



Drawing Conclusions

Deirdre Verne

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CeCe Prentice--environmentalist, peace-lover, artist--will stop at nothing to discover the truth behind her twin brother's untimely death.

While she never saw eye to eye with her father--the ambitious director of a renowned genetics research center--CeCe Prentice always remained close to her brother, Teddy. When Teddy is found dead at the lab where he worked for their father, CeCe's efforts to mourn the tragic loss are interrupted by several attempts on her own life.

CeCe is naturally drawn in to the investigation, teaming up with Detective Frank DeRosa, the officer assigned to protect her. Together, they begin looking into the circumstances surrounding Teddy's death, only to discover the truth may be found closer to home than they think--in CeCe's own paintings.

Praise:

"Verne's mystery is a winner, with plenty of twists and turns, an intriguing heroine and an ending that shocks in more ways than one."--*Kirkus Reviews*

"Deirdre Verne imbues CeCe with intelligence and humor, and the snappy repartee between characters is delightful."--*Mystery Scene*

"[An] exciting series debut."--*Library Journal*

"The amazing plot twist and memorable characters in *Drawing Conclusions* will leave you thinking about this book long after you've put it down. Deirdre Verne is a writer to watch!"--Jess Lourey, author of the Murder-by-Month Mysteries

"A mysterious murder, a gutsy heroine, a determined cop, and a villain you would not want to cross in a dark alley--everything you want in a mystery, it's all here. A fun read, right down to the eye-popping final twist."--Mary Louise Kelly, author of *Anonymous Sources*

Drawing Conclusions Details

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From Reader Review Drawing Conclusions for online ebook

adlin says

I've gotten a little tired lately of the typical "themed" cozy mystery. At first blush, this book appears to be a cozy, but I wouldn't classify it as such. There is no gore, but there is some language and some sexy times (nothing over the top, but it's there). The main character is also a Freegan - we meet CeCe when she and friend Charlie are dumpster diving. They live in what amounts to a commune, established by CeCe, along with three other people - Jonathon and Trina, who are dating, and Becky, who is involved with Charlie.

The book opens with CeCe of the death of her twin brother, Teddy. It turns out to be murder. I'm sad that we never really get to meet Teddy as I think he was a cool guy. CeCe becomes a target, but it's anyone's guess as to why. Enter Frank DeRosa, detective. He's been requested by CeCe's father, Dr. William Prentice, to solve Teddy's murder and winds up guarding CeCe, along with two other officers. I like that there isn't friction between the house and the cops - they all wind up working together. The big catch to all of this is that Teddy was a scientist, working on decoding the human genome, and he worked at a lab basically run by CeCe's father.

One of the best things about this book is CeCe's involvement in finding out who killed Teddy is organic. She doesn't look to get involved, but after she becomes a target, her involvement (and her roommates involvement), just seems natural. It doesn't hurt that she's an artist with a gift for faces.

The thing I struggled with in this book was the Freegan lifestyle. I get organic farming. I get communal living. I get not wanting a 9-5 job (CeCe's an artist and her sketches did help solve the case). I get going with a used car, though I'm not sure why it had to be so ancient as a Gremlin - the gas mileage and pollution from that thing have to not be in line with Freeganism. Why not a used hybrid or even an electric car? I don't get not using a washer and dryer. I don't really get dumpster diving for food.

Despite the Freeganism angle, I very much enjoyed this book and look forward to reading the next one in the series. I liked the Detective. I liked how CeCe's skills contributed to the investigation. I liked how the other cops got along with the housemates. I liked that this was definitely not the run of the mill mystery. Odd main character, but in a way I liked that she challenges me a bit. Recommended if you like a good mystery and/or are looking for a change from the "themed" cozy mysteries.

JoAnne McMaster (Any Good Book) says

CeCe Prentice is a Freegan - someone who gets as much as they can for free, to use or repurpose it - and lives with several friends in a home left to her by her grandmother. She is also a portrait artist, and excellent at it. When her brother Teddy is found dead, she is stunned - after all, he was only twenty-eight - and when there is an attack on her own life the day of Teddy's funeral, she is suspicious. Then, when Teddy's ex-fiancee kills herself, CeCe is concerned; and when it is discovered that Teddy's death wasn't an accident, she is determined to find out who murdered him and why.

