



McNally's Dilemma

Lawrence Sanders , Vincent Lardo

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Palm Beach private investigator Archy McNally takes on the murder of a socialite and uncovers a thorny tangle of blackmail and deceit — south Florida style.

McNally's Dilemma Details

Date : Published March 12th 2013 by Open Road Media Mystery & Thriller (first published July 1st 1999)

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Author : Lawrence Sanders , Vincent Lardo

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Michael says

So So McNally story

It was only by reading the fine print that I learned that this novel was Not by Lawrence Sanders. For me Archy McNally will always remain the creation of Mr. Sanders, but I wanted to read another story about one of my favorite characters. The attempt by Vincent Lardo gave an interesting slant to McNally, but his style of writing wasn't the same as Mr. Sanders. For the first time, it was clear how the story would evolve, and that's another indication that Lawrence Sanders did not write this book. In my opinion, Mr. Sanders name should not be on the cover, for it's a total disservice to the legacy of this great writer.

Barbara Nutting says

An oldie but goodie series. I started with Archy in 1993 and read all the ones written by Lawrence Sanders. After his death Vincent Lardo has continued in the same vein - mocking Palm Beach with humor and disrespect. The book is filled with cliches and adages which give it a quaint feeling. Of course I guessed the plot right away (remember Lana Turner) but it was a fun read and I'll continue with this new author. He even mentioned that Mar-a-Lago had been purchased by a New York realtor, little did he know "the rest of the story". Since Palm Beach is in the news daily I really got a kick out of all the phony baloney that went on then and still does! Just another bit of Florida foolishness.

Dana says

Archy McNally's official case is to discover who is blackmailing Mr. Fairhurst about the story of his ancestor. Apparently his grandfather escaped the Titanic in drag but the family claimed he had died. What ends up being the main case is the death of Geoff Williams. His wife(Melva) has admitted to the murder. Her husband brought home his girlfriend and did the 'dirty' right in front of her causing her to kill him.

Melva asked Archy to care for her daughter(Veronica) amid the press and paparazzi. Except the stories of the daughter and mother do not match. There are a few niggling details that Archy just can not leave alone. Veronica is gorgeous and a handful. The two cases are interlinked and Archy is given a real dilemma.

This book shows how the rich really do live differently. They are above it all. Archy is as always charming and witty.

Mark Birchall says

I enjoyed this addition to the series. Not sure this was Mr lardo's first foray but it was a good effort. I found the plot a tad more convoluted than previous books but I will continue this series to its finale as they are

highly entertaining.

Pam says

McNally's Dilemma by Lawrence Sanders & Vincent Lardo

RATING: 4.5/B+

GENRE/PUB DATE/# OF PGS: Mystery, 1999, 275 pgs

TIME/PLACE: 1990's (?), Palm Beach, FL

CHARACTERS: Archy McNally/investigator for father's discreet Palm Beach law office

COMMENTS: Always enjoy this series, a modern-day PG Wodehouse type. Archy is hired to shield the daughter of a friend who has just killed her husband when caught being unfaithful.

Bruce Thomas says

Bigamist tries to rip off a family friend and Archy hired to catch extortionist, but the two cases intersect and Archy's new girlfriend isn't telling the truth. I've enjoyed the Archy McNally series with its light-hearted protagonist with an ability to wiggle into solving the mysteries of Palm Beach society.

Stephen says

Lardo did a fantastic job with Dilemma. He gave, avery much needed third dimension to Archy. Dilemma is the kind of book you want to go home too. As predictable as it was, the climaxes were nevertheless powerful. Perhaps if Jeff Wolinsky Jr. character could have been developed a little more. Great job. I am sure Lawrence would be happy.

John says

GOOD

McNally's Dilemma (Archy McNally #8)

by Vincent Lardo, Lawrence Sanders

3.75 · Rating Details · 882 Ratings · 35 Reviews

After finding husband number two in a precarious position with an attractive young lady, Melva Williams pulls the trigger --- and readily admits to the crime passionnel. To shield her gorgeous daughter from the press and paparazzi, she turns to her longtime friend Archy McNally.

Bewitched, bothered, and bewildered, Archy stands to lose more than his patient fiancée by playing bodyguard. His reputation as a sleuth extraordinaire is at stake. But the holes in the stories of both mother and daughter are too big to ignore. Dangling between love and lust, PBR (Palm Beach Rumor) and PBF (Palm Beach Fact), Archy must find the one person who knows the truth: the deceased's perky playmate. The hunt for the mystery woman is on ... (less)

Jackie says

Fun read, but different than the first seven

John Grazide says

I have to say when I started this one, knowing it wasn't Sanders, I was a little hesitant. The first few chapters were very noticeable. The "voices" are completely different. And some of the Archy-ism's seemed a little strained. When I found out about Archy's sister and family (if it was mentioned in earlier books I missed it) I was ready to give up. But then the story started to drive things. And although I was almost certain who the culprit was, the events that led up to the culmination were very twisted. Not at all like past stories. I'll continue the series and as the voice of the "new" Archy emerges, I'm sure it will remain enjoyable.

A Michael says

Mr. Lardo took the names and location from the Archy McNally series, changed every character, removed the panache that Lawrence Sanders infused in each of the original seven novels, and folded this disappointing result into a poorly written murderer mystery novel. I can only hope Lardo's subsequent efforts on the Archy McNally series are better than this first effort.

Chris says

Archie comes to the aid of a friend who appears to have shot her husband in a jealous rage while he simultaneously investigates a case of blackmail for one of his father's wealthy clients. The more he learns about both crimes, he comes to the realization that they are somehow connected. I love Archie. Archie is his own person which makes him a very cool character, even though, at 37, he still lives with his folks.

Jason says

Gotta love a good Archy diversion. The last of Mr. Sanders but I'm hopeful that the new writer keeps it going. Nothing fancy in this one, just fun and that is what I wanted. Still would like to see a TV movie of it sometime...

Maynard says

"McNally's Dilemma" is among the best novels I have read. It's characters are well-drawn, believable and yet complex. The book is a page turner and difficult to put down.

Joy says

After the death of Lawrence Sanders, Vincent Lardo was picked to continue the Archy McNally series, starting with MCNALLY'S DILEMMA. Archy's long-time friend called Archy to ask for his help, because she has killed her rotter of a husband. Lardo's narratives are a little more racy, but still enjoyable to read. I thought I knew by Chapter 3 what had happened, but I didn't expect the late plot twists. I will continue reading the series.
