



Armoires and Arsenic

Cassie Page

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What would you do if you sent a \$30,000 piece of furniture out for repair and it came back with a deadly package inside?

That's the dilemma facing Olivia M. Granville, OMG to her friends and foes, as though the award-winning architect, interior designer and antiques dealer didn't have enough on her hands.

Olivia, a transplanted Los Angeleno, is the newest resident of Darling Valley, a picturesque town just outside of San Francisco and home of the DV Bills, as Olivia calls the largest concentration of billionaires anywhere in the country. Like the Astors and Rockefellers of old who outdid each other building humongous summer cottages in Newport, the DV Bills outdo each other with eye-popping piles of sticks stuffed with museum quality art hidden in the Marin hills. It was Olivia's plan to make a killing decorating them.

What Olivia liked best about moving to sleepy Darling Valley from LA was the absence of crime. No worrying about parking her car on a side street because it might get stolen. Nobody slipping sticky fingers into her purse and lifting her wallet while an accomplice distracted her at the sale rack at Neiman's. Not having to trip over a dead body blocking the doorway of her office building while the LAPD took their sweet time locking down the crime scene. But the best part of living in Darling Valley was never having to find herself sitting across from Brooks at a dinner party while he romanced his new girlfriend and referred to Olivia as a client.

What she hated about Darling Valley was the 400 miles between its pristine mansions and gritty but happening LA. Not far enough to save her from becoming Detective Gurmeet Richards' lead suspect in a killing of a different kind. Yes, that's Detective Richards of the devastating velvety eyes.

Olivia should have remembered the advice her tea-leaves reading friend, Tuesday, gave her before she left LA. You get what you resist.

Watch what happens when Olivia and Tuesday get to work proving her innocence amid the opulence and deception of her, idyllic but deadly new home.

Armoires and Arsenic Details

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Author : Cassie Page

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From Reader Review Armoires and Arsenic for online ebook

Carol Simmons says

Interesting murder plot

Good story line, nice romance line built in. Good friend comes running and interesting murder plot, not expected. But the story dragged on slow and I got bored many times and then at the end it was like wham, bam and done like I need to wrap this up. Very sudden ending after a long drawn out story line.

Katie says

I 'bought' this book when it was free on amazon for kindle recently. This was a decent book, and the plot was pretty good, but there were a lot of grammatical errors and obvious things like repeated words within a sentence that should have been caught by whoever edited it. This takes away from the book, please have this edited and then it can be enjoyed as a cute read! I read the whole book even though there were so many errors, which says a lot because mistakes like that make me crazy!

Positives - Otherwise I really liked the characters, especially Tuesday and Olivia. Tuesday is Olivia's eccentric best friend who reads tea leaves and dyes her hair strange colors.

SPOILER I also don't get the point of having her ex-fiancee returning towards the end of the book. I get that Olivia having a backstory was good, but between her best friend repeatedly bringing him up, and then Brooks himself showing up, it detracted from the story.

Lois says

Fun and Enjoying

I enjoyed your storyline and characters. Fun little read. The only reason I gave it 4 stars was due to the need for editing - grammar, punctuation, and content (over 100 errors and/or issues). Call me if you'd like my notes. ?

D.R. Oestreich says

Armoires and Arsenic by Cassie Page is a murder mystery which opens with Olivia M Granville taking delivery of a restored armoire, only to find it contains the restorer inside and very dead.

Since Olivia is on the brink of bankruptcy and the number-one suspect, she is forced to solve the murder herself before she is out of business. In between the long list of potential suspects, possible romances, and rumors of a newcomer's curse, this is a *food and fashion* mystery with ample mentions Christian Louboutins,

Jimmy Choos, House of Graff baubles, and little Chloe numbers, along with delicious descriptions of pastry shops, food stores, and restaurants.

In the end, there are enough plots twists and turns (leading to a surprising climax and resolution) to satisfy any cozy mystery reader.

For more see: <http://1book42day.blogspot.com/2015/1...>

Cornflakefrontiernet.net says

Quirky but captivating.

Loved the characters and setting. Enjoyed the author. Good story line. Was hooked at the first paragraph. I would like more from this author.

Pamela says

When the delivery of an antique armoire arrives complete with a dead body, Olivia is a prime suspect in the suspicious death.

Deserthomemaker says

Poor writing and flow, filled with grammatical errors, a dislikable heroine, and a ridiculous plot make this a book to skip.

Angela Herzog says

Pretty good read.

