

Murder and a Texas Brisket (Texas-Sized Mysteries Book 2) Waller, K.M

Date Read: 20190926

My rating: 2 stars

Sorry I found no humour in this thing and I'm glad I got it as an Amazon freebie or I'd be returning it for a refund. I did force myself to finish it and it wasn't a terrible book but no more by this author for me.

The Lies You Told (Knox and Sheppard #3) by Emerald O'Brien

Date Read: 20190925

My rating: 3 stars

I thought this was a quite good third entry in this series which was originally listed as a trilogy but ala Douglas Addams "Hitchhikers" which grew to 5 I have heard this one has already grown to at least 4 books. That's OK with me because I'm enjoying these stories although I'm not sure this is the best in the series. I can't really explain why I felt this was not at least a 4 star read as it has a solid main plot but with perhaps a few too many side issues and a spectacular, violent and literally gritty wrap up scene leading to a satisfactory ending. Perhaps there is just a bit too much "tell" in the long narrative chapters where Grace and Madigan explain the investigation which might have been written as more "show" but, then again, maybe this was the best way to write it. Ms O'Brien sure writes a much more gritty and violent mystery and much more horrendous bad guys than many female authors. I think the titles of Ms O'Brien's books, including this one, are more appropriate than the titles of many mysteries I read as there sure are lots of lies told in this one. I still am not a huge fan of Madigan and Grace and at the beginning I liked Madigan the most but Grace kind of grew on me towards the end. We still haven't seen the real reason for Sergeant Colette's vendetta against Grace but we might get the answer in book 4 or later in this trilogy as Grace kind of hinted. Another thing I like about Ms O'Brien's books is that although they are self-published they are all, including this one, quite well proofread and edited with very few errors. The only one that really jumped out at me was this quote from Chapter 5 when they were talking to Matt Morelli "Mr. Moretti," Madigan said. "I really can not tolerate name errors like that. I thought some of the dialogue sounded a bit stilted or too formal like this quote from Chapter 14 "Detective Shelling, we are personal friends of Tina and Shawna Morelli, and provided personal support for Shawna during this time, while also ascertaining information about the case through natural conversation, some of which I followed up on myself and with Madigan" but perhaps that is actual cop talk by Grace. Anyway this was a good read and I'm looking forward to book 4 and perhaps more in this trilogy but I think I liked Ms O'Brien's "Avery

Hart" trilogy better.

Elevator Pitch by Linwood Barclay

Date Read: 20190923

My rating: 3 stars

I liked this latest offering by Linwood Barclay, one of my favourite authors, although I don't think it is one of his best books. When I finished reading I initially rated this as 4 stars but after a couple of days to digest it I have lowered my rating to 3.5 and rounded down to 3. I thought this book had all of the usual great writing by Mr Barclay and the usual great editing you find in most professionally published books and a fine caste of very well developed characters although many of them were not very nice or likeable and unfortunately the only one I really liked met an untimely and gruesome end. The detectives Jerry Bourque and Lois Delgado were a good team but both with enough warts to be realistic. Now for the reasons I have downgraded this book. This is definitely an action thriller but I thought the plot and the motive for the "incidents" were a bit thin and even with all the suspects, sub plots and red herrings I found the culprit to be very predictable and I thought it was fairly obvious how the big ending scene was going to work out. I have no idea if the technology is realistic and actually workable but it sure sounds a bit farfetched to me. Now I'm no prude and I expect a goodly amount of foul language including f-bombs and actual profanity in a crime novel given the type of characters involved but I thought it was just a bit overdone here. As Jack Batten wondered in his review in the Toronto Star is Mr Barclay trying to suggest that all New Yorkers, no matter what their place in society is, talk that way? Anyway this was a quite enjoyable #@\$%>* read and I'm looking forward for another by Mr Barclay but I kind of wish he'd revive Zack Walker because I think those 4 novels were the best and, at the very least the funniest, he's written

The Orchid Keeper: A Sean O'Brien Novel (Sean O'Brien #10) by Tom Lowe

Date Read: 20190920

My rating: 4 stars

This is a great entry in one of my all time favourite series by one of my favourite authors and I think that somehow these books just keep getting better and better. The whole gang from the Marina are in full form here with Nick, Dave and Flo all playing their usual roles and, of course, Max being the star of the show. Sean plays a bit different part than in the previous books and it is great to see Wynona and Joe Billie have such huge roles in the story although it was scary to

see Wynona get shot up so severally. Personally I didn't like to see so many of the good guys getting killed but I realize the importance of those deaths to the story and we sure got another one of Tom Lowe's bang up rock solid endings and the bad guys sure met appropriate endings, too, via Sean's version of justice. Now is it "Sean McGee" or "Travis O'Brien" but Sean is sure becoming more like Travis McGee with every book right up to the requisite Caribbean cruise on the "Dragonfly" with the rehabbing damsel in distress, this time Wynona! And Tom Lowe is channeling even more John D MacDonald with the environmental, climate and political corruption problems in Florida brought up to date with the present day climate crisis. Interestingly the toxic "Blue-Green Algae" problem that started this story is not unique to Florida as Lake Erie has a large toxic "Blue-Green Algae" blob and a couple of lakes in Sudbury On. Canada have been closed for the same problem.

Now most of Tom Lowe's books always have a few proofreading errors but not bad enough to detract from the reading enjoyment as was the case in the first couple of books in this series and other than a couple of missing or extra words the only real problem is in this quote from Chapter 39 - "thrilled to present an evening with gubernatorial candidate Hal Duncan and contender for state senate, Joe Duncan" which obviously should read "Joe Thaxton". Name errors IMHO are enough to downrate a book at least 1 star. I'm anxiously awa

Murder Welcomes You to Buxley (Two Sisters and a Journalist #3) by Maddie Cochere

Date Read: 20190916

My rating: 3 stars

Another good read in a fine series that I return to when I need a lighter read with some humour to unwind with after reading a serious, gritty, dark or violent mystery. This one is just as good as the previous books in the series and has plenty of laughs to go along with the usual pretty good mystery and investigation by Jo and company although Pepper doesn't have quite as big a role as in the earlier books. However Keith is his usual hoot and along with his Grandma they provide a laugh a minute in all their scenes. I like it when an author brings in characters from her other series and Susan and Darby have just about convinced me to try some of Ms Cochere's Susan Hunter series. It was almost

worth reading this book just for Grandma's reaction when she found out about Darby!

