



Deadly Dining

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A triple homicide is caught on tape by a professional photographer yet the person or persons responsible and the motive for this grisly crime are a mystery. This is the kind of high-profile murder case that attorney Paula Waters loves but as she tries to unravel the twisted facts a critical witness is murdered and two others disappear. When the trial finally begins and she thinks she has everything figured out, Stan informs her that she has it all wrong!

Paula isn't happy with Stan's revelations, particularly since he has been of little help to her during the trial. In the past he has been right there with her from the beginning to the end, but this time he has been busy helping their new associate Jodie Marshall with her civil defense of an ex-Army MP who thwarted a thief in a jewelry store heist but managed to shoot the store owner in the process.

Stan has his own troublesome bankruptcy case too. A Pakistani immigrant has been defrauded of his life savings of \$250,000 by a thug preying on fellow countrymen wanting to immigrate to the U.S. Stan puts his client into a chapter 11 reorganization but the thug has little respect for U.S. laws or its judicial system causing Stan's plan to go awry.

Stan's unexplained absences from the office further exacerbates his shaky relations with Paula, particularly when she discovers he's apparently having liaisons with a hooker!

Deadly Dining Details

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From Reader Review Deadly Dining for online ebook

Joan Mitchell says

This is a good murder mystery with lots of people who were suspects. As the book went along more suspects turned up. It kept my interest until the end. The story had several parallel stories, some love interests and the inevitable nosy law partner. I received this book from Goodreads for free.

Wanda says

I have read every Stan Turner book and have never been disappointed. This book has all the ingredients that make this series great. Intrigue, plot on plot, interesting characters and always a question of what is Stan Turner going to do next. In almost every book, there is something that is left to imagine how the plot will end. So, Mr. Manchee, can't wait until 2015. What will happen to Stan and his wife, his partners and other people that are associated with him. All I can say is, it seems the plot thickens.

Robin Morgan says

I won a copy of this book through a giveaway on GoodReads.com and the following is my honest opinion for it.

This is the first real mystery I've read/reviewed and the first time I've read anything written by William Manchee. The unfortunate thing for me is this is the 11th book in the Stan Turner series of mysteries so I don't know anything about the main character for the series or any of the other characters, which might be either a good or bad thing.

Reading this book, I had visions of Perry Mason and his private detective Paul Drake coming to my mind. But unlike those stories I watched on television as a child, and now thanks to NetFlix I'm watching again, I found having two addition unrelated storylines to have been somewhat of a distraction to the main storyline revolving around three diners who died from poisoning at a well-known local restaurant in Dallas, Emilio's; and a poor unsuspecting waiter who gets arrested for this crime. [The name of this restaurant, by coincidence is the name of an Italian restaurant my OH and I love to dine at.]

Of two distractions, the first involves his helping a new lawyer, Jodie Marshall with civil defense of a former Military Police officer who prevents a jewelry store from being robbed, but somehow winds up shooting the store's owner instead.

The second distraction deals with Stan helping a immigrant from Pakistan who's been conned out of his life's savings by a thug, a thug who doesn't give a damn about anything, especially anything regarding our legal systems and laws.

Neither of these two distractions have anything to do with the main premise of this book, other than infuriate Paula with Stan's lack of attention to her and her needs.

Just as I mentioned in the above, the plot twists, the murder and the disappearances of witness are all reminiscent of the Perry Mason episodes I mentioned above. This also includes the surprise ending; which is why I found this book somewhat endearing.

As far as the book itself is concerned, I personally found having chapters heading with character's names and which basically revolve around them to be somewhat of a distraction. But, then, I've read/reviewed about three other books in which their authors have used the same pattern for their chapters; so there must be a reason for it.

The writing lends itself to its readers for an enticing experience to keep turning the pages to the book's conclusion.

Given the above, I'm happy to "Deadly Dining" 4 STARS.

Angela Camwell says

I loved this book. I received a complimentary copy from the author via Voracious Readers Only and did not know what to expect. A really well written book. Now I have read this one I will be reading other books he has written.

Shelleymae O'Donnell says

Well defined and eclectic group of characters. A who-done it with twists and turns right until the end!

Enjoyed the ride and am grateful to the author through Voracious Readers Only who gave me a free copy of the book in exchange for my honest review.

Glenda Bixler says

Latest in series, 11th...wish I had time to read from the beginning!

<http://gabixlerreviews-bookreadersheav>...

Sharon says

This was an interesting but somewhat passionless book, partly because everything is set in the context of a law office where a murder case, a civil suit and a bankruptcy are being handled and partly because of the writing style. Even so, watching the cases spool out was interesting and the reader does learn something about the law. As I often do, I think the book could have done without the sex component of the lawyers' personal lives except in the one situation where it was actually relevant to the story.

Carole Yaffe says

Good book for anyone who enjoys court cases. I don't usually read during the day but had to keep reading this to the end.

Cas says

I received this book via Voracious Readers Only there are plenty twists and turns that keep you guessing. I found this book a page turner where you really get to know the characters. The author uses very descriptive writing which at times I found a little wordy for my liking but still a good worthwhile read.

