



Trouble in the Brasses

Alisa Craig , Charlotte MacLeod

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Although he is a decorated officer of the Mounted Police, Madoc Rhys's tin ear has long been an embarrassment to his musically fixated family. But when his father's orchestra needs a policeman, the Mountie gets a chance to make daddy proud. It began as pranks among the brass instruments, but something is rotten inside the Wagstaffe Symphony, and is about to graduate to something criminal. Called in to look into the tensions within the group, Madoc arrives just in time to see the French horn player keel over.

The death appears natural, and the orchestra boards the plane to its next engagement. But when a storm forces them to make an emergency landing and take shelter in an eerie old lodge, the extent of the danger becomes clear. Madoc may never understand music, but he has a good ear for murder, and is about to show off his chops.

Trouble in the Brasses Details

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From Reader Review Trouble in the Brasses for online ebook

Ed says

#4 in the Madoc Rhys series. Author Alisa Craig is a pseudonym for noted mystery author Charlotte MacLeod.

RCMP Inspector Madoc Rhys series - Although he is a decorated officer of the Mounted Police, Madoc Rhys's tin ear has long been an embarrassment to his musically fixated family. But when his father's orchestra needs a policeman, the Mountie gets a chance to make daddy proud. It began as pranks among the brass instruments, but something is rotten inside the Wagstaffe Symphony, and is about to graduate to something criminal. Called in to look into the tensions within the group, Madoc arrives just in time to see the French horn player keel over. The death appears natural, and the orchestra boards the plane to its next engagement. But when a storm forces them to make an emergency landing and take shelter in an eerie old lodge, the extent of the danger becomes clear. Madoc may never understand music, but he has a good ear for murder, and is about to show off his chops.

Ivonne Rovira says

Despite the title, it isn't just the brass section of the Wagstaffe Symphony Orchestra that's troubled. In this fourth book in the series featuring Detective Inspector Madoc Rhys of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Rhys' famous father, renowned conductor Sir Emlyn Rhys, has become worried about strange goings-on in the orchestra. But cruel pranks give way to murder when a French horn player is poisoned; soon thereafter, other musicians suffer as well, although I don't want to spoil it for readers with too many details.

Charlotte MacLeod, writing as Alisa Craig, has penned a charming cozy with plenty of suspense and humor. The only downside is knowing that the late Ms. MacLeod left only one more book in this fun series.

Maria says

Without Janet this plot was a bit slow, but having Madoc's father and mother in the story was great, especially since his mother finally got to see how he worked and stopped saying her son worked for the government in research because it was so embarrassing to have a policeman for a son. Sir Emlyn's character shows some surprising traits. I particularly loved it when he grabbed the sedate Lady Rhys and kissed her. Even Madoc was surprised, and he must have been somewhat used to it, one would think. I certainly hope most musicians don't go in for the type of behavior these symphony members did. Many of the practical jokes were just plain mean and the others were in poor taste.

Kamas Kirian says

Another delightful Charlotte MacLeod novel. I read this before, back when I was in high school, not long

after it came out. I liked it as much as I remembered, even if I couldn't remember the particular points of the story. Madoc and his family are absolutely wonderful characters. My main quibble with this story is that there are too many characters (~around 20 at the lodge alone) to really allow for any of them to be fully developed. Many of them just sort of blended into one another in the background. With no real motivation for the murders revealed until the very ending, it did seem a tad rushed at the end. Still, it was well written and paced quickly.

The eBook was formatted well, but there were several spelling mistakes. It appears the OCR occasionally got 'the' confused with 'me'.

Alice Brewer says

#52books2018 number 55: Trouble in the Brasses by Alisa Craig. I've a lot of love for these Mountie Midsomers. Have read it before and will again. Good Canadian (murderous) fun.

Susan says

Madoc is called upon by his father to join them, leaving Janet with her brother and sister-in-law. Sir Emlyn is guest conducting the Wagstaffe Symphony orchestra on tour, and he is having problems. Madoc arrives just before the orchestra is due to leave for a festival, and sees a French horn player escorted off the stage to die during intermission. The dead man is noted for his delicate stomach and incautious (and constant) eating, so the death is put down to that. Madoc, his parents, and most of the first-chair musicians are going to the festival by plane, loaned to them by a supporter, while the rest of the orchestra travels by train. When the plane is forced to land in a storm due to electrical problems, the group find themselves in a closed-down 'ghost town' tourist trap. They break into the hotel and manage to get enough heat and water and some stored food to keep them going. Since the plane was off course, they don't know when they will be found. As the days pass, tempers among the group begin to fray, and Madoc has his hands full feeding the crowd. When one of the group suffers a strangulation attempt while she is sleeping, things start getting complicated. A weird old aviator appears in his triplane and takes Madoc to the local ranger station where he finally is able to radio messages to families and to give their whereabouts. He finds that the French horn player's death has been ruled a homicide, so when the news of their whereabouts gets out they are swamped with TV crews and newspapers anxious for interviews - there are so many press planes in the area that the ranger cannot land his plane to help. Then another member of the orchestra is found with an ice pick in his neck, although Madoc manages to hide this one from the group at large until the press crews are gone and rescue is imminent. The ranger brings the local sheriff to help and the murderer is discovered and locked up before the orchestra finally gets on its way to the festival. I enjoyed this book more than the other Madoc books primarily because his parents have a major role and I love their characters, the way they interact with each other and with Madoc. A fun read.

Corey Zander says

Pretty cute story.

Sandy Shin says

Stranded in the Canadian wilderness with an orchestra's first chair musicians, a choir's leading singers, the conductor and his wife and a few miscellaneous characters is a great setting for a wild west murder mystery

Susan says

An OK read, not terrible, not fantastic but OK. For me, the beginning was really long (about 3/4 of the book) and the ending rather rushed but the story overall is OK.

Teddi says

Enjoyed this one the most of any so far!

Thelma says

First book I've read about murder involving an orchestra and a Canadian RMP. Set up nicely. There was a lot of talking, talking, talking. Not saying that's bad, just different. Learned a couple of new words. I'm going to read another of her books.

Joan - xstitchfan says

Madoc's Rhys father has been a world renowned conductor for many years. In this book, he has undertaken another long world tour with a rather boisterous symphony orchestra. His wife, a born organizer, makes the tour runs smoothly to ease the stress on her aging husband. Unfortunately, these particular musicians look for excitement in all the wrong places - drinking too much alcohol, having affairs, and orchestrating elaborate practical jokes. What first appears a joke, is actually a murder. While the parents work to keep the peace under these stressful circumstances, Detective Madoc and his wife Janet work to solve the mystery quickly so the tour can continue I enjoyed the background information about moving all the symphony members and staff along with the valuable and often unweildly instruments around the world. Enjoy!

Peter Barr says

One of the RCMP Madoc Rhys mysteries by Charlotte MacLeod writing as Alisa Craig. In this story, the mountie is recruited by his father, an orchestra conductor to come along on a concert to find out why he is having personnel problems. That's when a musician is murdered. The scenery is in for a change and the problems continue. This is a pretty good story.

Jill says

I am sorry to see the last of Rhys and Janet, though Janet barely appears in this book. A bit of heavy handed humor and an interesting mystery, but it's the personalities that take center stage in this book. And finally, Rhys is no longer the black sheep in his mother's eyes as his skills save the day!

Jeff Morris says

Just a fun easy read. Think beach read.
