



Driven to Ink

Karen E. Olson

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The latest in the cleverly designed tattoo shop mystery series.

Brett Kavanaugh is a tattoo artist and owner of Vegas's hottest tattoo shop, The Painted Lady. And in her spare time, she does some sleuthing. After discovering the corpse of a Dean Martin impersonator-sporting a spider web tattoo and a clip cord from a tattoo machine wrapped around his neck-Brett infiltrates That's Amore, a drive-through wedding chapel, as a bride-to-be looking for the mark of a murderer...

Driven to Ink Details

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From Reader Review Driven to Ink for online ebook

Wendy says

In this third installment of A Tattoo Shop Mystery, series our meddling tattoo artist and shop owner, Brett Kavanaugh, finds a dead body in the trunk of her car. The body looks an awful lot like Dean Martin. She'd recently loaned her car to friends for their drive-through wedding, and now with the elderly bride and groom missing, all sorts of thoughts--and fears--are running through Brett's mind. Despite her brother's advice that she leave the investigation to the police, Brett, joined by the bride's son, Jeff Coleman, sets out to find her own answers.

Author Karen E. Olson won me over with her Annie Seymour series several years ago and, while I miss Annie's wry humor and grit, I do enjoy spending time with Brett and friends as well. The cast of characters is as funny and charming as ever, and it was great to see Brett and her brother, Tim, a detective with the Las Vegas police department, sharing so many scenes. My favorite part was when Tim was stuck on babysitting duty--having to keep Brett out of trouble, which is not an easy thing to do. He and Brett are a lot alike in more ways than one.

The author keeps the reader guessing at just about every turn. I found myself laughing on occasion and turning pages as quickly as I could to find out what would happen next. Driven to Ink was a fast-paced and entertaining read; a great way to spend a summer day.

thegirlinpink says

What's it about? Driven to Ink is the third installment of the Tattoo shop Mystery books by Karen E. Olson. Again Brett Kavanaugh returns as amateur sleuth/ full time tattoo artist in the streets of Sin City.

The story starts with Brett finding a corpse in her truck of her car, the same car she loaned to a fellow tattoo artist for a drive-thru wedding. Not only is Brett the primary suspect but the newly weds are missing! In order to clear her name and find her friends Brett and Jeff Coleman begin an investigation that will take them from wedding chapel to wedding chapel pretending to be engaged, much to Brett's dislike and Jeff's enjoyment. This adventure is packed with Dean Martin impersonators, chases, gun fights, a medical research lab and of course, some Amore!

What I thought about it? For me the series just keeps getting better and better. I love Brett and the Characters in them. The plot is creative, fun, funny, and suspenseful. Again with this author however there are moments when you need to stop and think; wait, what just happen? It's not so bad to ruin the experience, you just need to keep up with all the smaller characters, it is essential to remember that Olson doesn't give you information you won't need at some point, thus it's important to keep all that in the back of your head. All-in-all, I love the book as it is a great read.

Also for me, the more I read the series the more I love Jeff Coleman and I am waiting for Brett to realize she is madly in love with him and not the doctor. (I think I said that in the last review of the series but that was largely due to the fact that I was almost done with the 3rd book when I was posting the review for the 2nd. I am as we speak, currently 1/4 into the fourth book and loving it!

Ami says

I think book # in the Tattoo Shop Mystery is my favorite so far for several reasons.

It starts with a bang, because right from the first chapter, Brett finds a dead body in the trunk of her car, which had previously been borrowed by her friend, Jeff's mother. Then, it's all fast-paced plot from there. There are Dean Martin impersonators being killed, Sylvia (Jeff's mother) and her husband missing, and there someone SHOOTING (!) on Brett and Jeff.

I love how Brett and Tim (her brother) teaming up in several scenes as well as Brett and Jeff (I truly think he is the perfect love interest for Brett). The part where ((view spoiler)). One thing I always like in these books are, with all the things Brett is trying to do to gather information by her self, she still shares information with the police (she doesn't think she's smarter than any of them). Even if somehow, Brett finds himself in all trouble ^_^

The other characters are charming as ever. And the mystery is intriguing until the very end. I can't believe that the next book is the final one :(

Ron says

Very strong writing as usual for this series and a convoluted plot. However, the playing field seemed a bit too crowded with suspects and motives.

