



The Art of Murder

Elaine Viets

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From the national bestselling author of *Checked Out*, Helen Hawthorne must pose as a painter at Fort Lauderdale's famous Bonnet House Musuem to catch an artful killer . . .

The art world is a happening place—but a brush with death shouldn't be in the picture. Unfortunately that's just what happens to Helen Hawthorne and her friend Margery. While touring gorgeous Bonnet House, a mansion-turned-museum, they observe a painting class and note an up-and-coming artist. When they later see her deadly end, Helen is hired to canvas the crime scene—undercover, of course.

Sketchy suspects lurk in the victim's bohemian past. Was the promising painter killed by her jealous husband? Her best friend? A rival using her artful wiles? With her husband Phil busy setting a trap for a gold thief, it's up to Helen to paint this killer into a corner . . .

The Art of Murder Details

Date : Published May 3rd 2016 by NAL

ISBN : 9780451476135

Author : Elaine Viets

Format : Hardcover 287 pages

Genre : Mystery, Cozy Mystery, Fiction

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From Reader Review The Art of Murder for online ebook

Once Upon a Romance Reviews says

Reviewed by Wendy

Sexual Content: None

Language Content: Mild

Violent Content: Minimal

Helen Hawthorne and her friend Margery are enjoying a tour of the beautiful Bonnet House, once a mansion, now a museum. They happen upon an art class and soon are swept up in the mysterious death of an up and coming artist.

One of the other students in the class is the deceased ex-husband, a man who looks mighty guilty. Helen is asked to go undercover to find out who killed the artist. Is it her ex, an old lover, her current husband, or a classmate who seems too eager to have the dead woman's ex-husband arrested? While Helen is hard at work undercover, her husband Phil, also a PI is busy working undercover himself on a robbery case, so we don't see a whole lot of him, in this book.

The Art of Murder is the 15th book in the Dead-End Job Mystery Series. It is a solid mystery with likable characters and plenty of twists and turns to keep the read engaged. Helen's friends are diverse and they keep each other and the reader entertained. The setting is in Ft. Lauderdale and the author's descriptions add a lot to the background of the mystery. Not the best in the series, but a good mystery none-the-less.

-- WENDY

Mayda says

What began as a tour of an art museum for Helen ended in a suspicious death for an artist. Helen is hired by a friend of the artist who fervently believes that the ex-husband is responsible. But Helen is not so sure and must chase down clues and suspects in her quest for the truth. Meanwhile, the love of her life, who also happens to be her husband, is on a case of his own to track down the Gold Ghost Thief. A lot of action and humor besides combine to make this an enjoyable, quick read – perfect anytime but especially for a summer fun mystery.

Lisa Ks Book Reviews says

Author Elaine Viets paints a vivid mystery with THE ART OF MURDER.

The Dead-End Job Mystery series has been great from the start. Ms. Viets keeps upping her game with each new installment. This series is consistently well written with each new book adding stronger, and more entertaining plots.

THE ART OF MURDER is quick to jump into the murder, and mayhem. From chapter one it just keep gaining momentum. Fast paced and intriguing, this book was hard to put down. With plenty of twists and turns to keep me guessing, and second guessing, the reveal was a total surprise.

With books like THE ART OF MURDER, it's easy to see why Ms. Viets, and the Dead-End Job mysteries have such a loyal following.

Kerry says

i always slow down, near the end of this book series, because I hate for it to be over. I savor the last several pages, along with the epilogue, and feel as if I'm saying so-long to a good friend, when I finally put it down. As always, the characters are richly entertaining, and so very believable. The main characters, Helen, Phil, Margery, and Peggy, are people I would love to live near. Do yourself a favor and read this series. I'm looking forward to the next book, but then, that's nothing new.

Susan says

I'm still enjoying Helen Hawthorne, Phil and Margery and their adventures in South Florida. This story centers around artists taking a class at the Bonner house, and was perhaps a bit repetitive. I had the murder pretty much figured out, but still enjoyed the journey to the end.

Linda Sammaritan says

Yes, the writing is good. No, I didn't like the story. The author is so busy with everyone's sexuality, it takes away from the story line. Christian authors are often scolded for preaching at their audience. This book does the same from the liberal, anything-goes viewpoint.

Dawn Filler says

This was a fast fun read with twists I didn't see coming. Love the regular quirky characters with romance still blooming between Helen and Phil. Glad I bought this book to add to my dead end job series collection.

Ed says

#15 in the Dead End Job series. Helen Hawthorne and husband Phil take on simultaneous jobs for their Coronado Investigations P.I. firm. Helen is hired to prove the poisoned artists ex-husband killed her, although Helen warns that she will search for whoever the killer happens to be. Phil is hired to catch the Gold Ghost, a cat burglar stealing bullion collections from high floor residents in a Lauderdale community. Helen insists on accompanying the operative Phil places on stake-out duty. An enjoyable cozy but it's

annoying how long it takes Helen to remember where she has seen the Gold Ghost before.

