



Backstab

Elaine Viets

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BACK STAB is a mystery about the newspaper business--which has always been murder. Now someone is killing off readers, and the St. Louis City Gazette can't afford to lose circulation. Gazette columnist Francesca Vierling takes these deaths personally--reliable sources are hard to find--and Francesca's search for the killer takes her into the strange side streets of St. Louis, including a visit to the Miss Gender Bender Pageant, a beauty contest for female impersonators. Along the way Francesca must determine if her own blood soaked past is clouding her view of the future.

Backstab Details

Date : Published September 8th 1997 by Dell Publishing Company

ISBN : 9780440224310

Author : Elaine Viets

Format : Paperback 320 pages

Genre : Mystery, Fiction, Thriller, Mystery Thriller

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From Reader Review Backstab for online ebook

Thom says

I enjoyed this book. An easy read. Very similar to Sue Grafton's books, only with a journalist instead of a private detective. A fun break from serious non-fiction fare.

Leslie aka StoreyBook Reviews says

This is one of Elaine Viets' older series. This is the first of four books about Francesca Vierling, a reporter in St. Louis. Two people she knows are killed and while it appears like it could be random or natural causes, she just doesn't think that they could be and that someone must have killed Burt & Ralph....but who?

I thought the books was good, I think I like her dead end job series better but this was a good book and I have the other three to read so we shall see!

Diane says

I was in the mood for a cozy when I spotted this one. I knew the author is from St. Louis, which is my hometown as well. Although written 20 years ago, I still enjoyed the charm as well as the mention of many familiar places. I had no idea that Malden MO was ever considered a "rich" area. My husband's family hails from there, and the downtown Malden I know is far from prosperous! Think I'll go to breakfast at Uncle Bill's Pancake House!

Judith says

Coincidentally, the day a family member was moving to St Louis, an entry from this series showed up in a BookBub email for 99 cents, so I thought, "What the heck?" I bought the four novels, of which this is the first, to get some St Louis flavor, and I did. (I've learned a great deal about the whole mostaccioli v ziti thing.) As a crime novel, it's ridiculous, but I expected that.

Beatrice says

Pretty Good

I enjoyed reading Backstab by Elaine Viet's. The plot is interesting and so are the characters. I will read the next book.

Karen Christino says

I like Viets' dead-end job mysteries, but Backstab is from an earlier series (dated 1997 and I had to buy it second hand). Excellent St. Louis atmosphere from the newspaper reporter-protagonist's perspective, and darker, more ironic, than Viet's later work, which felt genuine but not too heavy. Surprisingly contemporary plot involving murder of a transvestite and two other locals. Didn't take off until about half-way through, but it's not an especially fast-moving book.

Ed says

#1 in the Francesca Vierling series. This 1997 entry is Elaine Viets mystery debut and predates her Dead End Job and Mystery Shopper cozy series. Newspaper columnist Francesca Vierling is drawn into the mystery surrounding the deaths of two of her friends in the same week. Her love of St. Louis shines through and there are some great vignettes within this novel. Having all the clues blatantly point to the same place, although it takes Francesca much longer than the reader to interpret one of them, is a bit of overkill. An enjoyable read, but a mixed bag on style and technique. I'm looking forward to a tighter construction in the balance of this short (4 entries) series.

Francesca Vierling series - The newspaper business has always been murder. Now someone is killing off readers, and the St. Louis City Gazette can't afford to lose circulation. Gazette columnist Francesca Vierling takes these deaths personally--reliable sources are hard to find--and Francesca's search for the killer takes her into the strange side streets of St. Louis, including a visit to the Miss Gender Bender Pageant, a beauty contest for female impersonators. Along the way Francesca must determine if her own blood soaked past is clouding her view of the future.

Angie says

Fun read! Elaine Viets is from St Louis and the mystery takes place all over the city. I loved the use of the local areas.

John Bohnert says

I like to read crime fiction about newspaper reporters.
I've now read two of the four novels in this series.
I'm going to read the third book next.

Mary says

Entertaining murder mystery that kept me guessing most of the time. But what I really liked was the St. Louis location. The author painted a very clear picture of the South Side which I really enjoyed having lived there for several years. I also enjoyed the side stories she told. True or not, I found them very entertaining

and believable. What I didn't like was the way she told, rather than showed so much about Francesca and other characters. I certainly helped me understand why Francesca was so broken but it seemed like the easy way out. Still, I enjoyed story and might read another book in the series.

Janeene says

St. Louis author
