



Mischief in Maggody

Joan Hess

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When a woman is shot in a cannabis patch, Arly Hanks must restore order to her Ozarks community, in this sharp-witted mystery by an Agatha Award–winning author.

When small-town police chief Arly Hanks returns to Maggody, Arkansas, after vacation, she finds the population has risen to a booming 802. Among the newbies: Madame Celeste, the psychic who's holding locals in thrall with her predictions of doom; a handsome new high school guidance counselor; and a gaggle of mantra-chanting hippies who have turned the old general store into *the* source for cosmic harmony. Unfortunately, life in Maggody is anything but harmonious.

Robin Buchanon—a member of Maggody's most abundant family—has been murdered. The moonshiner, prostitute, and mother of four foul-mouthed little bad seeds was found shot to death in a booby-trapped marijuana field. Assuming the weed harvesters are sending a message to trespassers, Arly decides to hold vigil and set her own trap. But when another, seemingly unrelated, murder catches Arly off-guard, even Madame Celeste can't predict where this case is headed.

An Agatha Award finalist, *Mischief in Maggody* is just the kind of “bawdy, cheerful entertainment” that has brought countless fans to Joan Hess’s quirky, long-running Maggody series (*Kirkus Reviews*).

Mischief in Maggody is the 2nd book in the Arly Hanks Mysteries, but you may enjoy reading the series in any order.

Mischief in Maggody Details

Date : Published February 14th 2017 by MysteriousPress.com/Open Road (first published 1988)

ISBN :

Author : Joan Hess

Format : Kindle Edition 211 pages

Genre : Mystery, Fiction, Humor, Cozy Mystery

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From Reader Review Mischief in Maggody for online ebook

Mike says

The return of Ariel Hanks, the 35-year-old chief of police in a small Arkansas town called Maggody (population 755 when everybody's home). To an outsider Maggody looks alot like an open air insane asylum with Chief Hanks serving as a combination ring master/warden/arbiter of common sense... in fact, Chief Hanks feels that way herself most of the time.

In this second book in the series Ariel "Arly" Hanks has just returned from a brief vacation to find that the town is all abuzz over a recent addition - a psychic named Madam Celeste. Madam Celeste may or may not have psychic ability but she is definitely making an impression on the locals. Particularly the chief's mother Ruby Bee who wants her daughter to get life (romantic) advice from the newcomer. Chief Arly isn't interested in psychic intervention.

She may have to reconsider when a local woman, described as "a backwoods moonshining, whoring, abusive mountain woman", disappears leaving behind five foul mouthed, near feral children to be taken care of and things really start picking up in the little town where "nothing ever happens." Before it's all over the chief will have to deal with, in her own words, "a murder, a bunch of orphans, a stolen police vehicle, two missing morons, a town full of loonies who communicate with dead ancestors, and a psychic..."

Okay, so I read the first book in the series, I thought the author was trying a little too hard with the quirky, eccentric, rural characters. They came out as contrived and one deminsional. I'm pleased to report that the second book is a bit better.

Many of the characters are still one deminsional, cliched caricatures of small town folk, but others are more realistic... more Andy Griffith Show simple folk than Beverly Hillbillies ridiculous. The author seems to be finding her happy median between silly and serious.

I gave Mischief in Maggody 3-stars. It is fun and entertaining, but also extremely predictable... I had most of the mystery (including several plot twists) figured out about half way through the book. After that it was simply a case of watching the various characters annoy, bewilder and astonish Chief Hanks.

It's a fun read. Not great - not bad.

While the book sounds like a cozy, potential readers should be aware that it contains alot of swearing (particularly by children), some light violence, and sexual situations (more suggestive than graphic).

***Thanks to NetGalley and the publisher for allowing me the opportunity to read and review this title

Lois I. Kelley says

Throw Aay

I do not know when I have read a book that was had such a poorly developed plot. I found myself skipping many pages to escape the needless clutter contained therein. I would not recommend this book to anyone.

Candice Attrill says

this is not the book you want to read if you're looking for something really serious or something with a very good plotline. Now that I said that I will say that Joan Hess is one so if you're looking for something like your favorite sitcom nice and comfortable and funny this is the book for you if you're looking for something Cory or really thought-provoking this is not what you want of my favorite comfort writers. they are light and funny reads. when I am stressed or in pain I can always pick up one or two of these books and it will keep me laughing and distracted from what's going on. so well I know these books are not going to win any award for being thought-provoking I will still always pick up any of her books that I can.

Candace Kirchner says

Still loving Maggody

This is the third of the series I've read and it's still a major favorite. Quirky, crazy, funny, and still full of mayhem. Crazy mayhem. Some of the most lovable unforgettable characters ever; Dickens would have loved them. And I'm still hoping to make it to Bugscuffle someday.