Dead End Job series - Fort Lauderdale, Fla., PI Helen Hawthorne tours the Bonnet House Museum, where she meets artist Annabel Griffin. Outside the museum after the tour, Annabel collapses after drinking some odd-tasting raspberry tea and eventually dies from nicotine poisoning. A close friend of Annabel's is convinced that the dead woman's boorish ex-husband, Hugo Hythe, murdered her, and she hires Helen to investigate. Helen noticed Hugo callously step over the unconscious Annabel right after her fall and later learns that Annabel contributed to Hugo's losing his position as the CEO of a Fortune 500 company. Meanwhile, Helen's PI husband, Phil, has been retained to catch the so-called Gold Ghost, who has been breaking into top-floor condos and stealing gold coins. The stakes for that case rise when the burglar fatally bludgeons an elderly man who presumably interrupted another theft.

Baba says

I enjoyed this mystery set in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. The novel involves 2 Private Inspectors whom are married. They are involved in finding the killer of an artist and secondarily the robber of gold coins from high rise apartments. The case of the artist has 4 suspects and has enough twists and turns to hold one's attention, and comic relief.

Tina at A COZY GIRL READS AND WRITES Blog says

Author Elaine Viets penned a mystery that came alive in my mind. I'm a big fan of art. The history and atmosphere for the historic Bonnet House with the art class with a possible killer lurking was very inspiring. Helen, Margery and Phil were very likeable and hilarious characters.

The thrills and suspense had me not wanting to put this book down. The Art of Murder was very fast paced with a most gruesome murder. This is a new favorite cozy mystery for me and the best I have read this year so far.

Crystal Toller says

Helen Hawthorne

This is the story of the murder of Annabelle Giffin an up and coming artist. Helen is hired by Annabelle's friend Jenny to find out who killed her. Also, Phil, Helen's husband is hired by a condo association to find out who is stealing gold coins from condo dwellers. Helen helps Phil with his case and then solves hers. A good story and a surprising ending to both mysteries.

Sharon coon says

Loved it!

After I started reading, I could not put this book down. I liked that there were two plots going on, not related to each other, during the same time. Any mystery reader would enjoy this book

LORI CASWELL says

Dollycas's Thoughts

What should have been a quiet and relaxing day for Helen Hawthorne and her friend Margery quickly turns deadly. They were touring Bonnet House, a Fort Lauderdale museum, and when they left they were witness to a woman falling down and convulsing in a parking lot. She later died and her death was very suspicious, but was it murder or suicide? Helen is asked to investigate her death and goes undercover to do so. Phil has his own case. He is trying to catch a thief that has been burglarizing high rises. Busy with their own cases they don't have much time for each other. Hopefully they can wrap things up before their marriage starts to suffer.

Fifteen books in and Elaine Viets still delivers a timely mystery we can escape right into.

Helen has come a long way from the dead end jobs as she takes on another case all by herself and she ends up helping Phil with his case too. Phil ends up the one with the dead end job in this installment. I did figure out the whodunit in her case quite easily and some of the facets of Phil's case too but both had a suspenseful endings.

All our favorite characters and their "sunset salutes" are back. I did enjoy Markos helping the PI's again. The new characters were interesting and well developed. Their dialogue was well written too and real.

This was not my favorite book in the series but it was an entertaining read. I think I miss Helen being chased by her ex but as with all series I understand the characters have to evolve. The bit of marital tension between Helen and Phil did help, but truly we all know they are just so darn happy together. ?

The Art of Murder is a light, fast, enjoyable cozy. A nice addition to this series.

K. East says

I wanted to like this mystery because it takes place in a town I know something about -- Ft. Lauderdale -- and I'm always looking for a new cozy series. But despite some interesting characters, the mystery part felt really flat. I figured out the murderer even before the murder happened! The secondary mystery -- the gold thief -- was more entertaining than the initial murder, but even that case was lacking some common sense. If someone is targeting high-end condos to steal a specific kind of gold coin, the first question I would ask is, "how does the thief know where the coins are?" But that question never comes up in the inquiry! It isn't until the thief is caught that the author explains in a sentence or two how the thief knew where to break in.

All in all, an unsatisfactory mystery.

Mason Canyon says

Author Elaine Viets has created a protagonist in Helen Hawthorne that readers can relate to. Helen doesn't back down from pursuing any job and is loyal to her friends. The secondary characters are also well-developed and add depth to the story.

The story flows at a steady pace with twists and turns keeping the suspense high. The vivid descriptions and eye for details brings the fascinating Bonnet House Museum into the reader's world.

THE ART OF MURDER is the 15th installment in Viets' Dead-End Job Mystery series, but can be read as a standalone. New readers will have no problem keep up with Helen, Phil, Margery and the rest of the gang. Returning fans will delight in catching up with some of their favorite characters.

The intrigue of art classes paired with beautiful Fort Lauderdale (FL) landmarks as backdrops makes this a tantalizing cozy mystery. A blend of humor, suspense, friendship and determination make this a must read for murder mystery lovers.

FTC Full Disclosure – A copy of this book was sent to me by the publisher in hopes I would review it.

However, receiving the complimentary copy did not influence my review. The thoughts are completely my own and given honestly and freely.
