



# Blood and Groom

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Someone in Toronto has murdered nearly bankrupt art dealer Christine Arvisais's groom-to-be. Former rock band singer and neophyte private investigator Sasha Jackson lands the case because she's all Christine can afford. The high society gal was jilted at the altar and she's the prime suspect, not to mention Sasha's first major client.

Relying on wit, technology, luck, and a nerdy semi-stalker to help her clear the unlikable Christine, Sasha digs further into the muck only to discover high-finance shenanigans, an unnerving pattern of slaughtered fiancés, and a growing list of brides that never were who might be killers, not to mention murky secrets among the city's bluebloods, including drug addiction, art forgery, and possible insider trading.

In order to trap the murderer, Sasha enlists her ex-boyfriend and former band mate to pose as her fiancé, but will her ruse make her ex the next victim on the hit list and lead to her own untimely demise?

## **Blood and Groom Details**

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Author : Jill Edmondson

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# From Reader Review Blood and Groom for online ebook

## E.Michael Helms says

It's been a long time since I've come across a protagonist as entertaining as private investigator (and part-time ... well, I won't go there) Sasha Jackson. In fact, she might just have the most compelling "voice" to join the P.I. ranks in years. She's salty, ballsy, sarcastic, and fall-down funny, and all in a good way.

I'm generally a semi-slow reader because I love to savor words, but I found Sasha's narrative voice and the story's flow pulling me through the pages must faster than I normally devour a book. The humor, well-developed characters (even minor ones), and the plot kept me wanting to get back to "Blood and Groom" whenever I had to put it down. If there was a flaw in this fast-paced mystery, it was that I thought the killer was revealed too soon. However, a secondary, complicated plot with tentacles wrapping around several important players, kept me guessing.

And then there's bumbling, big-hearted Victor who plays an important role and proves to be far more than a pain in Sasha's shapely butt, but no spoilers here. I do hope he shows up in other Sasha Jackson mysteries. An overall great and fun read. I have others waiting in line on my Kindle Fire, and am looking forward to finding the time to read them!

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## Krista says

Funnier than I expected, and not gory at all; a modern take on the hard-boiled detective set in Toronto. The cover does it a disservice in my opinion by being misleadingly bloody; it would be more fitting to have a retro dime novel style, I think. I won a copy through a Goodreads giveaway and the author signed it with my name, which I thought was very sweet!

Sasha Jackson is beginning her career as a detective after coming to terms with never making it big as the singer in a rock band. She aims to do background checks and infidelity inquiries, not murder investigations. Still, when an "uptight, Monolo-clad Chihuahua" (Christine) hires her to investigate the murder of her ex-fiancé, Sasha agrees to try. The story is light and enjoyable, and Sasha's character is relatable in addition to being quite funny. I laughed out loud at some of the things she said. Since I live in the US, the Canadian references added a bit of semi-exotic locale.

I think the author did a good job and I'm pleased that this is the first in a series, but I think the editing could have used improvement. I don't usually notice editing, so it's a red flag to me if I think about it at all. Fortunately, this flaw was primarily apparent only near the beginning of the book, and it stopped bothering me (so either it got better or I got used to it, I'm not sure which) once I got past the first couple of chapters. I thought the mystery was appropriate for this type of book, in that there were enough but not too many clues (and red herrings) about the identity of the murderer. A likable narrator and a good mystery are the two things I look for in my detective fiction, so I'm looking forward to reading more about Sasha.

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## Helen says

The author, Jill Edmondson, lives in Toronto and teaches communications in the Faculty of Hospitality at George Brown College. While I have no idea what the Faculty of Hospitality is, I do know that Edmondson writes a fast-moving book with a hip protagonist named Sasha Jackson.

Sasha is fairly new to the private investigation world. Her former occupation was “rock band singer.” She gets hired to investigate the murder of a groom-to-be. The would-be bride is close to bankruptcy, but she hires Sasha, who’s happy to have her first major client. Just when you think Sasha has hit a wall in the investigation, she comes up with a way around the block, always pushing forward, on the trail of the murderer, getting people to talk to her, even when there’s no reason they should want to talk and every reason why they should not talk.