When her father has a police detective assigned to watch her day and night, CeCe at first clashes with and dislikes Detective DeRosa, but soon enough she discovers she's beginning to appreciate his attention to detail and the way he thinks, and he begins to remind her of her deceased twin, Teddy; so while she reluctantly

accepts the fact that he is there to keep her from harm, she doesn't like it.

To say any more would be giving away the premise of the book, so, unfortunately, I will have to leave my description such as it is. I will tell you that as you read, you begin to see things through the eyes of CeCe, which includes her perceptions of the detective, and those of her parents and her friends. The story we have before us is a tale of medicine, family, revenge. At what point do medical experiments become more than that? At what point do people matter more than medicine? While most of the lives entwine together in one way or another, it is the sense that you have to decide whether something was wrong in and of itself, or not.

I found the book to be quite interesting, the tale worth reading. Almost immediately we are given bits of information to digest and think about, and I enjoyed that immensely. And while I understand the Freegan lifestyle, I don't agree with it completely (I am much too comfortable not eating food from a dumpster and food that has been partially consumed by a stranger), so yes, I did have the 'ick factor' that CeCe referred to when she did this (it is in the beginning of the book, so no spoiler there). That notwithstanding, highly recommended.

I received a free copy in exchange for an honest review but this in no way influenced my decision.

Lucy Briggs says

Light, easy read that a friend recommended before visiting Italy.

Mave says

Drawing Conclusions is really thrilling and exciting, full of twists. Do not start it the night before you go to sleep because you risk a sleepless night.

The protagonist is Constance Prentice, CeCe for friends: she's an artist, she draws portraits. She comes from a rich family but has no relationship with her father for a long time. She is a dumpiest diving freegan and her father doesn't accept it. She lives with some friends in a home that has left her grandmother. She has a twin brother Teddy who loves, he is a respected research doctor. Unfortunately, her brother is found dead in his office: he was killed. Very soon will find that even CeCe is over in the sights of the killer. CeCe's father takes the detective Frank DeRosa: must investigate and protect her daughter. Earlier CeCe is not very happy about this: find the policeman very obnoxious and collides with him many times. Knowing better and after undergoing some attacks would appreciate his protection. CeCe is determined to find out who killed her brother, also helps the investigations with wonderful portraits. Who hates so much family Prentice? CeCe is a very interesting character: she is a smart and very sensitive girl, able to perceive in her portraits every nuance of the face and expressions. The other characters are well developed and fun, especially the CeCe's roommates.

Thanks to this book I discovered the freegan, did not know about this lifestyle. It's a form of anti-consumerism: instead of buying the objects (especially food) are recovered, recycled, sometimes even taken from the garbage.

I really enjoyed this book. The plot is well developed and the final is really amazing. It's the beginning of a new series, I hope to read soon a new adventure of CeCe and her friends.

Flewts says

[I received a free copy of this book though the Goodreads Giveaway program in exchange for an honest review.]

To be honest, I am not part of the author's "target audience," which she identifies as "millenials," so at first I had trouble identifying with the main character, who is a Freegan. I had no idea what that is! Basically, it's someone who dumpster-dives for edible throwaways, and otherwise tries to live well without spending any more than necessary. So she and her roomies use rainwater, have a farm for vegetables, etc.

She is also an artist who likes to sketch faces. [I imagine in future novels--one already exists and another is on the way--she will work with the police as a sketch artist.] This first novel in the "A Sketch in Crime" series focuses on our artist, Cece, and the mystery around the death of her twin brother, Teddy, who works in the genetics research facility owned and run by their father.

I had trouble at first identifying with Cece. The freegan live-off-the-grid approach isn't something that particularly interests me, and the book opens with CeCe dumpster-diving. It is written in the first person, from CeCe's point of view, and as a result I had difficulty picturing her and caring about her. It takes quite a while to develop a rapport with her, since the book starts with action instead of description. (Of course, too much description with nothing happening is even worse!) But that is a minor point.

I did really enjoy the book. The story moves along and even though there's a fair amount of information about genetics, it's not so academic that someone with little background in the field couldn't easily follow the story. By the end of the book, I found myself anxious to read the next book in the series. Fortunately, the next book Drawing Blood is already in print, so I'm off to find it!

