



## Pray For Us Sinners

*Peter S. Fischer*

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## **Pray For Us Sinners** Peter S. Fischer

Joe finds himself in Quebec but it's no vacation. Alfred Hitchcock is shooting a suspenseful thriller called "I Confess" and Montgomery Clift is playing a priest accused of murder. A marriage made in heaven? Hardly. They have been at loggerheads since Day One and to make matters worse their feud is spilling out into the newspapers. When vivacious Jeanne D'Arcy, the director of the Quebec Film Commission volunteers to help calm the troubled waters, Joe thinks his troubles are over but that was before Jean got into a violent spat with a former lover and suddenly found herself under arrest on a charge of first degree murder. Guilty or not guilty? Half the clues say she did it, the other half say she is being brilliantly framed. But by who? Fingers point to the crooked Gonsalvo brothers who have ties to the Buffalo mafia family and when Joe gets too close to the truth, someone tries to shut him up... permanently. With the Archbishop threatening to shut down the production in the wake of the scandal, Joe finds himself torn between two loyalties.

## **Pray For Us Sinners Details**

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Author : Peter S. Fischer

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## From Reader Review Pray For Us Sinners for online ebook

### Wendy says

Loved the old look and feel to this story. It really takes you back to the traditional mystery and suspense stories without making the storyline feel old and worn out. There were twists and turns the threw me off as I read and I loved every nuance. Great book.

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### Maxine says

"Joe finds himself in Quebec but it's no vacation. Alfred Hitchcock is shooting a suspenseful thriller called "I Confess" and Montgomery Clift is playing a priest accused of murder. A marriage made in heaven? Hardly. They have been at loggerheads since Day One and to make matters worse their feud is spilling out into the newspapers. When vivacious Jeanne D'Arcy, the director of the Quebec Film Commission volunteers to help calm the troubled waters, Joe thinks his troubles are over but that was before Jeanne got into a violent spat with a former lover and suddenly found herself under arrest on a charge of first degree murder. Guilty or not guilty? Half the clues say she did it, the other half say she is being brilliantly framed."

I wouldn't say I was a huge fan of Murder She Wrote but I liked it. It was cozy; it was nice; it had Angela Lansbury. So, when I saw Pray for Us Sinners by one of the writers from the show, I just couldn't turn it down. My reaction to it, though, is mixed. The parts of the novel concerning the making of the movie are well worth the read for anyone who is a fan of classic films and it is my opinion for what it's worth that I Confess is an underappreciated gem. I especially enjoyed the parts about the relationship between Montgomery Clift and Alfred Hitchcock.

However, when it came to the mystery itself, the novel left me somewhat dissatisfied. In fairness, most of that is really on me because I believe that historical mysteries should be somewhat accurate to time and place and the mystery here is much too modern for this particular time and place. Pray for Us Sinners is set in Quebec City in the early 1950s when the Church and provincial government had a very symbiotic relationship. Much of the story hinges on the desire of one of the characters for a divorce – simple point to move the story along only this would have been highly unlikely since, historically, divorce was, except in very rare instances, illegal in Quebec until 1968. If someone wanted out of a marriage, in most cases, they would have sought an annulment from the Church, not a divorce. I also question if the so-called proof of the heroine's innocence would have played in Peoria in the 1950s, never mind Quebec. Heck, I'm not sure it would play in many places today.

However, I'm guessing that most people are not as obsessed as I am with the accuracy of historical trivia in novels and there are enough shoot-em-up car chases, plot twists and red herrings to make this a fun, fast read. Oh, and did I mention Montgomery Clift and Hitchcock!

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### Patricia Ann says

Fischer's *Pray for Us Sinners* is another Hollywood novel in the early 1950's period. It is a change from Kaminsky's 1940's Hollywood novels. The main character is charge of all press releases and is involved with a murder suspect. It is a fast easy mystery with the addition of learning the personalities of people like Hitchcock and Montgomery Clift. I enjoyed reading Kaminisky's Hollywood and now I have Fischer's Hollywood books.

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### **Teresa says**

"From the title I really expected a different type of book but I was pleased to note that it is a Hitchcock reference that was in alignment with the film noir style of the book."  
read more: <http://likeiamfeasting.blogspot.com/2...>

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### **Edythe Hamilton says**

"War is being waged at Notre-Dame-des-Victories. This is not a battleground....this is a church in the center of Quebec City, Canada...At stake is not life...but the well being of a motion picture.....on one side we have Montgomery Clift.....on the other side, we have Alfred Hitchcock...the film is entitled "I Confess"." And so begins this murder mystery novel as seen through the eyes of Joe Bernardi, a Press Agent, on location for Warner Studios. He narrates the fictional story with humor, sarcasm and preciseness.

Initially, he is searching for a former friend. "I hired Wiley to track down my former live-in, Bunny Leshner, who I had every intention of making my wife number two." So tell me, how does Bernardi get involved in a murder mystery? "I'm Jeanne d'Arcy with the Quebec Province Film Commission and you're my new assistant." She is a beautiful redhead reminiscent of Rita Hayworth. When she is arrested for the murder of her boyfriend, Bernardi jumps into action to prove her innocence.

