



The Palace Guard

Charlotte MacLeod

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Sarah knows her Kellings family have never returned since an unfortunate incident when Madam Wilkins first opened her palatial Boston museum. But her Beacon Hill lodger Max Bittersohn has free passes to today's concert, and she cannot refuse him. Suddenly, something falls past them from the floor above, and the oldest guard sprawls dead among the hyacinths.

The Palace Guard Details

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Author : Charlotte MacLeod

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From Reader Review The Palace Guard for online ebook

Kyrie says

I enjoy this series - the books are short, they're light, the plots are convoluted just enough to be intriguing, and the manners are so old fashioned and sweet.

This time Max and Sarah are trying to figure out what's going on at the museum, where nearly all the paintings are fake.

Paula says

Not as good as the first two, kind of disjointed.

Robyn says

Kindle Deal | This series is good for exactly what it is, but won't satisfy anyone looking for something even slightly different. | I still find myself frustrated by the amount of time spent musing over ridiculous theories that never go anywhere or lead to anything. It's weird that the Kellings apparently go straight from infatuation to marriage, generally right at the end of the book. But still this is a good fluff mystery, with interesting characters and nice roundabouts to get Sarah and Max to the solution.

FangirlNation says

Sarah Kelling has been invited to a free concert that her boarder, the handsome art detective Max Bittersohn, has "gotten free tickets to attend" at Madame Wilkins's Palazzo in Charlotte MacLeod's *The Palace Guard*, the third book in the Sarah Kelling/ Max Bittersohn series. As the concert concludes, a guard falls to his death from the third story, putting Sarah and Max right in the middle of a new mystery, especially when Max hears that the guard recently has been complaining that his "girlfriend," his favorite Titian painting of "The Rape of Lucrece," is no longer the same girl he fell in love with. Upon further investigation, Max realizes that just about every painting in the museum is a fake!

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Francis says

A few hours of gentle and amusing sleuthing not unlike watching a late night movie with some stylishly dressed actors, a little witty dialogue and an actress with a flirty wink. Light but entertaining.

Dogsandbooks says

So much fun. Twisty stories of rich people behaving badly plus lovely love stories. Sarah and Max tackle art thievery. DPL e book on the train to amherst MA

Susan in NC says

3.5-4 stars - still a fun read, love the Countess! I always find myself drawn in with MacLeod's witty, fun cozy mysteries, like potato chips, I can't stop with just one! That's why I reread this series and her Peter Shandy mysteries- sheer fun.

Sarah Kelling and Max Bittersohn are at a concert at "the Madam's" - the former grand home of a robber baron's widow turned into a museum jam-packed with haphazardly displayed works of art. Taking a break on the balcony overlooking a grand courtyard complete with waterfall, they are stunned to see a figure hurtle past from above; the oldest guard on duty lies sprawled below them- did he fall, or was he pushed?

Thus kicks off the first mystery Sarah and Max investigate together; third in the series, but previously Max investigated behind the scenes and Sarah did a lot of internal monologues of potential theories that didn't amount to much. I enjoyed later books more, but this book introduced Cousin Brooks Kelling, art expert Bill Jones and the delightfully off-kilter Countess, so it is fun and clever.

Joan says

This one was particularly confusing and not particularly interesting. To the point where I tossed the book out after I finished it. Sarah and Max have an art mystery to deal with. They deal with it but the usual fun that the book have just wasn't there. It was more kind of sad and pathetic than anything else. Not recommended. I'm going to read more since I know I've enjoyed some of the series but as at least one other person mentioned, this title is likely the weakest of the whole series.

Carla says

Some of the references are quite out of date, but it is still an enjoyable book!

Brian Carney says

Sadly this book has not aged well.

Jenny Kay says

I have a feeling this isn't this author's best work. I found it at my local Little Free Library, and will return it thence.

Peter Barr says

This is another in one of several series written by Charlotte MacLeod. It's a pretty good mystery with a single woman getting along running a boarding house in Boston and an art investigator who solve murders. Unfortunately, of the four series that Charlotte MacLeod wrote, it is my least favorite. The others, a garden club in Quebec, an agricultural college in Massachusetts and an RCMP in New Brunswick, were more entertaining to me. Still, it is readable and I'll probably read another.

Susan says

When a guard falls from an upper story of the Wilkins Museum right in front of Max and Sarah, Max of course begins detecting. The dead guard had claimed that something had changed in the painting of his 'girlfriend' - The Rape of Lucrece - and Max begins to think that many of the other paintings may be fakes. In the process of discovering who did it, another guard is killed, Sarah becomes a spy in an extremely tight Indian sari (she and Max are in disguise), and the relationship between Sarah and Max begins to simmer. There are a host of well-delineated characters, the plot is interesting even on a reread, and some of the MacLeod humor appears. However, this series is not as cutesy as the Shandy or Grub-and-Stakers series are - it is much more of a murder mystery with fun and a little romance involved.

Kamas Kirian says

A wonderful little cozy mystery. Of the first three in the series, I think this one is my favorite. While the copyist was pretty obvious, the ultimately responsible party I dithered about somewhat until towards the end. I liked most of the new characters that were introduced, the ones I didn't like were the ones we weren't meant to like. And I really liked that Mrs. Sorpende found a beau of her own. I also liked that Sarah and Max recognized that they were meant for each other, finally.

The story line fairly flew along with it's pacing. There was no plodding along like in previous installments. I'm quite looking forward to the next books in the series.

The eBook was formatted well with no obvious spelling errors and only one noticeable punctuation error.

Jan says

Sarah and Max come up right in the middle of things once again! Sarah is surrounded by relatives and also her boarders as murder intrudes once again, but romance is finally in the air for Sarah and Max as well as cousin Brooks Kelling and an interesting boarder. I love this vintage series! Andi Arndt is great as narrator!

