



Madison Avenue Shoot

Jessica Fletcher , Donald Bain

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Where Jessica Fletcher goes, murder invariably follows, as shown in Bain's taut 31st mystery to feature the crime-solving character immortalized by Angela Lansbury on the small screen (after 2008's *A Slaying in Savannah*). While visiting her ad exec nephew, Grady Fletcher, and his family in New York City, Jessica agrees to appear in a TV commercial as one of several celebrities promoting an international credit card. Betsy Archibald, the creative director of the ad agency handling the shoot, makes the experience uncomfortable for all involved due to frequent tantrums. When Grady's nine-year-old son, Frank, disappears on the set while watching his great-aunt perform, his parents become frantic. Jessica and Grady's search reveals Betsy, dead from a nail-gun wound, but no Frank. Did the boy witness the murder? Jessica at first irritates the police detective in charge of the investigation, but later impresses him as she cracks the case in her typical no-nonsense style.

Madison Avenue Shoot Details

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From Reader Review Madison Avenue Shoot for online ebook

Paul Lunger says

If ever run of the mill was a phrase that can be used to describe a book in this series, "Madison Avenue Shoot" foots the bill & then some. In this installment, Jessica Fletcher visits New York City to spend time with her nephew Grady who has an offer for her that involves being in a commercial that he's helping to produce. The first third of the novel deals with that specific production shoot & we spend more time on getting to know Grady & his son Frank than we do much of anything else. When a production assistant turns up dead on set, then the story finally moves into mystery mode. The issue however isn't so much the usual sleuthing or solving of this particular crime - it's that the supporting characters this time are really uninteresting. With less than half the book devoted to solving the crime, I almost wonder if Bain didn't forget that this was a murder mystery & not just a story about the Fletcher family in NYC. It's almost very easy to skim a large part of things again since everything pretty much follows standard procedure for this series & ends pretty much as expected w/ the usual twist. Easily one of the weaker entries in this series.

Janis says

Enjoyed it thoroughly. Read it in one day! Always loved the tv show. This is almost as good as watching it on tv. Does that sound right?

Donna Francisco says

Always a light, fun read

Erin L says

Oh, Grady, how do you get into these situations. The guy has the worst habit of picking shady companies to work for.

This book is fairly standard Jessica Fletcher fare, but as a huge fan, I absolutely love reading (listening) to them.

Mary Kennedy says

WHY I LOVE JESSICA FLETCHER—A conversation with DONALD BAIN

If I gave you five clues, could you name this best-selling mystery author?

Clue # 1. He's written over 100 books. Yes, 100.

Clue #2. He wrote COFFEE, TEA OR ME, an international best-seller that sold over five million copies and was translated into a dozen languages. Incidentally, it's been re-issued as a trade paperback so you can still pick up a copy.

Clue # 3. His latest book is MADISON AVENUE SHOOT and features a beloved heroine/amateur sleuth who solves a murder in New York City with her nephew, Grady.

Clue #4. He's written over 30 books featuring this same heroine. In fact, they're so intimately acquainted, she's listed as his co-author..and she appears on every book cover. Okay, the next clue should be the clincher.

Clue #5. His famous heroine lives in Cabot Cove.

Got it? We're talking about Donald Bain, an extraordinary writer whose work includes mysteries, comedies, westerns, biographies, and even Mafia novels. For the past twenty years, he's been known primarily for the Murder She Wrote series published by Penguin Obsidian.

With his wife, Renee, Mr. Bain creates new adventures for the intrepid Jessica Fletcher as she solves a murder mystery in every book. Intricately plotted with a cast of familiar and engaging characters, (remember Dr. Seth Hazlitt and Sheriff Mort Metzger?) the settings are beautifully done and span the globe. Mr. Bain told me at Bouchercon last Fall that the most popular book in the series is MURDER ON THE QE2.

It seems that Donald and Renee Bain will never run out of ideas--the later books in the series are as fresh and appealing as the earlier ones. He's found his niche. As he says," Most recently, my niche has been writing the tie-in novels based upon one of America's most beloved TV shows, 'Murder She Wrote.' I get credit on these books along with Jessica Fletcher, who exists only as a TV character played by Angela Lansbury."