Fatal Cajun Festival: A Cajun Country Mystery (Cajun Country Mystery #5) by Ellen Byron

Date Read: 20190914

My rating: 4 stars

This is the latest entry in one of my favourite series and as usual has been just as enjoyable a read as the previous books in the series. Although this story is a little grittier than a typical cozy there is enough humour and a touch of romance to lighten it up to read after a serious crime novel. I like how Ms Byron gives each of the regular characters their turn to star with Gaynell and Grand Mere sharing the spotlight in this book and a whole new cast of wacky characters to provide suspects and motives although the actual motive is a bit weak and maybe unrealistic. Another rather spectacular ending although not exactly the one I was hoping for and I do very much like it that Ms Byron never leaves any loose ends dangling although I'm not sure an epilogue was the correct way to wind up Grand Mere's "death cleaning" sub plot but the way it ended was sure the correct way. The Gaynell/Tammy feud sure ended the right way, too and we may have double wedding coming for Maggie and Grand Mere (this is the only possible loose end for which we have to wait til the next book to get the answer). Now to the recipes – I tried Ninette's Osyter Soup from the last book and while it was quite good it definitely was not worth the over \$10.00 per cup that it cost me to make it where I live but since I love Crawfish Etouffee I might try that one but I'm pretty sure it'll be with the Shrimp that I can afford!

Blind Sight Solution (A Claire Burke Mystery)
by Emma Pivato

Date Read: 20190911

My rating: 2 stars

Ms Pivato was a new Canadian author until I read her chapter in "Chasing The Codex" which I really liked and considered it amongst the best chapters so it convinced me to read this book which I have had in my library for some time. However I was very surprised and disappointed on reading this book. I then researched publishing dates and found this is Ms Pivato's debut novel and the Codex chapter was written some 3 years and 2 or 3 books later so that may account for some of the problems but a good editor would have eliminated most of the errors and probably the bad writing. The story premise is quite unique and

Claire, Dan, Jessie. Tia and Mario are all strong characters with Mario perhaps a bit far out – like about 8 going on 28 and the ending is satisfactory but the various writing problems downgrade this from at least a 4 to a very generous 2 which I could justify as being more like a 1. First this book needs an interactive Table of Contents not just a one word “Start” that takes you to the cover. Now the major flaw in this book beside the bad writing and plot disconnects is all the extremely excessive detail which is not needed to tell the story and just slows the narrative down and takes the reader out of the plot. Like we don’t need a page of details about every piece of apparel everybody puts on every time they get dressed practically down to the colour of the stitches on their undies or a blow by blow account of how to get Jessie dressed or all the technical details of Jessie’s condition. A brutal editing and a lot more show not tell would shorten this read considerably and speed it up too. All it does now is encourage a lot of skimming. Now I’m going to include a few quotes as examples of the plot errors and poor writing that any editor should have eliminated. There are many others of these throughout the book.

In Chapter 3 Claire is making Jessie’s lunch and we read - “mayonnaise and lean ground ham from the fridge. She washed three large lettuce leaves, a quarter of a sweet yellow pepper and one green onion, chopped them into pieces and then added them to a small Cuisinart food processor with reverse blade action. She added in two thin slices of ham cut in two” What did Claire do with the “lean ground ham” and where did the “two thin slices of ham” come from?

Besides this is just more excess and unneeded detail.

In Chapter 4 - “By the time the policeman left”

How did he leave? Must have walked because earlier in this chapter we read that he came with Claire in her van!

Now this bit of writing really confused me and I thought we had one of those Wrong Name errors

“Tia Ambrose, and her husband, Dan Marchyshyn, were there and wondering if they could be of any assistance. McCoy thought for a minute and then said casually, “Ask them to come in.”

After introductions, Inspector McCoy asked Tia directly, “Were you in Bonnyville recently with Mrs. Marchyshyn?”

This reads like Dan was Tia’s husband! “and her husband” should read “and Claire’s husband” Tia’s husband was Rick and he was long gone! There is much more writing like this in the book.

I’m pretty sure I’ll try a later book by Ms Pivato and see if any of these faults

have been corrected but I won't be in a big rush to acquire one or pay a high price for it.

Chasing the Codex: A Mystery by 24 Authors

Date Read: 20190909

My rating: 4 stars

I think I enjoyed this book just about as much as any book I've read this year. Of course I liked some chapters more than others which is to be expected just as I like some authors more than others but I will say outright that there was not 1 chapter or author that I just did not like. If you like your mystery served with a few twists there should be enough in this one to satisfy any readers love for a twist as there is at least one per chapter. I think it is quite amazing how the development of the main characters, well actually all the characters, stayed so consistent and there sure is a large cast of characters and some of them turn out pretty shady and quite nasty. But my favourite character has to be Frida and, of course, Bryn's a close second. But then how can you forget Madge and Bella and Rambler and especially his van and D. C. and the bible – OK I gave up and just kept laughing! Oh yeah there was a pretty good mystery buried in all the fun, some action and a quite satisfactory ending for all the good guys. Now seriously I have made a list of the 24 authors involved and I intend to check up on some of the other works by those who I have not already read. I have already read books by some of the Canadian authors involved and since reading this book I have already read another by one of the Canadian authors who's work I have never read before albeit it was no where near as good a read as that author's chapter in this book which was great. Anyway if Cozy Cat Press wants to do an encore I'll surely read it.

Madman (The Diamond and Doran Mysteries Book 1) by Tracy Tonkinson

Date Read – 20190907

Rating 3 Stars

I received this book as an author giveaway from a new Canadian mystery author and I am very glad I did. Historical mysteries is a sub-genre that I like to read but I don't often read one set as far in the past as 1886 Chicago and I admit that my

familiarity with Chicago consists of changing planes at O'hara a few times and obviously I have no familiarity with 1886 Chicago so I'll just have to accept the accuracy of Ms Tonkinson's research for the authenticity of the setting which played a huge role in this story. The story line has lots of historical social commentary on police and government corruption and graft, police brutality, the 8 hour day labour movement, racial relations as well as the differences in living conditions between the various levels of citizens and the position, roles and expectations of women. And there are many very well developed and strong characters like Billy Doran, Arthur Diamond, Drew McMillan and all 5 of Billy's daughters and some pretty horrible bad guys like the Madman. Lots of quite violent and gritty action, some very good investigations using resources available at that time and an appropriate ending for the bad guy with a couple of loose ends such as what happened to Hans and Sorcha's condition which are probably lead ins to further books in this series which I do intend to read. There is a problem with the ePub formatting that causes the Chapter #s and dates to keep appearing farther and farther down on the page until they appear on the bottom two lines of a blank page and the book needs an interactive Table of Contents not just a TOC that says Start that just takes you back to the cover. Looking forward to more in the series and I've put "A Diamond & Doran Christmas" on my Xmas to Buy list.