Lori Whitwam says

Still good, still amusing, still good mystery plots (if a few too many in the cast of suspicious characters)... But I really hope the characters evolve at least a bit in #4.

Sara says

I like this series! It's fun and fast paced. Brett is likeable, although impulsive. If I find a dead body in my trunk, I'm not going to try and find the killer. Well, there'd be no story so thank goodness for my intrepid tattoo artist to entertain me at lunch!

Jess says

I always feel like these books are "off the beaten path" of mysteries. Yes there is usually a dead body that's found a murder that needs to be solved, but the characters and the process in which the crime is solved feels unique to me. I will definitely read the next in the series.

Mindy J says

I love this series and wish there were more ! I have to read 1 &2 still , but it's not enough!

? Irena ? says

3.5

The situations Brett Kavanaugh gets herself into! This time it wasn't her fault at all. It's not her fault someone left a dead Dean Martin impersonator in her trunk while she was out hiking. I think she will think twice next time when Sylvia Coleman asks her to borrow her car.

Since Sylvia is one of the reasons for the Brett's latest sleuthing endeavour, Jeff Coleman plays a huge role in *Driven to Ink* and, I must say, I really like him. It seems that he is going to be a love interest (just small hints here and there, nothing huge happens here, but still).

I did read this, but I might check out audio too. Brett's pretty funny and I think a decent audio may make her even funnier.

Marlyn says

Brett Kavanaugh is a tattoo artist who owns an upscale shop called The Painted Lady in Las Vegas.

She lends her car to Sylvia Coleman and Bernie Applebaum, so they can get married at a drive-in wedding chapel. They're so elderly that she's doubly surprised to find a dead body in the trunk when they return it.

The body belongs to a Dean Martin impersonator who worked at the chapel where the couple were wed, and there's a clip cord from a tattoo machine around it's neck. When she tries to reach Sylvia and Bernie on their honeymoon, they've vanished, and she begins to worry. Did the person who killed the fake Dean Martin hurt her friends, too?

Although her brother Tim, a policeman, warns her not to get involved, she thinks she already is, through her car. She's determined to find out how the body got into the trunk, but she doesn't anticipate how much danger she's putting herself into.

The third *Tattoo Shop Mystery* is a fast-paced story, and a quick enjoyable read. You don't have to have tattoos to enjoy it.

Spuddie says

#3 in the Tattoo shop mysteries featuring Brett Kavanaugh, owner of the Painted Lady tattoo salon in Las

Vegas. Brett kindly loans her red Mustang convertible to an elderly friend who is getting married--they are using one of the drive-through wedding chapels in Vegas and wanted something more classy than Sylvia's battered Gremlin. The morning after, Brett returns from a trip to Red Rocks where she does some hiking--only to discover a body in the trunk--dead as a doornail, with a dead rat underneath it.

The body looks, at first glance, like Dean Martin, but ends up being one of the impersonators who worked at the wedding chapel. When she tries to reach Sylvia and Bernie, they can't be found either by herself, Sylvia's son or the police--Brett calls her brother Tim, a detective with LVPD, but because of her involvement in the case, it must be handled by another detective. Brett and Jeff Coleman, rival tattoo shop owner, sort-of friend and son of Sylvia, put their heads together to try to locate the newlyweds and find out who the body in her trunk is and who put him there, and of course this gets them in trouble (several times) with the law as well as with the killer.

While the storyline here sounds good, I have to say that this book and I got off on the wrong foot on page 3, when the wrong form of a word was used--'incidence' being used instead of simply the plural of 'incident.' Argh! It's one of those mistakes you need a human proofreader for and the kind I find more annoying than a simple typo.

