



A Motive for Murder

Morgana Best

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Book ONE of the Misty Sales Cozy Mystery Series.

Misty Sales is a slightly overweight journalist for a paranormal magazine in Australia. While her social life is almost non-existent and her typing skills are poor, she does have one skill: while wearing shapewear and with her reading glasses perched on her nose, she can out-research the best of them, especially when her caffeine levels are high.

When sent to England to write articles about alchemists of the past, Misty has no sooner arrived than she finds the body of her elderly Aunt, and at once inherits her Aunt's feisty cat, Diva. Misty is suddenly drawn into a web of intrigue, secret societies, and the mystical.

What secret of her aunt's gave someone a motive for murder?

As time runs out, Misty races to put the pieces together before she becomes the next victim.

In this Series:

1. A Motive for Murder
2. A Reason for Murder
3. A Basis for Murder

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Morgana Best lives in country Australia, and is owned by one highly demanding cat and two less demanding dogs. She runs an animal sanctuary not-for-profit.

A Motive for Murder Details

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From Reader Review A Motive for Murder for online ebook

Debbie says

Hmmm...I've been in the grip of a bad muscle spasm in my back for the last week and a half, so I'm not sure if it's the combination of the painkillers and muscle relaxants that made this a bit of a confusing read for me, or if it was really as helter-skelter as it seemed. It seemed to really jump around...one minute I'd think it was a typical cozy mystery, and the next it was like a Gothic meets Sci-fi horror, then back again. I will go on to the next book in this series and see if it's me or the book...

Kim Jackson says

I was hoping for an in depth paranormal book but this was a cute, quick read.

Rosemary says

I do love the books from this author, altho I will admit that this had me skipping pages... in this series I know that the main character Misty Sales was a research hound, lol and wanted to know all the whos, whats, hows, whys of everything but in theory, it isn't good for me in a book. Maybe others who like details down to a tee might enjoy it, but I found them boring. I do however like to ask questions about everything, but this was too graphic on subjects that I as a reader didn't care for. The story was a fun read in spite of that, I just skipped those sections that were like that. I still would recommend this series for those who love Morgana Best books, if you have the same issues as I do and to do the same as I did by skipping if you want. Not sorry I read it.

Mary Lou Webb says

Good read for a winter's night

This was quite different from a different book I read by the same author. I felt sorry for the protagonist as she was faced with deciding friend or foe for everyone she met in a country she had not visited. She quickly realized her aunt was murdered, but she had no proof. The reader must decide along with Misty whom she can trust. The ending was a bit abrupt, but I hope to learn more about Misty in future stories.

»jα? says

Murder is easy if no one knows it was murder.

A Motive for Murder follows Misty, a paranormal journalist, as she travels to England to do some research as well as visit her aunt to pick up some family items. When Misty arrives, she finds her Aunt Beth dead and

everything about it is very suspicious from the mysterious man running out from her aunt's house, the strong garlic smell and the man named Dr. Spence. As Misty starts on with her research, she gets tangled in a web of secret societies that are willing to kill Misty to find the *page* that Aunt Beth kept hidden. It's a roller coaster ride for Misty to find out who she can trust. Oh, and just where is that missing page after all?

This was a quick cozy mystery and I liked it! I loved the historical and paranormal aspects of the story and I think that's what hooked me to begin with. The story is well-written for the most part, but it definitely needs to be edited because there were quite a few spelling and grammatical errors. Also, the name Douglas is spelled back and forth between Douglas and Douglass which was a little frustrating to see it spelled differently in different chapters. Besides that, I think the story was told at a nice pace and the characters were well developed for the most part. I really liked Misty and I loved her job! I think I will eventually check out more in the series!

Carol Waller says

Oh, this book has so much potential. It needs:

- * an editor - funny for how much time is spent on how "Skinny" hates editing errors, the number of spelling errors is hysterical. Not in a good way.

- * a **GOOD** editor - the segue on the Boston Tea Party? Pointless. We get it; she's a researcher researching. But the rest had a point.

- * a better ending - too rushed, all wrapped up in a bow. We're at the climax and poof, we're out the door. Could use part of that segue time here instead.

But the basics are good (love the bit on books vs Internet research). Lots of potential here in the author.

Sarahanne says

This was an odd book. Odd that I read it - I'm kinda whimpy about scary things & was nervous that things were gonna take a dark turn. Odd characters - and not the just the dicey ones. The heroine seemed a mix of savvy & trusting, clever & dense. The book felt a bit incomplete - like I'm not sure exactly what happened even after the book was finished. Oddly, that was ok. I suspect the next book will tell more but even as a stand alone that remaining question mark seemed ok somehow.

One bit that was a little disorienting but that I decided I liked? The author didn't over explain everything. There was a lot of exposition - about the countryside and the history and whatnot. But the little things as the story flowed - they author just let them unfold and didn't smack us over the head. It was a nice change. I'm often annoyed when a story explains, for example, that the heroine ran from an embrace because she had been hurt so badly. Yeah. We got that the first 27 times she said, thought, or reacted that way. But this book didn't do that.

And the cat was just a cat. Sorta. But it didn't tell the future or spell out the killer's name in kibble. I liked that bit too.

A long review for a nice little cozy, but I'm hoping that the rest of the series maintains the quirky, almost scary, pleasant feel of this first one.