Adam's Witness (Adam and Grace, #1) by J.C. Paulson

Date Read: 20190903

My rating: 3 stars

It is somewhat of a coincidence that I read two novels back to back that involve a murder in a church, "The Serenity Stone Murder" (see my review), and a cathedral, "Adam's Witness", but it happened because I continue to watch for new or new to me Canadian authors to read and I acquired both of these books as freebies. I quite liked this book and I liked the Saskatchewan setting as I don't think there are many mystery books set in Saskatchewan other than parts of some of Anthony Bidulka's "Russell Quant" series. Many likeable and fairly well developed characters such as Adam Davis, Grace Rampling, James Weatherall and Hope Rampling and particularly unlikeables like Ellice Fairbrother and Duane Sykes. It's hard to pick a favourite character but I think I like James Weatherall and Hope Rampling the most. This book has two separate but tightly intertwined murder plots that both involve LGBTQ issues and for a big difference from many mysteries I've been reading lately both culprits end up locked up in the justice system after a couple of fairly wild action

scenes. I thought the one perp was pretty obvious but actually provided a red herring in Adam's investigation of the bishop's murder and while that result was not really a big surprise determining the real motive took a bit of investigation. It is interesting and welcome and again different from most mysteries to see the support and cooperation of the Mounties with the Saskatoon Police Department. A minor flaw in this book in my opinion is that the dialogue between the various characters is written very inconsistently and some times is very stilted and formal and not the way we ever talk to each other and then would change, sometimes in the same scene, to the much more natural way we speak. A minor point but I found it a bit annoying. I already have the next book in this series and I'm looking forward to reading it soon.

The Serenity Stone Murder by Marianne Jones

Date Read – 20190901

Rating 3 Stars

I found this to be a quite enjoyable read and I will read more books by this new to me Canadian author. There aren't too many stories set in the Thunder Bay Ontario area and I was a bit familiar with that region although the various times I've spent there on both business and vacations were quite a few years in the past so there have been lots of changes but the Sleeping Giant is still there. There's quite a few smiles and chuckles here but no really LOL or ROFL humour along with some fairly well described settings and both likeable and unlikeable characters and a pretty good murder investigation with Margaret's eureka moment leading to the climax. Margaret and Louise are quite a pair of characters although I kept wanting to call them "Thelma and Louise" while I was reading. The romance stuff is really kept back of the murder investigation but there's a hint of one of those much disliked, at least by me, love triangles. The only real reason I have for downrating this somewhat is I thought the rather surprising ending was very hurried and tossed at the readers as a big tell, albeit all the clues were there to support it, but it probably could have been expanded into more of a show with maybe some kind of an action scene. Anyway this is a good light cozy type of a mystery to read after finishing a heavy, gritty and serious mystery novel.

A Better Man (Chief Inspector Armand Gamache #15) by Louise Penny

Date Read: 20190830

My rating: 3 stars

Although this is one of my all time favourite series I don't think I can rate this as one of the best in the series. While this book includes all the familiar great features of this series like the typical Three Pines weather, the great food and the cozy comforts of the Bistro and the collection of our old friends along with some new residents and "come-from-aways" it is quite different from any of the preceding books. There are actually three quite separate storylines running here which is not uncommon in this series but in this case they don't all merge into one finale and in fact I think Clara's story has really nothing to do with the rest of the stories, didn't advance the main plot in any way but just slowed down the reading and only served to introduce another new character with hints that she may become a resident of Three Pines. I found the first quarter to a third of this book involving the big flood much slower reading than any of the previous books and appears to be mainly a chance for Ms Penny to get in some social commentary about climate change which is a very relevant and current topic in Quebec at this time. Of course it does provide the setting for the murder and when that happens the whole pace of the book picks up immensely and also it's not the only social commentary as the main plot involves not one but two abusive husbands. I don't think I can ever remember Armand and Jean Guy in any earlier book having such tunnel vision and such a strong conviction that they had identified the murderer and spending all their investigation in trying to find evidence against him while ignoring the real killer who I suspected very early although I hadn't yet figured out the motive so the big climax was no real surprise to me. And that's more surprising because there were so many other possible suspects and motives thrown in. I think Ruth Zardo is the best character in Three Pines with Rosa a close second and it sure is nice to see Ruth playing such a major role in this episode. The resolution of the smear campaign against Armand came as a bit of a twist but we never learn who "they" are that want him out of the Surete except for the Premier of Quebec. It will be interesting to see where Ms Penny takes Armand and Three Pines now that Jean Guy has moved to Paris. Oh well I guess we have to wait another year to find o

Blood and Belonging (Ray Robertson #3) by Vicki Delany

Date Read: 20190826

My rating: 3 stars

I like the books in this series as Laundromat reads or fill-ins when I finish a read too early for bed and while this one is an enjoyable story I didn't like it quite as much as the first 2 books in the series. I still like Ray Robertson a lot and I think Jenn accepts his role a lot more than he thinks she does. Ms Delany can sure pack so much description of settings, characterization and action into such a short work that I have to rank her as one of the very best authors of these short Rapid Reads books.

The Boathouse Murders (Bevyn Jones Series Book 1) by Davyd Gosselin

Date Read: 20190824

My rating: 3 stars

I started reading this series out of order as I read book 2 "Murder at Matins" as part of my 2019 Arthur Ellis nominees reading project and I liked that story enough to buy this the first book in the series. I found this book to be an enjoyable read although I didn't like the actual story quite as much as I liked the second book but perhaps that is because I am very familiar with the setting of book 2 and am not at all familiar with the setting of this story. Although this is a series I think so far it is the exception that proves my rule about reading series in order as with the exception of a very few common characters these are completely standalone stories. I found this story to be a bit confusing at times because of the large number of characters complicated by the Mystery Weekend Retreat and all the costumes but Professor Bevyn's great Nero Wolfe/Hercule Poirot reveal all assembly wrapped up the current murder mystery quite well and while I am not a great fan of open endings I can accept the conclusion of the cold case murder with the implications left to the reader and Bevyn's best to "Let Sleeping Dogs Lie" conclusion. Now I have downrated this book slightly because it has many of the same proofreading/editing problems as I noted in my review of book 2 and as I see other reviewers have mentioned. Here are a couple of quotes -

"Why didn't you didn't tell me you were leaving?"

“Bevyn followed Olivia down the corridor to a room at the behind the kitchen area”

There are many more like those but after reading the author’s bio I find it hard to believe that he could have written anything like the following sentence -

“A man with an aggressive walk intercepted the couple seconds later about Brent’s age”

Really????