I enjoy the information about tattoos and the real sense of place that Olson gives to the Vegas venue. Brett's character is likable enough in general, it just seems that she continues to become dumb and dumber as she goes off on her own pursuing leads, withholding valuable information from the police, and doing otherwise unbelievable things. I like a story where the protagonist might be defiant and high-spirited, yet I like to be able to insert myself into the story, thinking "I might do the same thing if I were in her shoes." But I rarely feel that way with Brett.

And again, it's another case where almost every eligible man she comes across, she 'checks out' and is ready to follow with puppy eyes after just a few minutes. It gets old, and my eye muscles get a good workout from all the eye-rolling I do. I have to admit I really miss the author's much-feistier, less cozy character from her previous series--as much as I like the author's writing style, this series is fast drifting back into the pack of cookie-cutter cozy series. Not bad, just not worth crowing about.

Rachel Kramer Bussel says

For the third time, Las Vegas tattoo artist managers to get herself mixed up with dead bodies, this time in page one of Karen E. Olson's latest tattoo shop mystery. After lending her car to elderly couple Sylvia and Bernie, friends of her rival tattoo artist and pal Jeff Coleman, she finds a dead body in her trunk with a That's Amore tattoo, plus a dead rat. The corpse was one of several Dean Martin impersonators at, yes, a wedding chapel called That's Amore, and she soon winds up immersed in yet another case where similar tattoos appear and she gets sent all over Las Vegas and the surrounding area to try to unravel the mystery.

I don't want to give too much away except to say that the pace is, once again, perfectly fast and keeps you guessing, while adding another layer of mystery to Brett's romantic life, as she flirts with doctor Colin Bixby. However, there were so many characters in this one that I had a little trouble keeping track of them, but I still greatly enjoyed it, especially as Brett questioned whether she would make a good detective while watching her cop brother Tim work and puzzling over little clue she'd noticed. Olson does an especially good job of making tattoos--and in this case, tattoo equipment--a part of the mystery. I also liked getting a little insight into Brett and a look at her staff - I hope to see more of Bitsy. I'm looking forward to the next installment,

Susan says

Not everyone knows this about me, but every now and then I like to dabble in mystery reading, and I couldn't *not* pick this book up when I saw it. At this point, haven't we seen just about every manifestation of niche mystery/amateur detective series out there? Cats, Amish, paranormal, Elizabethan, cooking--you name it. This one is from Olson's Tattoo Shop mystery series, features a tattoo artist (and heavily tattooed) redhead protagonist named Brett Kavanagh, and is set in Vegas, need I say more? If nothing else, I have to give Olson points for style.

When Brett Kavanagh's pal borrows her flashy car for her wedding, Brett ends up with a most unwelcome vacation souvenir: a dead body in her trunk. Plots, counterplots, and missing people start accumulating shortly thereafter, and though Brett's detective brother is on the case, naturally the meddling thrill junkie in Brett can't help from getting herself smack in the middle of it.

Just as you might expect given the flashy protagonist and locale, this book moves, fast, fast, fast. There's barely any time for Brett to do any actual work she spends so much time (appropriately enough, given the title) rushing to and fro in her equally flashy ride, sleuthing, or just barely avoiding her own murder. Implausibility is pretty high, overall, sure--and there's some element of predictability (the heroine getting herself in over the head, but still stumbling upon answers, the will-they-or-won't-they love interest on the horizon, etc.) but I think if you go into this series expecting anything other than something than an over the top guilty pleasure (basically the book version of a joy ride) than you've really got no one to blame but yourself.

This is the first book I've read from the series, but you know--I would totally read another.

Sonja says

Oh the twists!

Plum-crazy says

Not a bad read although I did get confused in parts with some of the names Lucci/Lou & Flanigan/Franklin when I was a bit tired! Brett is a likeable enough & the characters are amusing but not as OTT as Stephanie Plum ones- reminded me more of Liz Evans' *Grace Smith* series.

Will read more if I come across them but feel the Tattoo motif, while it works & I like it - is simply a ploy to cash in on current fashion & I couldn't help feeling in parts that the author was just trying a tad too hard to appear on trend- maybe hoping to pull-in a younger reader? Let's me out then ;o)
