

## **Poodle Versus The Assassin** (Cottage Country Cozy Mysteries Book 1) by Anne Shillolo

Date Read: 20200802

My rating: 3 stars

This is a very good first book in what appears to be the beginning of an enjoyable series. I have read and enjoyed books in other series by Ms Shillolo and I am happy to have found a Canadian author writing cozy mysteries and it's a bonus to have this series set in a Canadian location because there are very few that are. This book is probably worth more than the 3 stars I have awarded but 3 stars to me mean that I liked and enjoyed it enough that I'll definitely read more in this series and I do like to leave room in a series debut for characters to evolve and mature although those that appear to be recurring characters are already so well developed that it's hard to see how they will improve. And what a bunch of likeable characters we meet in Zora, Brady, Olivia and Barbara from the newspaper, Zora's good friend Marley, and Police chief Arni and, of course, the real Star of the show – Rocco! This story is a bit grittier than the run of the mill cozy with a pretty serious plot, lot's of suspects and a few surprises and a solid and satisfactory ending following some good detective work by Zora, greatly aided by Rocco, and a great chase scene on one of those "Summer Roads" which I am personally aware of and have driven on in Ontario. Although it isn't as hilarious as some of the blurbs and some reviews indicated it still has lot's of smiles and chuckles and a couple of great LOLs when Rocco gets going on one of his expeditions. Anyway an enjoyable break after finishing a couple of real dark and serious novels and I'm looking forward to book 2 which I'll soon need 'cause right now I'm reading Rick Mofina's latest release and I'm sure most readers know what to expect in a Rick Mofina book!