



A Deal to Die For

Josie Belle (Pseudonym), Jenn McKinlay

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Letting no good deal go undone, the Good Buy Girls are ready to pounce on the St. Stanley flea market, where wealthy Vera Madison is selling off her vintage clothing. The widow's wardrobe is just what Maggie Gerber needs to give her second-hand shop, My Sister's Closet, the edge over vindictive rival Summer Phillips, who's opened her own second-hand shop across the street.

But when Vera is found dead, it turns out that she collected enemies like Dior gowns -- and had more than a few skeletons in her walk-in closet. Now it's up to Maggie and the Good Buy Girls to sort through the racks of suspects for the killer and get back to the business of bargains...

A Deal to Die For Details

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From Reader Review A Deal to Die For for online ebook

Jennifer Brown says

Another nice cozy by Jenn McKinlay. I do feel that the main character isn't quite as mature as she should be for being (I believe) around 40. I also think that some of the scenarios that happen are way too unlikely. That being said, I really love the bond between the main 4 characters. There's even a mean-girl in town that you hate but love that she's there torturing them! Their friendship with each other and the other small-town characters is great! I can't wait to visit again!!

Melodie says

Yet another dud! Jenn McKinlay, which is who Josie Belle really is, is far too good a writer to write such childish characters! Maggie & Summer just got on my last nerve. I know there really are grown people who act like they do, I just thank God that I don't know any as I'd have to be slapping them all the time! A pity that the characters are so bad since the mystery was actually a pretty good one. I really don't think I'll bother with another one of these!

Debra Davis says

Lousy. Don't bother. Shallow characters, dumb plot, improbable legal problems.

Robin Thomsen says

always a fun quick read

bella says

Maggie and the Good Buy Girls are back and ready to solve another mystery. This time they are headed to the St Stanley Flea Market hoping to pick up a few good deals, especially as Maggie needs to stock her newly bought business, My Sister's Closet. They are intending on buying some of the wealthy Vera Madison's vintage clothing, however when Vera turns up dead Maggie and the girls turn their heads to investigation.

I really enjoyed the first book in this series, 50% Off Murder, and I was really looking forward to the second release. If my frantic reading over the last 24 hours is any indication, A Deal to Die For is even better than 50% Off Murder!! I absolutely couldn't put this book down, and that's saying a lot since I have a busy life of work, family and blogging.

I adore Maggie and her friends. The girls are all different enough that I think any reader will see a little of

themselves in at least one of them, and completely relate to them. For me, it's Ginger with her house full of boys, who still has time to be a great friend, help find a murderer and hunt out great bargains!!

I really enjoyed the murder mystery. Maggie's boss, Doc, finds Vera's body and becomes a suspect, and what of the sudden tension between Doc and his long-time wife, Alice. It all looks very suspect, especially when you add in long lost sister staking a claim on the Madison estate!

The mystery will definitely keep you guessing till the end, and the characters will have you coming back for more! I absolutely can't wait to see what is in store for Maggie and the girls (not to mention Maggie's love life) in Buried in Bargain, when it's released in October, 2013.

Jeannie and Louis Rigid says

The Good Buy girls are ready to help Maggie Gerber stock her new vintage clothing store when they have to turn their attention to helping Maggie solve a local murder.

Wealthy widow, Vera Madison is found dead and that puts a stop in the St. Stanley flea market. When Maggie finds Doc a suspect in the case, she speeds up her personal investigation.

I have to say that the rivalry between two forty+ year olds has grown tiring to me. I loved the first book but this book didn't have any vintage sales, somehow the store is stocked, but we are not shown how, and too much time was spent on Maggie's romantic life. The mystery was interesting.

*** Jennifer says**

Josie Bell is a pseudonym for Jenn McKinley, currently one of the best cozy mystery writers out there. I love her two other series and it really bothers me that I can't love this one as well.

What I absolutely can't stand about this book (and series):

Maggie acts about as immature as is possible around Sam her high school sweetheart. It's screamingly obvious that he's crazy about her and she insists on acting like a stupid shrew during just about every encounter with him. It's annoying, not entertaining or endearing.

Summer - This character is just too stupid, too over the top, and too outrageous to be believable or entertaining. She's ridiculous and nobody actually acts like this over the age of 6. Why writers suddenly feel it's necessary to work a nemesis into every story/series is a mystery in and of itself, but if they have to do it, they could do it in a realistically humorous fashion, not in such an overblown caricature-ish fashion.

