



Silence of the Hams

Jill Churchill

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Pompous, pig-headed attorney Robert Stonecipher is a major pain in the ham hocks. So no one is terribly upset when he's fatally mashed by a falling rock of hams at the new deli where suburban single mom Jane Jeffry's son works part-time.

But when Stonecipher's most obnoxious employee meets an equally appropriate end, Jane knows the fat's really in the fire. And though her homicide detective honey Mel VanDyne disapproves, Jane is determined to dive headfirst into this deadly daze of swine and neuroses -- and hunt a hog-wild murderer despite her own killer agenda as homemaker/PTA/church/community busyperson.

Silence of the Hams Details

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From Reader Review Silence of the Hams for online ebook

xx Sarah xx (former Nefarious Breeder of Murderous Crustaceans) says

I'm afraid I found this book a bit boring, even though I liked the main characters and the set-up of the story. The plot is quite uneventful, unfortunately, and I had a hard time finishing the book...

Mary Newcomb says

Two mysterious deaths seem oddly linked. Jane and Shelley help sort it all out and take on a new sidekick.

Jennifer says

Silence of the Hams is one of the very best Jane Jeffry mysteries. It has tons of stuff going on with Mike's graduation, multiple deaths and the resiting investigation. A shockingly unexpected killer was almost just an added bonus with so much interesting back story.

The graduating seniors are treated to a mandatory school-sponsored post-graduation party. The entire thing sounded fabulous, from the decorations in each themed area to the prizes each kid won. Jane's mother-in law and brother-in-law are in attendance for the graduation and any visit from the in-laws always results in funny rudeness. Two characters in Silence of the Hams are controlling types always on one crusade or another for the betterment of the community against the actual desires of said community. Plus, a dead body found under a pile of hams that leads to a lot of time we get to see Jane investigating with Shelley in tow. Silence of the Hams was a delightfully fun, quick and breezy book with a very surprising killer and motive.

Linda Famous says

I got this at a book sale and it was the first book I'd read by this author. I had a difficult time beginning the book and keeping the various characters straight. I could see this is called a Jane Jeffry book, but Jane and her best friend are equally used throughout the book and almost either could be the main character. I know sometimes a series can feel repetitive by re-introducing the main characters, but in this case the book wasn't written very well to be the first book a reader picks in the series. I wasn't given an immediate reason to like or connect with Jane.

Also, I didn't get a sense of time or setting from the first chapter. It would have helped to know it was set in the midwest - various words and phrases used aren't common on the East Coast. And I'm only guessing that it's set in the midwest because that's where it says the author is from - I'm not sure anything in the book specifies. It might not seem like it matters, but there are definitely some things that appeared "strange" to me that giving a setting would have explained (and then I wouldn't have given it a second thought).

For a "murder mystery" it definitely tries to be pleasant about it - no blood, no mess. And it seemed a little forced at times why Jane is bothering to investigate - various reasons are given but none are that compelling. I never felt like she had any investment in finding the killer, and there was never any sense that she was in danger.

I did like the "mom" aspect to it and it seemed realistic - although most of it was done by "telling" instead of "showing." Only one of her children in this story seems to have any personality - her youngest seems to only be mentioned by name and is completely flat - I don't recall much if any dialogue with him. But maybe in other books more focus is given to the other children.

Cathy says

Great cozy where hams may have been used as a murder weapon. Two friends try a figure this out when an aerobics instructor is murdered (I thought I heard a few cheers when I read this).

Lindsay says

It took me a while to get into this book. The characters are fun but I wasn't very pulled in until closer to the middle and end of the book. I never stop reading a book though, so I finished and it turned out to be good.

Rhonda says

a cute cozy - one of many in a series. nothing in the way of character depth, but a cute, quick read.

Cyndee says

I like 'light' but this was perhaps ultra-light!

Judy says

One of many fine Jane Jeffry mysteries. It has a nice twist in the middle, and a nice surprise ending. I particularly enjoy the characterization of Jane, suburban mom and widow, who has a best-friend relationship with her next door neighbor, Shelley, who is confident and assertive. The pair make a bit of Holmes and Watson duo, although Holmes and Holmes would be a better depiction. A nice summer read.

