



# The Hot Pink Farmhouse

*David Handler*

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## **The Hot Pink Farmhouse** David Handler

So much for the peace and quiet New York film critic Mitch Berger expected to find in his antique carriage house overlooking Long Island Sound. Nothing can shelter him from the goings-on in nearby Dorset. A violent death in a speeding Porsche...an attempted suicide by the school superintendent...and dirty politics are about to propel Mitch out of the shadows into a starring role. And then there's his new love, resident state trooper Desiree Mitry...

Des has transferred out of her position as the highest-ranking black woman in the state police homicide department to give more time to the art for which she has a sure talent. But as she soon learns, Dorset's bucolic exterior hides some ugly secrets. The femme fatale daughter of a famous local sculptor is killed in a car explosion that makes tabloid headlines. Now Des is on the case, saddled with a pushy former colleague, and reaching out to Mitch for an extra pair of eyes-and arms-in a case that threatens to tear the town apart...

## **The Hot Pink Farmhouse Details**

Date : Published November 17th 2003 by Minotaur Books (first published 2002)

ISBN : 9780312987046

Author : David Handler

Format : Paperback 352 pages

Genre : Mystery, Romance, Interracial Romance, Fiction, Cozy Mystery

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# From Reader Review The Hot Pink Farmhouse for online ebook

## Lauren says

I found this book misogynistic and it seemed to be completely out-of-nowhere after the first one in the series.

This book considered

- the artist beating his wife, NBD.
- the realtor daughter (Tiana?) being scarred by witnessing it & her mother's subsequent lonely death - unreasonable.
- dirty old man = delightful.
- the artist killing someone, NBD because she was wild?

WTF, David Handler?

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## Ruth Kevghas says

Looking forward to their next adventure

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## Pat Garcia says

Think of yourself as growing one day younger each and every day for the rest of your life. (A statement made by Hangtown Frye in The Hot Pink Farmhouse by David Handler)

A car explosion, a squeaky mattress, an undiscovered grave, a secret past, voyeurism, teenage vandalism, and unrequited acceptance weave a thread of malice and murder in The Hot Pink Farmhouse by David Handler.

The famous recluse, Wendell Frye, better known as, Hangtown and his alluring, attractive, sexy daughter Takai joins Berger and Mitry as main characters. Character names can sometimes give us insight into a town and the people who live within it. In book 2, is the name Hangtown not only Wendell Frye's nickname but projects an image of Berger and Mitry becoming the new crime fighting duo hung up in the small town of Dorset.

The Hot Pink Farmhouse themes run parallel: the solution to murder, vandalism by teenagers and a voyeur that gets joy out of spying on his female next door neighbors.

Of course, it takes Berger and his having seen things before they happen and Mitry and her cleverness to come up with solutions.

The Hot Pink Farmhouse also presents a Resident Trooper whose conscience plagues her and hinders her from pulling the trigger, and the man who sees the finality of her hesitation.

It is another crime fiction mystery that teaches that life is not always what it seems.

Another enjoyable read, and it can be purchased at Amazon.de.

Shalom Aleichem,  
Pat Garcia

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### **Holly Koons says**

I'm being generous with the 3 stars when really I'd give it more of a 2.5 or 2.75. Let's be honest I just picked up this book because of the cover and the title. I mean, Hot Pink Farmhouse? That should totally be MY house! Anyway, the story was good but it was just so scattered and so many characters that it just didn't keep my attention because I never really felt vested in any of them except maybe Des. The fact that it's taken me so long to read it when normally I can finish a book within a few days is the first sign that this book just didn't grab me. It did get better middle to end but by then I was over it and really had to force myself to just finish it because I hate getting that far in a book and quitting. Might as well finish but I was really ready for it to be over.

But the cover and the fact that there was a hot pink farmhouse involved? That was a win for me.

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### **Sandi says**

Enjoyable mystery with two likable lead characters, one a film critic and the other a Connecticut state trooper, a nicely done small town setting, and an interesting mystery that blended land development issues and family secrets.