Now I realize these are self published books and it is common to find a few of these errors in self published books but never in the number and frequency as in these books and I have read quite quite a few self published series, such as Ruth Donald’s “Hunter Rayne” series, with none of these errors. I think Mr Gosselin should hire a professional proof reader and editor. Anyway I’ll still read the next book to follow in this series.

Murder in the Aisle (Merry Summerfield Cozy Mystery #1) by Kris Pearson

Date Read – 20190822

Rating 3 Stars

I stumbled upon “Xmas Marks The Spot” by Kris Pearson when looking for possible 2019 Xmas reads and since I haven’t read books by New Zealand authors or set in New Zealand I thought it would be a bit different to try this one and as I like to read series in order and don’t like to buy a book until I’ve tried the author I was glad to get “Murder In The Aisle” as an Amazon freebie. Now I’m glad I did as I found this to be a quite good read and enjoyable enough that’ll add XMTS to my possible 2019 Xmas Reads list. This is a quite typical cozy mystery with some pretty decent characters like Merry and Bruce Carver and Vicar Paul and Alex and especially Itsy and Fluffy and the rest of the animals, a good plot with some unexpected twists and a quite satisfactory ending. I didn’t find this a very humorous read with just a few chuckles but that may be because I don’t quite get New Zealand humour. There are a couple of minor personal nit picks that prevent me from awarding a higher rating but I expect they may not bother some other readers. First I personally don’t mind a bit of romance in a mystery read but I thought there was just a bit too much here and it did detract somewhat from the story. I guess that’s to be expected as Ms Pearson is such a widely published Romance author and I can actually congratulate her on this quite successful attempt to branch out into the mystery genre. Now the next little

personal peeve I have occurs in chapter 11 where I find the words “liter” and “center”. Now I can think of no acceptable excuse for a New Zealand author writing a book set in New Zealand to use USA English and not New Zealand English. It’s “litre” and “centre” you know. If you’ve read any of my reviews you’ll know that I always downrate books set in Canada using USA or British and not Canadian English and vice versa if they’re set in the US they better use US English and not Canadian or British. Anyway I’ll likely read some more in this series.

The Hidden City Murders: A John Granville & Emily Turner Historical Mystery by Sharon Rowse

Date Read – 20190715
Date of Review Take 2

Rating Raised to 3 Stars

This is my revised and updated review of the revised and updated version of this book which corrected the bad proofreading and editing errors that caused me to downrate the first version so drastically.

I have been enjoying this fine series so much and I was looking forward to reading this latest addition with, perhaps, too high expectations and that may be one of the reasons I have had such an enormous disappointment in this book but it is not the only reason. I guess I should start with the good, the bad and the ugly which has now been corrected. First the good and as a story there is quite a bit to like about this book and it is probably worth about a 3 star rating although I don’t think it is anywhere near as good a story as any of the previous books. I was quite happy to see Emily having her own 15 minutes of fame and her case with Aunt Louisa’s help is easily the highlight of the book. Now Carver is not Randall but the courtroom scene was almost as good as Randall’s earlier trials and both Emily’s and John’s cases kind of merge at last and the ending was fairly solid and appropriate. Now to the bad – I think there were too many loose ends that were not really tied up solidly like, for instance, the third man, and we didn’t have Orson to help out here, and I don’t think I learned as much Canadian history as I did in any of the previous books but I still think this is at least 3 star read now that all the errors have been eliminated. Ms Rowse did a fantastic job getting this book back up to the standards of the previous books in this fine series and negotiating the much appreciated revised update with Amazon and now I can safely recommend this book to all readers who enjoy a good historical mystery.

The Vanishing Wife by Barry Finlay

Date Read: 20190820

My rating: 3 stars

I read this book because I mainly read some kind of mystery fiction and I have a preference for Canadian authors, although I am not limited to them, and I have read about Mr Finlay's personal exploits and subsequent philanthropy so when I saw he was trying his hand at a mystery he quickly qualified as a New to Me Canadian author to try. Now this book has become quite an enigma for me to rate and review as the premise is fairly unique and the story, when you can find it buried in all the unnecessary detail, is quite good and the ending is actually very solid and satisfactory and this is where I start to find the problems that have caused me to downrate what could be a 4 star read. There are a lot of fairly well developed characters with, of course, some likeable and some not and I think the bad guys are pretty bloody bad! In many ways Mason Seaforth appears as what we would expect an account to be but Sami is sure a bit stronger than a typical banker and Marcie is by far the best character of the good guys but the best characters in the book are the bad guys, Aaron Marshall and Greg Ferguson. However there is much too much tell and not show in the many long and slow narrative scenes in practically the first 3/4s of this book and then the action picks up pretty good to the ending. We sure don't need longwinded travelogue descriptions of Highway 401, the Toronto skyline, Tim Horton's donuts, the history of the Rideau Canal, the Canadian Parliament buildings, the RCMP and all the rest of the many stereotypical cliches trying to continue the rather mythical ignorance of most Americans of anything Canadian. What this book needs is a real strong and brutal editing and chopping by a professional editor which being self published it apparently never received. I am glad I acquired this book as an Amazon freebie and I already have book 2 the same way so I'll at least give it a try sometime. I noticed there is an updated edition available on Amazon and I'd be interested if anyone can detail the changes from the first edition?

Hardheaded Brunette (Gilda Wright Mysteries #2) by Diane Bator

Date Read: 20190818

My rating: 2 stars

This unfortunately earns 2 stars because I finished it although quite a few times I was close to aborting it. I somewhat liked book 1 of this series enough to try another one but there will be no more by this author for me. It is hard to like a book very much when you don't like any of the characters in the story and right

now I can't think of one in this book that I even had the tiniest liking for and I particularly do not like Gilda, Mick or Kane. I think the whole thing was just drawn out much too long and repetitiously and I'm not a great fan of murder by committee. Sorry there are just too many good books that need reading for me to waste time on books like this.

Haitian Graves (Ray Robertson #2) by Vicki Delany

Date Read: 20190815

My rating: 3 stars

I started this as a Laundromat read but it was too long so I ended up reading it as a filler after finishing a book too early for bed. Vicki Delany is one of my favourite authors and I think she along with Marcelle Dube is a master of the short story or novella format and along with Brenda Chapman has perfected the Rapid Reads format. Vicki sure packs a whole lot of description, setting, character development, plot twists, some social commentary, historical references and a solid ending in simple language in this well worth reading short work. And it really makes it a good read because I like Ray Robertson so much.

