

Murder is a Family Business

Heather Haven

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Just because a man cheats on his wife and makes Danny DeVito look tall, dark and handsome, is that any reason to kill him? The reluctant and quirky PI, Lee Alvarez doesn't think so. But the 34-year old Latina, WASP and 100% detective has her work cut out for her when the man is murdered on her watch. Of all the nerve.

Set in the present, Murder is a Family Business is the first in a series of humorous mysteries revolving around Lee Alvarez, and rest of the Alvarez Family, detectives all. Seemingly light and frothy on the surface, the novel nevertheless explores familial love, the good, the bad and the annoying.

Completing the family is Lee's Never-Had-A-Bad-Hair-Day aristocratic mother, Lila; computer genius brother, Richard; beloved uncle "Tio;" and her energetic orange and white cat, Tugger. When this group is not solving murders, they run Discretionary Inquiries, a successful Silicon Valley agency that normally deals with the theft of computer software. The love, humor and camaraderie shared within this family are what set this series apart from others.

Murder is a Family Business Details


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Author : Heather Haven

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From Reader Review Murder is a Family Business for online ebook

Scot says

A light quick read targeting female readers who want to indulge fantasies of being rich enough to keep \$10,000 in your trunk just in case you need it as well as rescuing stray kittens and also like to read a lot of details about shopping or fashion selections. I read it for the Bay area setting. Characters' conversations aren't always realistic and characters tend to be shallow stereotypes--doting uncle, no-nonsense businesswoman mom, computer nerd brother. The heroine is supposed to be a quirky because she is half hot blooded Latina and half old money aristocracy from San Francisco. She lives and works in Palo Alto.

Heavensent1 says

Murder Is A Family Business is book one in the Alvarez Family Murder Mystery series.

Liana Alvarez (Lee to her friends) isn't your typical female, for one, she's a P.I. who investigates computer technology theft and yea, sometimes other stuff, like the case her mother put her on to find out about a cheating husband. Feeling like the job is beneath her, she takes in on anyhow as a favour to her mother's friend, whose husband is suspected of cheating. However, before she can say boo, Mr. Porter Wyler, real estate kingpin, is dead and the case takes on a whole new meaning.

Lila Alvarez is Lee's mother and partner in the private investigator business, in which her husband started in hopes of nabbing computer thieves. She is the cliched type of aristocrat who is used to getting her own way in everything, and continues to ride her daughter for answers, running the agency with a tight fist, she doesn't take no for an answer.

Together, alone with Lee's brother, Richard, her Uncle Tio and her cat, Tugger, she sets out to uncover the intrigues that surround, what was supposed to be a routine man cheating on woman deal, to learn the real truths behind the manifestations of all those involved.

I really enjoyed Lee's personality and character. She is witty, comical and not the damsel in distress type of lady. She strives for perfection in order to please her mother and the memory of her father. You will find yourself chuckling over the antics and situations she gets herself into, she continuously seems to be in the wrong place at the wrong time. When the investigation turns deadly and involves her life, she pumps up her efforts instead of running from the ordeal ahead.

I found the twists and turns in the plot to be enjoyable, even if I did figure out the culprit long before the book ended. Now I had to read it to see if I was correct, and that was part of the charm with the story, the predictability of the character's involved didn't hinder the plot nor the story. I enjoyed the tidbits of information dispersed throughout the pages on San Francisco and Silicon Valley, I hadn't expected that and it was refreshing to read. I liked Lee, she was as strong woman and I was thankful for such, sometimes authors make the main character a helpless, hapless victim that needs to be "saved", I loved that Heather Haven did not do this to Lee Alvarez, it would have seriously dampened the plot.

The only downfall to the book were some scenes seemed to continue longer than they should or could have. I would've liked to have read a bit more about Richard, but I'm sure he will have more of a backstory in the

books to follow. I quite enjoyed this new series and I think Heather Haven has found a successful and fresh approach to murder/mystery suspense novels. I look forward to reading more in the months ahead.

Marie says

In *Murder is a Family Business*, Liana "Lee" Alvarez is a 34-year-old half-Latina and half-WASP private investigator. When the man she was following turns up dead, she sets out to find his killer while trying to convince the police that she had nothing to do with the crime. She's not alone in her tasks. There's also her mother, Lila, who's the CEO of Discretionary Inquiries Inc. and as feisty as they come and her slightly geeky and eccentric brother, Richard, who's employed by the company as the technical guy to help her out. Lee's lovable uncle Tio, an adorable kitten named Tugger and a handful of police officers round out the cast of characters.

I really enjoyed this book. It was a fun read with lots of humorous scenes. The mystery was pretty good and the characters were memorable. Haven does a lot of scene setting in this book as it's the first in a new series. She also spends lots of time introducing the characters and their relationships allowing the reader to get to know the characters really well. As far as the mystery goes, she kept me guessing right until the very end as to who the murder was.

