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When the entire collection of the Fireman's Museum ironically goes up in flames, Nell Pratt discovers one of the charred pictures isn't the one that was originally exhibited. But getting to the bottom of the mystery is bound to get Nell burned...

Fire Engine Dead Details

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Author : Sheila Connolly

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From Reader Review Fire Engine Dead for online ebook

Bonnie Randall says

Reading a cozy is a lot like eating tomato soup and grilled cheese for dinner: it might never hit a menu in a restaurant that serves cuisine, but sometimes you just want it more than something a chef could create, and it fills a hollow spot in a way that something fancier couldn't.

I like this series but don't *love* it; the history and knowledge of Philadelphia is super, Marty is a secondary that steals every scene (in a good way) and I like the structure of and quirky birds who work for the Society.

Nell is stuffy though-she tries not to be, but she always makes me want to say "Oh. I see you found that stick. Sitting must *suck* - and she and James have the Most. Tepid. Romance. EVAH.

I mean, can't this guy just ravish her behind the stacks in the Society just *once*? Toss her bra so it hooks a strap on a ceiling fan and whirls round and round, sours old uptight Latoya even more than she usually is?

Now *that* would be worth 4 (maybe 5!) Stars. But, as it stands....3 Stars for doing what a cozy is supposed to do.

Mirjam says

I remember being somewhat disappointed after reading the first book in the Museum Mystery, Fundraising The Dead. It was ok, but I had expected to love her Museum series as much as her Orchard series and I did not. However, it was not bad, so I stuck with it. Now that I have read the third book, Fire Engine Dead, I can honestly say that it may have taken me awhile, but now I do love this series!

Nell Pratt, president of the Pennsylvania Antiquarian Society in Philadelphia, is the heart of this mystery series. Nell's responsibilities at the museum, her interactions with colleagues and the meetings of the Pennsylvania Antiquarian Society take up a lot of time, but that is fine because I like the characters.

Whenever Nell is not hard at work she is doing her best to hunt for clues in museum related crimes. Usually at the behest of maybe-boyfriend and FBI agent James Morrison. I do not find the Pennsylvania Antiquarian Society all that interesting in itself. Not like the Fireman's Museum, for instance. It is therefore a good thing that crimes taking place at other museums require Nell to snoop elsewhere and allows us readers to learn more about museums that fascinate me a whole lot more! I believe Connolly managed to sketch a very realistic portrait of the dangers and dedication of fireworkers.

The Museum mysteries include a couple characters I quite enjoy. Apart from Nell I like Marty a lot. She is quite a force of nature, but what a wonderful woman! James is a bit slow to invite Nell on a date instead of a business lunch or dinner, but I think Nell has handled that efficiently enough to ensure that there will be no more of that in the next book! Nell's counterpart at the Fireman's Museum, Peter Ingersoll, is a bit spineless. Nice, but not exactly the go-getter you would expect a man in his position to be.

Fire Engine Dead was written with a fine sense of irony, which helps make it fun and entertaining. The mystery itself is intriguing and in the course of finding enough clues to solve the case Nell is facing quite a lot of action. Great story! I like this one best, I think!

Jeanie Harper says

Nell gets talked into helping FBI agent James with another investigation pertaining to the Fire Museum.

A fire with the switch out of the fire truck, caps off, the arson and a body in the ashes doesn't help.

Jim and Nell are still dancing around their affections or physical attraction, but, manage to work together. However when the murderer traps Nell and the director of the Fire museum, with the idea that they are going to be set up to murder each other and die in a fire.

Jim rescues Nell after the trauma, and they both realize that it's time they decide what they are going to do about it.

Christine says

I feel like this took a long time to get into the real meat of the mystery, though I didn't actually mind too much. The museum world of Philadelphia is fascinating, and Nell is a good protagonist. It was interesting to learn more about how all of that operates, and about the characters in this series. The mystery was very convoluted, in a satisfying way, and it wrapped up very well. Looking forward to the next in this series.

