



# The Pink Flamingo Murders

*Elaine Viets*

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## **The Pink Flamingo Murders** Elaine Viets

When some of the most colorful, and undesirable, citizens of southside St. Louis begin turning up dead, newspaper columnist Francesca Vierling is the only one who seems to care, and the only one who can uncover the horrible truth.

## **The Pink Flamingo Murders Details**

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Author : Elaine Viets

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# **From Reader Review The Pink Flamingo Murders for online ebook**

## **John Bohnert says**

I've now read three of the four novels in this newspaper reporter series.

This one had rehabbing old houses in it.

I love watching TV series where people fix up old houses, so this topic made this crime fiction even better for me.

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## **Leslie aka StoreyBook Reviews says**

This is the 3rd in the Francesca Vierling series. Francesca is a report for the St. Louis Gazette and people are being killed in her neighborhood. Granted they aren't necessarily positive contributors to society but they are still being killed. Francesca manages to stumble across who the killer is (much like the other books) and manages to nearly get killed herself.

this series isn't bad, but it isn't as good as the Dead End Job series IMHO.

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## **Sara says**

Fun read, especially for those familiar with St. Louis.

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## **Vickie says**

Very glad I am already a fan of Elaine Viets, because if this was my intro to her work, I'd have never read another. She has two other really good series, which I will continue to search out and read.

This one has a newspaper columnist who has commitment issues and always seems to run into murder. Four murders in her neighborhood....I'd move. She searches out the suspect.

She was just irritating to me and I am not sure what it was exactly. Won't go back to find out.

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## **Mare says**

Interesting group of characters!

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## **Karen says**

This was a fine no-brains vacation read. The author goes a little heavy on the physical descriptions and the terribleness of many of the bit-players' personalities, but overall the writing was fine. Kudos for having

several main female characters who talk about things other than men, and who can get in a real fight (not a catfight). I got it just because it had "flamingo" in the title and was curious. Only recommended if you like lightweight formulaic murder mysteries.

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### **Belinda says**

This book centers around an old, upscale neighborhood in St. Louis. It is an area of homes in transition from inner city to up-and-coming neighborhood. Rehabbers abound, fixing up these old mansions and restoring them to their former glory. In the midst of one such neighborhood, three murders occur and then one more murder seemingly unrelated to the other three. Hmmm. . .this poses a dilemma for Francesca, a newspaper reporter and the main character in the story. I enjoyed the book, but Francesca frustrated me with her relationship with her boyfriend and with her job. She is definitely a flawed character but loveable in her own way. I really enjoyed this author's other mystery series, The Dead End Job Mysteries so I thought I would give this one a try. I did like it too and can recommend this to mystery readers. A good, solid, 4 stars.

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### **Leslie Angel says**

I like this series. A bit more edgy.

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### **Rogue Reader says**

"Killed by kitsch", no kidding, when a nosy neighbor is stabbed with a lawn flamingo. Ha! Faithful presentation of how gentrification can ratchet up the tensions in a neighborhood.

Curious treatment of how the flamingo idea came about, starting with plastic spoons and then evolving into a marketing stunt.

Classic Viets, so I knew I'd enjoy The Pink Flamingo Murders even before I read it. This is a Francesca Vierling mystery, so set in St. Louis and filled with the local detail and wackiness that make Viets mysteries so good.

Thanks Elaine!!

--*Ashland Mystery*

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### **Diane says**

If I could do 3.5 stars I would, but I would rather err on the side of more than less.

At any rate, this is an earlier work of Elaine Viets than the Josie Marcus or Dead End Job heroine Helen and it shows. The characters are not quite as well developed, nor is the plot. However, the tributes to St. Louis, Viets' hometown are still present, and the heroine, Francesca, is likeable and independent. I have to confess I only read this one because of the title...my geocaching and waymarking mascot is a pink flamingo. I have

costumed pink flamingos in my yard. So how could I not read this one? I did like the idea of church fundraiser of being flocked. My church tried a similar tactic with a porcelain throne, if you understand...but some people were not as comfortable with that. Perhaps a flock of flamingos would be less offensive and more financially profitable. Happy Reading!

