



Too Darn Hot

Sandra Scoppettone

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I'd had two murders since last spring, solved them both. The first one was prime and it got a lotta attention in the fish wrappers, so I had a bunch of clients for awhile. Just cause people saw my name in the paper they figured I was the best (which I might be). Not bad for a twenty-six-year-old gal from Newark, New Jersey.

It's the middle of World War II, but not all the killing is happening overseas. In a sweltering New York City summer, scrappy steno-turned-sleuth Faye Quick—kicked upstairs when her boss ships out—takes on a new case that would make even the most experienced P.I. sweat bullets.

It all starts with a beautiful woman. Heartbroken Claire Turner turns on the waterworks in Faye's office, begging for help in finding her beau, Private Charlie Ladd, gone missing while on leave from Uncle Sam's army. But when Faye busts into Charlie's hotel room, she doesn't find anyone—anyone alive, that is.

But where's Charlie? Because the corpse in the hotel room might not be him. And that leads Faye to wonder if the unfortunate stiff was Charlie's target practice.

In a case with more twists, starts, and stops than the Third Avenue El, Faye learns that some shocking truths are hidden behind the fog of war—a personal war being fought on the home front.

Brimming over with big band music, hairdos in snoods, and unfiltered smokes—the same irresistible 1940s detail that made *This Dame for Hire* such a treat—the second adventure of indefatigable Faye solidifies her status as one of Sandra Scoppettone's most appealing characters. *Too Darn Hot* is sizzling fun readers are sure to make Quick work of.

From the Hardcover edition.

Too Darn Hot Details

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From Reader Review Too Darn Hot for online ebook

Adan Ramie says

Sandra Scoppettone does it again with Too Darn Hot, the sequel to This Dame for Hire. If you like the latter, you're going to love the former.

It's 1940s New York, and Faye Quick is still learning the P.I. business she took over while her boss, Woody, fights a war across the world. The oppressive heat, hardboiled lingo, and an overlay of the ignorance of the time all help set the scene for a case about a missing soldier with questionable morals and the girl who would do anything to get him back. Sprinkle in a dash of the P.I.'s own rocky romance, and you've got yourself a fun read.

I really wish there were more Faye Quick books. She's one dame I'd love to read more about!

Greg says

A sequel to "This Dame to Hire", there is the stark presence of the Holocaust, only depicted in mention, coupled with the everyday anti-Jewish attitudes that would be set aside once the mass genocide would be discovered. Yet that does have it's limits with the contrast of a hard-broiled novel present.

Jan C says

I think I liked this a little better than the first one, This Dame For Hire. Maybe I was more accustomed to Scoppettone's use of the language of the day.

These are light mysteries, part humor, part noir. She takes over her boss' private detective business while he goes off to fight in WWII.

Here she is hired to find a soldier on leave who may have been kidnapped. Then a dead body is found in his hotel room. It ain't him.

In the previous book, Faye had heard stories from a friend about what is happening to the Jews in Germany. She discounted it and thought it was just crazy talk. But here she finds that the Jews aren't just getting killed in Germany.

Ed says

#2 in the Faye Quick series.

Faye Quick is hired by Claire Turner to find her missing serviceman boyfriend. A search of the boyfriend's hotel room uncovers a body, but it's a different serviceman and the boyfriend is still missing. The trail twists

and turns with a possibly estranged sister and ransom demands for the boyfriend.

Sarah H says

Scoppettone gives a great twist to the '40s detective genre by making her PI a hard-boiled dame. The pulp-fiction tone and language is a little distracting at first, but Faye Quick is such a great character that you can't help but jump into the story.

Joan says

Very easy summer read, although a bit predictable. Or perhaps I'm a better sleuth than I imagined! (or just lucked out on this one...)

It was a nice mental break from some of the other, lengthier books I've got on my plate right now. :)

John says

Really good sequel, although it doesn't stand on its own as the backstory in the other title would be a huge help in understanding this one.

I'm not one who guesses mystery resolutions early on, so this one had me surprised at the end. I wish there were more of this series, but the author wrapped up things here so that it was a logical place to stop, or could have been continued had she and the publishers come to an agreement.

