



No Game For a Dame

M. Ruth Myers

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A .38, a nip of gin and sensational legs get Depression-era private investigator Maggie Sullivan out of most scrapes – until a stranger threatens to bust her nose, she's hauled in on suspicion of his murder and she finds herself in the cross-hairs of a crime boss with connections at City Hall.

Moving through streets where people line up at soup kitchens, Maggie draws information from sources others overlook: The waitress at the dime store lunch counter where she has breakfast; a ragged newsboy; the other career girls at her rooming house.

Her digging gets her chloroformed and left in a ditch behind the wheel of her DeSoto. She makes her way to an upscale bordello and gets tea – and information – from the madam herself.

A gunman puts a bullet through Maggie's hat. Her shutterbug pal on the evening paper warns her off. A new cop whose presence unsettles her thinks she's crooked. Before she finds all the answers she needs, she faces a half-crazed man with a gun, and a far more lethal point-blank killer.

If you like Robert B. Parker's hard boiled Spencer series and strong women sleuths, don't miss this one-of-a-kind Ohio detective from a time in United States history when dames wore hats -- but seldom a Smith & Wesson.

No Game For a Dame Details

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Author : M. Ruth Myers

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From Reader Review No Game For a Dame for online ebook

M. Locke says

I am a fan of Raymond Chandler's Philip Marlowe and the hard-boiled detective mysteries set in the 1930s and 1940s, which is why I gave Myer's historical mystery, No Game for a Dame, a try. And boy, am I glad I did.

It was such fun to see how the classic themes of this genre played out with a female private eye, Maggie Sullivan, and I was impressed at how absolutely faithful to the historical time and place, late 1930's Dayton, Ohio, the book was. The historical detail was subtle, but spot on, and it gave a richness and authenticity to the book.

No Game for a Dame did a lovely job of portraying the uneasy relationship between Maggie, as a private detective, and the local police, with the added element of paternalism on the part of the older Irish cops, and the book provided an accurate description of the wide variety of jobs that women worked at during the depths of the Great Depression. The mystery was compelling, the secondary characters were fully developed, and the possible romance was just enough to make me want more. All in all, a terrific book, and I can't wait for the next installment.

Loretta says

I have always loved Erle Stanley Gardner, Raymond Chandler and the genre of the 1920-30's era in America and the UK. I feel Ruth Myers wonderful character, Maggie Sullivan, is amongst these witty, ironic but smart private eyes and she's a dame! So there's a new twist. But she's nobody's fool and neither, I'm glad to say, is she some angst ridden feminist whom modern writers love to extol as if Men are suddenly the Enemy. They really irritate me. Maggie is attractive, likes to wear pretty clothes and hats but she can outsmart and outshoot some pretty tough men! But she's not impervious to a hunky man when he comes her way.

I just loved her as a character, loved Ruth Myer's easy to read, good humoured style of writing which was completely right for the time and the genre but nevertheless had a style and voice of its own. It felt very real, the descriptions of the city and its down at heel areas was evocative and interesting. A most enjoyable book.

Karen Perkins says

I listened to this on audio, and loved it. Both author and narrator worked together perfectly to transport me to prohibition-era America, and I loved the character of private eye, Maggie Sullivan.

Anuradha says

I must say Maggie Sullivan is amazing! Think of her as a sassier, American version of Miss Marple. It's definitely not the best book I've read, but it gave me this warm and fuzzy feeling, so I'm giving it four stars.

Joan says

Take Kinsey Milhone, put her in a time machine and send her back several decades, and you have Maggie Sullivan - a female PI trying to make her way in pre-WW2 Dayton, Ohio. I felt the book had just enough history and cultural references to make it believable and set the time and place, while focusing primarily on the characters and the plot. There was a hint of a romance to come, but the story did not get bogged down by the sexual escapades that seem to fill a lot of current mysteries. Maggie was a fun and interesting character - independent, hard-working, a little foolhardy at times, and loyal to her friends. This was the most enjoyable mystery I have read in a while.