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### **Stacey says**

I've read the Dead End Job series and, generally, enjoyed them (not so much after she didn't HAVE to take Dead End Jobs) so I thought I would try this. It was enjoyable. The story was good. The mystery was good. The only problem was that Francesca is not the most sympathetic character. I may try others in the series.

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### **Kathy says**

I love a main character with flaws that are common to so many of us. Francesca Vierling is a newspaper columnist who says what she thinks in her column (which her readers love) and in real life (which gets her into trouble at work and at home). Don't we all wish we had the courage to voice our opinions out loud? We typically don't because we want to avoid the negative consequences-this is not Francesca's style. Set in St. Louis, she explains to her readers the fun idiosyncrasies that make St. Louis St. Louis.

Francesca's downtown neighborhood with its diverse personalities suddenly becomes a gathering place for emergency responders - four murders in a very short span. None of them seem to have anything in common except for their murder location. Francesca becomes part of the investigation to bring an end to her neighbors being killed. She does this while trying to work on her relationship with Lyle, handle massive, negative changes in the newsroom and dealing with a crazy fan.

I love Elaine Viet's ability to incorporate her St. Louis roots into her mysteries. For those who live in or are familiar with St. Louis, this is another great book and fun read. For those who are unfamiliar with St. Louis, you will be prepared for your visit after reading Viet's St. Louis-based books.

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### **Mary Newcomb says**

An interesting series of murders, set in the world of St Louis house re-habbing. Francesca Vierling does a credible job of detecting while also writing a column for the St Louis city Gazette.

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### **Ed says**

#3 in the Francesca Vierling series. Author Viets dedicated the latest entry in her Mystery Shopper series to her grandmother, Frances Vierling, so we know where our protagonist's name came from. Once again, Viets' love and knowledge of St. Louis comes through and makes the rudimentary mystery secondary. Although

some of the characters are one-dimensional, this novel is recommended for those who enjoy a story with a strong sense of place.

Francesca Vierling series - Francesca Vierling depends on tips from loyal readers to feed her ideas for her columns. So she is eager to follow up on a phone call from Margie, a fellow South City resident who invites her to observe "forking," (sticking hundreds of plastic forks into a lawn). When Francesca arrives at Margie's house on North Dakota Place to witness this spectacle, she realizes she is in the midst of serious rehabbers -- hardy pioneers who buy run-down old homes so they can restore them to their former grandeur. While Margie and her two friends are busy forking a neighbor's lawn as a practical joke, Francesca meets Caroline, the Queen Bee of the rehabbers. Caroline's tireless efforts and strong personality have helped revitalize North Dakota Place. However, some of the neighbors have protested that she is too controlling. When an old man who was painting his house purple in defiance of Caroline is electrocuted, Francesca wonders if his death is truly an accident. Suddenly death becomes almost a daily occurrence on North Dakota Place. Francesca is sure she knows the link between the murder victims, but the police won't listen to her theory. Then the identity of the fourth murder victim invalidates Francesca's suspicions. She now has to re-think her theory before North Dakota Place becomes a ghost town. In the meantime, she is also attempting to preserve her work life and her love life. The Gazette is populated by clueless editors and backstabbing co-workers, while her marriage-minded boyfriend won't take no for an answer.

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## **Stephanie says**

### **Wonderful summer read**

This is a very intriguing story. I like the somewhat flawed heroine, the rehabbers and residents of the almost gentrified neighborhood, and the crazy politics of the newspaper where Francesca works. The murders and plot were very well written. It's a book I wanted to finish, and quickly. I have not read the first in the series, but will do so this summer. This book would be a great beach or poolside read, but you may end up reading into the night to finish it.

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