As I said above the characters in the book are memorable. Liana/Lee is such a great character. She's not your typical PI either. She does her job while remaining glamorous in her high-priced wardrobe. For me, Tio and Tugger stole every scene they were in. Tio showed great compassion for both Liana and Tugger. I'd love to have him as my uncle. I also enjoyed reading about Lila, Liana's mother. She was feisty and fun to read about.

The only thing that bothered me about the book was the format in which I read it. The PDF format didn't enlarge well on my Sony Reader. The misaligned format threw off my reading rhythm. The book is quite short (183 pages), however it still took be awhile to read it awhile to read it because of this.

Recommended. I'd love to read the next book in the series.

For more information about this book or to purchase it, please visit the MuseItUp website. The book can also be purchased from Amazon.com.

For more information about the author and her book, please visit Heather's website or her her blog.

For more information about the virtual book tour, please visit the Pump Up Your Book website.

I'd like to thank Cheryl at Pump Up Your Book for this review copy.

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Brenda says

Liana Alvarez, private investigator for the family owned and run company Discretionary Inquiries, was wet, cold and miserable. She was in the storm without shelter while she was staking out the warehouse – her mother and head of DI, Lila, had specifically requested Lee do this stake out even though the company normally handled software issues. The person she was to keep an eye out for was the husband of Lila’s long-time friend and she wanted it kept quiet. But when Lee discovered the body of her person of interest, her shock was immense...

Richard, Lee’s brother and the computer genius of the company was involved in the search for clues – Lee’s curious nature meant she couldn’t leave it to the police and Richard had everything he needed at his fingertips. The new kitten which Lee had named Tugger was being cared for during Lee’s working days by her favourite person, Tio who had just moved to be with the family after losing his wife. But that curious nature of Lee’s was headed toward catastrophe – the danger she had no idea she was heading into was just around the corner.

There was much more to this murder than the Alvarez family realised – would they be safe? Or would there be more bodies on the horizon?

Murder is a Family Business by Heather Haven is the first in The Alvarez Family Murder Mystery Series and it was great! With laugh out loud moments, it was a highly entertaining read which was fast paced while I tried to figure out who the “baddie” was. Family love and loyalty was the dominant feature in this novel and it’s one I recommend highly. I love the cover as well :)

Rochelle says

Liana (Lee) Alvarez is a tough, yet sensitive PI who works for her family's business-a high tech PI firm in the heart of Silicon Valley. When Lee stumbles onto a murder in a warehouse at San Francisco's Fisherman's Wharf, she calls upon her family—a blueblood mother, a computer-genius brother, and a good-hearted uncle—to solve the case.

A Note from Acey Deucy to Rum Tum Tugger

Dude: There are easier ways to get adopted than by practically drowning. Take me for instance. My mom was smart enough to give birth to my siblings and me on an unnamed person’s patio in a secret house that kept us warm and dry. And Rochelle, who lived next door, was a really soft touch. All I had to do was climb her screen door and meow at her while she was on the phone, and I had her. She hung up, ran outside and scooped me up saying, “Oh, look! Acey knows my voice!” Then I gave her the eyes. You know—the kitty eyes. Yup, it works every time. But that’s how you got Lee. With the eyes and the pitiful meow. I suppose I’ll let Rochelle take over now. It’s a nice day and the mice’re stirring out back by the auto museum. Good hunting. Watch me get Rochelle away from her desk with just one big-eyed stare and a couple of pitiful mews.

Are you done Acey? Can I work now? Sheesh! Oh, you wanna go play outside? You’re such a cute kitty, I could just hug you forever. Okay, okay. Here, let me get up and let you out.

Where was I? Oh yes—reviewing Ms. Haven’s book.

Murder is a Family Business was a top ten finisher in the Preditors and Editors Readers Poll, 2010, and Ms. Haven certainly deserved this accolade. This mystery is tight, scary and often humorous. Can you imagine having a mother who supports you in her own blue-blood way? What can you say about a Girl Scout Leader who guts fish perfectly coiffed and manicured wearing a beaded Halston gown—with an apron, of course? I don't think Lee Alvarez was the only member of that troop who had difficulty getting that image out of her mind. No wonder she rebels by wearing the bright colors of her Latina heritage, albeit with designer labels. She's doing a favor for a long-time friend of her mother's when she stumbles upon that body on the wharf in a deluge. She stumbles onto Tugger that day, as well—both literally. Tugger, of course, is the safer of the two discoveries.

Read the book. You'll see what I mean.

Murder is a Family Business by Heather Haven

<http://museituppublishing.com/booksto...>

P. Zoro says

The Alvarez family is involved in Discretionary Investigations, but definitely not of the nature Mrs. Wyler has hired them for. She suspects her husband is having an affair and sets them on his trail. They are only doing this because she is a family friend. But what begins as an investigation of a gallivanting husband turns into a life threatening adventure for Liana where murder, human trafficking, greed and obsessions are revealed as we try to find out who committed the ultimate crime of killing Mr. Portor Wyler.

The story is well written and interesting. I got lost in descriptions in some places where I felt the pace had slackened. But overall, I liked the way the writer kept me busy wondering who could have killed the man and the exposition of the culprit right at the end was a clever twist. I would recommend the book to all lovers of mystery, investigations and excellent writing.