Hilary (A Wytch's Book Review) says

Nell is in the thick of it again! After a fire wipes out a warehouse containing the collection of exhibits from the Fireman's Museum (the museum is undergoing refurbishment) Nell is asked by the President of the museum if they have anything that can help then list all the missing items. When the information is dug out Nell (Marty, Eric, Shelby and FBI agent James) realise that something is very, very wrong, Nell starts digging deeper to find out more but could this be her last shout?

Sarah says

I really enjoy Nell Pratt - she might even be one of my favorite cozy heroines. I loved the first two Museum Mysteries and was eager to dive into the third. I usually can read a cozy in two days or less. This book took me nearly a month to power through.

Even as the culprit was revealed, I had to drag myself across the finish to get to the final page. Nothing really seemed to happen in this installment besides Nell sitting in her office, complaining about the work she "should be doing," but instead fretting over whether or not Latoya, her VP of Collections at the Society, respects her. That's all that really transpired...Nell obsessing over Latoya and her reactions. No wonder Latoya doesn't show her much respect! Nell, who's confident and intelligent around everyone else, turns into a little, frightened child everytime she speaks to the woman. I don't know why there's so much emphasis put on this relationship. It was annoying and basically seemed like plot-filler because nothing else was really

going on except impromptu lunches every day. James and Nell's slow-burning relationship nearly extinguishes in my opinion. They have no chemistry and whatever connection Nell keeps hemming and hawing over does not transpire to me as a reader. I love Eric (although Nell's constant surprise that he's a capable worker is also questionable) and Shelby. Marty is even growing on me because at least the bossy board lady takes action!

I'll keep reading this series, but I think I'm going to take a break to hopefully make me pine to return to the Society.

Joyce M. Tice says

Good plot, good characters, good continuation from earlier books in the series. I am enjoying the series in this museum environment.

Fred says

The third book in A Museum Mystery series. I really enjoy this series and the behind the scenes work at a museum.

Nell Pratt, president of the Pennsylvania Antiquarian Society, is asked by Peter Ingersoll the head of the Fireman's Museum any information her museum may have on his. The Fireman's Museum is undergoing renovation and all of their displays and papers are in a storage warehouse that has just had a fire. About the only thing that wasn't completely destroyed in the fire was an old hand-pump fire engine. When Nell starts to put together the information for Peter, she notices that pumper that is in a picture taken at the fire scene is different than the one the museum had on display.

She contacts her good friend, James Morrison, who works at the FBI. Soon there are other fires that are of a suspicious nature and Morrison starts to think, like Nell, that maybe the fire at warehouse with the Fire Museum's items might be insurance fraud or theft. James asks for Nell's help in talking to museum employees to learn anything that might help in the investigation. They are getting close to knowing just what happened when the person responsible enters Nell's museum while she is talking to one of the possible suspects. Her museum is very nearly lost to fire, but the antiquated fire suppression system does its job. James with Nell's help is able to put all the pieces together and solve the mystery.

Another exciting story from Sheila Connolly. I am looking forward to the next adventure in the City of Brotherly Love.

Deborah Almada says

Enjoying this series a lot, enjoy the history and character development in this the third book in the series!!!!!!

Vickie says

I love big cozies and I cannot lie. Settings that are nifty to tour, characters to love or intensely dislike, cool premises, views into other worlds or lifestyles.

This is a museum among other museums in Philadelphia, each fighting for money to keep going in a time of cutbacks. Now there is someone setting fires to warehouses, one of which is storage for a firemen's museum. They reach out to Nell for help and she must assist.

It makes sense that Nell would get involved and investigate. She has a lot on her plate as the new president of the Pennsylvania Antiquarian Society. She has staff to hire, funds to acquire, and the FBI to agree to return the stolen documents they've recovered. She makes it work.

I like this series quite a lot. It could be a bit boring in someone else's hands, but Sheila Connolly has a deft hand with the museum setting. Or any setting really. I love Sheila Connolly's writing.

Definitely recommend.