Kristen says

In M Ruth Myers's *No Game for a Dame*, the first installment in the Maggie Sullivan historical mystery series, we're transferred back in time to hit the easy streets. In Post-Depression era in Ohio, Maggie Sullivan is a private eye and hoping to catch her first case. It all started when someone threatened her in her office and the police have an eye on her. When she worked on a case to help Lewis Throckmorton's nephew, Peter Stowe, who's in a bind, it was up to her to find out what's it all about. As soon as she unraveled the mystery on who was behind the threats for him and even on her, she doesn't break under pressure, even when her first client dumps her. When she believed she had it, she discovered who was behind it, when her life was on the line to fight for her own life.

Richard says

In some ways, I'm not really sure how I feel about this book. Oh, I liked it, sure, and I'm probably going to push right ahead and read another in the series. It's sort of *femininely faux noir*, I suppose. It's set in the late 1930s--there are a few references to pre-WW2 stunts that Hitler was pulling in Europe, and some post-prohibition references, both of which help give it that period ambiance. The protagonist, Maggie Sullivan, is a no-nonsense, modern, gutsy young woman of Irish descent. She likes dark beer and gin. She keeps a loaded 38 either in her lap or in her purse pretty much all the time; and she's got another piece in the glove box of her car. She knows how to pull a trigger, too, when necessary. Her father was a cop, and she was raised among cops, so she comes honestly by the "gumshoe" business in Dayton, Ohio. Whoa... *Where?* Haha. I liked that the location is somewhere besides (yawn) NYC, Chicago, or LA. And the author seems to know her way around Dayton pretty well, so there's some authentic sounding local color and all that.

For a detective novel, however, it felt like there's a bit more than the usual amount of following, sitting around, and stakeouting. Maggie cogitates a lot, too. This is probably more realistic than a typical non-stop action gangland shoot-em-up. But the net is that we, the readers, get to hang out casually inside Maggie's head and ruminate a lot with her, and watch her hang out. Not a bad thing; she's good company. But the pacing can feel laid-back. (It picks up in the last 1/3 of the book.)

There are some formatting issues (excessive indents, double-spaces after periods, and left-single quotes masquerading as apostrophes, for example), and a lot of typos that should have been caught/fixed by the copy-editor.

I obtained this and the third book in the series as Amazon freebies. I may have to shell out \$3.99 for the *second* book in the series, but I'm still on the fence about it...

Lee Holz says

No Game For A Dame is a throwback to the hardboiled PI detective stories of the 1930s. All the conventions of the genre are observed in a fast paced, well-plotted and carefully crafted story of good guys and gangsters, except one. As the title implies, the feisty PI is, well, a dame, a broad. Sam Spade and Stephen Marlowe must be spinning in their literary graves. Anyway, the book is a delightful read. However, there were a few things that jarred and puzzled me: author Myers used two British idioms (her bio indicates she's thoroughly American) – “gaol” instead of “jail” and “windscreen” instead of “windshield.” I wonder if my kindle edition was edited for UK readers. Also, early in the book the year is given as 1941. Late in the book the PI reads about the Munich Pact in the local newspaper. The Munich agreement was in 1938. These minor things didn't detract from my reading enjoyment.

Lacey says

I REALLY wanted this book to be better then it was... But I just couldn't get past the fact that the murder mystery plot in this novel was so incredibly thin. What starts as a simple case for Maggie becomes increasingly more and more complicated with the turning of each page. Instead of the complexity bringing enjoyment to the reader all it brings is frustration. So in the end this became a DNF for me, I won't be picking up the next in this series.

Matthew Jones says

I got this off bookbub.com for free. The author has a novel take: a female detective set in noir fiction. I think she did a pretty nice job overall and with appealing characters. I could have used more character development, for example I liked Flora and would have liked to hear more about her. I though the mystery was pretty straight forward, about as complex as say a Robert B. Parker novel. I thought it's was edited pretty well although I was sometimes confused about who was speaking. I thought the novel was slow in some places (especially at the beginning), but I liked the book overall.

Tea says

I'm glad I gave this one a chance because now I'm hooked!

As usual, I perused the one- and two-star reviews on Amazon before I read anything else. The arguments against – characters didn't sound like they were from Ohio, characters sounded like they were from the 1930s – piqued my interest, as characters that don't fit their settings is a peeve of mine. But that latter complaint struck me as a plus because, well, *duh*, the book is *set in the '30s*. I wasn't the only one to make that note, and the counter-arguers convinced me to give the book a chance.