Brent Soderstrum says

In the 11th Stan Turner novel, Stan, Paula and Jodie have three cases going. The biggest is the poisoning of three customers at Emilio's Restaurant. The second involves the victim of a robbery suing the guy who foiled the robbery which resulted in the victim being shot in the leg. The final matter involves a Pakistan man who is scammed out of his \$250,000 investment in a grocery store. All interesting cases but really too much for one book. Manchee tends to do this in his novels. While most books focus on one story the Stan Turner novels always contain 2 or 3.

Being a lawyer I appreciate Manchee's ability to give an accurate reflection of what actually happens in a trial. It often isn't as glamorous as other legal thrillers tend to portray it. I also enjoyed his depiction of a client getting a good result and thinking the attorney was making too much money despite the result. I have ran into that.

Another constituency with Manchee's books is the need for an editor. There are wrong words used such as "haul" instead of "hall", grammatical errors and even the wrong character's name being inserted. If this gets you riled up I would recommend passing on his works.

Judy Kal says

I received a free copy of Deadly Dining from Voracious readers only.

I'm glad I did.

This was an easy to read crime/court case novel which kept me interested all the way through with its mixture of plots and unexpected twists and turns throughout.

A good read!

Deb Wade says

If you are looking for a thrilling roller coaster murder mystery this is not the book for you. However, if you enjoy a slow-boiler courtroom drama with some undercover sleuthing, then you have come to the right book. Deadly Dining is the first book of William Manchee's that I have read and the eleventh in a series about a small legal practise with Stan, Laura and Jodie; three attorneys. While the book references a history of the characters and their practise, it can easily be read as a stand alone book. However, if you are like me, you will probably seek out the other ten books and eagerly await the next in the series.

The main storyline is the poisoning of four diners in an Italian restaurant, three fatally. This case takes some solving with many twists and turns and danger involved, especially for Jodie, the newest attorney who also works as an undercover sleuth. Two other cases are also on the firms books, neither of which are straightforward, along with unexplained and out-of-character disappearances of Stan from the office and the busy workload. I found having three storylines to be somewhat confusing early in the book, but was intrigued enough to read on and by the end I was eager to read the outcome of each.

The development of the three main characters is realistic and interesting. Josie has a new and fast-paced romance, Laura questions herself and her life choices and Stan has a sick wife and ... well I won't divulge this mystery (albeit obvious to me from the outset). I liked these characters and enjoyed this book. I would have rated it higher than a three if I hadn't expected a different book from the blurb (see my first sentence) and if it had been edited more carefully. On at least two occasions the wrong character's name is used - leading to confusion and frustration! Thanks to Voracious Readers Only for the opportunity to read and review this book.

Maryclaire says

I also received this book free from Goodreads.

My first impression was "what is the creepy material the cover is made of?" I had to cover it in saran wrap.

I have never read a William Manchee book before. I found the characters and the three cases they worked on interesting; but did no one edit this book before it was printed? There were errors every few pages. Starting with the very first page where Stan takes his cell phone from his pocket - in 1997 cell phones (actually still called mobile phones then) did not yet fit in a pocket.

The characters names are constantly incorrect, sometimes even in the same paragraph. Then there's all the incorrect punctuation. Someone has a real fixation on question marks.

And of major error are the skewed time lines of events. For example, on page 81 bottom of first paragraph, "Ram and his wife were alone talking to a police officer." Farther down the page, "After the officer left, Stan shook his head. 'Where's your wife?'

'I told her to go in the back room and lock the door.'

'Stan laughed. 'Well, you better go tell her the coast is clear.'

Or how about page 151, where Paula receives the Motion To Consolidate but on page 172 she tells Bart she hadn't heard that the DA had filed a Motion To Consolidate?

And again on page 183 Stan says that Sandy's husband "Being an insurance agent I'm sure he had a boatload of insurance." However, Sandy's husband was John and he was in dry oil wells. Bill Rice was the insurance

agent.

On page 169 Jodie is told that the aerobic classes are Thursdays at 3:30. On page 190 Jodie and Brandon invite Evelyn Sanders out to DINNER after class. Then Jodie goes back to the office and gets a phone call from Carl saying Evelyn was found dead in her backyard at 3:30 that day. How is that possible?

And my favorite, on page 243 why is the DA questioning the architect about the financial consequences to Wilkinson,et.al., due to the delay in the Highland Corners Project? Why would the architect have that information? Why didn't Paula object????????

One last one. Page 287 in Jodie's trial "The bailiff opened a side door and the twelve jurors...walked in. There were eight women and four men. Four were Black, three Latino, and seven Caucasian." (4+3+7 = 14)

Like I said earlier, putting aside all the editing errors which drove me nuts and really slowed down my reading, the characters were likable and their cases were an interesting mix.

Claire Barfell says

This was a very good book. There were three separate cases, one murder and two civil cases. They were all quite interesting and it was a big surprise about the murder. I felt like I got to know Stan, Paula and Jodie. There was even a side story about Stan's personal life that was really a surprise. I would definitely recommend this series and want to read more of them. I like that it takes place in Dallas, where I live and I can recognize the street names and some of the locations.

Tina says

Very good book from lawyer point of view. Main story plus side stories about other cases which mold really well within the book. Well written and kept me glued to the pages, didn't want to put the book down!
