairing.

I can't wait to see what book two brings!

Many thanks to the publisher for a copy of this in return for an honest review.

Ria says

Lady Alkamene joins hands with a journalist to solve a suspicious murder. Set in the early 1920's, Vivian Conroy's detective mystery is definitely enjoyable. Their conundrums and banters will keep you entertained, while the mystery surrounding the death will pique your curiosity.

Gwessie Tee says

I recieved this book in return for an honest review.

Naughtiness this is a clean read for those who look for no naughtiness

First so all wow, I very much loved this book, It is the first I've read by Vivian but most definitely will not be the last. I very much intend collecting them.

It was truly an honour to be offered, I haven't read any other books set in the 1920s but I read that many different eras I found it interesting how much things and society changed. from the 1800s to the 1920s purely because I've read so many books set in that erase before.

As always I will not give spoilers, however I will say this I definitely ship Alkmene with Jake (I am a hopeless romantic I cannot help myself). But love the mystery as well as twists and turns throughout this fantastic book. Anyone who loves mystery and History in society will love this book I most definitely did and for those who haven't ventured before but remember epic detective Columbo will also love it.

Alkmene is a lovely lead character and as usual in times of history underestimated but not for long by those

who take time to ghetto know her. Likewise I love Jake story and truly hope he is able to move forward hopefully with the lovely Alkmene at his side, an equal in life as well as any future adventures to be had.

Thankyou Ms Conroy for writing this awesome book and inviting me to read it. I will most definitely be reading more of your books.

Zoe says

Whimsical, suspenseful, and amusing!

A Proposal To Die For is a lighthearted, cozy mystery that transports you back to 1920s London where Miss Lady Alkmene Callender has an abundance of freedom and imagination and where a timely introduction to the devilishly handsome, mysterious ex-con Jake Dubois has them teaming up to solve the suspicious death of the wealthy Silas Norwhich.

The writing style is fluid and smooth. The characters are engaging, endearing, and authentic. And the plot develops nicely and has the right mix of misdirection, deduction, suspects, clues, mishaps, and murder.

If you enjoy straightforward, entertaining mysteries that take you back in time to when forensics was almost nonexistent, social class was everything, and crimes could easily be solved by everyday snooping, shrewd reasoning, and stubborn determination this is a book for you.

Thank you to Vivian Conroy and HQ Digital for providing me with a copy in exchange for an honest review.

All my reviews can be found on my blog at <https://whatsbetterthanbooks.com>

Rebecca says

Originally reviewed on Becca's Books.

When the covers of Vivan Conroy's Lady Alkmene Callendar series were revealed, I knew immediately that this series was something I desperately wanted to read. I absolutely adore a good mystery, something I can really get my teeth into, and once I'd read the blurb and got a taste for what Lady Alkmene was all about, I felt that this was a lady I wanted to meet, and soon.

In the first book in the Lady Alkmene Callender series, Conroy introduces readers to the main lady herself. Sharp, clever and fantastically inquisitive, Lady Alkmene's attitude and ability to snoop out juicy information was second to none. From the very first chapter, Conroy builds the mystery and intrigue surrounding Evelyn Steinbeck's character having recently arrived in London, and right away, readers are led on an exciting, humorous and fabulously witty voyage by the author, in order to track down the killer of Evelyn's wealthy uncle, Silas Norwich. After overhearing a rather intriguing snippet of conversation between Evelyn and an unnamed gentleman one evening, Lady Alkmene feels that this is a case she can't let go of. There's definitely something untoward going on here, and she'll be damned if she isn't going to find out more, whether frowned upon or not!

I wouldn't say that this was an edge-of-your-seat, gripping and intense mystery, but rather a cosy, sit-back-

and-enjoy-the-ride mystery with so much to look forward to, not forgetting the fabulous array of enjoyable, entertaining characters who really made this story what it was. Lady Alkmene was brilliant. Her sharp wit, sense of humour and refusal to back down were all traits which I love in a person, and what made this book even more enjoyable was the obvious tension between Lady Alkmene and journalist Jake Dubois. Working alongside each other to crack the case, there were moments of hilarity as well as seriousness that balanced their interactions perfectly and gave this book a relaxed yet mysterious air, with both characters harbouring secrets from the past of their own, and not giving them up freely. I adored watching the strenuous relationship between these two gradually deepen as the plot progressed, and thoroughly enjoyed meeting the rest of the characters involved, from the glamorous Evelyn Steinbeck to the Russian Countess, all of whom slotted seamlessly into the timescale of this book and added their own sort of vibrancy to the plot.

All in all, A Proposal to Die For by Vivian Conroy was a sublime and sassy beginning to a brand-new, perfect-to-snuggle-up-with mystery series. I found it deliciously easy to escape into this book and found myself racing through it, eager for the pieces of this 1920's puzzle to fall into place. Becca's Books is awarding A Proposal to Die For by Vivian Conroy with four of my bookish cupcakes. I really can't wait for book two to arrive. I'm sure this is going to be a series I'm going to love.

Tracey says

Not very far into this I had to go back and read the description to make sure it was a historical mystery, because there was no sign of it in the book itself. Yep: London, 1920's. Which made me wonder why so many probably-anachronistic words were being used - like the straw that broke the camel's back, hassle: "First recorded in 1935-40; origin uncertain". Of course, referring to someone as "Ms. Steinbeck" was a close call. (Using "Ms." as a title dates from pretty much from when you'd think.) I have no patience for a tin ear - why write a historical if you have no feel for the language? Basically, this seemed like a poor attempt at a London-based Phryne Fisher.

The language on the whole was not good – awkward and over-done. I have far too many books I've pledged to read to waste time on the really bad ones.

The usual disclaimer: I received this book via Netgalley for review.
