



Murder Deja Vu

Polly Iyer

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Wealthy architect Reece Daughtry spent fifteen years in a Massachusetts prison for a murder he didn't commit. Released on a technicality, he now makes his home in the mountains of North Carolina, building rock fireplaces for a waiting list of clients. His self-imposed solitude is shattered when local author Dana Minette asks him to build a fireplace in her new house. Dana becomes more than a client, and for the first time in twenty years, Reece longs to be with someone other than himself.

Then a local woman is murdered in the same savage manner as the murder that sent Reece to prison. More than one person wants him to take the fall, including Dana's ex-husband, the local prosecutor, who's determined to convict Reece in the high-profile case. But Reece won't be railroaded again. Four men were with him the night of the first murder. One of them is the killer. Reece goes underground to discover who's setting him up and why. Dana insists on going along, and against his better judgment, he relents. With both the police and FBI on their trail, it's a race against time and a crafty murderer who will kill again.

Murder Deja Vu Details

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From Reader Review Murder Deja Vu for online ebook

ElaineY says

REVIEW OF AUDIOBOOK; OCTOBER 7, 2014

Narrator: Fred Kennedy

This was a DNF and 2 stars for what I managed to listen to before I dropped out from boredom.

The blurb sounded good and I'd say the premise is but if it were handled by an experienced, and good, romantic suspense writer like Sandra Brown or Karen Rose, this would have been very good.

As it is, what ought to have been a taut, gripping suspense/mystery or police procedural, was an odd creature - a hero who is initially shown as gruff and reclusive but within minutes of meeting the heroine, becomes so garrulous, letting it all hang out, despite having tried to throw her off his property earlier.

His contradictory behavior pulled me out of the story as I couldn't help but think the author had forgotten what she told me about Daughtry when I first met him. The way he was carrying on, I was thinking let this poor man finish his therapy before making him your protagonist.

The author is new to me but this isn't the sort of RS I like. I prefer mine with more focus on the suspense and with heroes who are a bit more enigmatic and mysterious.

The narrator has a good voice - masculine and sexy. But his narration made Daughtry's character worse. I believe the narrator, Fred Kennedy, could have saved this book (just) if he'd made Daughtry sound like he was battling his inner demons, that he was spilling his guts *very reluctantly*. He could have communicated Daughtry's tortured character accurately just by using the right inflection and pacing. Instead the narrator made Daughtry, supposedly hating all visitors and has a huge No Trespassing sign plastered on his forehead, sound like he's saying "*Oh goody, someone's visiting at last. I've been SO lonely with NO one to talk to so I'm going unload on this poor woman...and I'll start off by telling her I'm going to take her to bed.*"

I actually liked that part where Daughtry announces to Dana that he's going to "take her to bed" and that he's kinda rough around the edges. I thought that was so promising...then he spoils it by talking too much and so cheerily as if his BFF has dropped by for coffee and cake.

Lynda says

I just finished reading Murder Deja Vu for the second time, and I have to say it's one of the best suspense books I've read. The story was completely gripping to me even though I'd read it before. I always claimed that Insight was my favorite of Polly Iyer's books, but now I have to recant.

Murder Deja Vu has everything a good suspense novel should have--well developed characters you care about, a genuinely heroic protagonist, a lovable female lead, thoroughly rotten villains, a wonderful romance thread, and dialogue that flows naturally. I can't believe it's being offered for \$2.99 on Amazon. I would gladly have forked out \$25 for the hardback if it had been available.

If you haven't read this or any of Polly Iyer's books, I can honestly recommend them to you.

Lynn Thompson says

Great Read! A definite page turner! Reece is finally a free man, out of prison after 15 years for a murder he didn't commit. He meets Dana and feels his life is finally on the right track. When there is another murder close to home Reece is the first person the police zero in on then a second murder happens that forces Reece to run with Dana by his side. If proving Reece's innocents wasn't enough, Dana's ex-husband has a petty personal vendetta against Reece also. This book is filled with twists, turns, and suspense. Highly recommended!

Denise says

Wow. 'Murder Deja Vu' had me hooked from the beginning and I could not put it down. The storyline was great and well written. The way the story unfolded was so good that I was quite surprised at the results. It took me by complete surprise. Full of mystery, suspense, thrilling scenes and romance. Dana is such a great lead. I loved her kindness and strength. Reece was also an amazing man. To go through what he did, he still held onto hope. The characters were great, except for Robert. That is one character I despised. An absolute must read. Highly recommended.