Cheri Davis says

Great resource ead

Funny Fast paced. Couldn't put it down. Great characters. Really enjoyed. My new favorite author. Lots of twists and turns

Lin Holmes says

Whenever a kitty graces the cover of a book, I am drawn like metal shavings to a magnet. Would, I found myself wondering, the story peak with the cover?

No, actually it is a high octane ride for Lee Alvarez. Sent by her upper-crusty Mom and CEO of their family's Detective agency to...gulp...spy on a cheating hubby...in the middle of virtually nowhere...Sorry I know there are those among us who don't think an abandoned warehouse is nowhere, but not me...she is so

not happy.

Her happy'o'meter sinks even lower when instinct tells her she needs to check on the level of inaction going on when the car of her watchee is still there.

Murder. Right under her attentive...okay, from a distance, eye? No way was she going to let this go.

Murder Is a Family Business is one of those books you want to end so you can find out whodunnit, but once it's done can't help wanting more.

Luckily this is book ONE of a series and Book two is now out and I am just itching to have a free evening to immerse myself in the amazing world of Lee and her newly acquired fellow sleuth and purring side-kick Tugger.

Cat C says

Enjoyable cozy mystery with an interesting twist on the genre--the heroine is a professional investigator, but usually investigates white-collar crime rather than violent.

Tara Chevestt says

There's a lot to like about this story. You got a 34 year old strong Latina woman, Lee Alvarez with a closet full of designer clothes, a classic car, and a kitten named Tugger (cause he tugs on your heartstrings.) Plus, this chick is a P.I. and part owner of an elite investigative company that specializes in computer and technology and theft and.. stuff. That stuff rarely includes stake outs on cheating husbands, but because of a special request from a friend of the family, Lee finds herself on one and the cheating husband being spied upon winds up dead. No, she didn't do it..

But events that follow have others thinking she did.. To read full review, please click the link:

<http://wwwbookbabe.blogspot.com/2011/...>

Jen Lynn says

This book wasn't horrible... it just wasn't good either. There was too much about clothing, being rich, etc for my taste. That could have been toned down a lot and still could have made its point. The story line itself was too far fetched and didn't make much sense. I wasn't a fan of the characters. I guess the only thing that I liked was that it kept my interest long enough to finish it, and it was an easy read. I'll skip the rest of the series.

Michelle says

Good book

You people should just read this book yourselves and write your own review on this novel yourself and I really enjoyed reading this book very much so. Shelley MA

The Project says

I don't know that I would really call *Murder is a Family Business* a romance. It's really more of a detective story, but that certainly didn't stop it from being fabulous. I'm actually pretty excited to read the next couple of books in the series (book two is due in May and book three is in the process of being written).

This was a nice change from all of the romance I've been reading lately. I fell in love with this book within the first few pages. Family plays a huge part in the plot, and what a family it is. Maybe that's why I liked it so much – the characters are very reminiscent of my own family, at least personality wise.

So here's the gist of the story: the Alvarez family runs a private detective agency, focusing on crimes of software piracy. They are asked by a family friend to investigate her husband, and so they branch out from their typical case load. The story is told from the point of view of Lee, the Alvarez daughter, who has a tendency to jump into things without necessarily thinking of the consequences. Her internal monologues are like something straight out of an episode of *Gilmore Girls* (one of my favorite shows ever, so please, take that as a compliment). Even at the more serious moments in the book, Lee would think something that would have me laughing.

Like I said, the Alvarez family makes up the cast of characters. There's Lila, the 100% WASP, would fit in perfectly on a New England estate, mother, who somehow manages to maintain her composure, hairstyle, and keep her pearls in place even in the face of danger. Then there's Richard, the slightly eccentric computer genius, who would probably live in his mother's basement if he didn't have a trust fund. And finally there's the lovable uncle, Tio Mateo. Throw in an overprotective police detective, a few illegal Chinese immigrants, a colorful diner waitress, and a girl whose taste in hats makes Lady Gaga's fashion choices seem mainstream, and you've got yourself quite the adventure.

For me, this was a great book. The writing was clever and I couldn't stop laughing. This is the perfect beach book. And I'm actually pretty excited that the second book in the series comes out just as I'm planning to head to the beach in May. I can't wait to see the antics of the Alvarez family continue.

--Laura, *The One Hundred Romances Project*

Madeleine McLaughlin says

Caught in the middle of a murder, what's a girl to do? Especially if your mother expects you to dress classy, even in a rainstorm. Great characters, great writing. And the little kitten is precious. Uncle is a great guy, too. As befits a writer who made a living in entertainment for a while, this is full of laughs and drama. All I can say is, when is the movie coming out.

J. Ewbank says

This book by Haven is a pleasant read. The heroine is someone you would really like to know because her life is so interesting. Plot and characters come together nicely in this book. Enjoy.

J. Robert Ewbank author "John Wesley, Natural Man, and the Isms" "Wesley's Wars" and "To Whom It May Concern"
