



## Some Like It Hawk

*Donna Andrews*

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Meg helps run Caerphilly's summer arts and crafts festival while trying to smoke out a murderer—turn up the heat, because Some Like it Hawk!

The hilariously funny Donna Andrews delivers another winner in the award-winning New York Times bestselling series that has captured human and avian hearts alike. Meg Langslow is plying her blacksmith's trade at "Caerphilly Days," a festival inspired by her town's sudden notoriety as "The Town That Mortgaged Its Jail." The lender has foreclosed on all Caerphilly's public buildings, and all employees have evacuated—except one. Phineas Throckmorton, the town clerk, has been barricaded in the courthouse basement for over a year.

Mr. Throckmorton's long siege has only been possible because of a pre-Civil War tunnel leading from the courthouse basement to a crawl space beneath the bandstand. The real reason for Caerphilly Days is to conceal the existence of the tunnel: the tourist crowds camouflage supply deliveries, and the ghastly screeching of the tunnel's rusty trap door is drowned out by as many noisy activities as the locals can arrange. But the lender seems increasingly determined to evict Mr. Throckmorton—and may succeed after one of its executives is found shot, apparently from inside the basement. Meg and her fellow townspeople suspect that someone hopes to end the siege by framing Mr. Throckmorton. Unless the real killer can be found quickly, the town will have to reveal the secret of the tunnel—and the fact that they've been aiding and abetting the basement's inhabitant. Meg soon deduces that the killer isn't just trying to end the siege but to conceal information that would help the town reclaim its buildings—if the townspeople can find it before the lender destroys it in a gut-busting caper that will have giggles and guffaws coming as fast as a four-alarm fire.

## Some Like It Hawk Details

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## From Reader Review Some Like It Hawk for online ebook

### FangirlNation says

In Some Like It Hawk by Donna Andrews, the town of Caerphilly has been fighting since the conclusion of the previous book in the series, The Real Macaw, to keep its public buildings. The previous mayor took out a large mortgage in the name of the city, using city property as collateral, and then “allegedly” took off with the money. Now “the evil lender” has repossessed the courthouse, jail, and other buildings. So the citizens of Caerphilly are staging a big public event they call Caerphilly Days to help the effort to fight the evil lender. But their assistance isn’t financial. Instead, they serve as a diversion to distract the evil lender. At the time of the sudden repossession, the city clerk, Phineas P. Throckmorton, barricaded himself in the basement of the courthouse. For the last year and a half, the man has been living in the basement, supplied by a tunnel from the Underground Railroad known initially to few, especially to the Pruitts, the corrupt family just kicked out of power. But the trap door, which they keep hidden by the bandstand, makes so much noise every time it is opened that they have to cover up the noise with loud entertainment and plan to replace it altogether during the loud July 4 celebration.

Read the rest of this review and other fun, geeky articles at Fangirl Nation

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### Erica says

While none of the Meg Langslow mysteries have quite matched the laugh-out-loud fun of the original Murder With Peacocks, Some Like it Hawk was a fast, enjoyable read. Meg and a cast of lovably eccentric characters are working to save their beloved Caerphilly from foreclosure by the Evil Lender. The city clerk has barricaded himself in the basement of the courthouse, aided and abetted by most of the townspeople, but their plans go awry when a bank official is murdered just outside the barricade. Now Meg and the police are rushing to solve the murder, amid the distractions of throngs of tourists, an escaped boa constrictor, the Flying Monkeys and a troupe of stripping mimes. A highly entertaining story.

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### Sandy says

I enjoyed this installment of the Meg Langslow series, although I did miss the usually more substantial interaction between Meg and her family members. She was spread a bit too thin between Caerphilly Days and solving the mystery in my opinion. I was excited to find out what Meg's new role of Mommy is like and she was a mostly absent one... not something I would have anticipated.

Still it was a delightful read and refreshing.

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### Carly says

One of my favourites in the series so far, possibly because it involves a festival specializing in loud sounds, a secret passage, a medical examiner dressed as Dracula, a forensic evidence technician dressed as a gorilla

(how does he manage to keep fake fur out of the crime scene, anyway?), a bunch of (figurative) flying monkeys, a pig-calling competition, and a recalcitrant mime:

"I got a letter of complaint today. Someone threatening to sue Caerphilly Days for discriminating against her in our selection of entertainers."

"Discrimination?" I exclaimed. "Good grief, we let nearly anyone perform who can walk, crawl, or roll onstage, and if they're at all noisy, we ask them back. And we go out of our way to be multicultural. I can see the audience suing us for harassment over some of the acts but the entertainers? Who is it?"