Stephanie says

I'm so glad the book didn't dwell on the Freegan way of life, it just seemed a little overwhelming in the beginning.

I really enjoyed this book once it got going. There were a few plot twists that I caught on to but a few that took my by surprise. Excellent! I look forward to reading more of Deirdre Verne. I highly recommend this book.

BJC says

Hope there will be more to this series.

LORI CASWELL says

Dollycas's Thoughts

There is so much I loved about this story I just don't know where to begin and I have to be very careful not to give anything away.

We meet Cece while she is dumpster diving and then we learn that she is a "Freegan" and is from a very wealthy family. She is also a sketch artist and captures the nuances of faces in an uncanny way. She has a twin brother, Teddy, who works with their father at a lab that researches DNA. Her father is known all over the world for his work. She lives in a house with 4 other ecologically-minded and socially conscious friends, Charlie, who is her twin brother's best friend, Trina, Becky and Jonathan.

We learn very quickly that her twin brother has been killed. It is Cece's artistic ability and her knowledge of her father's company that brings her in to the middle of the investigation of his death but the investigation goes off in some truly unexpected tangents that will change her life and others in monumental ways.

I started reading this story and just couldn't stop. Every time a clue connected it seemed to twist the story into another direction and this continued throughout the whole story. I was like "wow", "no way", oh my stars!" and then the final twist so good...I couldn't wait to write this review to tell you all about it!!

I truly don't know how the author is going to top this story in the next installment but I want to be first in line to read it!!

DelAnne Frazee says

Title: Drawing Conclusions - Sketch in Crime Mystery 1

Author: Deidre Verne

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Reviewer: DelAnne

Reviewed For: NetGalley

Rating: 4 1/2 Stars

Constance Prentice, CeCe to those who are close to her, and her friend Charlie have gone to get dinner for themselves as well as their roommates and friends Trina, Jonathan & Becky. All five being Freegans (one who practices Freeganism. Freeganism is a practice and ideology of limited participation in the conventional economy and minimal consumption of resources, particularly through recovering wasted goods like food. The word "freegan" is a coinage derived from "free" and vegan. While vegans might avoid buying animal products as an act of protest against animal exploitation, freegans—at least in theory—avoid buying anything as an act of protest against the food system in general.

Freeganism is often presented as synonymous with "dumpster diving" for discarded food, although freegans are distinguished by their association with an anti-consumerist and anti-capitalist ideology and their engagement in a wider range of alternative living strategies, such as voluntary unemployment, squatting abandoned buildings, and "guerilla gardening" in unoccupied city parks.

Following their latest haul of baked Ziti, Cream Cheese, Bacon and Bagels they head home where they find the police waiting. Charlie is ready to take off in a panic, but Ce Ce drags him inside. It is there that all the roommates find that CeCe's twin brother Charlie has died two days before and the police are there to question CeCe and her friends, not to notify her of his death. After numerous attempts on CeCe's life it becomes apparent Teddy was not the only target. Who could have so much hate stored up against the Prentice family? Why? Perhaps CeCe's Artistic talents can be used to help the Detective to investigate. Can the answers truly be found in the paintings? Can they find them before a Killer takes out CeCe next?

I have to tell you my stomach turned at the dumpster diving with the intention of eating the food from the dumpster. How unsanitary! That stated I found CeCe a woman who stands behind her beliefs. I could have cried over the chasm between her and her father. A well thought out plot with a fast pace to keep the reader involved in the story. Although the scene nauseated me I could not skip the scene in the dumpster. You will be drawn in with the descriptive writing style of Deidre Verne. Come visit CeCe at her Harbor Master's Home, Don't eat or drink anything! and visit for a while. Get to know the people of CeCe's inner circle. My rating is 4 1/2 out of 5 Stars.

Amazon link: [https://www.amazon.com/dp/B00S1MTLDQ/...](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B00S1MTLDQ/)

Barnes and Noble link: <http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/drawi...>

Goodreads link: <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/2...>

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OpenBookSociety.com says

<http://openbooksociety.com/article/dr...>

Brought to you by OBS reviewer Andra

The story begins with CeCe (proper name is Constance) and Charlie dumpster diving. Curious as to all things Freegan...I did a quick internet search and came up with (from Wikipedia):

Freeganism is the practice of reclaiming and eating food that has been discarded. Freegans and freeganism are often seen as part of a wider “anti-consumerist” ideology, and freegans often employ a range of alternative living strategies based on limited participation in the conventional economy and minimal consumption of resources.