Lots of misspellings and grammatical errors. Other than that, a good read. Worth it for a free download. An antique shop owner finds a dead body in an armoire that she had restored. Now she is trying to figure out how shge is involved.

Jenny says

Terrible book, though a good editor could really have saved it. Words were misused or missing, whole sentences were repeated, and scenes shifted so quickly I think I have whiplash. I don't think that I'll be reading any more from this author.

At least it was free.

Leu Hayes says

Loved it.

A truly satisfying read. Fulfills all my requirements as a re-read book! So it will stay posted in my library.

Brick O'Neil says

Armoires and Arsenic was a cute read, no glaring omissions or mistakes by Page, the story flowed smoothly, but could have benefited from an editor or proofreader.

I found the non-stop clothing and fashion references confusing at best and irrelevant at worst. Page could have explained why clothing was so important to Olivia and how it fit in with the scheme of the story and plot. Why was it so relevant to an architect, antiques dealer? Which profession was she in, really? Kind of unrealistic for one person to have that many successful careers. These two plot points were wholly unnecessary.

My other little thought on Olivia, was why was she tied so slanderously to the other architect? Page wrote him as some rock star to the rock stars, so well-covered by the media that Olivia couldn't possibly be successful on her own. I can't agree with Page's anti-woman plot line. Which brings me to my next point. She writes Olivia as so obsessed-not-obsessed with the leading man...er...detective. Olivia has more important details in her life to obsess about, like her murder charge, keeping antique and architect clients and so on.

The plot itself was ok, Page knows how to write and keep a reader's attention. She somewhat pushes through the plot at the end of the book, as if stating she can't wait to end it. As a reader, I feel your pain. Overall, a good, mindless first draft as a cozy. I give 3 stars.

Sharon says

I found the characters unlikable and not very bright. The mystery was okay but not enough to redeem the book.

Aliza Tafuya says

After a rather crushing breakup with her famous architect boyfriend, Olivia decides to move up north to Darling Valley, CA (where a large collection of billionaires call home) to open up an antiques store. When she receives the armoire she had sent out to be refurbished, she finds a little something extra inside. She then sets out to prove that she is not a murderer with her eccentric friend Tuesday, while trying to ignore her attraction to head detective and get her shop ready for a big sale, before she ends up bankrupt.

SPOILERS AHEAD

I seem to be on a sort of romancy-mystery kick lately and I have to say that this book was a little disappointing in a couple of aspects. One: there really wasn't much romance. There was certainly attraction, but no real romance. Two: I absolutely hated Tuesday. She was kind of fun at first, but she seems like a pretty lousy friend. Olivia's awful ex comes back and Tuesday's is just "Sure, I'll leave you here with this terrible, terrible man even though you're clearly uncomfortable and in the middle of a ton of drama and especially since you're not thinking very clear due to strong prescription medicine." I'm glad it got sorted, but that one little chapter really turned me against the woman.

On a more positive note, I really liked Olivia's character. She is a strong female presence, and though I worried about her for a bit, she totally stuck to her guns. I did want a bit more romance, but I am rather relieved that this story didn't turn into one where the man and woman team up to solve the mystery because the woman couldn't do it alone.

This was a quick and enjoyable read and I was very intrigued by the murder. I figured out part of the mystery pretty early on, but had no clue about the rest. I love it when I'm right and I love being surprised, so I am quite pleased with this little novel.

Rachelle says

I picked this book to read because it fits a book with furniture in the title for the What's in a Name? challenge. It also fits alphabet soup challenge.

Olivia Granville moves to Darling Valley to get away from her old boyfriend. A very expensive armoire is delivered by her helper Cody from Blackman's and they find Mr. Blackman inside. There is no sign of foul play so it was either natural causes or poisoning. Olivia must clear her name and make her store profitable so her friend Tuesday comes to help. Together they solve the mystery.

XX Sarah XX (former Nefarious Breeder of Murderous Crustaceans) says

This is one of those easily read, easily forgotten books that have been crowding the cozy mystery genre for quite a few years now. I used to read quite a few cozy mysteries years ago but have almost given up (except from the occasional Agatha Raisin or Hamish MacBeth) as they usually are quite boring and unoriginal.

Armoires and Arsenic isn't too bad but it's nothing special either. One thing that did bother me very much is that the author made numerous mistakes while trying to name drop in French: Ladoure vs Ladurée, Hermes vs Hermé. These are very famous names (at least in France) so if you want to use them, make sure you get the spelling right otherwise it sounds downright ridiculous! I guess the editing is also at fault here, which unfortunately tend to be the case with lesser known author's publications for Kindle.