Only negative note would be that the theme of anti-Semitism was handled in a rather clunky manner I thought.

Joni says

In a sweltering New York City summer, scrappy steno-turned-sleuth Faye Quick - kicked upstairs when her boss ships out - takes on a new case that would make even the most experienced PI sweat bullets." "It all starts with a beautiful woman. Heartbroken Claire Turner turns on the waterworks in Faye's office, begging for help in finding her beau, Private Charlie Ladd, gone missing while on leave from Uncle Sam's army. But when Faye busts into Charlie's hotel room, she doesn't find anyone - anyone alive, that is." "But where's Charlie? Because the corpse in the hotel room might not be him. And that leads Faye to wonder if the unfortunate stiff was Charlie's target practice." In a case with more twists, starts, and stops than the Third Avenue El. Faye learns that some, shocking truths are hidden behind the fog of war - a personal war being fought on the home front

Ruth says

Fun. Felt like the 40's (but what would I know).

Dawn says

Book on Tape - wonderful voices with the 1940's slang(lots of slang) fun book to listen to. Enjoyed listening probably better than the read would have been due to the great voices, slang and NY accents.

Tara Chevrestt says

I have really enjoyed this series and I'm really disappointed to see that despite this one, the second, having been published in 2006, there hasn't been a third one yet. What's up with that?

Faye Quick, P.I. is back. The case is a missing boyfriend. The time is world war two. The setting is a sweltering NYC. While Faye battles heat on the subways tracking down suspects and clues, the case just keeps getting more complicated. A missing boyfriend leads to a dead body, a ransom demand, a jilted lover, angry parents, and even a shot neighbor. Plus, it looks like.. just maybe.. Faye has been scammed by her most recent client. To make matters worse, her love life starts hurting because she is too busy chasing suspects and her new boyfriend doesn't want to take a back seat.

Great and fun read. I enjoyed it. I like picking up a mystery in which the heroine isn't doing the horizontal mambo with her partner or a suspect. Nice change. Love the 40s lingo too, words like "swell" add a great touch. The only thing I hate and I hated this in the last one too is the way people talk at times. Evertime the heroine said "ya" or "yer" I pictured some gum smacking ditz. It just doesn't fit. Still a real good read tho.

M. says

This is a mystery set during WW II where the detective is a young, single woman in New York, and I listened to the audio book rather than reading a hard copy. I don't know if the language usage is authentic slang/dialect from the period, but I got a kick out of it. The story was interesting, with a couple of twists I didn't expect. It's a good light read.

Jann Barber says

Faye Quick, steno turned sleuth when her boss shipped out to fight in WWII, has taken over the agency. She had already solved two murder cases when this novel opens.

Taking on a missing person's case at the request of Claire Turner, Quick tries to find Turner's boyfriend,

Private Charlie Ladd. Instead, she finds a body that is *not* Charlie and the case becomes filled with twists and herrings.

Most of the characters speak as you would expect, but Faye's speech is filled with stereotypical PI lingo and I found this a bit off putting. She also says "yer" a lot; she's originally from New Jersey and has lived in New York City.

I wanted to give this 3 stars, but am only giving it two because of the way Faye speaks.

Gwen says

A spunky gal detective, zippy 1940s lingo, attention to war detail, and a missing person who perhaps isn't -- how can this be anything but a hoot? The war is omnipresent throughout this peppy mystery, from the restrictions on gasoline to the presence of women in so many unlikely fields (elevator operator, anyone?), from soldiers on leave to men returning without limbs. The unexpected twists and turns make for a fun read, while the knowledge of certain characters about what's really happening in Europe --dismissed by Faye as so much foolishness--are a haunting reminder of what was really going on. For a book with some romance, with some good (and not-so-good) family relationships, and with a determined girl PI and her peppy office manager, this can't be beat.

Darcie says

My weakness: period murder mysteries featuring female detectives. The story was compelling enough, but I was sucked in by the descriptions of 1940s New York and use of contemporary slang/dialogue.