So a cozy mystery with the main protagonist a freegan...definitely got my interest. A cozy mystery which has provided me with an opportunity to learn more about an alternative lifestyle along with interesting and captivating main characters.

In the first few pages....quite a few chuckles. In this quote CeCe and Charlie are dumpster diving:

“What would they book us on?”

“How about wilful consumption of post-dated food?”

“Funny. What about ‘premeditated attempt to lower the carbon footprint?’”

So right from the beginning I get the feeling that I am really going to like this author’s style, as I am a sucker for unusual and ‘puny’ humor.

The writing grabbed this reader and brought me into the thick of the lives of the residents. I quickly became invested in the impact of the murder of CeCe’s twin (Teddy – Theodore) and all that entailed. CeCe lives with Charlie, Trina, Jonathan and Becky in the hamlet’s harbor master’s home (a home that CeCe inherited, along with a large trust when she turned 21). Trina and Jonathon handle most of the farming. Charlie and CeCe are childhood friends (and Charlie is also Teddy’s best friend), Becky designs clothing from discarded fabrics. We quickly learn that as a result of CeCe’s alternative lifestyle (freeganism and wanting to live off the grid) she is estranged from her family (except Teddy). But now that Teddy is dead, CeCe will need to interact with her father and mother.

Cold Spring Harbor Laboratories – the central clearing house for all things DNA in the United States and around the globe. Its founder and lead scientist is none other than CeCe and Teddy’s father – Dr. William Prentice. How deep he is involved in what turns out to be Teddy’s murder is interesting and convoluted.

The death of Teddy is communicated by Detective Frank DeRosa to CeCe. As an artist, CeCe has quite the eye and sees a familiarity in DeRosa as soon as she looks into his face. Turns out that...oh....you will just have to read the book yourself to find out this tidbit :)

As time went on, I really feel sorry for CeCe’s mother. Turns out she has a serious problem with alcohol dependency. The downward spiral was triggered by early life experiences precipitated by Dr. William Prentice. Those twists and turns were what kept me on the edge of really figuring out what was going on until the end of the story. And let me tell you...there are many twists and turns...at times I really had to think

hard to keep it all straight. But it was worth it in the end.

I really enjoyed the coming together and pulling apart of CeCe and Charlie. Their dependency upon each other, to get through this horrific time, is heartwarming. While I am glad they supported each other, I am also glad that a permanent romantic relationship was not in the cards for these two. But never fear...there is romance!

All in all, a great first read by an author new to me....

Daniel says

This review originally published in Looking For a Good Book. Rated 3.5 of 5

This mystery, *Drawing Conclusions*, by Deirdre Verne, threw me a few curves and surprises, most of them quite good.

The story starts simply. Our main character, Cece, is a 'freegan' -- someone so ecologically committed to protecting the environment that she dumpster-dives for food (not because she has to but because it reduces waste). Cece also happens to be an heiress to a large fortune, thanks to her father's work in genetics. When Cece's twin brother is murdered, Cece's father, and the police, think Cece might be next.

Why would anyone want to kill Cece's brother, Teddy? Why does Cece's father specifically request Detective DeRosa to investigate? These are just two of the many questions that Cece will wrestle with through the course of the book.

The science within the book was amazing. The discussions and investigations of genetics really surprised me. Pleasantly so. I was not expecting a "sketch in crime mystery" to deal with such hard science topic. It surprised me and took me a bit out of my comfort zone, but author Verne handled it smoothly and I never felt as though I was reading something that was too difficult. And for someone who is not much of a science guy, that's impressive.

On the other hand For a book that is a "sketch in crime" mystery, titled *Drawing Conclusions*, I think it's reasonable to expect a fair amount of art to be incorporated into the story. While there is some (Cece, it turns out, is able to sketch people, from memory, with uncanny accuracy), and the resolution of the plot hinges on some sketching, artwork definitely takes a back seat to science in this book. I was drawn (pun intended) to this book precisely because of the anticipated art themes and so I definitely missed the fact that art wasn't a little more strongly identified here. Fortunately, the science was interesting and the writing strong and it kept me motivated.