"Lady named Heterodoxia Jones," Randall said. "Name ring a bell?"

"Oh, God," I said. "The mime."

Randall winced.

"Yeah, here it is," he said. "We're guilty of holding a disparaging attitude toward the ancient and honorable profession of the mime, and also restricting her right to self-expression. And she wants a hundred thousand dollars in compensation or she'll sue us for a cool million."

"Let her sue," I said. "Last time I heard, mimes were not a protected class under the Americans with Disabilities act. Or would they fall under the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission?"

"Whatever," Randall said. "Wouldn't hurt to let her perform. Not that I'm eager to see another mime on our stage, mind you. Just between you and me, I don't consider shooing mimes away discrimination--more like pest control. But that's my personal taste. Speaking as mayor of Caerphilly, I'd like to think we're a mime-friendly town."

"Save the mime, apple pie, and motherhood speech for the voters," I said. "We're as mime-friendly as the next town. What Ms. Jones doesn't mention is that in addition to being a mime, she's also an ecdyasist."

Randall's brows furrowed.

"A stripper," I explained. "And while I'm more than a little curious to see what a combination of mime and striptease looks like, I thought we were trying to keep our entertainment at least PG rated."

"I agree," Randall said. "Okay, I'll figure out how to get rid of the naked mime. Keep up the good work."

Need I say more?

I'm awfully curious about how Andrews comes up with such epic titles. I suspect she comes up with the title first, then weaves the plot around it. In this case, one character raises pigeons and the Flying Monkey guards bring in a hawk. The mystery's pretty weak (Doesn't matter), but at least for once, the book doesn't try to argue that the murdere "deserved it." As always, however, I don't read these for the mysteries; I read them for the characters, the crazy situations, and Andrews' mastery of hilarious dialogue.

After all, no book is perfect.

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**Nina Cast says**

always entertaining, but a little bit goes a long way

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### **Carol Stanley-Snow says**

This is the first i've read of Donna Andrews, but, rest assured, it won't be the last!!

She has a GREAT sense of humor and it shows through her cast of characters. The whole town, well, most of them, are just too funny!!

They all play a part in this mystery. Even the kids are humorous. I can't tell how funny this story is...I smiled and chuckled the whole time.

A light mystery read for the summer...and then you'll read all year long!

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### **Jeannie and Louis Rigo says**

This adventure of Meg and company was quite a bit different but well drawn. I felt like I was in Meg's shadow as she tried to fight crimes, crawl tunnels, eat her way through the entire town's religious bodies and more!

I did like that the Chief of Police realized that he needed Meg's help. I was a bit surprised that Michael and the Twins weren't more involved in some way, although I can't see how, if we want to keep them safe. I guess I need a thousand pages so it is well that Ms. Andrews writes the novels and not myself.

I learned some valuable medical advice regarding heat and humidity that I actually implemented immediately in my own home that night. The crime was well presented and developed and solved. I did wish I had 'known' more about the victim earlier so that I could get more concerned about her death.

All in all, I'm nuts about this series and am already looking forward to the next volume.

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### **Jane says**

I received an advance reading copy through Goodreads First Reads. I was very excited because I had never won anything before, but my excitement soon turned to puzzlement. Imagine my surprise when, as I'm sitting on a plane trying to finish this book before we land, I hit page 312, Meg's about to crack open the whole mystery, and...my copy of the book ends.

Since all the previous books in this series didn't end on cliffhangers, I'm going to assume something was wrong with my copy. It's difficult to review an incomplete book, but I have to say that this newest entry in the series didn't grab me. Meg's immediate family barely shows up, and Meg just runs around a lot. I felt as though the author was so focused on getting the details of the murder/saving the town from financial ruin, that she didn't have time for character development.

For example, by page 312, I still hadn't found out why the murdered person was murdered. The victim was apparently mostly in the book as a way to get the rest of the plot going. Sometimes I prefer my murder mysteries to go a bit deeper, though - it's a shame that this victim is so tangential that I didn't even really care that I knew as much about the victim by page 312 as I did upon first meeting her.

Edited to add: I emailed the publicity department at St. Martin's Press, who confirmed that the author was NOT trying something new and experimental, and pages had indeed been accidentally left out of my ARC. They offered to send me a hardcover copy of the book which I received today and finished reading. The ending was a bit confusing and hurried, but I bumped up my review a star for the publisher's kindness and speed of response. If only people like that were allowed to work in customer service positions, the world would be a happier place

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### **Mary Ann says**

Another Meg Langslow cozy. It is important to note that this series can be read out of order (which I am currently doing as I obtain the books from the library) or in order.

