



## Owls Well That Ends Well

*Donna Andrews*

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Meg Langslow was actually looking forward to renovating the old Victorian mansion she and her boyfriend Michael bought. But she wasn't thrilled by the lifetime of junk accumulated by the house's eccentric previous owner, Edwina Sprocket. The easiest solution: hold the end-all and be-all of gigantic yard sales. But when the event attracts the late Miss Sprocket's money-hungry heirs, the over-enthusiastic supporters of some endangered barn owls, and customers willing to go to any lengths to uncover a hidden treasure, Meg suspects things have gotten a *little* out of hand...

Then an antiques dealer is found stuffed in a trunk with his head bashed in--and the yard sale turns into a day's-long media circus. Even worse, the suspect arrested for the crime is the person Michael needs to secure academic tenure. Now, Meg is juggling an ever-growing list of suspects. And she's going to have to outthink and outwit one clever murderer who lives by "everything must go..."

## Owls Well That Ends Well Details

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Author : Donna Andrews

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# From Reader Review Owls Well That Ends Well for online ebook

## Andrea says

Warning if you are having a YARD SALE anytime soon you may change your mind after reading the 6th installment of the Meg Langslow mysteries. What a hoot! You'll be laughing out loud when you read the tale of the antiques dealer who is found stuffed in the trunk with his head bashed in and the media turns up on the doorstep and interrupts the frenzied shoppers. The suspect may in fact be among the customers who are dressed in costume as there is a discount offered to those who dress-up. Meg's eccentric family including her parents are at their finest when there is murder, mayhem and a mystery to solve. All in the name of renovating a house that may prove to be more of a chore than Meg and her boyfriend Michael had bargained for!

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## Cornelia says

Meg, a smart likable amateur sleuth, and her would be fiance Michael, she has commitment issues, buy an old house far out in the country but it's cluttered to the rafters with ugly antiques. Meg's solution is to have a giant yard sale, all her relatives are invited to sell their own junk and the Sprockets, members of the previous owner's family, show up along with local folk to sell a humorous array of items. Along with the house Meg and Michael also got a barn with an actual barn owl.

During this massive yard sale a local and much disliked antique dealer is murdered in the barn. The police arrest a suspect right away but it's Micheal's friend, a fellow professor at the university. Meg and Michael team up to solve the mystery, They have to make their way through a long list of suspects as it seems everyone in town had some problem with the victim.

This book is hilarious. It truly has the funniest garage sale/yard sale scenes I've ever read. Meg's yard sale almost turns into a county fair at one point. If you love animals there are so many funny scenes from a crazy little dog that terrifies everyone to a flock of sheep running a muck and then of course there is Sophie, the barn owl. I learned more about owl pellets in this book than I ever wanted to know.

It's a great mystery and a hilarious book. It's fresh, well written, and a fun read. I highly recommend Owls Well That Ends Well.

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## Rebecca says

Meg Langslow and her boyfriend are preparing to renovate the rambling Victorian country house they bought, but first, they have to get rid of everything the previous owner left. This, they're doing by hosting a massive, multi-family yard sale, and Meg has been going crazy organizing everything, and fending off all the people who try to sneak in early (their vicious furball of a dog, Spike, mostly solves that problem). Everything is going as well as can be expected for an even so huge, but then, a body is discovered in a trunk, and the police have to suspend the yard sale. The body is a local antiques dealer whom Meg calls Gordon-You-Thief, and no one is really sad to see him go. Problem is, the police have arrested a colleague of Michael's, and worse, one who is on his tenure committee. Meg knows she has to find the real murderer, so

sets off sleuthing. Meanwhile, the crowd shut out of the yard sale starts up a new one in the front yard, and every time Meg looks, something else has been added--food trucks, choirs, costumes, sheep...it's almost becoming a literal circus! And then there are the owls...

I keep saying this series is such fun, because it is. It is so ridiculous and over the top, you just can't wait to see what unbelievable thing will happen next. This would make a great TV show. I thought the mystery was fine, though I guessed the murderer and I easily noticed when an object Meg mentioned would come up in the denouement, and it did. I did like that Meg got called out on some of her tendencies, just to add some depth to the story, and that she and Michael don't always see eye to eye. Anyway, just a delightful series if you like absurd with heart.

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### **Jonathan says**

Probably the best int he series to this point. Excellent; the killer completely blindsided me.

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### **Marianne says**

Murder at a yard sale - with owls and SPOOR. This was a great book that kept me guessing til Meg and Michael figured it out!

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### **Catherine says**

Interesting characters, but too many. A Hugh yard sale out of control, nobody pay attention to signs, and top it off with a murder. Wow! At least the murderer was hard to figure out.

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### **Teri-K says**

I should start this by saying that I hate yard sales. That bias may have effected my feelings about this entry in the series, which takes place as Michael and Meg try to hold the yard sale of the century. Still, I enjoyed the set-up of the book a lot, with all of Meg's crazy relatives hanging around their wreck of a house and 2 acres of junk needing to be unloaded. Plus owls!

The middle, however, dragged a lot. Again, confession time - I was home for three days in cold, rainy weather with a sick two year old, so perhaps it was my attitude and lack of sleep, not the story, that was depressed. But it just seemed to loose it's sense of fun. Meg stressed out about everything and she and Michael practically argued about Meg's attitude toward her Mother. (Michael and Meg never argue.) I really didn't enjoy it much but I kept reading between wiping his nose and opening juice boxes.

