



Closet Confidential

Mary Jane Maffini

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Fourth in the series featuring organizer and amateur sleuth Charlotte Adams, following *Death Loves a Messy Desk*. A friend hires Charlotte to organize her closets and prove that her daughter's accident was murder. And now Charlotte has to get a house-and her suspects-in order.

Closet Confidential Details

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Author : Mary Jane Maffini

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From Reader Review Closet Confidential for online ebook

Linda says

Good entry in the series and things really picked up at the end. I sort of had it figured out in general but not specifically who was behind everything.

Mary Lou says

This is a good example of the hobby mystery genre (not sure if that is a real category or not). Charlotte Adams is a closet organizer who sleuths on the side. Not surprisingly, the cops would like her to stop. But she is determined to find out if the debutante philanthropist Anabel really did fall into a muddy hole accidentally, or whether there was foul play involved. Meanwhile her girlfriend Pepper (coincidentally a cop) is threatened and nearly killed.

Maffini throws a number of red herrings into the mix.

This is by no means great literature, but an amusing little book for those of us who like home decorating shows and Project Runway.

Ellen says

 Closet Confidential

~Berkley

(13)

Charlotte to the rescue, January 17, 2012

By Ellen Rappaport (Florida)

This review is from: Closet Confidential (A Charlotte Adams Mystery) (Paperback)

Like the other reviewers I have read all 4 books in this series and will continue to do so until the author cries uncle or runs out of steam. Thus far Mary Jane Maffini is definitely doing neither.

This fourth entry in Maffini's Charlotte Adams series continues to do quite a bit more than just hold my interest. The people/characters in this series evolve and grow in their relationships and develop along with Charlotte as the plot thickens. And believe me it does thicken.

Lorelei Beauchamp is an aging beauty who has lost her only daughter, Anabel, in an unforeseen accident. Or was it an accident? That's what Lorelei doesn't believe contrary to the police and her husband, Harry. Charlotte becomes involved in this web of intrigue by trying to disprove Lorelei's belief that her daughter was murdered.

While all this is the foundation for an unsolved and unrecognized murder...Charlotte is busy trying to organize Lorelei's 7 closets with the assistance of Harry(Lorelei's husband). Unfortunately, Lorelei is little help due to her grief over her daughter's sudden death.

At the same time Charlotte notices Nick's apparent panic attacks when anything pertaining to Anabel's murder scene is mentioned. What is hidden behind those attacks and why?

I so much enjoyed this book because of the characters involved. Jack came through in child care at his bike store, CyCotics. And Charlotte turns up a box full of photos from their younger years while pulling down blankets for little Nick in Jack's closet. But why does Jack have so many pictures of Charlotte?

Charlotte's relationship with Pepper grows stronger and soon Pepper realizes that she can depend on Charlotte once again.

Charlotte finds a dependable and creative assistant in Lilith and 2 new aides in neighbors living across the street from the murder scene.

I had no idea who the murderer was until it was revealed.

Loved this book. This series and this author never disappoints. Looking forward to the next in this series and highly recommend the Charlotte Adams series to all lovers of cozies.

Ellen

Helen says

I've read one of these before and this is a pleasant followup. I have doubts as to the probability of the actions of the police force and Lorelei and Harry (how many champagne cocktails are there?) but Jack and the other misfits are pretty good and the closet hints were very helpful. I may actually do something about mine as a result of reading this book and I don't suppose you can say better than that. Would any force keep Nick on as an officer? And what's with Connor? What is Charlotte's relationship with Jack going to be? Why couldn't MS Maffini have set this series in Canada? There isn't much change necessary, or does she feel we don't have closet problems up here?

Cathy Austin says

Cosy crime by an established Canadian writer. Charlotte gets herself mixed up in crime solving, just her nature, and being a closet organizer, she finds out all kinds of things, like a hairdresser! set in an up state New York town. Cops, old friends, old school mates, and usual motives: jealousy, greed, and being in the wrong place at the wrong time. Fast paced, lots of red herrings. Kept me guessing to the end for whodunnit. Good writing, likeable characters. Light read.

rabbitprincess says

I'm not sure what I can say about this one. The series as a whole is an acquired taste, and with the previous installment (Death Loves a Messy Desk) I downgraded it from "put on Xmas list" to "borrow from library". This one is no worse than Death Loves a Messy Desk, except perhaps that it's extremely repetitive. The case Charlotte is solving involves the death of a woman at a construction site that was believed to be an accident, but her mother is convinced it was murder. As Charlotte meets new people to discuss the situation, she has to restate what she's learned and why she's asking these seemingly impertinent questions, and it gets tiresome after a while. Still, the organizing tips are always worth a glance, and there are some chuckles along the way, so if you're looking for a light read, this is probably a good bet.