Virginia Adi says

very addictive series

Doward Wilson says

This series continues to entertain as Nell Pratt, President of the Pennsylvania Antiquarian Society works to solve a murder and arson fire involving Philadelphia's Fireman's Museum. With the help of her staff, friends and FBI Special Agent boyfriend James Morrison, Nell shows us what life is like behind the public scenes of running a museum. I love that the main characters are in their 40's and that the supporting characters come from many diverse backgrounds and ages! The museum setting and the Philadelphia background provide entertaining historical information and the twisted mystery plots will keep you turning the pages.

LORI CASWELL says

Nell Pratt, the new president of the Pennsylvania Antiquarian Society, is busy trying to hire staff and keep The Society running in these hard economic times, but when The Fireman's Museum loses most of its collections to a fire she realizes things could be much worse. She tries to help by gathering all the information The Society has about local fire history to help them tally their losses and file an insurance claim. It is a picture that makes Nell understand there is much more to the story that meets the eye. When the smoke clears she knows she has to help find the truth. Hopefully she will not go down in a blaze all her own.

Dollycas's Thoughts

Being a daughter of a firefighter this story really touched by heart. The fire department where I grew up has many treasures from the past including an antique engine that travels around to nearby parades and events throughout the summer. My father was the chief for many years before he passed away. The department was an integral part of my life. There is even a Fire Training Facility dedicated to my dad at a nearby college. So growing up you could say fire fighting and all that goes with it was the family business.

Because of that I know Sheila Connolly has created a very accurate picture of the dedication of the men and women in this dangerous profession. Arson is a horrible crime and the reactions of all the characters are realistic and true. She also takes the saying of “a picture is worth a thousand words” to a very practical level, the key to the mystery.

I enjoy this series because Nell takes us into a museum full of paper and books that unless you are doing research could be quite boring but all the interplay with the characters and where their lives take us is anything but boring. It's exciting, entertaining, and fun. It's amazing what can happen in rooms full of ledgers, letters and legal documents. Connolly has created a complex and complicated mystery that will keep your feet to the fire as you follow the clues that will slam the door shut on those who ignited the flames. Sit back and enjoy this one, just stay back from the fire, we don't want any readers to get injured during the reading of this book

Margaret says

A fine entry from a fine series.

Ellen says

Fire Engine Dead (A Museum Mystery)

~Berkley

(8)

A great author with storyline drawbacks, May 15, 2012

By Ellen Rappaport (Florida)

This review is from: Fire Engine Dead (A Museum Mystery) (Mass Market Paperback)

This is my 3rd in the Museum mystery series. I loved the first 2 and can truly get into the situation due to this creative and original author.

In this latest entry Nell Pratt, the new President of the Pennsylvania Antiquarium Society, has been asked to assist in finding the arsonist that has set fire to a fireman's museum. James Morrison, Nell's confident and possibly a significant other, is the one doing the asking.

The relationship between Nell and James evolves at slow but steady rate and is mostly centered on the arson. The Fireman's Museum is the focal point and I'm sorry to say I found that part of this book quite boring. It was only due to the wonderful writing of this author that kept my interest in Nell, James and the goings on at the P.A.S.

The hiring on of two new people, one of which comes directly through Marty, perked my interest. It was a relief to find they could work together well under stress when the overload regarding the Fireman's Museum files were dumped on Nell and the P.A.S. This was a growing period for Nell and everyone involved.

Another learning experience for Nell continues to be with LaToya. LaToya is a necessary part of the hierarchy at the Society and not one Nell can deal with comfortably. The hiring of these 2 new employees has given both of them an opportunity to show what team work can accomplish.

Marty is another, in my opinion, thorn in Nell's side. On one hand she has donated a good portion of

historical material to the Society regarding her family and their place in the building of their town. On the other hand, Marty believes herself to be an entitled part of the goings on inside the P.A.S. so much so that she interrupts Nell in her office without offering any explanation. This time Nell takes somewhat of a stand and lets Marty know that she is still the president and not beholdent to Marty's every whim. I felt this was a necessary move on Nell's part.

The continuing realtionship between James Morrison and Nell developed so smoothly and at the appropriate times...I found it a welcomed doorway to future books in this series.

All in all I enjoy this author and this series and although I found the Fireman's Museum aspect of it dull...the author's development of the characters and their growing communication with each other realistic and interesting.