On a Dark Road to Nowhere by Marcelle Dube

Date Read: 20190815

My rating: 3 stars

The usual well written and edited Marcelle Dube short story that I read as a filler when I finished a novel too early for bed time. I didn't not like this but it isn't really in the genre that I usually read and it has one of those sort of open endings that I am not too fussy about in a book. I'll definitely keep on reading Ms Dube's books that are more in the type that I usually read.

Where the Ice Falls: The Falls Mysteries by J.E. Barnard

Date Read: 2019013

My rating: 4 stars

This is a fine addition to a good series that I am enjoying and in some ways I think this is possibly the best in the series so far with no really bad faults but a

couple of minor things that prevent a 5 star rating. It has the same good descriptions as book 1 did of the settings, weather and well developed characters and once again I've found a book with a very appropriate title that I can easily understand how it fits the story. I just hope Lacey and Dee can both stay in one piece long enough to take us on some more great adventures. One of the slight things causing me to downrate it a little is that I thought it was a bit predictable and I thought the perp was quite obvious fairly early in the story and the big ending really came as no surprise to me although Lacey did everything she could to hang the crimes on another suspect. I find it a bit strange and coincidental that I have recently been reading a few mysteries like this with some possibly paranormal, supernatural or just ghostly elements. Anyways a good read that I recommend to anyone liking a mystery with a cold and icy outdoor setting but I think it is quite necessary to read this series in order.

Lincoln City Blues By Marcelle Dube

Date Read: 20190809

My rating: 3 stars

Good filler read when I finished a novel too early for bed. Big twist at the end that I didn't see coming! Marcelle Dube is a fine writer and can do wonders with short stories and novellas.

The Escarpment by Ron Base

Date Read: 20190809

My rating: 3 stars

I've been reading and enjoying Mr Base's Sanibel Island detective series and I was delighted to see he is starting a more serious mystery series set in a region in Ontario with which I am fairly familiar. In fact I have actually caught Brook Trout in that stream at the Mill Pond although, as usual, my late brother always caught many more than I did and that was also quite a few years ago! I think this book is a reasonably good first book in series with a few things that I don't really like all that much in a mystery novel. The writing, proofreading and editing are pretty good and I found it easy reading with good descriptions of the settings, weather, food and quite well developed characters, lot's of action,

some good twists including the ending which really didn't come as a huge surprise to me except that Mr Base had enough courage to write it that way. I don't think Mr Base has a very high opinion of police officers because most cops in this story are corrupt except for Glen Petrusiak and ex-cop Jean Whitlock who is a marvellous character who I really like. Likewise I don't think he likes politicians, developers and their minions because all those that appear in this story are a pretty unscrupulous and nefarious bunch of low lifes. This story should probably be a 4 star read but I've deducted 1 because I don't like it when the perp along with the main witness to some of the corruption are killed off in a convenient accident, even though it was in a good action scene, and not brought into the justice system. I am definitely looking forward to the next book in this series and from the hint in the Epilogue I hope Jean can finally get her nemesis, yet another corrupt cop, off her back forever.

Author - A Murder With A Twist by Richard Myerscough

Date Read: 20190008

My rating: 1 stars

I originally was not going to do a full review but I decided I have a few comments to make to clarify my huge disappointment in this book. I thought I'd found a new to me Canadian mystery author to read but I'm afraid that's not the case. I don't want to leave the impression that I think Mr Myerscough is a bad author and I'm sure he has many fans that like his other works but from the synopsis and blurbs of his other books none of them appear to be of any genre that I read as I am not much of a fan of Sci Fi horror stories. These comments are just a few personal thoughts of this book and some, I hope, constructive criticism for Mr Myerscough if he ever decides to try to write another mystery novel. The premise and plot line of this story is quite good and even a bit unique but the book is almost unreadable because of the apparent lack of any proofreading and editing before it's publication. There are extra words, missing words, misspelled words, wrong names etc. in almost every line and this is a problem found in many, but not all, self published books but I find it difficult to remember one as bad as this one. It makes me think that no Human ever read this before

publishing and this was The First Draft and it must have been published as-is. Here is a quote from the author's website -

"Author' started out as a two month challenge that I imposed on myself at the beginning of February 2019. I finally finished my first draft on March 17, 2019, only six weeks later. To make it easier, I decided to go more mainstream and write a murder - mystery instead of one of my more gory, Sci-Fi novels that requires tons and tons of research.

Even those I wrote it relatively quickly, the first draft was remarkably well received. After it has gone through some editing, I feel that it will be something that I can proudly to put my name on. I am hoping to have it available in both print and ebook format sometime in April."

It was actually published on March 22 2019 in total of 8 weeks start to publish.

Hey and notice the typos in the quote!

Now I had the pleasure of seeing a new Norm Foster (considered to be Canada's number 1 play writer) play at this years Foster Fest and meet the author in a Q & A after the show.

As well as his plays Norm wrote a mystery novel entitled "Watching Jeopardy" which was nominated for an Arthur Ellis award and which I enjoyed. When I asked him if he was ever writing another mystery novel his answer was NO because he said he can write 3 plays in a year, true as demonstrated by the fact that there are 3 NEW Norm Foster plays World Premiered at the Foster Fest, but it took him 3 years to write "Watching Jeopardy

Most successful mystery writers take at least a year from start to release and many times more than a year and none ever do it in 8 weeks and I think this book is kind of proof of that.

A Hopeless Murder (A Hope Walker Mystery Book 1) by Daniel Carson

Date Read – 20190806

Rating 4 Stars

This is a good fun read and I think I've found another series to use as come down reads after finishing a serious, dark, gritty or violent crime novel. Lot's of

weird and quirky characters, especially Granny who is a real hoot, Hope and Katie are great characters and Katie's kids are a riot and the usual collection of small town weirdos and a handsome detective for the romance angle. This one has a mystery that may have been slightly predictable except for the many, many suspects and suspected motives, lots of red herrings and some twists and a bit of a surprise at the quite satisfactory ending. Then throw in the substantial amount of humour and we have the fine recipe for a good start to what looks like a funny series. And the author's a stay-at-home Dad with 8 kids! WOW!