Sasha is a PI who doesn’t listen to those who tell her “no.” She thinks on her feet and can improvise when needed. Her tenacity leads her into the world of art, insider trading, drugs, high-finance, and high-society. Sasha also has a second, quite interesting job, but if you want to find out what that job is, you’ll have to read the book.

I liked following Sasha Jackson as she worked the case and the people involved. We get to be in her head and see how she’s thinking, which for me was an interesting experience since she’s a lot braver than I am.

I give *Blood and Groom* a rating of Hel-O since Jill Edmondson is a new-to-me author and *Blood and Groom* is a fast-paced, fun read.

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### **Lou Allin says**

This smart and sassy read introduces Sasha Jackson, a quick-witted PI in Toronto who finds herself embroiled in a problematical case involving the murder of a reluctant groom who left his bride at the altar. Nearly everyone Sasha interviews about the killing seems to have a connection with the man’s suspicious business dealings but a rock-solid alibi.

Sasha’s cheap and cheerful, a rookie in her field, moonlighting as a phone sex op who relies on humour to save her sanity while fast-talking her way into the most indiscreet information all the way to the top of the society page. Her Sri Lankan girlfriend pitches in with advice when they hop through a mine field of watering holes in the Big Smoke. In the background is a former boyfriend who helps her plan a preposterous wedding, all in the cause of research. Could be that a few dying embers are ready to spark back to life. Meanwhile, ex-musician Sasha kicks back by pounding a set of drums in her soundproofed basement den as a nerdy client turns up at the most inopportune times. A Kinsey Milhone for our time, she’s a fresh face with a lot of wild adventures ahead of her.

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### **Debra says**

Rookie P.I. Sasha Jackson doesn’t like her new client Christine Arvisais, but Christine is the only client she has and bills must be paid. Christine isn’t a fan of Sasha’s either, but since she’s the cheapest P.I. around, they learn to tolerate each other, up to a point. Christine wants Sasha to find out who killed her ex-fiancé, Gordon. The police investigation has gone nowhere and rumors persist that Christine killed him for dumping

her. Sasha's investigation takes her in directions she hadn't bargained for, and when things turn ugly she realizes how few people she can trust.

Blood and Groom is a delightful whodunit that mixes a gutsy, no-holds-bar protagonist with plenty of humor and angst as she tries to build her business and deal with an unwanted admirer. Author Jill Edmonson has created a wonderful character who speaks with the sarcasm and wit that most of us wish we had when dealing with jerks. I thoroughly enjoyed the puzzle solving and the cast of characters. Blood and Groom is part of a series, and I can't wait to see what Sasha is up to next.

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### **Lawrence says**

I started reading it yesterday and finished it today, not because it was short, but it really was an unputdownable easy read.

Not the type of book I'd normally read as I expected something Chick Lit, but although some people might put it in that category (as it's a female protagonist) I'd firmly put it in (very) entertaining crime fiction.

Jill Edmondson really lets you into the heart of the character, with all her ups and downs while investigating the murder of an ex-fiancée for a client

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Everything ties in very nicely at the end and it was a disappointment that the book was actually finished.

Sasha Jackson is the main character of the novel and I feel like I've known her all my life. A private investigator and sometimes premium telephone number answering girl, she carefully sifts through all angles of the investigation with some very interesting results.

As I said at the start, not something I'd normally buy, as I'm very much into Lee Child, Michael Connelly, et al, but will definitely be purchasing the other Sasha Jackson mysteries tomorrow.

Buy it. You won't be disappointed. (Male and female readers)

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### **Mahoghani 23 says**

New private eye, Sasha, hired to find out who murdered an ex-groom on his wedding day. There are a few unsavory characters but the killer and their reasoning is crazy. Sasha is witty, an excellent liar and determined to find out the truth. Several odd characters and it's your typical chic literature.

