



Murder at the Opera

Margaret Truman

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When a young soprano is found murdered, life imitates opera, and suddenly all the performers seem to have something to hide The murder investigation is in a race against time mere weeks before opening night, a black-tie gala at which everyone--including the President himself--will be in the seats.

Murder at the Opera Details

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From Reader Review Murder at the Opera for online ebook

Sarah says

Years ago I read all of the books in the Capital Crimes series, and I've let it slack lately. So, when I saw that the Casey Public Library had this one in, I had to check it out.[return][return]I forgot how formulaic some mystery series are. But, hey, I guess that's why they are popular. I was kinda bored to tears, but I liked the subjects--mystery and opera. I learned a little bit about Tosca, which I'd love to see someday. Basically Mac Smith and his wife get involved in the murder of a young Asian-Canadian opera star and help solve it. Add in an overweight cop who has a crush on his petite partner and an ex-detective who knows too much about the arts and you've got a novel. To sum it up, this is a typical mystery and didn't surprise me. I don't think I'll be listening or reading any more of Truman's works unless I hear of something by her that's new and different.

Anne Hawn Smith says

I haven't read any of Margaret Truman's mysteries for a long time and was pleasantly surprised at this one. I picked it out because I am studying opera with my 10 year old granddaughter whom I homeschool and I was looking for something that would give a feel for how an opera was staged.

This book deals with a young soprano who is killed in the first chapter and it veers off to a terrorist cell and an 8 year murder in which a manuscript disappeared. The manuscript was alleged to be a composition in which Mozart and Handel corroborated. The various threads do come together and the mystery is summed up in the last chapter.

I enjoyed the background on the Opera and the Opera Ball and what has to happen when the President appears at a social function. It was fascinating to see what goes on behind a simple appearance at a ball or a trip to a restaurant entails.

Judith says

Very interesting plot and characters. One of my favourites.

Linda says

Another good entry in the Capitol Crimes series. I always enjoy it when Mac and Annabel are involved. This one was interesting learning about the opera.

Margaret Osburn says

I loved the prologue. It was a great start to this 525 page mystery. I found it to be well written and I wanted to finish reading it before I put it down.

Homewood Public Library says

Mac Smith has retired from defending criminals in court and now teaches law at Georgetown. His wife also has retired from her law practice. She now sits on the Board of the Washington National Opera. When WNO planned to present Tosca, Annabel Smith convinces Mac to be a super in the upcoming production. He is surprisingly pleased with the experience. Until an opera student is found murdered and evidence surfaces connected to an unsolved murder case from six years before.

Truman weaves the story based in D.C. but with international intrigue in the middle east, Britain and the Carribean. Of course there is the ever present cast of agencies such as the CIA, FBI and Homeland Security. The President and First Lady along with congressmen make an appearance in the story.

The show, Tosca, will go on in spite of the tragedy. Police investigate and a retired D.C. cop is hired to investigate. Mac and Annabel are very much involved in it all and to the very end of the book we are wondering what really happened.

Ms. Beth, 2008

Carl Alves says

As the name of the novel suggests, the book starts off with a murder at the Washington National Opera. The murder victim is a young opera singer. McKenzie Smith, a former lawyer and now a law professor, is unofficially helping to investigate the case. In parallel, the Metro police department is investigating a case that goes beyond simple murder. The murder ties into a terrorist plot involving the assassination of prominent American political figures, including the president of the United States.

Perhaps the most irritating aspect of this novel was the author's love for the opera and how it permeates all throughout the story. Normally, an author's passion for a subject is a good thing, but in this case, every time she pontificates about the awesomeness of opera, it really took me out of the story. It became about preaching about how opera is great, and the story took a backseat. As for the plot, I didn't find it to be terribly believable. It was hard to suspend disbelief at times, and there were too many coincidences involved, especially involving the private detective and former homicide detective that the National Opera uses to perform the investigation. The mystery was fairly mediocre. In all, I would recommend skipping this novel. There are better mysteries out there than this one.

Carl Alves – author of Conjesero

Beth says

Too many characters and plot points to keep track of in this book, and when the murder(s) finally were solved you realized that the only ones investigating them were the police - even though the recurring Truman characters of Mac & Annabel Smith (former attorneys) would be expected to have a strong hand in the solving of the murders. The cases were "solved" when the murderers confessed for reasons that are not made clear in the story, and now that I'm thinking about it, I'm not even sure all of the murders were actually

solved. Some connections between the various characters and story lines are never explained, or if they are I missed it because I was lost trying to sort things out. I'm not sure what to make of this one, since I'm sure I've read some of this series a long time ago and enjoyed those, but for me this one was not satisfying. I picked it up because I thought I would enjoy the opera angle, and that part was very interesting, but the other elements were too confusing to me. I will most likely try some others though to see what I make of them.

Tina Demas Broccolo says

I thought this book would be great and it started off pretty strong and interesting. It really had such potential and it was terrible! There were so many story lines that could have tied in to a great ending and it really just fizzled out. The last few chapters were particularly terrible and the ending was really atrocious. I wouldn't recommend it.

Linda says

Plenty of red herrings in this one. The person I thought was the villain, almost from the beginning of the book, turned out to actually BE a villain -- just not a murderer. I didn't suspect the identity of the murderer until it was revealed, late in the plot; and there was a twist at the Opera Ball that I SHOULD have foreseen, but didn't.

Another excellent mystery from Margaret Truman and/or her ghostwriters.

Laura Beasley says

I enjoyed this book but not as much as some of her others. The story had too many different things going on and the way she tied them all together just was not smooth. The story progressed and then when she is trying to bring it all together it happened to quickly and some didn't even make sense. The story takes place in Washington DC and some of the same characters as in other books which I enjoy. Mac and his wife Annabel. She has joined the opera league and gets Mac to be an extra in the upcoming opera. Then one of the opera singers is murdered, a plot to killing influential politicians is uncovered and an old murder case is reopened.

Laura says

Plucky protagonist couple resurfaces, does plucky crime fighting. Bonus sketchy journalist. Fake news! Fake murders! OK done. I'm a little over this series (super tired of the central power couple) but I've come this far, so I'll finish it out.

Jacque says

I used to read these mysteries awhile ago and picked this one up recently. I couldn't even finish it. It went on

forever and I just couldn't spend more time on it.

Robin says

Nice writing, but a pretty lame ending. Maybe the author just got tired of the story and decided to wrap it up.

grundoon says

The last we've seen of Mackenzie and Annabel Smith? As primary characters, ostensibly so, yet no real indication... and not a particularly strong finish, though nice to introduce a different part of D.C. (well, bordering Takoma Park, MD anyway) for a change.