No Witnesses to Nothing by Garry Rodgers

Date Read – 20190805

Rating 3 Stars

OK I've taken a few days to digest this read, done a bit of Googling and re-reading and I have decided that this is actually a better book than I originally thought when I finished it and tentatively rated it 2 stars. Except for a few points I'll try to explain later this should really be at least a 4 star read and I will admit that some of the reasons I have used to downrate are purely and simply personal nit picks and will probably never bother other readers but they do detract from my personal enjoyment of a book and I consider them legitimate reasons to deduct at least a star. First the good – This is a very well written, proofread and edited book with very few, if any, of the typos and proofreading errors often found in eBooks. It has a superb Table of Contents which is an absolute necessity given the way this story (actually these stories) is organized and Mr Rodgers' experience and knowledge of policing is very evident. I thought Mr Rodgers did a fantastic job of integrating real people with his fictional characters and this is something that very few authors writing historical mysteries are able to do with a couple of exceptions coming to mind like John Farrow in "River City" and Stephen Legault in his "Durrant Wallace" series and that puts Mr Rodgers in some pretty fine company. Now I have read some critiques and reviews of books where it has been indicated that an author putting themselves into their book is frowned upon and is a virtual no-no but in this case there was no other choice because that is actual history. There are actually two almost completely separate stories running here and while reading I was having trouble seeing how they could come together but they sure did in the end. Now to the problems I had that caused me to downrate this book at least 1 star. I am not a huge fan of stories being told via flashbacks and I found all the jumping around in the time frames very confusing and I'd just get absorbed in one of the stories when we'd jump 12 years one way or the other into the other story and I'd get lost. I'm sure this would have been a much better read if each story was

run in chronological order until they merged, either in two parts or even in alternating chapters. Next fault is this book is at least 100 pages too long and is filled with a way too many unnecessary technical details and a whole lot of theoretical philosophising trying to tie Higgs-Boson into Shamanism. Same thing with all the unnecessary technical details about all the armament and gadgets when the Military took over. Just a ruthless edit would help this book immensely. Now I realize "Tracey" & "Bobby" had to disappear to somewhere and Australia seemed a good choice but I don't really think they couldn't have disappeared to somewhere in North America and some more off topic filler could have been chopped from this bloated book. Like while the whole scene at the bill-a-bong with the ghost singing "Waltzing Matilda" is a nice diversion and teaches us a lot of Ozzie slang which we may not have known it does nothing to advance the plot in any way. The whole thing with the "Kushtaka" is quite interesting and it's fascinating to realize that essentially all Indigenous mythology from all over Earth includes a similar monster of course known by whatever name it has been assigned by each local culture such as the "Windigo" or "Wendigo" in Northern Ontario cultures. It's also worth noting that the Non-Indigenous cultures all over the Earth have their own mythological boogeymen again with various names like Beelzebub or Satan and various mythologies like Greek, Roman and Norse plus most Fairy Tales also include such creatures so this gives us lot's of food for thought. All this being taken into consideration in my opinion the interaction of the mythical monster with human characters in a murder mystery has been handled much better in some other books such as M. H. Callway's superb "Windigo Fire" or Mike Young's "Kirk's Landing" and it's sequel as well as quite a few in Tony Hillerman's great Leaphorn and Chee series. I also thought that the eMail to Detective now Inspector Bate was a cheap trick used as a fast and convenient way to tie up all the loose ends because there is no way one could even guess from any clues in the book what the real reason was for the murders of the informants. This is just some more bad and lazy writing. One last little personal nit pick I have is that this book ends with a lead into a sequel. In this case this is not a severe problem as the mysteries here have all been tied up but I think the author and the publisher should have made it clear in the synopsis and cover blurbs that this is book 1 in a continuing story. Don't worry after all my venting here I'll still read the sequel and hope some of these faults have been corrected.

Diners, Dives & Dead Ends (Rose Strickland Mystery #1) by Terri L. Austin

Date Read: 20190731

My rating: 2 stars

Another book that just doesn't do it for me and I'm sure lots of readers will like it but I didn't and I'm glad I got it as a loaner. Again I didn't find much of the advertised humour, I didn't like any of the characters much and that is especially true for Grandma Ma who I found completely unbelievable and I sure didn't like Rose's choice in men friends and the subsequent ending.. 2 stars 'cause I didn't have to force myself to finish it and though I have a couple of more in his series as freebies I doubt that I'll read them.

A Haunted Past by April Kennedy

Date Read – 20190730

Rating 2 Stars

OK I'm really having trouble deciding how to rate this book because I didn't have to force myself to finish it and I liked Angie and Max very much and Yin and Larry are a hoot although a bit far fetched and over the top and it did have quite a HEA ending but I guess it's just not quite my cuppa. I did find some humour although not the LOL type I expected from the blurbs and some reviews and while I don't mind a bit of the paranormal stuff in a mystery I think perhaps there was just too much reincarnation and other psychic stuff and probably that's what has kind of turned me off of this book. I am sure many readers will like this one a lot more than I did. I received this book as an author giveaway and I really appreciate that and I don't relish giving it a somewhat negative review but these are my honest thoughts. I'd possibly try another by this author but it won't have a high priority on my TBR list and I wouldn't pay big bucks for it.

The Secrets They Keep (Knox and Sheppard #2) by Emerald O'Brien

Date Read – 20190728

Rating 3 Stars

I have found this a very difficult book to rate and review because while there is quite a lot to like about it I found myself somewhat lost and confused through most of about the first half and I was having a hard time seeing where this was going. In fact this came very close to an abort and a dnf on a few occasions and if I hadn't have enjoyed the first book in this series I may have just given up but I forced myself to continue and it finally turned out that I'm glad I did. The back third or so of this book is really good when the pieces of the investigation start to fall into place and the action picks up and Madigan and Grace's mysteries start to look like they are actually going to merge somewhat. And then there are a

couple of very unexpected twists with some of the characters leading to an ending which is definitely not a HEA ending nor quite the ending I would have liked but is pretty appropriate and leaves one loose end to lead into book 3. And in this case that's alright 'cause these books are billed as a trilogy. Now I do think that this is very much a character driven story and I find it hard to really like a book when I don't have a great liking for the MCs even when I know their backstories and all the baggage they're carrying but again it was nice to see Madigan and Grace and Mac coming to terms with their personal demons and I admit I'd gotten to like them much more at the end of this story. One thing I can definitely say in favour of this book is that this is one of the actually quite rare books where the title is so appropriate and so fitting for the story because all the suspects are sure carrying a lot of secrets.

The Four Wives of the Sanibel Sunset Detective (Sanibel Sunset Detective #6) by Ron Base

Date Read: 20190726

My rating: 3 stars

Another fun read in this good series that I like to come back to for some lighter reading after finishing a serious crime novel. However as I find in many of these types of books most of the humour is in the early part of the book and the story gets much more serious as the investigation goes on. Oh there's still always a few smiles and a pretty good ending but I don't know if Tree can ever stay alive and mainly in one piece for many more episodes. I see Mr Base has written another series which sounds a lot more serious than this one and I'm sure going to give "The Escarpment" a try very soon.

