



The PMS Outlaws

Sharyn McCrumb

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Depressed over her missing husband, Elizabeth MacPherson is hospitalized. Her brother, Bill, buys a mansion to use as his law office, and finds a codger-in-residence who may be an outlaw. Meanwhile, Bill's law partner is trying to track down the PMS Outlaws, an escaped convict and her fugitive attorney, who cruise pickup joints and wreak vengeance on lust-crazed men.

The PMS Outlaws Details

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From Reader Review The PMS Outlaws for online ebook

Ed says

#9 in the Elizabeth MacPherson series.

Elizabeth MacPherson series - When we join MacPherson, she has just checked into the Cherry Hill Psychiatric Hospital to deal with depression brought on by the death of her husband. Meanwhile, struggling Virginia lawyer Bill MacPherson, Elizabeth's brother, has purchased an old mansion for his law firm's upscale office. The mansion comes with a catch: the elderly man who originally built the house (with apparently dubious funds) is still living on the sun porch. As Bill works out the real estate deal, his law partner, A.P. Powell, disappears to chase clues about the newly infamous PMS Outlaws, who have been stealing money from men and leaving them handcuffed in compromising positions. While the novel's many eccentric characters never fail to entertain, the mystery of the old man is little more than a distraction, both for the reader and for Elizabeth. As for the PMS Outlaws, they are completely transparent in their motivations: they want to get money and cut men down to size.

Virginia says

In this installment of the Elizabeth MacPherson series, our heroine signs herself into a mental institution because she's suffering severe depression at the disappearance of her husband. In the meantime, her brother Bill buys a beautiful old home to use as his law office, hopefully to give his firm a reputation boost. In the meantime, Bill's partner A.P. Hill receives a disturbing phone call from a college chum who has broken a client out of prison and is running around the country luring men into isolated places and then leaving them naked and handcuffed in embarrassing situations.

The three plotlines do come together -- sort of -- by the end of the book. An inordinate amount of time is spent on the various mental illnesses of the residents at the institution, and though interesting, sometimes that dragged the story down a bit. (Though I enjoyed the Asburger's character immensely.) I liked watching A.P. Hill uncover the escapades of her friend. And I really liked when cousin Geoffrey showed up to help Bill decorate the house (while really spying on the 90-yr-old former owner who is doing something underhanded with tons of sugar). Sharyn McCrumb's witty style came through, and in that respect I was not disappointed. But the resolution took place without Elizabeth's active involvement, since she was in a drugged stupor, and that was disappointing.

I listened to a recording of this book on my iPod, and it took me FOREVER to finish it. I'm serious - months. Part of the reason was the slow points in the plot, but by far the reason I kept hesitating to return to the story was because of the extremely annoying vocal habits of the narrator in the recording I listened to. Long pauses where there shouldn't be, an annoying attempt to give each character a unique voice (resulting in some really bad accents), and some very loud mouth noises (smacking and swallowing and so on) distracted from my enjoyment of the story.

Next time I'll pick up the book.

Deborah says

I really enjoy Sharyn McCrumb's work. This book was a definite change from what I had been reading of her books. It seems to go into a more modern, faster flowing reading; that made a humorous journey through insanity, obsessiveness, lawyers, convicts and mystery, a journey worth taking.

LyndaIn Oregon says

Sharyn McCrumb has a facility for coming up with wonderful, zany titles, and “The PMS Outlaws” is right up there with “Bimbos of the Death Sun” and “If I’d Killed Him When I Met Him”.

Unfortunately, the stories that unroll under these titles often resemble what comes up on the screen after you click on “What they found in this trash bin will astound you!”, and “The PMS Outlaws”, unfortunately, pretty much falls into that category.

Elizabeth MacPherson, McCrumb’s amateur-sleuth / forensic anthropologist heroine is among the main characters (in fact the book is billed as “an Elizabeth MacPherson novel”), but for most of it, she’s a medicated zombie, locked into denial about the disappearance of her husband. (No, the book doesn’t deal with his disappearance, or end with him being discovered amnesiac but healthy in the Orkney Isles.) MacPherson’s brother’s law partner carries most of the story, as she gets involved with the titular bandits – a couple of young women who lure horny but unsuspecting men into embarrassing situations before taking off with their possessions.

Things don’t begin to come together until the halfway point of the book, and then they depend on ever more unlikely coincidences to draw things to their more-or-less resolution.

The best thing about this book is that it doesn’t require much of your time. It would be an okay companion on a cross-country flight or in the waiting room at the maternity ward. But don’t expect much beyond that.

Carol says

Several stories were going on at once. This is #9 in an interesting series. I am looking forward to reading more about these people.

Beth E says

Depressing book.

William Howle says

The book was a fun read, several stories intertwined to make a novel. If you don't like a book that jumps

from one story to another without warning, then this is not the book for you. There was an interesting definition of friendship, " Try asking someone to do something extremely inconvenient for an insane reason, and they do it, they're your friend " I have enjoyed previous books by her set in the hills of NC and TN.

Vilo says

This is a different side of Sharyn McCrumb, still rather satirical. Good mystery, people you want to hang out with more, and it validates my opinion that a mystery is the best cure for depression. If you like to read series in order, try Sick of Shadows first and work your way up (another favorite is If I'd Killed Him When I Met Him).

