



Corpse on the Cob

Sue Ann Jaffarian

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BOOK FIVE IN THE AWARD-WINING SERIES STARRING UNFORGETTABLE AMATEUR SLEUTH ODELIA GREY

What do you have to lose when you go searching for the mother who walked out of your life thirty-four years ago? I mean besides your pride, your nerves, and your sanity? Odelia finds herself up to her ears in trouble when she reunites with her mom in a corn maze at the Autumn Fair in Holmsbury, Massachusetts. For starters, there's finding the dead body in the cornfield--and seeing her long-lost mom crouched beside the corpse with blood on her hands . . . **Praise:** "Ultimately, *Corpse on the Cob* offers readers much food for thought."--*Mystery Scene*

"The personal story makes this among the most satisfying novels in the series."--*Booklist*

"Jaffarian's delightful fifth cozy to feature supersized sleuth Odelia Grey...Jaffarian keeps getting better and better at blending humor, suspense, and romance."--*Publishers Weekly*

"Like its predecessors, this fifth series title (after *Booby Trap*) is a delight."--*Library Journal*

"A trip to the East Coast blows a refreshing fall breeze through Odelia's fifth. So does the switch of focus from workplace woes to family drama."--*Kirkus Reviews*

"Suspenseful and thrilling, with just the right dash of humor and romance, *Corpse on the Cob* is a charming entertaining mystery."--*Fresh Fiction*

Corpse on the Cob Details

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From Reader Review Corpse on the Cob for online ebook

Brett says

It has been pointed out to me recently that times are good these days if you like reading mysteries. There is an absolutely astounding proliferation of mystery series out there, with literally something for everyone in terms of characters, themes, settings, & so on. Many of them are set in current times & a good amount of realism, with a wide range of "feel" running from chilling to cozy. This one sits somewhere at a good midpoint - it's not completely twee, but it's not going to give you nightmares if you read it alone at night, either. This is one thing I like about it, but the other thing that makes it stand out of the crowd to me is the main character. Odelia Grey is a fantastic protagonist. She's smart, sassy, & capable of dealing with some very bizarre/unpleasant situations, but she's far from perfect: she has a background & reactions to different goings-on that I think most readers can easily relate to or see themselves in. It's a refreshing break from the chisel-faced cop who always takes really upsetting things in stride & even has an ironic wisecrack after a narrow escape from death. Odelia is strong enough to figure things out on her own & face them, but seeing a murder or a corpse is going to cause her to lose it for at least a while. I think that's true of most of us. This was an especially good mystery, involving some awkward family ties (the plot line of her confronting the mother who walked out of her life thirty-plus years ago gives fans some more of her history, which helps round her character out a bit more), some possible drug activity in a small, quiet New England town, some murder, & the possibility of a large sum of money. The plot moves quickly & keeps the reader wanting more, & the tie-up is very satisfying.

Sara says

Best read for October ever. I read this in the fall and it was pretty perfect. Corn maze murder? Yes. I really loved the character Odelia, an unconventional detective. Definitely going to read more in this series.

Kimberly Ann says

It was just okay: I just could not warm up to the characters, they seemed shallow & flat.

Odelia Grey's mother left her & the family when she was a young teen...

After her father dies, she receives an envelope with her mother's address, so Odelia decides to go find her. When Odelia does locate her mother, it is back in her mother's hometown, in a corn maze bending over a man who has been stabbed with the corn maze flag...

That is where things get interesting... who the man is, who the other people in the maze are, what her 1/2 brothers (both local police officers) are up to....

I'm thinking I might not read another unless there is absolutely nothing else.

Erika says

Not Odelia's most interesting mystery, but still a good read.

This was not her most interesting mystery but it was still a pretty good read. The story takes place in New England where we finally find out what has happened with Odelia's mother. After meeting her mother over a corpse in a corn maze, Odelia sets out to find out if her mother is the killer and why she left her 34 years ago. We end up finding out a lot more about Odelia's family tree. Again, there are many players in the mysterious death and some old friends from previous mysteries reappear. It takes a while for the story to really get moving. Once it does, it kind of leaves you flat. It's not as intriguing as it could be. Then, the story just kind of ends abruptly. There is a quick, slightly unbelievable epilogue before the words, "THE END ". The Odelia mysteries are still a fun read even if they get a little less believable after the first 2 or 3. I'm in for another!