Ellis Vidler says

I'm a friend and fan of Polly Iyer. She's a terrific writer, and she's created characters that will stay with you long after you've finished the book. I really enjoyed Murder Déjà Vu, a story about a man convicted of a murder he didn't commit. (It can happen—A recent study estimates about 10,000 people are wrongly convicted each year.) After serving his time, Reece Daughtry is living a quiet life as a talented artisan when he meets the former wife of a prosecutor with an ax to grind. Complications begin even before another murder occurs. The main characters are strong and sympathetic, and the bad guys are greedy and unscrupulous. The love story is strong, and the plot is filled with twists and snags--it kept me turning the pages until the end. Highly recommended!

Cheryl Landmark says

This was a well-written, tightly-woven, suspenseful mystery with genuine characters you could really care about and connect with and villains who were thoroughly despicable. The plot was complicated, twisty and edgy, but it was the amazing characters themselves who made this book the pleasurable read it was.

Despite being lonely, damaged and wrongly convicted in everyone's mind of being a cold-blooded murderer, Reece was also capable of great passion, strength and love. Although I did find the romance between him and Dana to be a little too rushed, it was her unquestioning love and trust in him that enabled him to fight for his sanity and innocence. And, despite her own troubles and issues, Dana proved to be strong and compassionate as well. Their relationship was heartwarming and bittersweet.

The supporting characters were also what made this book as entertaining as it was—Jeraldine, the smart, loyal, motherly lawyer, Clarence, her investigator, who was brilliant and tenacious, Frank, the dangerous ex-con with the heart of gold who was like a second father to Reece. Robert Minette, Dana's ex-husband and the district attorney, was abusive and manipulative and a cowardly bully who didn't want to get his own hands dirty but was certainly not above hiring thugs and criminals to do it for him. Dana definitely did the smart thing when she kicked the contemptible ass out of her life, although she should have done it far sooner than she did.

I would highly recommend this book to any fan of murder mysteries.

Jenny Hilborne says

Murder Deja Vu is a well-written enjoyable mystery with (mostly) likable characters. The plot is good, with several unexpected twists. Some scenes were graphic in their description, but necessary for the scene.

Rick Bylina says

Any book published on my birth date has to be read. It was this in mind that I bought Polly Iyer's "Murder Déjà Vu," a book with a strong plot, solid writing, and well-drawn characters. The plight of ex-convict Reece Daughtry, trying to live out his life after an overturned conviction for murder on a technicality is compelling and his emotional upheavals believable. This is especially true once he meets a woman who trusts him at every turn, even when events put him back into the cross-hairs of various characters bent on Reece's demise. The story details surrounding the two major settings put you right there. And the romance intertwining with the mystery seemed unforced and true. This is a solid read with numerous twists, turns, and surprises worth the space in your library. It is a solid 4 star read.

R.P. Dahlke says

Catherine Coulter move over! Polly Iyer has a winner in this romantic suspense novel. Never mind 5 stars, this is a ten star book!

In Reece Daughtry, Dana Minette finds a man who is as passionate about creating the beautiful fireplaces featured in national magazines as he is about saving wounded and abused animals. But Reece isn't only an artist and builder, he's also a man who's spent fifteen years in prison for a murder he didn't commit. Now he takes work as it pleases him, and living secluded on a piece of land up in the Carolina mountains seems to please him.

Dana Minette lived twenty-some years in her own prison, married to an abusive, manipulative husband who is now the district attorney in a jurisdiction that encompasses three small counties. But when Dana comes calling to see if she can convince Reece to build her one of his rock-wall masterpieces, it is no surprise that these two lonely people should find an instant attraction to each other. The surprise comes when Reece is charged with a copy-cat murder much like the one he was accused of so long ago.

Now it would be natural that the romance will be tested, as it should be, since their relationship is so new. But here is where a clever author will do her job—and this author doesn't disappoint as she weaves in the history of two people who have been forged by fire into new and stronger individuals, the kind of people who are now of a much tougher metal.

The pacing for the suspense picks up as roadblocks are tossed in their way and Reece struggles against an unjust system. It is the allies that helped me root for Reece, like Frank, Reece's old prison buddy, now dying of lung cancer, and Jeraldine, his motherly lawyer (who reminds me of a black Kathy Bates of the TV show *Harry's Law*) and her very smart investigator, Clarence Wright, and the local sheriff (who has no love for Dana's ex-husband) and who works to vindicate Reece.

I couldn't stop reading until the last page. And when I finished, I felt a deep satisfaction... which only served to convince this reader that this is romantic suspense at its finest, and in my opinion, the best of its kind so far in 2012. Read it. You won't be disappointed.