Yellowhead Blues (Hunter Rayne Highway Mystery #5) by R.E. Donald

Date Read – 20190724

Rating 4 Stars

This ranks as one of my favourite series and I was definitely NOT disappointed in this story after the unfortunately forced long wait for it's release and I think my 4 star rating will attest to the fact that I think this is one of the best in the series and I hope there are more to follow and hopefully without any more forced

delays. As always in Ms Donald's books the settings, weather and all the characters, both good guys and bad guys, are superbly drawn and there's lots of action and lots of driving on and off highways and some of it pretty wild. The action in this story drags the reader right in on the first page and just gets better from then on. Hunter and El as usual are great characters and how could anyone not like Bianca and Leon/Leo is a marvellous character but Blue really steals top honours along with Leo's "Canadian Horse". Lot's of suspects but I picked the wrong one and I really didn't see the twist although it sure was quite logical. Dustin and Jaelle were quite a pair but I can't really imagine why the Mounties didn't do some checks with the Texas law sooner. And despite all the bad mouthing given to Kathy I had a pretty good liking for her as soon as we met her and she sure turned out to be one of the best. About the only thing I would have liked was for "Sonny" to have a much bigger roll because Ms Donald has invented one of the best sidekicks in Canadian crime fiction ranking right up there with Howard Shrier's "Dante Ryan", R. J. McMillen's "Walker", Anne Emery's "Father Brennan Burke" and Ted'Wood's "Sam" to name a few but she hardly gives him any part in these later books. Anyway this is a super read, was well worth the wait and I'm looking forward to the next one and I hope no more Elephant Hill fires get in it's way but with today's climate change who can say?

Murder in a Good Cause (John Sanders and Harriet Jeffries #3) by Medora Sale

Date Read: 20190721

My rating: 2 stars

OK but I didn't like it quite as much as either of the first 2 books in the series. Just as good writing and settings and a decent mystery and investigation and an acceptable ending and while I did like Sanders and especially his partner Ed I think I've had about enough of Harriet's silliness. Oh I'll quite surely read the 4th book but I don't know when.

The Deep End (Casey Holland Mystery #4) by Debra Purdy Kong

Date Read: 20190719

My rating: 3 stars

I had a bit of a controversy whether to read this or not 'cause calibre had it marked as READ (which I don't usually record in calibre) but Goodreads said UnRead and for once, at least, Goodreads was right! This was a good fun read that I really liked with a good mystery and a twist that I should have seen coming leading to a sold finish. A bit of appropriate social commentary and I like

Summer and her change of attitude and of course Casey, Lou and Stan are all good characters and I hope Mainland gets their finances straightened out 'cause I'd like to read some more of this fine series.

Rekindling Motives (A Jolie Gentil Cozy Mystery #2) by Elaine Orr

Date Read – 20190717

Rating 3 Stars

This was an OK read that I tried as a lighten up after a serious read because it is supposed to be a humorous mystery. Well as happens quite often I didn't really find much humour but only a few small smiles and I'm rapidly coming to the opinion that my Canadian sense of humour just doesn't get the American humour in these books. On top of that I didn't really like any of the characters too much and I sure got tired of Jolie's constant silly reminders of how to pronounce her name. Now there is a very interesting premise for the murders and actually a pretty good investigation but I felt the big reveal of the perp was kind of forced with a character parachuted in late in the story with very few clues provided earlier and a rather hurried ending. I will admit I read this out of order in the series because I got it as a freebie and wanted the promised humour and I may have liked it more if I had read book 1 first. I have now acquired book 1 as a loaner and I may try it later but it is not a high priority on my TBR list.

The Hidden City Murders: A John Granville & Emily Turner Historical Mystery by Sharon Rowse

Date Read – 20190715

Rating 1 Stars

I have been enjoying this fine series so much and I was looking forward to reading this latest addition with, perhaps, too high expectations and that may be one of the reasons I have had such an enormous disappointment in this book but it is not the only reason. I guess I should start with the good, the bad and the ugly. First the good and as a story there is quite a bit to like about this book and it is probably worth about a 3 star rating although I don't think it is anywhere near as good a story as any of the previous books. I was quite happy to see Emily having her own 15 minutes of fame and her case with Aunt Louisa's help is easily the highlight of the book. Now Carver is not Randall but the courtroom

scene was almost as good as Randall's earlier trials and both Emily's and John's cases kind of merge at last and the ending was fairly solid and appropriate. Now to the bad – I think there were too many loose ends that were not really tied up solidly like, for instance, the third man, and we didn't have Orson to help out here, and I don't think I learned as much Canadian history as I did in any of the previous books but I still think this was a 3 star read. Until we come to the UGLY!

I have never, ever read a book in any format that was so badly proof read and edited. In fact I completely believe the published book came from a very early manuscript that was never read by a human and if it was that human should be fired immediately. If the story is worth 3 stars the editing would deduct so many stars as to produce a negative rating but I'll assign 1 so it will affect the overall rating of this book.

Here is a partial list of editing errors in no particular order but these things occur on almost every page and sometimes more than one in the same paragraph. I'm seriously considering requesting a refund from Amazon and I sure can't recommend this book to anyone until a corrected and updated edition is provided.

At least in telling me who we might to talk to in Chinatown here."

that had served him well in the Sinclair case recent case.

drew near to impeccably dressed man a few years older than her aunt.

Unless Benton manipulating them for some reason of

Scott groaned. "When is Emily coming back from Victoria, again?"

"Not until Thursday. Why?"

"You seem a little less willing to get shot at when she's around," Scot

“I recently learned that she and my collector share a relaxing past-time. (Should read passtime or pass time)

Granville, Scott and Trent ran their quarry to earth in a back corner of a decrepit bar on along the docks.

Konrad glanced as Scott and Trent (at)

Would their followers would take the bait?

Then came was a moment of heavy

Carstairs and Gainer

In Chapter 40 Gainer is named Gideon

Mr. Caver said

I see. And have you and Mr. Conrad ever discussed Mr. Randall, and his cases?” Carver asked. “Beyond this particular case, I mean.”

“We have,” Bragg said.

“And you and Mr. Konrad are indeed

Still, if Mr. Carver had hoped that his opponent would sabotage his own case in an attempt to cross examine Mr. Peabody, he was handling the loss we (Peabody should read Randall)

I'll still read another in this series and I hope this one gets cleaned up

Dead Men Don't Get Married (Kindle Edition) by Steve Shrott

Date Read: 20190711

My rating: 3 stars

Another Fun Read! I'll definitely read more of Mr Shrotts works when I need a come down & lighten up read after a heavy, gritty & serious crime novel.