I'm definitely interested in reading more works by Deirdre Verne and I hope that there will be future installments in the "sketch in crime" titles (though, with a little more art, please).

Looking for a good book? *Drawing Conclusions* by Deirdre Verne is a mystery that will surprise you and keep you guessing all the way to the end.

Shelley Giusti says

Deidre is a new to me author and I really enjoyed this book. CeCe is an interesting character and the story is well written and will keep you interested and intrigued until the last page. Cece is doing everything she can to help solve the murder through the pictures that she draws about the murder of her twin brother. She wants to solve this case and catch the killer before it is to late, Find out what happens in Drawing Conclusions. I'm eagerly waiting for the next book.

Andrea Stoeckel says

“Sometimes the wrong answer is really an open door. Pushing your brain to think external or tangential to the facts can often reap its own reward.”

CeCe Prentice, estranged daughter of William and Elizabeth Prentice, twin sister of Theodore Prentice, lives in a house with other freegans- those who primarily live off the waste of others. She drives a resurrected Gremlin, uses a reconstructed computer and is most proud of her twin, Teddy, who worked in their father's Labs as a genetic scientist. Not CeCe, she's an artist and a free spirit...until the unthinkable happens: Teddy is found dead at the Lab.

And devastated as she is CeCe and her friends- old and new- are bound and determined to unravel the case and solve the case, no matter what it might involve. Working with the local police can be tricky..uncomfortable to say the least, but her growing awareness of the hiddenness of genetics and how the Lab uses it forces her to draw her own conclusions.

I purchased this book after I read a recent review of it online (used booksellers can often beat the price of ebooks if you are patient). This is one of the most unique characters I have seen in mysteries in a long time. Deidre Verne's knowledge of the subject blows me away, especially in view of things like “genetic ancestry kits” and “medical gene testing programs”. The premise is even more timely today than when the book was written (2015). I am excited for the next in the series which I own as well and highly recommend it. 5/5

Beverly says

I love it when I discover a new series at the beginning. I really enjoyed this book. I have to be honest though, I wasn't too sure about the fact that CeCe is a dumpster diving freegan. I've run across freegans before in other books. Not that I'm germaphobe, but the thought of dumpster diving always just gives me the willies. I don't know how police investigators manage to do it when they are investigating a case, much less how anyone does it by choice. I know, I need to be more open minded. One of the things I liked about Drawing Conclusions is that it actually gives the reader more information about the freegan lifestyle. I felt a bit more enlightened after reading the book.

But what I liked most about the book were all the twists and turns. I love a mystery that keeps me on my toes. I also enjoy being able to solve puzzlers myself. It's especially enjoyable when I can solve a puzzler or two and still be surprised. Deirdre certainly has a talent for plot twists.

I also really liked CeCe. She seems like a very complex character. I'm intrigued by her talent for capturing faces and her ability to handle discovering her family and life are not what she thought it was.

This is a great new series. I can't wait for the next installment. If you only add one new series to your reading stack this year, I highly recommend you add this one.

FTC Disclosure: I received an advance copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Valerie says

This is the first book in the Sketch In Crime mystery series and it's a really great book! There's a lot of back story that happens in this book which seems essential for understanding the characters better during the rest of the series.

Many of the main characters in this series are Freegans, which are a group of people who work to live as green as possible. They grow much of their own food, create their own energy to feed back into the power grid, barter with people regarding getting things done, and recycle/reuse items as much as they can. The author does a good job of exposing us as the readers to the Freegan lifestyle and explaining what it entails.

Besides just their Freegan lifestyle, the characters are complex, well-rounded, and delightful. I really enjoyed seeing the dynamics between CeCe and her friends, her family, and the police department. I enjoyed watching the beginnings of CeCe's romance with Frank unfold.

The plot line moves along at a decent pace. It's not dragging but it's not going by so fast that you can't keep up either. I had a little bit of an inkling who the villain was, but I was not totally sure until just before it was discovered at the end of the book.

All-in-all, this is a great start to the series and important, so definitely read it before any other books in the series!