The town of Caerphilly, VA, is holding a tourist event all summer long to raise money to try and pay off the evil lenders who have brought their flying monkeys (the private security) to keep people out of the courthouse. In the basement of the courthouse, Phineas Throckmorton has barricaded himself for the past year and the town has been helping to keep him stocked with food and necessary items while he keeps all the papers safe and away from the evil lenders while the new town attorney, Meg's cousin, works to find a way to save the town from the evil lenders. While all this is happening, a woman from the evil lender has been murdered and it has been made to look like Phineas has done the deed. Meg and the rest of her family work very hard to find out who really murdered her and stop the evil lender from taking over the town and all the surrounding areas.

I really enjoy these stories and when my kids are in the car listening to the story with me, laughing at some of the things that happen in the story, I know it is a winner. My middle daughter has started hunting on the Kindle to find these books so she can read them, too.

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### **Laurie says**

This is the second book in this series that I have listened to via audiobook. Unfortunately I have not been able to listen to the series in chronological order because the library only offers about four titles. If I actually had to sit and read this series, I don't think I would waste the time. I find this series somewhat entertaining but also annoying. Does Meg ever actually take care of her twins? Why is everybody who lives outside of Caerphilly considered evil...or perhaps that is the theme of this book and *The Hen of The Baskervilles*. On the plus side, The narrator of this audiobook series is awesome, I listen to a lot of audiobooks and Bernadette Dunn is the best!

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### **Kathy Davie says**

Fourteenth in the Meg Langslow usually much funnier mystery series revolving around Meg the blacksmith

and her interfering family.

### My Take

I can't wait for the funny bits to hit...and I'm, mostly, still waiting. Definitely not one of my favorites in this series. Although, I did enjoy the big Evil Lender getting theirs in the end!

I do love what everyone does to keep the entrance hidden. Andrews really did do a clever job on this one. I guess I just miss having so many of the family participating this time. It is pretty funny that Meg keeps inviting the opposition to stay at their house. The one where the public library is currently living in their former ballroom.

Too funny! I love the bit about Lad, Seth Early's border collie, "finding" lost children!

It is a tense situation. The Evil Lender seems to have it all on their side and Meg and Michael are worried that the county will seize their farm and land to pay them off.

### The Story

The townsfolk of Caerphilly are working hard at raising funds for their bankrupt town. They have a festival to which everyone is contributing their time or a percentage of their sales right on the town square. The tour buses are that mixed blessing: lovely fat wallets that open but the wallets come attached to the people.

The festival also makes a good cover for the supply line the people have organized for the lone holdout in the City Hall basement. It helps that there is one major criteria the organizers have of participants: They have to be loud.

Big mistake when they tried to blow Denton up... Nuh-uh, he just doesn't take to that sort of thing and he's got a few of his own ideas about what's going on.

### The Characters

**Meg Langslow** is a blacksmith with a keen interest in solving crime. She does come by it quite fairly; her dad, **Dr. Langslow**, is just as nosy, er, interested in crime. **Josh** and **Jamie** are her and Michael's eighteen-month-old twins. **Michael Waterston** is her husband and a drama professor at Caerphilly College. **Spike** is their fierce, evil, little, wonderful watchdog. **Rob Langslow** is Meg's brother and a big kid who hasn't really grown up yet. In spite of the fortune he's made as a game designer. **Mother** is a force of very efficient nature and designs interiors beautifully.

**Rose Noire** is Meg's very holistic cousin; **Eric** is the teenaged nephew conscripted for the summer to babysit—his sister **Natalie** broke her ankle; **Tinkerbell** is Rob's dog and she's helping Spike babysit as well; **Cousin Festus Hollingsworth** is an excellent lawyer on the case to battle the Evil Lender---and keep them from seizing Meg and Michael's farm under eminent domain; and, cousin **Horace Hollingsworth** prefers to wear a gorilla suit and is the crime scene investigator in Yorktown and Caerphilly when needed.

**Caroline Willner** is Grandfather's girlfriend and she runs a wildlife sanctuary near Caerphilly. She's definitely up for some B&E. **Zeke** is **Dr. Blake**'s---Grandfather's---night watchman at the zoo. Zeke may be old, but he's steady.

**Chief Burke** is becoming resigned to Meg's interest and grateful to her dad; **Dr. Smoot** is the local medical examiner...sigh... **Vern**, **Sammy Wendell**, and **Aida Morris** are some of the local deputies; **Debbie Ann** is the police dispatcher.

**Phineas K. Throckmorton** is a pigeon-fancier and the basement holdout who has barricaded himself inside. Turns out to have been a brilliant idea. **Shannon** is...um...not yet dating one of the Flying Monkeys. **Reverend Wilson** has been reassuring the chief about lying and injustice.