RP Dahlke, Good Reads Author
Author of *A DEAD RED CADILLAC*
A DEAD RED HEART
A Dangerous Harbor

Norma Budden says

What they say about the cover image is right: it makes the reader run far away or seek to learn more about the storyline, characters and so on. Well, I really liked this cover and, it so happens, after reading the synopsis, I was enticed to read *Murder Deja Vu*.

There are a variety of characters on the canvas yet the author did a fantastic job of introducing us slowly - and thoroughly, without boring me with unnecessary details about descriptions, setting and so on. Polly Iyer had a way of making me feel like I was part of the story. When characters were threatened, I found myself telling them to think carefully, to be careful, to hide and so on, as if I was trying to force my will onto them, hoping they would pick up the brainwaves I was experiencing. Not many books have done this to such an extent and it was a delight to read it.

There were some sexual scenes but I wouldn't classify them as erotic. In fact, these interludes may have been "implied" or "glossed over" because there was no graphic detail - which definitely made for a more pleasurable reading experience. Job well done; emotion shines through as opposed to actions carried out in the bedroom.

The plot has so many twists and turns - so many surprises cropping up - and so much knowledge learned about the characters. In retrospect, it seems many of the characters had skeletons in their closet and blackmail, of one nature or another, was truly the order of any day.

Ultimately, I feel I'd be doing a disservice by rating this title with less than 5 stars. From the formatting and editing to the intriguing (and different) storyline, to a few characters I fell in love with (especially the relationships they were part of) *Murder Deja Vu* is a book I will remember for a long time to come. I'll definitely be looking for other works by this author.

Angie says

Within the first couple of chapters, I was afraid it would be a predictable murder mystery. It was much better than expected. The romance is a bit rushed, but it was best not to waste too much time on it. Good story.

Claire says

A powerful story that resonates with today's headlines. How does one prove "innocence" when the world has prejudged you? What are the risks for those who believe in you and want to help you clear your name? How much have you lost of your life serving time in prison for something you claim you did not do? You cannot just pick up where you left off, so what choices do you make to carve out a new life? And can you ever trust again?

In this intriguing murder mystery, Polly Iyer subtly addresses these questions and adds a bit of romance to the life of a man who figured he'd be alone the rest of life. The quest to live his life in peace is disrupted and together they try to trace back to the murder he served 15 years in prison - to find the real killer.

As a New Englander, I especially enjoyed the local scenes and descriptions that were a large part of the story.

Jill D Coffin says

Iyer may just be one of my favorite authors of all time!

Murder Deja Vu is another winner ! The story is thrilling , the characters are rich , complex and fascinating and her sense of place and mood make it possible for one to slip into the story rather than just reading the words on a page .Her pacing is impeccable.

When I review books , I don't go into the story synopsis . I am more interested in letting people know whether the book is well enough written to be worth their valuable time . For this book , clearly the answer is a resounding "yes !" If these books come to the right person's attention they will be on the bestseller list.

Anne OK says

Friday the 13th brought a wonderfully clever and intense story that made for one solid romantic suspense treat packaged in "Murder Déjà Vu"!

After spending 15 years in prison for a murder he didn't commit, Reece Daughtry is now searching for normal again. With the help of his lawyer and her super sleuth-investigator, along with an ex-convict who also serves as a father figure to Reece, and the ex-wife of the local district attorney determined to put him back behind bars, Reece is equally bound and determined to prove his innocence. Of course, there are

obstacles at every turn in this wild and wicked adventure. There is a wide variety of possible bad-guy suspects to keep your mind churning and deliberating throughout the book. Although I picked my guilty party(ies) early on, the proof didn't come until almost the very end. I love a good "wait until the end" formula.

Polly Iyer is a new-to-me-author. It's a sure bet I'll be reading more from this author. If you enjoy fast-paced entertaining dialogue, a tangled-web of questionable characters, and a solid and compelling plot, this romantic suspense meets the challenge.

Janey says

i downloaded this as i had already read another of the authors books, "hooked", i enjoyed that and hoped this was in the same vein, it didn't dissappoint, i read this in two sittings, as it really is a page turner, really gripped you along, what i loved about this book is how the the other charcters, Clarence, Jeraldine, Frank, Lana, Harris, Shefiff Payton, have as much of a story as the two main charcters Reece & Dana, how each couple of chapters centered around a different character, made the story more compelling and really pulled you in, throughtout the book i gasped and i did shed a tear or two, i honestly didnt know how it was going to end, and i won't say!, just read and enjoy.