In 2006, he was designated Grand Master by the International Association of Media Tie-In Writers (IAMTW) He and Renee are popular workshop presenters and spoke at Malice Domestic (a fun fan convention devoted to traditional mysteries) last week in Arlington, Virginia. If you can catch up with the Bains at a signing or a conference, you're in for a treat.

Sharon says

Jessica Fletcher, mystery writer and amateur crime-solver, travels to New York for business and family time. Both her nephew, Grady, and her literary agent gently nudge Jessica toward filming a commercial for Permezzo; Jessica reluctantly agrees. When Betsy, the proficient but disagreeable chief creative officer, is murdered, Jessica finds herself immersed in a mystery. The mystery also involves a missing child. Jessica is an older Nancy Drew--intelligent, focused and fearless!! I loved the television series, Murder She Wrote. This mystery is a panacea for a cold winter evening.

Jules Lancaster says

Briliant!

Very cleverly written .I had no idea who the murderer was at all. Can't wait to read the next one.

Pat says

Where Jessica Fletcher goes, murder invariably follows, as shown in Bain's taut 31st mystery to feature the crime-solving character immortalized by Angela Lansbury on the small screen (after 2008's A Slaying in Savannah). While visiting her ad exec nephew, Grady Fletcher, and his family in New York City, Jessica agrees to appear in a TV commercial as one of several celebrities promoting an international credit card. Betsy Archibald, the creative director of the ad agency handling the shoot, makes the experience uncomfortable for all involved due to frequent tantrums. When Grady's nine-year-old son, Frank, disappears on the set while watching his great-aunt perform, his parents become frantic. Jessica and Grady's search reveals Betsy, dead from a nail-gun wound, but no Frank. Did the boy witness the murder? Jessica at first irritates the police detective in charge of the investigation, but later impresses him as she cracks the case in her typical no-nonsense style.

Teri-K says

Let's admit right off that these books aren't the greatest mysteries ever written. They don't have to be - they generally deliver a reliable, clean, decently written story in an interesting setting. And they give us characters we know we'll like. At least, they usually do, and that's why I enjoy them. That's also why this one didn't work as well for me.

It took more than half of the book for the murder to happen, and since I'm not interested in the details of how an advertisement is shot I got bored. I always enjoy reading about Jessica, and her young nephew Frank was OK, but I didn't like Grady or the way he manipulated his aunt. Then there's the plot. Things happened that had nothing to do with each other or the main mystery.

This edition of the series simply didn't work for me.

Holly Fisher says

Listened to on audiobook ...

Elisa Hordon says

Seriously as a mystery fan who doesn't love a Murder Se Wrote story I loved this one a lot.

Marisa says

3,5 / 5

Kristi says

Jessica Fletcher's nephew, Grady, is thrilled when he lands a job at a payroll accounting firm. When his new employer inquires about getting his famous aunt to star in a commercial, Grady just can't say no. As a result, Jessica finds herself in New York City filming a TV commercial for a credit card company. However, it isn't long before chaos erupts on the set. When Grady's nine-year-old son goes missing and she stumbles upon a dead body, Jessica cannot help but become involved in solving the murder.

In my opinion, this book was just okay. It is definitely is not my favorite in the series. There were so many minor characters that I had difficulty keeping everyone straight. I also had issues with Frank's involvement in the plot. On one page, Jessica and Grady were lamenting the fact that a production set is no place for children. Then a couple pages later, they let Frank wander around alone. It just did not make sense to me.

Tammy Lyn says

Jessica is always a great summer read...doesn't take long and just love them.

Aparna says

Stars: 3 / 5

Recommendation: If you want an easy and quick murder mystery pick it up and you will enjoy it.

Madison Avenue Shoot is the 31st book in the Murder, She Wrote series by Donald Bain and fictional writer Jessica Fletcher based on the popular TV Show of the same name. The book was published in March of 2010. The time around the plot is set in New York but with the added pleasure to see Grady Fletcher and his family along with Jessica.