Carol says

This is another of the Jane Jeffry mysteries. Jane and her neighbor Shelly again help the police solve a

murder in the neighborhood. Who wouldn't have wanted to murder the loud mouth, bigoted attorney Robert Stonecipher. But when his paralegal is found murdered too well... Quick little mystery reads that are pretty good at least till the ends. Why do writers have such a hard time wrapping up well???

Trudy says

I gave Jill Churchill another chance, and this Jane Jeffry mystery was much better than the last I read (the perfectly dreadful Accidental Florist). I enjoy a cozy mystery, and Churchill mixes humor into her entertaining (though lightweight) plot.

Dawn says

Why did I buy this book? It's hard for me to get past the silly title, and I've started reading it three times now, only to be continually distracted by better books to read. So I'm going to retire it & call it a lost cause-- it hasn't captured my interest, though I've read about half of it. I feel bad, like I'm abandoning someone's baby.

Carrie says

This is a mom's mystery novel. I love the way the soccer mom Jane Jeffry helps her investigator boyfriend solve the mystery through gossip and nosy conversation. It's fun.

Kayla says

Favourite in the series so far.

Eva says

the biggest question i have about this book is why do people buy bags of ice?

Sonja says

Another great whodunnit!

Drebbles says

Jane Jeffrey's oldest son is growing up. He is graduating from high school and working part time at a local deli to earn some money. Jane thinks the only thing she needs to worry about Mike is that he be careful while driving the truck she gave him as a graduation present. But when obnoxious attorney Robert Stonecipher is murdered at the opening party for the deli, she's not sure she wants Mike working there. But he insists he'll be okay and Jane relents. When there is a second murder, Jane can't help investigating the deaths even if her boyfriend, homicide detective Mel VanDyne, doesn't like it.

"Silence of the Hams" is yet another great cozy mystery by Jill Churchill. As always, what makes the Jane Jeffry series so enjoyable is not necessarily the mystery but the details about Jane's family life. Jane's kids are growing up as the series progresses and Mike especially has grown. With his father's death he considers himself the man of the house and Jane is learning to treat him as an adult. Some of the best scenes in the book involve Mike, either directly or indirectly. One of those scenes is when Jane buys the truck for Mike. Her friend, Shelley Nowack, is great at wearing down the salesman and it is a very funny part of the book (wish I could take her with me next time I buy a car!) Equally well done is Mike's graduation party which sounds like a lot of fun. Jane's other children, Katie and Todd, are also well written, Katie especially so as she is going through the growing pains that come with being a teenager. Churchill does an excellent job of capturing the little things that make up life in the suburbs. The mystery itself is okay. Parts of it were a bit unbelievable and it's pretty clear from the beginning who the murderer is. But it's still a fun mystery to read.

Cozy mystery fans will enjoy "Silence of the Hams".

Sandie says

Arrogant, presumptuous, pretentious and infuriating are just a few adjectives that come to mind while trying to describe lawyer Robert Stonecipher. Is it any wonder that no one is upset or surprised when his dead body is discovered under an overturned rack of hams at the grand opening of a neighborhood deli.... an establishment whose opening he had done his best to prevent.

Within a day, another death occurs. Following in Stonecipher's footsteps in death as she had in life is his assistant, Emma Weyrich, victim number two.

Investigating police detective Mel VanDyne has his hands full. Not only does he have two dead bodies and enough suspects to sink the proverbial battleship, he also has a girlfriend named Jane, who along with her neighbor and gal pal Shelley, is bent on following the clues and solving the case.

Readers will be amused by the harried homemakers as they add detective work to their varied array of domestic duties. Not big on plot, this diverting story is a quick and entertaining read. To quote Forrest Gump, Jane and Shelley go together like "peas and carrots".....or maybe like ham on rye.

Mollie says

Silence of the Hams (Jane Jeffry Mysteries, No. 7) by Jill Churchill (1996)

Fairlee Corkran says

New series for me love the relationship between characters. Will continue with series.
