



Ruffly Speaking

Susan Conant

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Ruffly, a mutt who hears for the hearing-impaired, tunes into sounds no humans can hear when he and his owner move into the home of a recently deceased dog-lover--and amateur sleuth Holly Winter suspects murder.

From the Paperback edition.

Ruffly Speaking Details

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Author : Susan Conant

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From Reader Review Ruffly Speaking for online ebook

Carissa Gilman says

Susan Conant is my favorite dog mystery writer because her writing is witty and intelligent, but she is not afraid to poke a little fun at the liberal intellectual culture of Cambridge. This one has a bit of a different tone than some of her other books since it is unclear throughout much of the book whether a crime has actually been committed or not. Thus the approach is a little more subtle. But if you enjoy her other books, you will enjoy this one. And if you have never read her, this is as good a place to start as any. Alaskan Malamutes Kimi and Rowdy are as endearing as ever, and the Ruffly of the title is charming as well.

Gloria says

There is a non-violent death and thus a mystery surrounding it. This is, however, primarily a book about dogs and issues surrounding them. It's for people who love dogs and despise euthanasia. It's also for people who do not like dogs who bark a lot, mess up the yard, shed, and run loose. It is educational as to the use of dogs as hearing guide dogs for the deaf similar to those who assist the visually-impaired. The author is an advocate for the Alaskan Malamute, a huge powerful and stunningly beautiful dog and the Malamute has a starring role in this novel. Light and cozy with a number of quirky characters, this is an amusing read that will please many.

Cristi McGill says

I'm a latecomer to Conant's mysteries. I actually read her one-and-only cat mystery FIRST.

I had a beloved malamute so I can appreciate that aspect of her character. Actually I liked the main character Holly and her husband. Her best friend Rita...not so much. And Conant goes off on tangents that make little sense. Not to mention her too in-depth dive into the mind-numbing minutia of dog shows. I ended up bypassing entire sentences (if not paragraphs) to keep the story flowing for me.

Sharon Goss says

I forced myself to finish it as I also have the second book in the series. I hoped it would get better and it did briefly about 80% into the book. If you do dog shows you might enjoy all the unnecessary details concerning catalogs...etc. I found them irritating. It is called a dog-lovers mystery, but the mystery part is a very very small portion of the story. The story line could have been more interesting had she concentrated on the dogs and their owners more and developed the mystery.

Laura says

Fun fast read. I like how Susan worked in so much teaching about the use of hearing aids, too. If you can get past the paragraphs that she uses for explanations about the characters interpretations of things - her analogies - the overall story is good. These analogies give you the impression of a character whose mind is in overdrive. Overall fun book though.

Oswego Public Library District says

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Prefer cats? Try a cozy cat mystery with *The Cat Who Dropped a Bombshell* by Lilian Jackson Braun.

Nan St.Michael says

It could have been good. Instead it seemed rather discombobulated, rambling and in the end you're wondering what actually happened.

Donna Stroupe says

I am leaving the finish date open as i am not bothering to finish this book. I love dogs but this is so boring that it just puts me to sleep. Goodreads need a tried to read list. ?

Wendy says

Good solid book writing a from a different format that the usual. Solid addition to the series.

Grace says

"Dog world relationships like mine with Morris are a little hard to explain to someone like Rita. For instance, any real dog person understands that since Janet Switzer is Rowdy's breeder, she is thereby my own blood relative, but Rita misses the critical point: If it weren't for Janet, Rowdy wouldn't exist, and if Rowdy didn't exist, I would be a person altogether different from who I am. Rita also fails to grasp why the act of entering even one dog in one show or obedience trial is tantamount to slicing open your palm and clasping the

identically incised hands of every other person who has ever shown a dog. But it's a fact. We're blood brothers and sisters, like it or not; sometimes we do, sometimes we don't." p. 12

I love Susan Conant's mysteries, and this one did not disappoint!

Debi Emerson says

Great mystery! Wonderful dogs!

Kristin says

I generally enjoy Conant's books, all the while knowing they are rather fluffy light reading, but with this one, I just couldn't figure out where she was going with it. Holly Winter, her narrator/Alaskan Malamute owner/writer for a dog magazine learns that a colleague from the dog show world has died from a neighbor, whose poor hearing led her to believe that the deceased, Morris, was actually a friend of hers. As Holly has learned about his passing after the funeral was held, she goes to the man's coffee shop, which he co-owned with his business and romantic partner, Doug. While Doug says the death was due to accidental poisoning after some toxic greens were inadvertently added to a salad, Holly and others suspect that Morris died of HIV, which is still taboo and likely something his partner wouldn't feel comfortable admitting. Not much of a mystery in that storyline though...

Similarly, Holly's teenage cousin, Leah, has temporarily moved in with her to teach at a summer school, and Leah's new boyfriend's mother has a hearing assistance dog. Both the dog and the mother are intriguing to Holly, the former because Holly is always looking for new subject matter for her monthly column in a dog magazine, the latter because the woman is the same age as Holly's neighbor and Holly hopes the two can meet and talk about being fairly young women who are hard of hearing, since the neighbor is not coping well with her need for hearing aids. When Holly meets the woman, Stephanie, and her dog, Ruffly, who are living in Morris' home, being a relative in some fashion of Doug's, she mentions the dog sometimes acts strangely and wonders if Holly, being a veteran dog owner, could figure out what's going on. Holly's boyfriend Steve, also a vet, looks at Ruffly for such things as brain tumors or parasites, but proclaims him healthy. Slightly more of a mystery, but still not enough to carry a book.

There were other plotlines, and some minor mysteries, but I never quite figured out what the overall purpose of the book was. It gets a 2nd star because Ruffly looks like a small version of my own dog, and because I know these books aren't supposed to be literary masterpieces, but I definitely wouldn't recommend this to someone who hasn't read other books in this series, because it's not one of the best ones.

Dagny says

Susan Conant's seventh mystery featuring Holly Winter, writer, journalist, owner, and trainer of malamutes is especially fascinating because it features a hearing ear dog trained to assist the hearing impaired.

Ed says

#7 in the Dog Lover's series. Holly Winter returns with her pair of malamutes (don't call them huskies!) in this series about a Cambridge, MA based writer for dog magazines. Add a half star if your dog sleeps on your bed with you.

Dog Lover's series - Holly Winter, writer for Dog's Life magazine, spends most of her waking hours immersed in her subject. Dog talk of all sorts abounds, from obedience training, shows, and breeds to temperament, grooming, and antics. Even a ``hearing" dog appears as companion to a hearing impaired female Episcopal priest. The possible wrongful death of a middle-aged dog lover in Cambridge, Massachusetts, definitely slips into the background because Holly alone seems suspicious.

Elaine says

This book was hard for me to get thru and the author seemed to just go off on tangents that didn't really add to the story making me wonder if there was a minimum number of pages required.