Jessica Fletcher arrives in New York City from her book tour in Chicago for a bit of business and a bit of pleasure. Business being with regards to her upcoming book while pleasure being meeting her nephew Grady Fletcher, his wife Donna Fletcher and their son and Jessica's grandnephew Frank - named after Jessica's long-ago passed away husband. Grady is now working for a company that deals with accounting for production companies as well. One of the company is Eye Screen is shooting a commercial in a week. And Grady ropes in to have Jessica be in on their shoot for the international credit card Permezzo - despite Jessica's protests. And then Jessica comes to know that Matt Miller, her literary agent, was getting a new client - Anne Tripper - who was one of the other celebrities in the commercial. Was Matt spearheading this commercial? Or was he just having two of his authors in that? What is he hiding or gaining by this? Anne is using the commercial to promote her new book which even Matt doesn't have an idea about it. What is that plot based on? Another expose?

As everyone was settling in the making of the commercial, Grady finds out that his company has not been paying Mindbenders their paychecks as it should be. He is trying to dig through it and sort it out, but Jessica worries that something bad was going to happen to Grady - like as always. While everything seems to be going well despite the pressure Grady was in, and Frank having fun at the set, surprisingly Jessica too, Jessica and Grady find the body of Betsy Archibald - who was rather rude and loud with everyone. In the midst Frank goes missing and Grady is taken to the police station suspected of murdering Betsy Archibald. Jessica is again in thick of it - this time not only to solve the murder but to find her grand-nephew Frank and free Grady of the suspicion. Quite a set has Jessica landed into - literally. Detective Chesny along with Officer Rubins and Officer Lasker are assigned on the case. But that doesn't deter Jessica one bit.

Some of the fun characters we get to meet as the plot proceeds along are - Michele (Italian neighbor and friend to Frank), Carl (Grady's boss), Anne Tripper (Author of industry exposes), Stella Bedford aka Cookie (who hosts a cooking show on TV as well as has her own cookbooks), Lance Severson (a TV mystic who hosts his own show as well), Matt Miller (Jessica's literary agent), Betsy Archibald (Chief Creating Officer for Mindbenders company who are doing the commercial for Permezzo), Kip (one of the creative artist at Mindbender), Antonio Tedeschi (Permezzo's President and Chief Marketing Officer), Jimbo Barnes (Stella's manager), Daniel Howerstein (Producer of the show), Jason and Lucy (Production Assistants), Lena (Lance's assistant), Kevin Prendergast (one of the principals of Mindbenders), Alice Evans (another production assistant), Dave Fitzpatrick (Second assistant director) and Adam Akmanian (The director of the commercial). As always Jessica is supported by her friendly Cabot Cove neighbors - Dr. Seth Hazlitt and Robin Stockdale (drama teacher at the high school).

Who killed Betsy Archibald? What was the expose Anne Tripper going to reveal in her new book? Has that any bearings with the murder? Where did Frank disappear off to? Had he witnessed any murder? Was the killer his kidnapper? The rest of the plot continues on how Jessica unravels the mystery.

The author has cleverly extended the Fletcher family by introducing to the son of Grady Fletcher. In the TV Series we see Grady getting married and also has a child but the series ends with Frank being a months baby. Nice to see the next generation with this plot. I also liked the fact that the author through Jessica talks about changing in what the norm is. For instance - Putting the phone on vibrating mode at dinner table is the preferable choice by Jessica as opposed to what the folks are doing now.

Another successful mystery by Jessica with the right elements to keep you interested and hooked to the book.

Spoiler Alerts:

- 1) I wonder in which book Jessica no longer had a residence in New York. This book claims that she doesn't live in NYC any more.
- 2) Interesting to see an actual script in the plot, albeit it is for the show only. :)
- 3) Jessica wonders if children screamed for ice cream with this little rhyme "I Scream, You Scream, We all scream, for Ice cream". Not to worry Jessica, my nephews do that now so it's a legend being passed down. :)
- 4) Jessica mentions about a time when she was in France on an extended holiday but ended up being a working holiday as she tries to solve the murder of the chef of the cooking school. The plot is covered in the 17th book Provence - To Die For, which I am yet to read.
- 5) Jessica also talks about her trip to British Columbia and ended up solving a case. This plot is covered in the 20th book Destination Murder which I am yet to read.