



## **Murder, Mayhem, and a Fine Man**

*Claudia Mair Burney*

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All Amanda Bell Brown wanted for her 40th birthday was to watch CSI on television, but what she got was a couple of corpses, a hunk of a detective, and a drop-dead gorgeous red dress. What's a girl to do when a cult madman is on the loose? Save the day, of course, and maybe snag a good man.

## **Murder, Mayhem, and a Fine Man Details**

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Author : Claudia Mair Burney

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## **From Reader Review Murder, Mayhem, and a Fine Man for online ebook**

### **Ruth Ferguson says**

This book was a solid read, at times very enjoyable. Although I do not frequently read Christian fiction, I really enjoyed the blend of mystery and thriller storyline with Christian aspect of the story. The romance section was a bit flat for me.

Amanda Bell Brown, meets the very FINE Lt. Jazz Brown at a crime scene on her 35th birthday (talk about killer birthday bash) and there is instant attraction. However, he immediately makes it clear he is unavailable. For an extended time in the book, his reason for being unavailable is not known and then once it is disclosed you feel like OK where can we go with this romance. Well, we go back and forth with their flirting which frankly becomes annoying and feels repetitive.

In this relationship the best moments are thrilling but at the beginning when they agree to be in love "for a minute."

But don't forget there is a mystery to solve, the two victims were followers of a religious nut but was he the one that killed them, if so why?

Throughout the story we learn that perhaps this mystery is just a little too close to home for Amanda based on her past experiences with religion.

The climax of the story - and it was a great climax - was an exciting blend of high drama, danger and unexpected twists. What was especially well done was watching Amanda put her "faith" in action during her dangerous confrontations.

I look forward to future adventures with Amanda Bell Brown.

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### **Janna Ryan says**

This book is a laugh out loud, mystery that will keep you going from beginning to end. I love the characters, the dialogue is absolutely brilliant and this book and it's sequel "Death, Deceit and Some Smooth Jazz" are fantastic. You start with a single 30 something forensic psychologist who has never actually been to a bad crime scene, her 40 something sister who is a medical examiner and then throw in a good looking, tall drink of water named Jazz who just happens to be a homicide detective. Mix that up at a crime scene and come away with Amanda Bell Brown starting in on an investigation dealing with cult leaders and their influence over people while crushing on some Jazz. There is some deep insight into some dark stuff while some amazing flirtation and sweet nothings between Bell and Jazz and her sister Carly is there to protect her. What a great book!

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### **Lady says**

A delectable read about murder, mystery and sprinkled a handsome detective.

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## **OOSA says**

U-N-A-V-A-I-L-A-B-L-E!

While Amanda Bell Brown is a part of the living, she's basically just holding space. It's been 10 years since she fought love, or some semblance of the word. Bell advocates for others, yet she has been unable to find her own inner peace and continues to live with the shame from her own devastating past. While celebrating her birthday with her sister, Carly, a medical examiner, she is called to the scene of a double homicide. Could this also be the place where love and Bell reunite?

Lt. Jazz Brown (no relation) is on the scene. Impressed with Bells' accolades, he invites her to utilize her forensic skills to evaluate the crime. While the immediate answers escape her, unlike Grisham, it's clear that something magical is sparking between the two. In the face of death, can it be, is this real love? Whether it's love or lust, it's two sided. Before the two can further investigate the cravings from the other one, Lt. Brown makes it clear that he's unavailable to love, participate or build a future. Understandably distraught, Bell decides just to be grateful for the moment. That is until the very 'unavailable' Lieutenant decides to incorporate the psychologist into his investigations. Soon the sparks and rules continuously lead them towards trouble.

Readers immediately forget that they're involved in trying to find a murder suspect as they get a front row seat to the meeting of hearts. While I may not be a lover of romance, I do love love! I love how Claudia Mair Burney makes you feel like you're a part of the story; there with the insatiable desires, the bouts, the yearning and the learning. 'Murder, Mayhem & A Fine Man' is recommended reading that is spiked with sin, shame, and a little knowledge of God.

Reviewed by: Crystal

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### **Linda says**

I just started the book, in the first chapter or so, but I really like it so far. New author for me, the title and cover attracted my attention. I stopped reading only because it was past my bed time, and I couldn't keep my eyes open. Unless I can't find the time this weekend, I will most likely devour this one! Looks very promising. I can't wait to read more!

I will write more later, but this book was amazing! I knew it had great promise, and I was right! WOW. New favorite author!!!

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### **Nina Tolka says**

I'm having a hard time finishing this book. I thought it was a mystery, based on the title, but it's more of a Christian romance with some mystery thrown in. The heroine has just done something stupid, and the hero is going to have to come to her rescue. I dislike that kind of storyline. I'm sure it will all be okay in the end, but don't know if I care enough to stick with it and find out. Also, too much religion for my taste, it seemed too preachy to me.

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### **Evy says**

Claudia Burney has done it again. I quickly became a fan of this brilliant author after reading her other Novel----Zora and Nicky, which I've already reviewed and recommend that everyone read. All of her characters are alive and in color. She has a writing style that will captivate you and make you wonder where she's been all this time. This book is a page turner. You are immediately drawn into the story within the first few pages.

Amanda Brown--Bell to those who love her---is celebrating her thirty-fifth birthday by having dinner with her sister Carly. But her birthday celebration is soon interrupted when sister Carly, the medical examiner, is called to a crime scene. When Bell and detective Jazz Brown meet each other that faithful night its instantaneous fireworks. Bell is trying to fight the "feeling" by dropping on her knees in prayer, but having to work so close to Jazz as a psychology consultant on the murder case, she finds it hard and can't help but fall in love with the fine detective.

