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The New York Times bestselling author of *Privy to the Dead* returns to Philadelphia for more history—and a chilling mystery . . .

When the Pennsylvania Antiquarian Society discovers it owns some unique real estate, a deadly plot unfolds . . .

Society president Nell Pratt believes life is finally going her way. Everything's running smoothly at work, and her love life is thriving. Then some unexpected news rocks her foundation. Two members of a local neighborhood rescue program, Tyrone Blakeney and Cherisse Chapman, inform Nell that her society owns an abandoned row house in a rundown area of Philadelphia and they insist on taking her to see the property before its date with the wrecking ball.

But soon after they arrive at the house, Cherisse is fatally shot and Tyrone is badly injured. The police believe it's just random violence in a bad neighborhood, but Nell thinks there's more to it and is determined to find answers before someone else becomes history . . .

Dead End Street Details

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Author : Sheila Connolly

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From Reader Review Dead End Street for online ebook

Lynn says

I've been a huge fan of Connolly's museum series. Not so much with this one. Thin on plot, irritatingly bloated with social commentary on urban blight.

I had so looked forward to reading this next book in the series and I'm quite disappointed.

Holding out hope for the next one !!

Susan says

Someone shoots at nonprofit president Nell, who's visiting a slum property. Then it's mostly urban renewal, not mystery.

Fred says

Dead End Street is the seventh book in the A Museum Mystery series.

Dead End Street is another well told and informative story from Sheila Connolly.

Nell Pratt, president of the Pennsylvania Antiquarian Society, has been contacted by Tyrone Blakeney, head of the North Philadelphia Neighborhood Partnership. Blakeney is trying to organize people to take back the The North Philly area from the drug dealers and attempt to revitalize it. He has learned that the society owns a plot of land and is contacting Nell to see what help the society can provide of the history of the neighborhood. Blakeney and Cherisse Chapman, who works for the city, convince Nell to go with to take a look at the society's property. As they are sitting in the car, another passes by starts shooting. Cherisse ends up being killed and Blakeney some bullet wounds. The assailant is unknown and the reason for the shooting is a mystery.

More of Nell's time is spent on looking into what the society can do to provide a history of the neighborhood and what it looked like in it's earlier times and not trying to find out who the shooter might have been.

A story that takes place in this is book is about Penelope and Phoebe Oliver wanting to sell their family's home that dates back to the 1700's. The sisters would like to find a buyer that will keep it much the way it is and keep on necessary maintenance. Nell knows the it is too much for the society to take on, but with the help of Marty she hopes to be able to find a willing buyer.

Ms. Connolly's books are always well written and quite informative as to the history of Philadelphia.

I am once again looking forward to the next book in this series.

Susan says

I almost didn't finish this book. The first 55% was like slogging through thigh-deep mud. I gave it one more try; at something like 65-70%, it finally moved along enough that I could finish it. That's the reason I gave it two stars instead of one.

This book is more of a vehicle for a commentary than a cozy mystery. Sure, there is a mystery, but it plays second fiddle to the themes of decaying cities, white guilt, elitist blinders, and the relevance of more recent history. The author's thoughts on those would have been more effective in an op-ed. Whether you agree or not with the author's opinions, they were too heavy-handed here and caused the novel to be agonizingly slow, preachy, and boring. Only the last quarter of the book was well-paced, and yet everything came together far too smoothly.

If the next book in the series follows the same pattern, I'm done. I get more than enough politics, etc., on the news, Facebook, ad nauseum.

Betty says

Nell Pratt learns that Society owns a dilapidated row house in distress neighborhood. She goes with two reclamation workers to see the property and is involved in a drive-by-shooting. The Society is offered an anti-bellum home with an endowment to keep the building as it now. The question arises as Nell assembles material for the Board meeting. "Should the Society concentrate on only the "GOOD" or do they have a duty to save the failure of neighborhoods as well?" Nell is still shaken from the shooting and efforts to answer the question who was the target and why is in the background. Nell must find the solutions to these problems before her life ends.

Disclosure: I received a free copy from Berkey Publishing Group through NetGalley for an honest review I would like to thank them for this opportunity to read and review the book The opinions are my own.

Valerie Curtis says

Interesting topic! I brought this paperback camping with Me. Nell is very much a worry wort, but a great President for the society. The characters and area were fleshed out very well. I liked that this book, in a series, works great as a standalone.

Jeanie Harper says

When Nell gets caught in a drive by shooting, it sets off a reaction in Jame's that shakes Nell up, and surprising her even more so, is the fact that the Society still owns a building in the north slums of Philadelphia!!

Nell is again up against her favourite detective, and James stays out of it.

The who and the why are revealed in the second last chapter and all's well. that ends well.

Deborah Almada says

A different but good book in the series, near death experience(drive by shooting) has Nell reevaluating the Society and how to bring it into the 21st century and use it's assets to better the city while preserving it's history . Oh yeah she also needs to find out who shot at her and her companions!!!!!!

Hilary (A Wytch's Book Review) says

Everything is going smoothly in Nell's world when she discovers that the Society apparently owns another building (which surprises her as she thought the Society had divested themselves of all buildings bar the one they are housed in). She agrees to go to see it but whilst there the car they are traveling in is shot at and one of her companions is killed (Nell herself had dived out of the car!) She now needs to figure out if she was the target, what is she supposed to do with the building (and do they owe any back taxes for it!) and where is the Society supposed to go from here all in a day's work!

It seems this is the last in the series which is a shame - but all loose ends were tied up which is good!

Margaret says

Another excellent read, with a very believable lead character. This time she wrestles her conscience, and is all too exposed to gunplay, when her "quiet" museum cum library is revealed to own property in a very dangerous neighborhood.

Adrianna Scibor says

In the 7th installment of this Museum Mystery series Nell goes on a courtesy call to view a row house the Society still owns in a bad neighborhood of Philly with two people who really care about renewal for the neighborhood. Nell ends up getting shot at and one person ends up dead and Nell is so shaken up she decides to go along with the project because I don't know, its the right thing to do? The murder featured in this book ends up being very personal and very drama filled.

I liked the urban renewal part and the fun snarky relationship Nell has with Detective Hrvnak.

More Nell, and murder, and museums, please Mrs. Connolly? :)

Cris says

[The motivation and circumstances of Cherisse's murder don't seem to 'fit' the rest of the book/series. Cherisse was killed because the shooter wasn't very bright. And he was only shooting because she was

having an affair with Tyrone. That conversation between Raheem, Tyrone and Vee wit

Donna says

The author it's in from the very first sentence. Love the look inside the history Philadelphia. This one finds our NELL PRATT embroiled in yet another tense mystery. She finds out that the historical society owns a house in a undesirable section of the city. A young woman from the city and a man from an organization who informs her of the house they proceed to the area where there are shots fired into the vehicle she is riding in. Both of the other occupants of the vehicle are shot and one subsequently dies. She begins asking questions to get to the bottom of this. It of course does help that she has a boyfriend in the FBI who looks out for her welfare.

Nora-adrienne says

I see a bright future for Nell, Marti and the organization as she drags them kicking and screaming into a new world.

Nicole says

Not my favorite cozy mystery or book by this author. It was preachy and overwhelming full of data which doesn't lend to a fun read which was my goal. I may try more in this series as I generally enjoy other series by this author, but will give up if they follow the same format.