Betty says

In this book, Arly has returned from a vacation and slowly adjusting to life in Maggody again. Ruby Bee has a lot of things to tell Arly, there is psychic, Madame Celeste living in town and there is a new male teacher that Ruby Bee feels would make a good friend for Arly. Mountain woman, Robin Buchanan has disappeared and children are creating havoc in town. Robin is found dead in a bobby trap field of Margijarnia. Madame Celeste is predicting another death. Arly must work fast before prognostication becomes true. I recommend this book and series. some language used might bother some.

?Disclosure: I received a free copy from Open Roads Integrated Media through NetGalley for an honest review. I would like to thank them for this opportunity to read and review the book. The opinions expressed are my own.

Laura says

This is a great book; this is the second book in the Arly Hanks series written by Joan Hess. Police Chief Arly Hanks finds her small town, Maggody, has some new inhabitants when she returns from vacation. Soon, Robin Buchanan, local prostitute and moonshiner, disappears, and Arly finds her bloody body at the edge of a marijuana field. This is a great book with a wonderful story and well developed characters. This book will keep you reading long into the night and you will not want to put this book down until you finish. This was such a great read and full of surprises. I am looking forward to reading the next book by this great author. I voluntarily reviewed an advanced reader's copy of this book. The free book held no determination on my personal review.

Jeri says

In this second book, Arly comes back from vacation to find that the town has some new residents. They seem suspicious to some in town and as she is starting to ask a few questions a resident is murdered. Arly then has her hands full of trying to find the murderer and uncovering secrets. But Arly is a strong woman and she comes through in fine fashion.

I received an ebook from the publisher on NetGalley.

Peggy Jaeger says

I was given an arc of this book from Netgalley for an honest review.

This was a reprint from a few years ago, before cell phones and such ruled our lives, so it's a little dated, but still as damn funny as ever. Arly Hanks, Ruby Bee, Estelle Oppers and the numerous simian-looking Buchanons are all present, accounted for, and hilarious. It was worth the re-read.

DelAnne Frazee says

Title: Mischief In Maggody - Arly Hanks Mystery Book 2

Author: Joan Hess

Publisher: Open Road Integrated Media

Published: 2-14-2017

Pages: 256

Genre: Mystery; Thrillers & Suspense

Sub-Genre: Police Procedurals; Murder; Cozy Mystery

ISBN: 9781504043472

ASIN: B01N4RHNLC

Reviewed For NetGalley and Open Road Integrated Media

Reviewer: DelAnne

Rating: 4.5 Stars

A dead body in a field of Marijuana. Arly Hanks sifts through the evidence to find a killer who has proven he is willing to kill to get what he wants. Likeable, open and fun. These are discriptions that could decribe either Arly or the Ozark town of Maggody. Filled with warm and friendly people you will want to isit again and again.

My rating of "Mischief In Maggody - Arly Hanks Mystery Book 2" is 4.5 out of 5 stars.

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Twitter Link: <https://twitter.com/DelAnne531/status...>

Beverly says

This is a cozy mystery starring Arly Hanks, police chief in Maggody, Arkansas, population 755. She can't get a deputy, but the town council has given her a pager to make her available 24/7 (if she would return calls). The supporting characters are a hoot. Her mother and mother's best friend try not to get involved in her cases but just can't help themselves. The Buchannons, a heavily inbred clan, provide much of the action. When a whoring, moonshining Buchannon mother of five bastards goes missing, Arly has her hands full. Her mother takes care of Baby while the Bible thumping wife of mayor Jim Bob Buchannon takes on the rest of the filthy, cursing hellions and tries to get them to toe the line to avoid fire and brimstone. She gets no help from her pastor, who does a lot of research into his parishioners' marital troubles by consulting periodicals in plain brown wrappers. You have the New Agers who've recently reopened the Emporium. And a new psychic and her brother have recently made Maggody their home. Plus there's a new guidance counsellor at the high school that all the teenaged girls are swooning over and who Arly's mother has set her up with. The story is well constructed, and the characters are wonderful. The revelation of the paternity of the five bastards had me rolling.

Danielle says

More fun characters, but crimes ended up being a bit darker than the first. Robin's kids are hilarious - and seriously close to my inner monologue.

Helen says

The Maggoty series is a feel-good, smile, laugh-to-yourself, want-to-read-parts-out-loud-to-others series. Joan Hess made the off beat characters likable and the story fun without surrendering to cliches. The southern charm and quirks are gentle and yet very amusing. It is hard to read just one book of this series, so read them all. I wish Ms. Hess was still alive so we could have more of her talent. We will just have to re-read them all again.

Mary Beth says

Basic cozy mystery set in Arkansas. Keeps your attention so that you want to find out more.

Steve says

One of the best

I read a huge number of books, but rarely patient enough to follow the conversation of the characters. But this book forced me to keep reading with unending smiles on my face.

Thank you for a very pleasant writing.

Alice says

Fun

Actually Hammet, the orphan Buchanan, is the gem of this book. The characters are interesting and fun. The mystery easily solved before the reveal. But a couple of very surprising twists are waiting at the end.