What kept me reading this book in spite of the above:

I genuinely like most of the characters: Sam, Ginger, Max, even Maggie when she's not acting like a stupid shrew. I like the premise of the story and I like reading about Maggie getting her business up and running.

The mystery was a good one - I am pretty good at guessing the murderer most of the time, but this plot had a good number of suspects, red herrings, clues-that-weren't and distractions aplenty. I still guessed a few things, but not at all with any certainty, I was totally prepared to be wrong.

And last, but not least, I kept reading because I know this author is capable of writing absolutely excellent mysteries and I know it's in there somewhere. This book, like her first in this series 50% Off Murder, started off weak but got better as the story went along - Maggie calmed down and acted like a mature adult, her interactions with Sam took on a maturity and allowed a spark or sexual tension to show through - which really, it's what we're all looking for yes? - and become an enjoyable, engrossing read.

So, would I recommend this book? Meh. Maybe. With caveats. It *does* get much better as it goes. But I want her next book to be excellent from the start, like the other books this author writes. I'll be looking for it when it's published, with fingers crossed.

Amy says

This series is very enjoyable. It moves quickly but I don't feel rushed in reading it and read it in almost one sitting. The romantic tension between Maggie and Sam continues to develop naturally and doesn't overpower the mystery of the book. Several other storylines of characters who seemed secondary play a key role in this installment.

I definitely would recommend this series. Although it could be read as a "stand-a-lone," I recommend reading 50% off Murder, the first book.

Lynn says

If you enjoy Jenn McKinlay's Library Lovers and Hat Shop "mysteries" with Lindsey and Scarlett's BFF posses, and their weird denials of serious attraction to the men they won't allow in their lives (despite endless chest-tightening, lip tingling, breathless, smoldering glances), then suspend disbelief and any knowledge you might have of ethical police procedure or estate law, wait for a rainy afternoon, and dive into this one. It's the same thing.

Syretta says

This one was worse than the first one. I feel like I'm reading about grown people reenacting their past high school lives in a daily basis. The plot was good but the characters just got on my nerves! Maggie seems a bit naive, especially when she thinks that her employer and his wife can do no wrong and have no issues..seriously!

I wanted to like this series but not sure I'll be reading another one...

meghann says

I really love these books. Does it make me a terrible person, though, if I hope that Summer is the murder victim in the next book? I just really can't stand that bitch and want her to go away. Ugh.

Book Concierge says

2.5**

Book two in the Good Buy Girls cozy mystery series has Maggie opening a new resale shop in her Virginia community. Of course her high school nemesis, Summer Philips, opens a rival shop directly across the street. They both head to the annual fair, hoping to snag some designer cast-offs from the town's wealthy widow. But the fair has barely begun when Vera is found dead at Doc Franklin's office, with Doc kneeling by her side. Who murdered Vera?

This has all the elements of a successful cozy series – a nosy heroine amateur sleuth, romantic tension, a hot police chief, a troop of loyal friends who help our heroine, and a cast of colorful local citizens who fill all the ancillary roles needed.

What lowers the rating for me is the rivalry between Maggie and Summer. It is SOOooo junior high and these are women in their early forties. Get a life, already. I don't mind the years-long enmity and rivalry itself. After all, such a relationship is a trope of this genre, but the way they're portrayed in this series is just so juvenile that it sets my teeth on edge.

Well, it won't (and hasn't) stop me reading them. The book is a fast read and satisfies my occasional need for some mind candy.

Grey853 says

There are several keys to writing a good cozy. One has to be including a character one respects and enjoys. Another one is setting. The final one is plot.

This one misses on two of the three. While the setting and set up work, the character and plot miss by quite a bit.

I liked the premise of the story, that being starting up a vintage clothing shop. What didn't work for me was that Maggie, the main character, acts more like a teenager than an adult. In fact none of the characters appealed to me. It was like watching people fight in high school, with lots of name calling and bullying. That's fine if it's supposed to be a YA book, but this isn't. The feud between Maggie and Summer was ridiculous and absurd.

As to the plot, again, it's not very intriguing and didn't really keep me interested.

I can't recommend the book and won't go looking for the other book in the series.

D says

Maggie buys a second-hand shop and is working on getting it ready to reopen. There is a murder in the doctor's office where Maggie does the bookkeeping. With friends under suspension, Maggie does what she does best trying to find the real culprit. Romance comes in the guise of two suitors for Maggie.

Sabine says

The 2nd book in the Good Bye Girl series is just as entertaining as the 1st one. A very interesting mystery that kept me guessing until the end. The arguments and interactions between Summer and Maggie are entertaining but a bit over the top.