Where the naysayers mostly talked characters who didn't sound like them (the naysayers), those arguing against them delved into deeper character assessments and found interest in the level of historical detail seamlessly incorporated into a smoothly written tale. To my delight, Maggie Sullivan really *is* a smart and feisty woman living at a time when that wasn't necessarily a plus. The daughter of an Irish American cop who died a few years back, she gets herself into and out of trouble frequently over the course of her work, but she's certainly not invulnerable – sometimes she barely rescues herself or clients, and sometimes, she isn't the one doing the rescuing. Fortunately for her, her dad's friends and former colleagues think a lot of her. (Well, that's *usually* a fortunate thing... when the old flatfoots aren't trying to protect her – which sometimes keeps her from doing her job as well as she could otherwise – that is.)

Maggie is at times impetuous, and she's not unaware of the fact. Her line of work sometimes leaves her weighing prudence and expedience, and Myers makes the struggle appear real. Even when readers might be left shaking their heads over Maggie's choices. But who the heck likes a perfect character, anyway?

Myers set the first story in the Maggie Sullivan series in a series of snapshots of 1930s Dayton, and while I don't know enough about that city to say whether her depiction was accurate, it was certainly vivid. The book was peopled with walk-on characters who were filled in just enough not to be cardboard cut-outs while not becoming distractions, either. The people who counted were drawn with more details – at times with just enough to make a reader hope that they'll show up later in the series without feeling cheated that they didn't feature more in this book.

Maygirl7 says

Free 1/21/16 at Amazon and B & N.

Robert Owens says

This book was offered for free by Amazon so I downloaded it. I had read a couple of reviews beforehand that made it sound like I might enjoy it. The author was unknown to me. It is unlikely I would have purchased this otherwise.

Nevertheless, I enjoyed the book. This is one of those old-time detective stories . . . dark allies, hit men, and smoking. I got into the story.

Maggie Sullivan is the rough female detective in this Depression-era novel. She's smart, witty, and full of sass. That is what kept my attention. M. Ruth Myers describes scenes and characters quite well. This is an easy and fun book to enjoy.

The story lagged briefly about two-thirds of the way through and then again nearing the end. I didn't find the mystery particularly compelling. It seemed like it was wrapped up quickly. I am used to a more elaborate twist of things in the stories that I love; this was straightforward and not difficult to follow. It was also predictable and didn't take a Robert Goren master-of-all to chain together. That was welcomed.

There were four, as I recall, instances that I recall with typographical errors. As a new Kindle reader, I find these interesting.

Having enjoyed this, I will keep an eye out for the second Maggie Sullivan novel. Apparently Tough Cookie will be out sometime this year. I would read that provided I felt like the price was a bargain.

Lisa says

Abandonned at 60% - I just can't get into this book. It's not badly written or anything and I rather like the noir style and the main character is sassy BUT I'm so bored and a bit confused by the story and just don't really want to spend any more time on it.

Julie says

No Game for a Dame written by M. Ruth Myers is a hard boiled detective novel with a twist. Maggie Sullivan is the detective. Set in the 1930's when women didn't have such occupations, Maggie is often taken for granted. An old friend of her father asked if she was sure this was the kind of work she wanted to do, cause she would have made such a nice teacher. But our detective is all too aware of how men percieve her and uses that knowledge to her advantage. "Crooks and killers set so much store by brawn they overlook gals."

Myers really knows this era, and Dayton, Ohio. One can easily envision the period she writes about. Maggie is as tough and wisecracking as any male hard boiled detective, and witty as well. But, we see her soft side too, and she maintains her femininity.

Maggie has been hired to check up on her client's nephew who has suddenly become a snappy dresser and flashing more cash than he should have. This leads her to robbery, murder and kidnapping.

With each chapter the suspense builds, as she gets closer and closer to the truth. There are a few twist here and there. The ending is a real thrill and leaves you wanting to read more about Maggie Sullivan. I can't wait for her next adventure.

I purchased this book in ebook format. The print version has 266 pages. The violence is PG. Colorful language was rare, (only two or three times I think) and there is no SC.

The writing is very good, the story fast paced. Overall a very enjoyable read.