J.L. Dobias says

A Motive for Murder (A Misty Sales Paranormal Cozy Mystery, book 1) by Morgana Best

Just coming out of the epic Baskerville Affair Series by Emma Jane Holloway and Heading into the Steerswoman series by Rosemary Kirstein I was looking for something a bit lighter to help keep my head from exploding with an overload of epic fantasy. This Cozy Mystery turned out to be just what the doctor ordered.

Misty Sales is a writer for a paranormal magazine based in Australia. It's not her first choice in jobs in that profession, but her private life intersected too closely with her professional and left her momentarily adrift from her dream job. When her Aunt Beth in England, who is growing old and frail, sends her a somewhat strange letter asking her to come to England to see her and collect some keepsakes, her initial reaction is to set it aside. But curiously such a trip coincides with a piece she is currently working on and she would just have to convince her boss to make this a business trip so she might be able to afford it.

Misty arrives too late and finds her Aunt has passed away; possibly the day before she arrived and Misty is just in time to be knocked down by a gentleman who seems to be fleeing from her Aunt's house. As things unfold Misty begins to have suspicions about her Aunt's death; but that suspicion comes after her initial reaction to call for help leads to a doctor who comes to quickly sign this off as natural causes and who promptly sends the funeral directors out to whisk the corpse away and leave Misty with an empty house with two rooms that might be ransacked, an elderly neighbor claiming to be a good friend of her aunt, a cat that likes to claw at her and the mysterious lingering smell of garlic that was hanging in the air around her deceased aunt.

A prior experience of my own clued me to a possible cause of death and I'll leave that for the next reader to figure out.

As it is: it seems that Misty's aunt had intentions of passing her more than just keepsakes and memorabilia; but before that comes to light Misty has to solve a number of mysteries. And as with many mysteries the reader meets all the suspects, with various clues, yet not quite enough information to fill in most of the blanks. And much the same as my old favorite Alfred Hitchcock-Cary Grant movie 'North by Northwest'; by the time the reader reaches the more dramatic parts Misty doesn't know who to trust anymore.

Excellent written cozy mystery; but don't take my word for it, because I'm new to this genre and had to look it up. There were a few sentences that might have drifted into colloquialisms that had me stopping to read them several times over to make sure I had a grasp of what they might be trying to tell me; but otherwise it's a well written story and was the right diversion I needed to clear my mind. There were a number of jarring current pop references; but that might be something I'm over sensitive about.

J.L. Dobias

Tim says

I didn't enjoy this book at all. The further I read into the book the more irritated I became. About halfway through I figured out why. The author drops dozens of clues/mysteries/things to notice on the heroine, Misty, and most of them are completely ignored. In fact Misty takes very little action throughout the entire story despite all the signs and warnings thrown at her. At the end she's proud of herself for solving a murder but it didn't look to me like she did. She certainly didn't do anything with the information she learned.

The central mystery made no sense and didn't go anywhere. So much was left unexplained at the end. There was no sense of resolution at the end of the book. Maybe there's more explained in the following books though I didn't get any sense that that would be true. And it's not worth my time to find out.

Boneist says

Short, a little clumsy (would someone really react like Misty? I'm not sure), but entertaining nonetheless.

LLona Cunningham says

I bought this one because I love the cover -- not my usual method of selecting a book to read. The main character is a paranormal journalist in Australia. She journeys to England to do a story, planning to stay with her aunt she hasn't seen in years, and arrives to discover the aunt dead in her home. Figuring out the 'who, why and how' for that murder provided an enjoyable and mostly believable mystery. I did skip over pages devoted to research and analysis of the paranormal characters she came to write about, and given the cover design, I would have loved to see her gain more attachment with her aunt's cat, Diva, sooner in the book.

Pamela says

Misty Sales Cozy Mystery Book 1

I love cozy mysteries. A Motive for Murder is a fun read. The heroine, Misty Sales, is a paranormal research journalists. She has traveled from her home in Australia to London to visit her elderly aunt. She finds her aunt has died under mysterious circumstances. Like many cozy mysteries, the story was predictable but it was well written and entertaining. It was a good hello to Misty and Diva her cat. I will read the next two books in the series.

Freda Walrod says

The author goes on in About This Book that it has been "thoroughly and professionally edited by an independent, well known Editor" and that she is a former professor of grammar. Well, apparently something changed between editing and delivery. For example, in one place the "Black Lodge" is called the "Back Lodge" and in another, assumedly an editors note "CHANGE" has been left in. Yes, in all caps.

Beyond that, the unfamiliar dialect was difficult to get through, and frankly the book was not that much fun

to read.

Nina says

That was a fun cozy-murder mystery.

Dharia Scarab says

Since I don't normally write reviews unless I have something specific to say, here's the break down of how I rate my books...

1 star... This book was bad, so bad I may have given up and skipped to the end. I will avoid this author like the plague in the future.

2 stars... This book was not very good, and I won't be reading any more from the author.

3 stars... This book was ok, but I won't go out of my way to read more, But if I find another book by the author for under a dollar I'd pick it up.

4 stars... I really enjoyed this book and will definitely be on the look out to pick up more from the series/author.

5 stars... I loved this book! It has earned a permanent home in my collection and I'll be picking up the rest of the series and other books from the author ASAP.