This novel reads like a classic black and white noir film. It is smooth, smart and sassy. You can imagine the main character narrating his unspoken thoughts as the story progresses. All that was missing was the suspenseful music.

Mr. Fischer has written a classy novel. It has all the mystery and 'who-dunnit' panache of a novel-to-movie screen in the making. If you love murder mysteries in true form, then this is the book for you. I recommend that all murder mystery fiction lovers grab a copy right away. Kudos! to you Mr. Fischer.

(I receive this book free from Grove Point Press for review purposes)

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### **Cindy says**

*Pray For Us Sinners* was the first book I've read in *The Hollywood Murder Mysteries*. This was book 7 so I think I would have enjoyed it more if I had started with the first in the series.

It took me awhile to really get interested in the story but then I did enjoy it. It was a well written book and

mystery. I didn't really feel connected to the main character, Joe. I did enjoy that Alfred Hitchcock was the person shooting the film and I believe that adds some fun to the story.

If you like mysteries and old Hollywood actors and movies, I would recommend you read this book or the whole series of Hollywood murder mysteries!

\* I received this book from the publisher and NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Libby says**

A classic noir mystery. The expected stereotypical characters mingle with real life stars like Alfred Hitchcock in 1950s Quebec in this well-written tale of romance and murder.

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### **Lindsay Wilcox says**

I was drawn in more by the background topic (the filming of Hitchcock's "I Confess") than by the main murder mystery. The mystery was fine, but nothing to write home about. It's just not my thing. I also had trouble keeping up with so much information about so many characters I'd probably never see again even if I kept reading the series.

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### **Lynda Birch says**

This is the first book I have read in the Hollywood Murder Mysteries series and I thoroughly enjoyed it. The story generally revolves around the making of a Hitchcock film in the early 1950's. Since I love films from this era and in particular Hitchcock, I thought this would be a good book to discover the series. I wasn't disappointed.

Please see my full review on my blog

<http://birch-bark.blogspot.ca/>

I received my copy through NetGalley.

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### **Ivyd says**

3.5 stars

PRAY FOR US SINNERS is the seventh in the Joe Bernardi series.

Joe, Alfred Hitchcock, Montgomery Clift, and Anne Baxter are in Quebec, Canada filming "I Confess". Joe balances taking care of assorted production, media, and actor problems with solving the murder of high profile defense attorney Daniel Bruckner.

PRAY FOR US SINNERS, set against the backdrop of Hitchcock and Montgomery Clift's difference

difficulties while filming “I Confess” in Quebec, brings the glamour and mystique of old Hollywood to brilliant life.

Joe Bernardi works in the Press and Publicity Department of Warner Brothers Studios. Joe refers to himself as a feather merchant. He makes the stars brighter, runs interference, and fixes problems. Considering the egos and magnitude of those around him that’s hardly an easy job even on a good day. Despite never having read any of the prior books I had no trouble following the characters nor did I ever feel at a loss. That being said, my curiosity has definitely been aroused about exactly who Bunny is and why she inspires such passion and devotion in Joe. I’ll be searching out the first six to answer those questions.

The who and why of Daniel’s murder was fairly predictable and easily solved; especially for those who read or watch a lot of mysteries. In all honesty it wasn’t the mystery that kept me reading. What captured me was the treasure trove of wonderful characters, both real and created, the true life story surrounding the filming of “I Confess”, and feeling I’d been transported to early 1950’s Quebec.

PRAY FOR US SINNERS is nostalgia with a side of mystery.

Reviewed by IvyD for Manic Readers & Miss Ivy's Book Nook

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## **Louise says**

An entertaining mystery. This mystery offers an enjoyable trip back in time, from the perspective of a public relations man working for Warner Brothers Studio live behind the scenes as Alfred Hitchcock directs the movie I Confess, with Montgomery Clift, in Quebec City, Canada in 1953. The non-fiction background offers the fictional protagonist a great chance to jump into and “fix” a murder mistakenly attributed to a flashy female friend, much to the annoyance of an inept police investigator. The characterization is good, and the plot is lively. The book is well-researched, plausible, and fun to read.

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## **Anna says**

Apparently this is just one book in a series, which completely makes sense. Overall, I enjoyed the plot but found the characters a little shallow as far as development goes (but again I get it now that I know it's not the 1st). The story was also written in first person present tense which threw me off a time or two but it was a refreshing change of pace from most novels I have read. I really want to read the other stories now!

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## **Jo Dervan says**

Joe Bernardi is a public relations guy working in Quebec on a movie directed by Alfred Hitchcock, and starring Montgomery Clift, Karl Malden and some other popular Hollywood stars of that era. Joe meets Jeanne D'Arcy, a Canadian public relations person and is smitten. However after they have dinner together, Jeanne gets involved in a public dispute with a man outside the restaurant. The man is the former boyfriend of Jeanne and he turns up dead the next morning. Jeanne is arrested and jailed. Joe is sure that she didn't do it and spends the rest of the story proving her innocence to a smug Police inspector who seems certain of Jeanne's guilt and is not willing to acknowledge her innocence. This story takes place on the set of a real movie that was shot in 1952 in Canada. The author used the movie as the fictional backdrop for the story.

This is an interesting mystery series because the author, a Hollywood script writer, uses a background familiar to him to weave the stories.

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