The **Shiffley family** has certainly come into its own in this story. Their construction company is busy with maintaining the tunnel, erecting benches for the festival, and Randall is the new mayor very carefully appearing to cooperate. **Judge Jane** contributes her bit.

**George Pruitt**, a member of *that* family, is the reason the town is bankrupt. He pulled a runner and made off with the funds. **Hamish Pruitt** is the town's disgraced former attorney---the family is angry at him since he failed to stop the recall vote; he's now running a hamburger stand that's only good for a suicide run.

The **Evil Lender**, a.k.a., First Progressive Financial, has foreclosed on most of the town with the new mayor holding forth in a tent on the square. **Mr. Fisher** is one of the "civil" representatives from FPF while **Colleen Brown** is a vice-president who saw a bit too much. The townspeople call the security people the Evil Lender has hired the **Flying Monkeys** due to an uncanny resemblance to the Wicked Witch of the West's soldiers. **Lieutenant Wilt** and **Officer Reilly** are some of the overzealous ones.

**Stanley Denton** is the hapless, but not helpless private investigator the Evil Lender hired to find out how Phinny is getting his supplies. Unfortunately, everyone immediately spotted who and what he is; fortunately, he's an intelligent man. And a new character added to the series. **Muriel** runs the cafe where Denton loves to eat pie. **Charles Doane** operates a natural pest control business, *Some Like It Hawk*, and has been hired to control a pigeon infestation in an environmentally responsible manner---they lied.

**Kate Blake** is a reporter from the *Washington Star-Tribune* and absolutely desperate to break out of human interest stories.

### **The Cover**

The cover has a strong faded red...what a contradiction that is!...background and a tabletop fan blowing a collection of patriotic ribbons at an overheated hawk. Hmm, definitely a metaphor for the heat hitting the townsfolk of Caerphilly as well as the Evil Lender.

The title is a cute play on how hot it is in Caerphilly over this Fourth of July holiday as well as bringing in Meg's grandfather's interest and a new employee of his with an interesting line of work whose business is hawks. Bring a fan and some lemonade to this encounter, 'cause *Some Like It Hawk*.

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### **Andrea says**

Donna Andrews once again delivers another fun and fantastic tale from the town of Caerphilly! I don't want to give anything away, let's just say that this involves the town's financial woes, a dead executive, and a whole host of colorful characters and events. There's no end to the twists and turns that drive this story to its final destination. Meg Langslow and her clan never fail to deliver humor, and hi-jinks. A good read, guaranteed to give you the giggles!

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## **Jonathan says**

Meg Langslow is like my “comfort-food” mystery. After I read tons of books that blend together I can count on these books to stand out and be easy reads that I love and enjoy.

In this (fourteenth) book in the series the town is still evicted from their buildings, but they’re making do and having a booming tourist business because of it. However, when a body shows up only a few steps from a man who barricaded himself in the courthouse basement the entire town’s facade might come crumbling down.

Meg is always an amazing, absolutey hilarious MC, and this book didn’t disappoint! I was disappointed because we didn’t seem to see as much of my favorite secondary character; Meg’s mom. However, she did pop in a few times. The rest of the quirky family and townspeople also returned for this book.

The setting was a nice change; unlike int he last few books where it almost entirely took place at or around Meg’s house, this one was primarily set in the town square. This book’s only real drawback was a transparent mystery. I identified the killer pretty early on, and the reveal fell flat to me.

Overall, however, this book was another amazing book in a series that I can’t get enough of. Highly recommend this book/series!

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## **judy says**

I'm always amazed that I love these books because funny mysteries are not my thing. I gave up Evanovich. Why don't I give up Andrews? I may have figured it out--Andrews isn't going for the laugh. There isn't anything odd or amusing about Meg. She does have some eccentric relatives and a mother whose passion for decorating can drive her nuts. Still, we're within the bounds of normal. Somebody is going to get killed in each book--but in true Agatha tradition--it's never gruesome. Meg's level-headedness makes murder and finding the murderer relaxing. It would be amiss if I did not acknowledge that I am a sucker for puns. As long as Andrews continues to find more birds for her titles, I'll keep on reading.

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## **Debra says**

I don't really read these books because of the mystery. (Um, remind me, who actually did get killed in this one?) I read them because of the zany-ness, the humor, and the likeable characters. Donna Andrews is what Janet Evanovich aspires to be - silly, fun and each book a fresh treasure. Not sure that the buying public agrees but they are just wrong.

This particular one should especially interest archivists and to a lesser extent librarians. Thank you, Ms. Andrews, for making the job relevant.

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