Cynthia Pratt says

This book is part of a series and I have not read the earlier books. I still found it entertaining as a one off. Characters that seem to be reoccurring in the series were adequately covered so this can be read as a one off and I found the characters personable enough that I might go back and read some earlier books. The mystery was good but I just could not make sense of Odelia's motivation in this case. I did like the interplay between her and her husband.

Holly says

This is my least favorite of the Odelia Grey series. After the death of her father, Odelia goes in search of her long lost mother. She finds her mother crouched over a dead body. Once again Odelia is a corpse magnet. This story shifts from the west coast to the east coast. Odelia finds her mother and -surprise surprise- half brothers! Not exactly a happy reunion. I will try the next book before I abandon the series, but all and all I was pretty disappointed.

Sheryl says

I love this series. I just read that the rights to the Odelia Grey series has been optioned for film/TV rights. This would be a hoot of a television show.

Rachel Kramer Bussel says

Sue Ann Jaffarian is back, with another riveting mystery that takes us into Odelia Gray's family tree and unlocks quite a few wild branches. Odelia goes to meet the mother who took off when she was 16, and discovers she has two stepbrothers...and that her mother's poised over a dead body in a corn maze. Despite warnings from her husband Greg and friend Dev Frye, she winds up getting involved, both to unravel the mystery of how her family life got so fractured and the murder. Her old friend Willie shows up to help her,

and his sassy outlaw attitude is quite fun. Small town life is no less crime-ridden than Southern California, with drug deals going down at the local farm stand and affairs and money the lure for all sorts of bad guys.

This mystery kept me guessing right until the end, and, as always, Jaffarian presents a cast of characters who are complex, shady, and feisty, as well as adding depth to Odelia and Greg's relationship as she defies him and he risks his life to save her (as well as admitting that he has a bit of a fondness for her adventures). In *Corpse on the Cob*, in addition to the wackiness of a corn maze, Jaffarian asks if being a corpse magnet is genetic, and makes Odelia's personal life and, well, amateur sleuthing life, collide in a major way. I can't say much more without giving it away except that this was one of the best Odelia Gray mysteries yet, and I can't wait to see which corpse she stumbles over next. Also, Jaffarian makes everyone just a little mysterious so I suspected almost all of the characters.

Julia says

Corpse on the Cob by Sue Ann Jaffarian is the 5th installment of the Odelia Grey Mystery series. This time we find Odelia traveling to small town Massachusetts to reunite with the mother who walked out on her when she was 16. Unfortunately, when Odelia finds her mother, she is crouching over a dead body in a corn maze, with blood on her hands. Odelia doesn't believe her mom committed the murder, and she is soon deeply involved in solving the crime. Odelia's friend Willie and her husband Greg show up to help her with her mission. We also get introduced to the two half brothers, Clark and Grady, that Odelia never knew she had.

This is a fun and quick book to read. The mystery is interesting, and there are several suspects to choose from. I like that we get to see more of the Odelia/Greg relationship, and her eccentric friend Willie is a charmer. This is a light hearted mystery, but there is also a dangerous element. Odelia gets into serious trouble while looking for answers. This series is very enjoyable and I definitely recommend it for fans of cozy mysteries.

Susan Banner says

I'm not bored yet and it appears Odelia has many more opportunities to solve the crime without getting killed!

Marigold Dicer says

This is a perfect example of a book review that should start with "It was good, but..." Just one of those non-committal, "maybe you'll like it more than me" books, you know?

Since I read Sue Ann Jaffarian's *Ghost a la Mode*, I'd been looking forward to reading books in her first mystery series, Odelia Grey. I have to admit, I didn't like *Corpse on the Cob* as much as I expected, but maybe that has something to do with me starting the series with book 5. All the characters were definitely well-established, but I wasn't all that emotionally invested in them. Also, while the beginning had me hooked, somewhere after the murder was first discovered I lost much of my interest. I hate when I can't remember what happened during the second act of a book, and it seems to happen a lot to me. What is it about that bit somewhere between page 50 and 120 where it just the story just kind of... stops? Being bored for about 20% of a book isn't the be all or end all, but I should point out that if I were feeling a little lazier I

might've ignored the book for a while, and then it would be due back at the library and I wouldn't have any guilt dropping it off and never finishing it.

