



Chain of Fools

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Private Investigator Donald Strachey is asked to look into the events surrounding the months-old murder of Eric Osborne. His death, originally believed to be a random attack, takes on new significance when Janet Osborne, Eric's sister, survives an attempt on her life. Skeeter, Eric's lover, believed both attacks were meant to silence them before the sale of their family's newspaper. drawn into a complex family feud, Strachey must unravel the secret behind the attacks before he tries again...

Chain of Fools Details

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Author : Richard Stevenson

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From Reader Review Chain of Fools for online ebook

Chris says

Good gay mystery in which Done investigates what may be one part of a family turning against another over selling the family's award-winning newspaper to pay off debts.

Bill says

This was my first Donald Strachey mystery story. I have seen one of the movies made for here! TV, don't remember which one.

I found it to be a good page turner. A nice quick summer read, not too heavy and not too light, but just right!

I'll be reading more Strachey books in the future that's for sure.

Neet says

In this 6th in the Don Strachey mysteries we find our intrepid PI investigating who killed Eric Osborne and now attempting to kill various members of his family. Tim gets a call from an ex high school lover who wants Don to investigate. Unfortunately, Skeeter (as he was called during that long ago time) has been hospitalized, and talking incoherently about good chains, bad chains, daisy chains, and chains of fools and about his love of Tim and anger at the way Tim left him. Thankfully, Eric's sister Janet comes in and explains that the Osborne family is attempting to sell the family newspaper, and it has caused a division among family members. Some want to sell the paper to a big chain that won't hold the progressive mission that paper held forth. Yet other members of the family want to sell it to another that will continue the progressive mission of the newspaper, but it will be for less money to be divided by the members of the family. Eric, Janet, Dan and their mother was for the smaller chain. With the attempts on Janice and now brother Dan's life could greed be the culprit? I really like this book. I also love the character Dale (Janet's younger lover of 8 years) who is just as much a smart ass as Don. Dale has a past with Tim and something and it might not be good. She's not about to tell him what he did to make her wary of him and neither shall I. This is a good read though and another highly recommended book in the series. Also, there is finally a likeable person in law enforcement, Bill Stankie, who works as the sheriff in the town where the Osborne's live is tolerant, patient, and respects Don's abilities. Though he is conservative, he admits to having a gay son who is in a long term relationship with a man in the police department of another city. Bill has learned to love and respect his son's relationship though he admits it took time.

Josh says

Probably my least favorite of the Strachey novels. This one feels a little detached and impersonal, although it's still well-written and entertaining.

Karen says

Donald Strachey #6. Some great lines and witty dialogue as usual, but things are taken very lightly for all the murder and mayhem described. Strachey seems more cynical than usual. I suppose that was fitting for the times. The epilogue regarding the newspaper is redundant. Maybe not so much when this was written, but certainly in light of how things have gone since then.

Lori S. says

A newspaper on the brink of extinction and a family at war with itself. Don Strachey's got his hands full, but when Timmy Callahan gets caught in the cross fire, he's not a happy man.

In the end I enjoyed this story, but it felt a bit thin and a rare thing for me, I actually sussed out the culprit at about the same time Don did.

Joe Scholes says

This was a quick read. The story was OK, but I really liked the characters. Stevenson's sense of humor comes through really well, and he had me laughing out loud in several places.

Steven Kruger says

Not his best--but still not bad.

B says

I JUST LOVE TIMMY SO MUCH

Graham Crawford says

a good solid detective story with a non- stereotyped gay twist. i got into these books via the movies - which are pleasant but a bit twee, and was happy to discover that the original books are quite a bit smarter, sharper, and more political.

Montana says

The new MLR Press editions, at least the ebook versions, have a disappointing number of typographical problems, both minor and major.

Adam Dunn says

Sometimes you read a few lines of the reviews on Goodreads before you read the book and it taints your experience. This kind of happened here. The number one review of this book says it's the worst of the series. I will agree it's the worst so far. The set-up is more out of a Hardy Boys novel and the too-large cast of characters makes the read confusing.

"Don and Timmy Hardy get caught in a chain of deceit when an old newspaper man tries to swindle them out of dough. Thrill as they dodge a skidoo on a cabin lake! Will the old curmudgeon get his way, or will his plot be foiled once again by those rotten kids? Tune in to find out!"

Gilliam says

Too much cutting corners with exposition and filling in the cracks with ineffectual melodrama surrounding Timothy's past really saps the life out of what's left of the narrative.

Lena♥Ribka says

3,5 stars.

It's probably the weakest installment in the Don Strachey's Mystery IMO. Not only because I found the case less interesting than usually-

A distinguished New York State family whose members apparently were trying to kill one another off for reasons of ideology and/or cash.

-but mostly because I didn't feel Don's presence the way I got used to feel it in the previous installments: Dan's first person POV could be a third person POV-I wouldn't have noticed any different.

Paul says

Okay, I liked the story and the characters, set up and ending, but the epilogue - one part weird (and maybe a little jump of the shark) and the last paragraph, wrapping up a secondary storyline, was just way too sad for me. Such an odd way to end the book... Onward I go.