Live Free or Tri by Judy Penz Sheluk (Take 2)

Date Read: 20190708

My rating: 3 stars

My Review (Take 2) Ms Sheluk pointed out an error and she's right even though I haven't yet been able to determine how or why I made that error and I apologize!

I have read pretty well all of Ms Sheluk's works and I'll definitely read any more but I find her books and stories to be quite inconsistent with some very good and others not so good as I have revealed in my reviews and I find these 3 stories to sort of fit the not so good category. There's nothing wrong with them except for a couple of personal peeves. I am not a fan of the literary device of the open ending and leaving whodunnit and what happens to the obvious guilty perps to the imagination of the reader as happens in each of these stories. No "Tyres" in this book!!!

The Deep End (The Country Club Murders #1) by Julie Mulhern

Date Read – 20190706

Rating 3 Stars

Ok this is by no means a bad book and I didn't have to force myself to finish it but I didn't find it to be a unique or exceptional read and I doubt that I will read anymore by this author. I read this because the blurbs and many reviews led me to believe this was a humorous mystery that I could use as a lighten up after reading a serious and gritty novel. Now perhaps it's just my sense of humour but while I had a few smiles and chuckles I never found the level of wit indicated in many reviews. On top of that I didn't like any of the characters too much except possibly for Detective Jones and I thought Ellison was a complete wimp. I just can't understand why she didn't tell her annoying bully of a mother to "f-off

and stop trying to run my life". And at the same time she should have dumped most of her so called friends. It's hard to really like a story when you don't like the MCs. Anyway the plot was just so forgettable that a couple of days after finishing it I can't even remember who the perp was or what happened to him or her. Sorry I know lots of readers like this one but it just didn't do it for me.

The Girls Across The Bay (Knox and Sheppard #1) by Emerald O'Brien

Date Read – 20190704

Rating 4 Stars

As I started this book I was a bit worried because I couldn't really decide if it was anywhere near as good as Emerald O'Brien's Ava Hart trilogy. I found the early part of this book a bit slow and repetitive and I didn't really think I liked Madigan and Grace too much and I was having a bit of a problem keeping all the characters straight. But as I got further into the story it sure picked up and turned into a really good mystery and well worth 4 stars. Settings and character development are superb while I still think Madigan is a bit whiny and fixated on her nightmare and Grace is a bit too skeptical and detached they sure turned out to be strong characters in the end. I actually liked John and felt very sorry for him and I guess they all had pretty good reasons, which Ms O'Brien expertly wove into the whole story, for their problems. And I never saw the twist coming to the reveal until Madigan figured it out. This is a well written, edited and proofread book with only a couple of possible wrong words like in this sentence "more often than she led on to my sister." and a later sentence using the word "thing" where I thought "think" more appropriate but in both cases it is arguable that "led" and "thing" are okay as written. I quite liked this book and I am looking forward to book 2 of this series and I highly recommend them but I'm sure they must be read in order.

The Shadow Man (Paladin Project Chronicles #3) by Solomon Knight

Date Read – 20190702

Rating 4 Stars

Ok I'm not going to write a great detailed review here except to say this was every bit as hilarious as "Be Careful What You Wish For", if not more so, and had as even better mystery with lots of great superhero action and a twist that I never saw coming and the good guys all won and the bad guys met appropriate endings. And the names! Wow!

Here's some of them – LAUGH now!

“A Signor Donnatella Dacoppas.

Detective Colin Daboise

Dr. Kent C. Detrees

Professor Wishfulthinkin

International Court of Justice, Ella Mental

Kent Phail

Mynju Manners”

And this one includes a slight proofreading error -

At the beginning of the book she is named - “Dr. Ophelia Paine”

Later in book the name changed to - “Dr. Ophelia Payne”

I'll sure read more of these when I need another good load of laughs.

In the Shadow of Death by Gwendolyn Southin

Date Read – 20190630

Rating 3 Stars

This has rapidly become one of my favourite series and I have no idea why I haven't been reading these much sooner as I've had the whole series in my library for some time. This one has a good missing person case, a couple of current murders and a bit of a cold case, lots of great scenery, bad roads, scary plane rides and wild action and a fantastic twist that I never saw coming although I think I should have. Pretty solid ending although one of the bad guys does kind of ride off into the sunset with a bag full of money but a pretty strong hint that the Mountie, Brossard, who turned out to be a pretty good cop after all, would as usual, “get his man?”. Nat and Maggie are a great team and I hope they both can stay in one piece long enough to keep on investigating and Henny is something else again and sure helps that wimpy, whiny Harry to provide quite a few laughs to lighten things up. And, of course, we can't forget Emily! I recommend this book but I think these should definitely be read in order.

Apple Die (Apple Orchard Cozy #1) by Chelsea Thomas

Date Read – 20190628

Rating 2 Stars

2 stars because I finished it but I didn't find it a satisfactory read. I didn't really like any of the characters as I thought Miss May was ludicrous, silly and over the top and Chelsea is just a whiny, crying wimp and the whole plot is just so forgettable that now, 2 days after reading it, I can't even remember the story or how it ended. And on top of all that I never found any of the advertised humour. I suspect a lot of readers will like this one but not me and I will not be wasting my precious reading time on any more by these authors.

PARADE OF DEAD LAWYERS: (A Lighthearted Murder Mystery) by Donald W. Desaulniers

Date Read – 20190627

Rating 4 Stars

I enjoyed this book immensely and I have rated it 4 stars which is something I seldom do for the first book in a series by a new, to me, author and I may have only done that because I am a bit personally prejudiced here. You see I was born and raised in Belleville and although I moved away in 1963 I was back many times as my dad and mom lived there until they both passed away. My dad had barber shops on Front St. and later on Victoria Ave across the street from CJBQ radio station. We lived on the West Hill and many, many times I walked across the footbridge and up that alley between Eaton's and Geen's Drugstore! So I really got a huge kick out of recognizing all the places Larry and his friends and Amanda lived and visited and Mr Desaulniers sure got it pretty well bang on. Besides all that this was a pretty good mystery with lot's of bodies and eventually a decent investigation and although I had guessed the perp and even the motive long before the early reveal there was still lot's of action and plans to keep my interest until the wrap up. I'm not a huge fan of the perp in a mystery story being killed off in some way before being locked up but this guy was sure an extremely unlucky creep and his ending was appropriate for his bad luck. Of course at the same time Larry is surely the most lucky hero I've found in a long time even if it's a bit far out and over the top that he survived so many beatings and accidents and stilled walked away. And I mustn't forget the good amount of humour that produced enough chuckles and laughs to lighten things up a bit. I'll sure read more by Mr Desaulniers especially as his books are all available at such acceptable prices.