Mel Ann says

I have to be honest and say, " I was expecting so much more." The story was a mesh of lives collided and mystery that caused suspense and in the end I was disappointed with the outcome. Elizabeth doesn't get her husband, A.P. Hill was tied into the P.M.S. Outlaws in an explainable way, why did Purdue end up like that? Why did she pick Larkin? What happens next. What about Larry Garrison and Jack Dolan? Is there a sequel? If not then this was a bit of a let down. I need more explanation!

Diane says

This is my first Elizabeth McPherson mystery and I found that Sharyn McCrumb's characters were real. They had depth. Although it might be a little unrealistic to think that Elizabeth was trying to solve a mystery from a mental institution. It was interesting to see her work through her problems after the death of her husband and granted a month was fast but all-in-all the issues being faced were pretty real. Also the story of the PMS Outlaws - an attorney and an escaped con kept moving toward A.P. Hill, Bill McPherson's (Elizabeth's brother) law partner.

Clyde says

good, several giggles!!

readingr says

A lawyer and her client are blazing a trail of misplaced revenge from state to state and attorney A.P. Hill is hot on their tails. Meanwhile, her partner Bill MacPherson has just purchased an old mansion for them to use as an office/home. The grand house comes complete with a shed, a chandelier, and the last owner. And then there's Bill's sister, Elizabeth. Suffering from depression after her husband goes missing at sea, Elizabeth checks herself into a mental hospital.

So there you have it, three plotlines. Do they tie together? Barely. To me, it seemed as though they were three weak short stories that the author couldn't make work so she threw them together for a book. The revenge plotline could have been amusing (wannabe Romeos left to be found the next day minus their wallets and clothes) if only more time had been taken to develop it. Elizabeth's stay at the mental hospital falls flat as most of this line is given to her and the other patients meandering drone mostly about the role of beauty in society. The most entertaining of the three lines surrounds the purchase of the mansion. To redecorate or not redecorate, that is the question. But that is really just a ploy to gather information. The most pressing question for me was "What is that old man doing with all that sugar?"

I've read some of Sharyn McCrumb's work before. I love her *Ballad* series set in the North Carolina Appalachian Mountains. This is the first of the Elizabeth MacPherson series for me. Sad thing is I started with #9 of the series. I hate doing that. I want to start with #1. But I didn't realize it until after I was done. Did that have something to do with why I felt this was so lackluster? Perhaps. If I had started at the beginning of the series I may have felt more vested. Or maybe I wouldn't have made it this far. Who knows?

One thing that really irked me was the way A.P. Hill was addressed throughout the book. A.P. Hill did this. A.P. Hill did that. Who refers to their friends by their full name? Maybe it didn't happen all the time but it was way too much and enough that I can't remember four times when she wasn't referred to as A.P. Hill.

With three lackluster plotlines that don't really mesh I'm going to give this one a 2.5 on my bookometer. I think I'll go back to her *Ballad* series.

Kate says

I was so disappointed in this book! I dearly love the Elizabeth MacPherson series, and this one ... well, this one had Elizabeth in a terrible space (I'm trying not to do a spoiler here). She was in a psychiatric facility for depression. I kept thinking that the situation would change, *deus ex machina*, but it did not. Will there be another book in the series for that? Evidently not, since this book was published in 2000 and there aren't any more listed.

There was a second story running contrapuntally to Elizabeth's story. It involved a young woman criminal and her attorney -- the two of them went rampaging all over the South, and Elizabeth's brother Bill, the lawyer, is trying to track them down.

From the back cover:

"Hospitalized for depression over her missing husband, forensic anthropologist Elizabeth MacPherson is please to discover that insanity liberates one from polite hypocrisy. Out in the real world, Elizabeth's brother Bill has bought a stately old mansion to use as his law office, only to find that the house comes with a charming codger-in-residence who is far too old to be a dangerous outlaw ... *isn't he?* Meanwhile, Bill's law partner is trying to track down the PMS Outlaws -- an escaped convict and her fugitive attorney -- who are cruising pickup joints and wreaking a peculiar vengeance on lust-crazed men.

Sharyn McCrumb's incisive wit and her genius for mirroring everyday life are once again on full display. *The PMS Outlaws* is an outrageous parable of modern mores -- "a story of disparate parts that come together in a most satisfying way."

I think she just wanted to wrap up the series, and used a hodge podge to do it.

Lynn W Stubenrauch says

I have really loved each of the Elizabeth MacPherson books. I am hoping there will be more. I feel like we've been through a lot together! And she's definitely on the mend. So glad. Love all her goofy family members. But I want to know what's next for Elizabeth, recently acknowledged widow.

Ashley says

I stumbled across this book at BAM on clearance and I won't lie... I bought it because of the title. (And the fact that it was marked way down.) I didn't pay enough attention to the fact that it was part of a series. I think I read this book in about a night and I really liked it but I was young and didn't really pay attention to the author's name so it wasn't til 8-10 years later that I ever read any of the earlier MacPherson novels and they just didn't stand up to the remembrance I had of this one. I was actually going to re-read this novel before I finally donated it after years of having it, but sadly, the other books by McCrumb left me bored and to keep the favorable impressions that I had of "The PMS Outlaws" so I gave it away without re-reading it.