Now things are more complicated than ever as she tries to deal with her own past that the case dredges up....two dead bodies found dead by strychnine poisoning that are connected to a dangerous cult... hunting down a murderer, and the ever growing romance between she and Jazz. Bell's life is a roller coaster taking her on the ride of her life.

Full of humor, grit, danger, witt, and sass this book will not leave anyone disappointed. A great summer read! I give this book 5 stars.

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### **Valerie says**

The title is much more intriguing than the book! Based on the cover, I thought this was a mystery. However the focus of the books in the romance between the main characters and the mystery goes to the back burner. The characters are well developed and kind of interesting, but the murder and mayhem is strictly a backdrop to develop the relationship.

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### **Michael says**

I was a huge fan of Burney novel,Zora and Nicky. It was rich in characterization,pivotal and unforgettable in nature. In contrast, this one was not captivating, and the writing style was dry and mundane. No connection to the characters at all, needless to say I did not finish.

Two stars for effort, but very disappointed with how this turned out.

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### **Megan says**

*Murder, Mayhem, and a Fine Man* was a fun and quirky read that also covered a much deeper topic than I was expecting. It was much more a romance than a mystery, in my opinion.

I felt so terrible for all that Amanda went through in her younger years and what she still goes through because of it.

The relationship between Amanda and Jazz became intense very quickly, almost too quickly. They meet and within the same night they are kissing and saying that they love each other - semi in jest, yes, but mostly serious. This begins a lot of verbal sparring between the two that was a lot of fun to read :)

This book is categorized as Christian fiction, but it's not what I usually expect from that genre. What I expect from Christian fiction is a faith based message (or element), no cuss words and no suggestive scenes. This book did a great job of the first two, there was a lot of talk about God and the Bible and were absolutely no cuss words, however with the other not so much. One scene that stands out is when Amanda's sister says, somewhat seriously, "she could stand a good bodice ripping tonight" (p. 27), but there were a whole lot of other things. This seems to be more common among African American Christian fiction, not sure why that is. So I'm rating this book as though it were a mainstream novel. I'm much harsher on Christian fiction.

If you don't mind a little suggestive talking, nothing too bad, then I think you would enjoy this book.

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## **Kimberly says**

The title of this book was nothing like I thought. This was an awesome story. Amanda Bell Brown and Jazz Brown were so funny to me. Carly was a great character with a big mouth. Rocky was just awesome.

This was my first read by Claudia Mair Burney. She did not disappoint. I really loved the story line and I loved the bible verses. The story had me crying, laughing, and mad all at the same time. This will not be my last read. I'm looking forward to reading the rest of the series!

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## **Kristi (Books and Needlepoint) says**

Amanda Bell Brown was celebrating her 40th birthday with her sister Carly when it was interrupted by murder. You see, Carly is a medical examiner and she was the one on call. The victims were two men whose house Bell had been to years before when she was working/investigating cults. But if it wouldn't have been for those murders, Bell would never have met Jazz Brown - lieutenant with the Detroit Police Department.

And so begins Bell and Jazz's friendship - courtship - headlong tumble into love - whatever you want to call it. As they work together to try to solve these murders (Bell is a forensic psychologist) they learn how much they really care for each other.

One of the cult members, Susan, "escapes" and ends up at The Rock House. This is the church Bell attends, where the pastor, Rocky, is also her ex-boyfriend. Susan appears to be in a catatonic state, so Bell goes to visit her to see if she can get her to talk. After waiting hours, Susan doesn't move or speak so Bell goes home. The next day Susan writes Bell's name, so she called in again. She doesn't say much, but what she does say seems to implicate someone for the murders. Susan soon leaves the Rock House and nobody can find her.

Bell gets Rocky to tell her the addresses/phone numbers that Susan gave them when she showed up - before she went catatonic. Bell sets out to find the leader of the cult. She puts her life on the line to try to save the women and children involved. You see - 10 years earlier, she was actually in a cult where she was beaten and de-humanized - where she eventually lost a baby she was carrying. She has a hard time separating the present from these haunting memories in her past.

When the cult leader and Susan show up at her apartment, what will she risk to save Jazz, who she believes might be "The One?"

I recently read Deadly Charm (review here) which was the third Amanda Bell Brown mystery. I loved this one as much as that one and can't wait to get book 2 - Death, Deceit and Some Smooth Jazz. There is something about the way the author writes that just stays with me. I love the sarcastic flirting that goes on between these two - it keeps me smiling all the way through the book. Sometimes, reading as many books as I do, the characters can get mixed up or the plots can be confusing - but I don't find this happening when I read the Amanda Bell Brown books. Keep them coming!

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### **Trinity says**

I was definitely surprised when I read this book. In a good way, of course. I was expecting it to be this short little book with absolutely nothing interesting. The only thing that I didn't like was the insta-love. One minute they're just meeting, and the next, they're all over each other. However, besides that, there is nothing else I would complain about. I wish there was a more mystery aspect than all the love-y stuff, but all in all, I enjoyed this book. :-)

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### **LJ says**

Oh how I LURVED this book! I literally LAUGHED OUT LOUD soooo many times - my 4 year old kept asking me what was funny, by now she knows, "Oh, something funny happened in your book, Mommy?"

I felt like a part of the story, having grown up in Detroit and gone to college in Ann Arbor the settings were my back yard and it was delicious! Already have book #2 and #3 on deck to read!

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