Lindsay says

This book was incredibly boring. It took me forever to read it. It was a reminder why I stopped reading this series. I had originally started reading the series because the main character is a professional organizer and I like to organize things, but she is just annoying. Stop getting yourself into trouble. Yes, you solve the case, but people get hurt in process. Plus she's too nice. One of her clients kept blowing off appointments, and does Charlotte get mad? Nope. Come on lady.

Skip it and read something else.

Diane says

2.5 stars

Philip says

Ok this wasn't a bad read and I guess it was as good as any of the previous books in this series and I'll probably read the next one 'cause I've already acquired it but it doesn't have top priority on my TBR list. I still don't like Charlotte Adams too much and I think she should keep her day job 'cause she's not too much of an investigator. She just blunders along forming weird theories which cast almost everyone in the story as the prime suspect until the next clue is revealed which exonerates that character and points at another. This series lacks the humour of Mary Jane Maffini's Camilla MacPhee series and I suspect that is because Charlotte needs one or more weird sidekicks like Alvin or Mrs. Parnell who are actually involved in the main story rather than Jack who just has a parallel storyline and doesn't really get involved in Charlotte's investigation. The twist at the end was all right and the clues were there earlier which should have made it easy to see coming and the ending was fairly solid so, as I said, it was an OK read.

Chelsea says

This has been my favorite book in the series. So much character development.

Susan says

Improbable scenario, but Charlotte is so darn cute and nice!

Jeannie and Louis Rigod says

Oh my what a difficult time Charlotte Adams, our beloved sleuth has trying to prove that there was No

murder committed. This unusual spin on the classic mystery form was amusing and fresh.

Softly underneath the story line is Charlotte's life and relationships. The Author uses a subtle wordplay that reminds me of an excellent harmony in music. It flows but never over takes the soloist.

This book was my favorite to date in the very wonderful series.

Now to be patient and await the next....

Grey853 says

Charlotte's back teaching people to organize their closets and lives. In this one the husband of a friend hires her to help his wife not just organize closets but to try to get her out of a deep depression over losing her daughter. When the woman says she thinks her daughter was murdered, Charlotte is off and running to investigate, despite the repeated warnings by her friends and the police.

Complications occur when Pepper is severely beaten and her husband Nick is missing and assumed to be the assailant. Charlotte knows Nick would never hurt Pepper and that the cops are on the wrong track.

I enjoy this series, but I can't really give this one more than three stars because with editing it could be so much better. There's a lot of unnecessary repetition as Charlotte tells her story and asks her questions more than once. This could've been a much tighter story without some of the side details. It could've been a four easy, but it's not as it is, at least not to me.

I do like Charlotte and her friends, though, and I'll keep reading the series.

Avery Aames says

A darling addition to the cozy market, with an organized protagonist you love, even though she'll drive you crazy reminding you about all the stuff you know you should be organizing. A clever mystery, a passionate friendship. Fun reading.

Nathan Burgoine says

The fourth Charlotte Adams book continues to deliver everything I've come to expect from Mary Jane Maffini - the characters are fun (and witty), the plot is a tangle I rarely solve before her heroine, and the secondary characters and her heroine continue to evolve in a living, breathing way.

This time, Charlotte Adams has been hired by a rich beauty model who has seven (or more) closets out of control. Charlotte is happy to lend her personal organizing skills and career to the task, but when the woman confides that her daughter didn't die in an accident, but was murdered, Charlotte finds herself back in the role of unwilling sleuth.

This time, however, Charlotte is trying to convince the poor woman what everyone believes: it was a terrible

accident. But was it? Unwilling or not, Charlotte's sleuthing starts to lead her too close to home, and things are soon growing more dangerous than ever.

Every closet has a skeleton - and the next skeleton might be Charlotte herself.

Pickup the Charlotte Adams mysteries - you'll not be let down.