Fortunately it picked up again in the final third. Shades of "The Trouble with Harry" had me smiling, and the final solution really surprised me. Still, I think it's time in this series for Meg to stop being such a grouch and relax a bit about her relatives. We'll see if that happens. 4 stars for another unique setting and a surprising

ending, 2 for the faulty pacing and Meg's misery = 3 average. Maybe 2.5

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### **Sg.00 says**

hmmm... I was looking for a new series that would be lightly entertaining. I don't think this is the one. Protagonist is certainly no Agatha Raisin

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### **Angela says**

hilarious!

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### **Joy says**

Meg is conducting the yard sale to end all yard sales - literally. Their new house, a falling-apart relic previously inhabited by a hoarder, has to be emptied before it can be renovated.

Behind Meg's back, her father and brother have put about the rumor that there may be a pirate's hoard concealed among the junk, and the town population pretty much relocates to Meg and Michael's yard. This offers plenty of suspects for the murder of a very unpopular antique dealer, so why do the police have to home in on a friend important to Michael's career? Meg has almost as much determination on the trail as their unwelcome-but-useful dog Spike.

Almost lost in the hilarious mayhem are Meg's adventures in a dumbwaiter, the non-burglary in the murdered man's shop, and the unopportune moments that various pieces of the house choose to fall off.

2015 Reread: I'm going through the whole series again, with audio books as much as possible. Few of the early books are out in audio yet, to my regret.

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### **Stacey says**

Love the premise of this book. Love the way the yard sale totally got out of hand. Loved the family Loved the mystery.

Hated that Meg is choosing to be willfully blind to certain suspects. Ruined the whole book for me.

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### **Aya says**

Meg Langslow: 6

Well, this book seems to clarify the timeline confusion. Apparently there was a time skip of a few years (the 'few' is not very clear) somewhere around book 3 or book 4. This book finally deals with the house Meg and Michael ended up buying at the end of book 4. The main character, Meg, is a mess of emotions. After all this

time, she has resentment against her mother for being model-worthy beautiful compared to herself. She resents Michael for putting most of the responsibility for the house on her (before it was making her move, having to deal with his mother, etc.). She's always eyeing other men and entertaining the idea of what-might-have-been. She resents her family for making demands on her time. All this, and she never seems to stand up for herself and tell all these people taking advantage of her to take a hike. Instead, she pastes a smile on her face and tries to be pleasant. She needs counseling. I found this to be a frustrating read. I can't stand the main character.

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### **Tobinsfavorite says**

I do like these things. My mom mails them to me in pairs, and I think I'll read one and then wait on the other, but then I read both in 3-4 days. This one is lots of fun, and although I kind of felt it would end up how it did, it didn't have to. This was probably the best-constructed mystery of the set so far, insomuch as the guilty party wasn't completely obvious from the beginning, neither was the guilty party only revealed at the end through previously withheld evidence.

The character of Michael is too good to be true, but that's part of why we read these things, isn't it?

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### **FangirlNation says**

In **Owls Well that Ends Well**, Meg Langlow has her hands full of junk, and she wants to get rid of it! Her boyfriend, Michael, had bought a house sight-unseen from the heirs of the greatest hoarder on earth, with the stipulation that the heirs will get a percentage of the profits of everything Michael and Meg make by selling the contents. Thus develops the biggest yard sale in the world! Everyone they know seems to want to contribute junk to get rid of at this yard sale, making it the event of the year for most everyone of the small college and farm town of Caerphilly, Virginia.

Read the rest of this review, more reviews, and other wonderful, geeky articles on FangirlNation

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### **Stacy says**

Another great fun adventure with Meg, Michael, and her family. This time Meg and Michael have moved into the fixer-upper home of the late Mrs Sprocket. They bought the house "as-is" with the condition that anything they sell, 10% goes to the Sprocket family. Because of this the Sprocket's have been hounding them and trying to wring any penny they can out of Meg and Michael. It didn't help that the house, sheds, and barn were packed full of nick-nacks and other junk. So Meg decided to have a yard sale, and her family thought it was a great idea so they all joined in with their things to sell. It almost sounded like it had become it's own flea-market or fair-type event.

So the book starts with the day of the yard sale. People keep showing up early and the house is full of family members (and Sprocket squatters) getting ready for the sale. But there is no furniture in the house or the Sprocket's will claim it's theirs and demand payment.

It's the usual chaos that only Andrews has the perfect ability to make funny, charming, and entertaining to

read. We have Meg's dad obsessed over the owls in the barn. And everything is going relatively well when Gordon-you-Thief (a well known local antique dealer, whom is loathed by everyone) turns up dead in a trunk. Giles Rathbone, one of Michael's fellow professors at the university, is the prime suspect because he had been the last one holding the bookends Gordon-You-Thief was murdered with. Michael likes Giles (and Giles is Michael's best chance of making tenure) so Meg was determined to clear him.

So it's the usual adventure of Meg doing her sleuthing (pissing off the local police force, Chief Burke as she did last time) but finally figuring out what happened and who did it. She narrowed down her suspects and realized it was Barrymore Sprocket (the Sprocket who squatted in the house for the yard sale) and discovered he was on parole and was bad news. But THEN she realized it wasn't Sprocket, he just stole the money from the yard sale. Turns out it really was Giles who murdered Gordon-you-Thief. Giles almost killed Meg but Michael showed up in time to save her.

Another fun book. Meg is getting pressured by Michael to get married, and it sounds like Meg is coming around to the idea. Looking forward to what comes next!

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