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### **Carrie says**

I like Mitch and Des, individually and as a team. Des is so tough and so fragile at the same time. Mitch is sort of like a big teddy bear to her prickly cactus- it would be nice for him to grow some spikes. They work really well together and they fit nicely into Dorset's weird little scene. There needs to be more Bella, she could really get into some fabulous trouble...

Also, now I really want to know the secret ingredient in Sheila Enman's cookies...

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### **toya says**

I must have missed the "Mystery" portion.

Not a bad book, but I was ready to move on. I was looking forward to some sorta slue thing beyond "what bed went 'BUMP' in the night".

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## Mary says

Didn't like this one as much as the first one in the series. Maybe I just wasn't in the right mood.

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## Amanda Meggs says

Unlike my usual reading habit I have read this series all out of order. Des is a very strong and upright police woman, Mitch always in the right/wrong place at the right time to help solve the mystery. They are nice interesting characters if a little stereotypical, the other characters are the rich and famous locals who aren't very nice generally. The plot had plenty of possibilities as 'bad guy' and I was unsure how it would turn out. Very good, although its becoming rather like the Miss Marple type mystery where there is no way you would want to live in their village - way to many psychopaths.

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## Tony says

This was a cozy featuring the two characters, Mitch Berger, a New York film critic, and Desiree Mitry, a black Connecticut State Trooper. Although the duo certainly brings their differences to the story, Handler was not able to infuse any of the action with any excitement. Capably written, but ultimately resulting in a dull story that is formulaic. I recommended going back and reading his earlier series featuring Stewart Hoag.

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## C. says

I got "*The Bright Silver Star*" by **David Handler** on sale, an unusual foray in many ways. Gobbling gothic mysteries until my twenties, I was oblivious to series. I felt details missing. Sure enough this was volume three. I did not locate the first two easily! It got three stars, backing up to "*The Cold Blue Blood*" garnered five, and it is no surprise "**The Hot Pink Farmhouse**", 2002, receives five stars. Humorous covers do not guarantee "cozy". I seldom read male authors or protagonists and noticed grimmer subject exploration and bluntness. The genre people forget is: "standard adult mystery".

Mitch Berger is a film critic, pleased to leave New York and embrace the wilds of Massachusetts. Desiree Mitry is a gorgeous black officer, with an important Father, who fell for Mitch and moved too. She excelled with Connecticut homicide. These three USA states are close. **David's** compassionate narrative stems from his lead characters' feelings, which is how to get people enthralled with stories. They are properly layered personages too. Mitch is a softie but smart and braver than he seems. In Desiree, we have a cat-rescuer, a keen artist, and someone glad to be a state trooper for local people. This novel is all about a variety of problems children face and about how they are helped.

It is about how bizarre family relationships, built on guilt and secrets, can erupt in irrational acts that make sense solely to them. We hear about a long-ago unidentified girl who was buried. What a surprise that she was from my city, Winnipeg! Just a note that Manitobans proudly share where we are from and would not

hop into a sack without having discussed last names and anecdotes! In the company of new American friends especially, we all love swapping homeland stories.

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### **Monica \*\*can't read fast enough\*\* says**

I enjoyed this installment of the Berger and Mitry series and I'm looking forward to continuing. I like that Handler is slowly building a strong relationship that feels genuine between the two protagonists and I even enjoy the slightly over the top insular community where all of the actions take place. If you are looking for a cozy mystery series with a touch of romance (no full on sex scenes) that are quick and entertaining reads I would definitely say give this one a try!

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### **Hrn1947 says**

Excellent second installment. I like the way so many people could be guilty at first glance. He keeps me guessing. Not as much weather or nature as the first. Will read more

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### **Brenda says**

Any of the Berger & Mitry books are worth reading. The characters are so real that you feel as if you are part of their inner circle.

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### **Gail says**

Another good mystery involving Mitch, movie critic and author, and Des, state trooper, who live in the quiet hamlet of Dorset, Connecticut. This one revolves around the life and death of a famous, reclusive sculptor and his daughters. Looking forward to the next in the series!

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