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### **Linda says**

Inexperienced Private Investigator, Sasha Jackson Moonlighted At A 800 Sex Center To Pay The Bills, But When Social Light, Christine Avisais Hired Her To Discover Who Killed Her Ex-Fiance Because Her Rates

Were Cheaper, Sasha Didn't Know If She Would Slap Or Slug Her! Just Because Gordon Dumped Her And Was Murdered On Their Wedding Day, Everyone Thought That She Did It!

WOW, Hold Onto Your Seats As Jill Edmondson Takes You On A Ride With Plenty Of Twist And Turns, High Fiance Shenanigans, Possibly A Serial Killer, Art Forgery, And Money Laundering! This Book Had Me Rapidly Reading As I Couldn't Put It Down!!

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### **Jack says**

Competent cozy mystery featuring Sasha Jackson, just starting out as a private investigator.

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### **Evgeny says**

Sasha Jackson recently became a PI specializing in small jobs like background checks, or spying upon cheating spouses. One day a woman came to her office asking to investigate a murder of her fiancé. The police investigation came to a standstill with her being the only person with any motive for the murder. This obviously is not good for the reputation, so she hires Sasha to investigate - she can only afford Sasha's rates. Sasha, on the other hand, cannot afford to refuse the case: she is practically broke.

The first thing to mention about the book is that the cover looks much more macabre then the book content: it is fairly lighthearted. This is the first book of the series and I think the first book of the author and as such it is slightly rough around the edges; in particular it can use better editing. I already read the third book and can say that the quality improves.

Having said this, I also need to mention that the slight problems do not distract from the fact that the book is fun to read. I actually had to sacrifice some sleeping time to finish it. Sasha is an interesting character with some positive qualities, but I would not call her a very good person. The plot is fast moving and interesting with some twists in it.

4 stars is the final rating. I look forward to reading other books in the series.

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### **Christine Hayes says**

good read

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### **Bette says**

Sasha Jackson has been hired to find out who killed Gordon Hanes. Hew was her ex-fiance and yes he dumped her but she didn't kill him, and was tired of being looked at "differently" by her social set.

A mystery by Canadian-born auhor Jill Eddmondson, this is book 1 of the series set in Toronto Ontario.

**Mario says**

This was a surprisingly strong, well-written novel for a debut and, while I felt that the mystery was a little lacking, it redeemed itself at the very end. I wouldn't describe the story as particularly memorable, but it was a nice read and the author shows a lot of promise.

I received this free through Goodreads First Reads, as an unexpected bonus for winning the second book in this series (which I should be reading shortly). Thanks!

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**Dianne Everson says**

This is a light modern "chick" oriented mystery.

It is a fun read if that's what you want.

I was, and it was just complex enough with an interesting female detective and a satisfying solution.

Set in Toronto it is a great beach read, but maybe not for the men in your life unless they carefully choose their daily wardrobes.

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**Shireen says**

As a writer, I've discovered it's difficult for me to review books of authors I've met or have had some communication with. Because of the ebook SNAFU with *Blood and Groom*, Jill Edmondson kindly sent me paperback copies of this book and her next one. And I wanted very much to give this book a rave review. Much to my regret, I can't, but I **can** say it's the kind of book you pick up when you want to switch your brain off and just escape into a quick read.

The voices are strong in *Blood and Groom*, no mistaking one character for another, and as I've learnt this past year, not always a given and a really good thing. The mystery itself is intriguing, and a secondary plot serves as a juicy red herring. The protagonist or heroine of the book, Sasha Jackson is energetic, for sure. But I found the litany of adjectives a bit overwhelming. As the book progressed, the adjectives decreased. There were times when I wondered where the editor was; traditional publishers say their strength is in their editing, that self-published authors can't have such high standards as they have. But this is like the umpteenth traditionally published book I've read in recent years where I wonder if the editor fell asleep or did the most cursory of forays into the manuscript. Bad editing reflects on the author unfortunately. Publishers owe it to their authors to do a better job. All in all it has the makings of a good mystery series, and best of all it's set in Toronto.