The whole mother-reunion didn't seem to start happening until about halfway through, and then the book became a real proper mystery again where Odelia searched for clues and talked to people about the murder. It was good, and the mystery was interesting, but it was more of a casual read for me. Maybe sometime in the future I'll pick up book one, and I'll have a different tune.

Ellen says

Corpse on the Cob

~MIDNIGHT INK

(15)

You can pick your friends but not your relatives!, February 4, 2012

By Ellen Rappaport (Florida)

This review is from: Corpse on the Cob (The Odelia Grey Mysteries) (Paperback)

I am already an Odelia Grey fan before starting this book so my review will be biased...I love Odelia Grey and her entourage. :)

This latest in my reviews for Odelia takes quite a turn from the usual chaos I've come to expect. Odelia finds her mother or should I say the woman who abandoned her when she was 16 yo. I had a repulsion to Grace, Odelia's Mother, from the start and she lived up to it. Grace did not feel she owed Odelia, or anyone else for that matter, an explanation for her inexcusable actions years before. But Odelia did not let me down. Odelia finally stood up to Grace and expressed all the feelings she had festering beneath her skin for years. Ride on Odelia! You Go girl.

The author, Sue Ann Jaffarian, expanded Odelia's horizons in this book by introducing us, the readers, to Odelia's Mother and half brother(s) (Grady & Clark). There were characters brought into this story that I definitely did not take a liking to and that's the way the author intended it. Clark is the half brother that may be showing up in future Odelia mysteries. Fortunately, the characters I've grown accustomed to were also in the story. Greg (Odelia's husband), Willie (William Proctor), were along for the ride and I'm glad they were. These are two of my comfort zone characters in this series.

The main focus of this story is Odelia finding and meeting her Mother after all these many years of abandonment. That took a bit more waiting than I liked and found myself becoming a bit impatient. There was more depth to this murder in a corn maze than one usually finds in a cozy. Many suspects that needed to be weeded out of the possibilities. Jaffarian's ending was definitely no let down. As a matter of fact, the chaotic conclusion was at a whirlwind pace mixed with doom and enlightenment. Loved it.

The post script to this mystery was when Enrique, Willie's right hand man, arrives with an envelope for Odelia. Inside were photos of Willie's wedding to Sybil (another new character). This, in my opinion, may also bring these characters into future Odelia mysteries.

Lastly, Willie does his utmost to make amends for his wrong doing (swindling people out of their investments) by returning the funds he had confiscated...although he still remains a fugitive.

All in all I love Odelia and remain a steadfast fan of this wonderful series. I once again appreciate this author for another reason. She is well aware of the pit falls other authors have fallen into which resulted in burn out.

Jaffarina has brought into this series new characters that may lend more intrigue and wider horizons for Odelia to continue for many more adventures.

Keep on truckin' Odelia.

Kathy says

Odelia does it again!

Odelia Grey's mother left Odelia to fend for herself when Odelia was 16. After about a month of living alone, she went to live with her father, her step-mother, her step-sister, and step-brother. The new family dynamics were less than wonderful and she moved out as soon as she could after 18th birthday.

After her father passes away, Odelia finds an address for her mother in a box of his belongings that was sent to her. Odelia does her research about her mother and confirms where she lives. She decides to meet her mother and and her mother's sons on a surprise visit over Labor Day weekend. The mystery begins when Odelia first views her mother straddling a dead body in a corn maze. Once again there are many twists and turns as the mysteries that come up are solved.

Patty says

Odelia's beloved father has died and in his papers she finds a letter with a return address, for her long missing mother. Abandoned at 16, Odelia decides she needs answers so she is off to Massachusetts to talk to her mother about why she left.

Of course, Odelia can't help but get involved in a murder, this time she stumbles upon a dead body, with her mother crouched over it!

What follows is an interesting blend of family secrets revealed with a complicated murder investigation.

Both Willie and Greg end up in Massachusetts to help out and are there for the satisfactory ending. The only person missing is Steele, missed his sharp mind, and tongue in the story.

I hope Sue Ann keeps writing this series, I do enjoy spending time in Odelia's world.

Janet says

After the first chapter, I had to go back and make sure I hadn't inadvertently skipped a book in the series. I'm always of two minds when authors mention events that have taken place between books. On the one hand, it makes the characters seem more "real" in that they continue to live their lives when I'm not reading about them. On the other hand, I feel like I've been a bad friend (to fictional characters, yes, I know I need help) if I'm not completely up-to-date on their lives.

