



## Mayhem in Margaux

*Jean-Pierre Alaux, Noël Balen, Sally Pane (Translation)*

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**Mayhem in Margaux** Jean-Pierre Alaux , Noël Balen , Sally Pane (Translation)

It's summer in Bordeaux. There's a heat wave, the vineyards are suffering, vintners are on edge, and wine expert Benjamin Cooker's daughter is visiting. A tragic car accident draws the Winemaker Detective and his assistant Virgile into a case where the stakes are very personal, and they uncover some dirty secrets hiding behind the robe of some of Bordeaux's finest grand cru classe wines from Margaux."

## Mayhem in Margaux Details

Date : Published May 14th 2015 by Le French Book (NY) (first published October 13th 2004)

ISBN : 9781939474384

Author : Jean-Pierre Alaux , Noël Balen , Sally Pane (Translation)

Format : Paperback 164 pages

Genre : Mystery, Cultural, France, Cozy Mystery, Alcohol, Wine

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## **From Reader Review Mayhem in Margaux for online ebook**

### **Chris says**

Disclaimer: ARC via Netgalley.

This installment finds everyone's favorite wine taster, Benjamin facing a family crisis. It's a cozy mystery, so one can pretty much figure out how that ends before even opening the book.

However, the charm of this series rests not on the mystery but on the Cooker family and the scenery where the series takes place. This series is something that you enjoy not because it is on the level of Ruth Rendell, but because it is a pleasant hour that concerns wine and food, with a little mystery thrown in for good measure.

As a plus to this, the Cooker family is believable family in the sense that the family is clearly a close one without being too over repetitive in saying it is one. In other words, the Cooker family is a happy family in a way that does not defy belief. It is fun spending time with them, and they are the type of family that you might want to stay with will visiting France.

Virgile too is here as well, and while the trajectory of his story is some too cliché in this story, it really does not take away from the pleasant enjoyment that this series brings.

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### **Bill says**

When Benjamin Cooker's daughter, Margaux, takes time from her job in New York to return home to France to visit her dad, wine expert, Benjamin Cooker and her mom, and is in a near fatal car accident that kills the driver, her suave date, her dad begins to track down the cause of the accident and discovers it was no accident at all.

With his handsome assistant, Virgile, they begin to unravel the complicated web that nearly killed Margaux, as they endure one of the worst heat waves checking vineyards for worried owners, and find the final cause in a corporation's desperate obsession to make more money,

Travel to France and join Benjamin Cooker, his wife and daughter, their friends and his able assistant as they relish sought after wines and delectable food that will have you calling your travel agent as soon as you finish this delicious page turner.

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### **DelAnne Frazee says**

Title: Mayhem in Margaux Winemaker Detective Mystery 6

Author: Jean-Pierre Alauz & Noel Balen

Translated By: Sally Pane

Published: 5-14-15

Publisher: Le French Book

Pages: 164

Genre: Mystery, Thrillers & Suspense

Sub Genre: International Crime; Amateur Sleuths

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ASIN: B00VITWYE2

Reviewer: DelAnne

Reviewed For: NetGalley

My Rating: 4 1/2 Stars

Benjamin and his wife Elisabeth have planned a holiday in Margaux, France where he hopes to inspect the vines that have suffered with the severe heat threatening many of the vineyards in the area. When his daughter, Margaux is in a serious accident the night before they are to leave he is suspicious that perhaps the accident was not an accident after all. Once she is able Benjamin spirits her out of the hospital recuperate with the on holiday. When Virgile arrives and meets Margaux they seem to hit it off. Which seems to rub Benjamin the wrong way, after all no one is good enough for his little girl. The more he and Virgile look into the accident and those who might have a reason to cause the accident the more secrets they bring to light and old scores to be settled. Who could want to harm Margaux? Will Benjamin step in between the growing friendship between his daughter and his assistant?

At 164 pages this is still a short story, but you will not be able to tell once you start reading. The writers have managed to pack Mayhem in Margaux full of suspense and unusual clues, not to mention watching Benjamin's consternation as he sees his assistants interest in his baby girl. Every father's dilemma a good man finds our daughter attractive, but is he good enough? Every parent's worst nightmare is also involved finding out your precious daughter has been injured in a serious accident. With many directions to go you will be led on a merry chase in book six of the Winemaker Detective Series. Easily read in one sitting, this fast paced mystery is another winner for Jean-Pierre Alaux and Noel Balen. My rating is 4 1/2 stars out of 5.

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GoodReads link: <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/2...>

The Reading Room link: <https://www.facebook.com/permalink.ph...>

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### **Clare O'Beara says**

The winemakers feel a personal stress when the daughter of Benjamin Cooker is injured in a car accident. Possibly the car was tampered with - was young Margaux, a business student, the intended victim, or the young man who was driving? Cooker and his assistant Virgile drop everything to protect the family.

We see this against the backdrop of a hot dry summer, with wine harvests suffering and other issues such as metal screw caps instead of corks being debated. Modern methods are not always welcome in traditional wine regions and corporate purchasing of vineyards tends to sweep away established workers as well as traditional crafts. This is a well-written and different instalment, with less wine tasting than usual and only salads being eaten in the heat. Enjoy.

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### **Susan says**

Finally we get to see a glimpse of Benjamin Cooker's family, although the portrayal of his wife Elizabeth has the substance of a feather. His daughter Margaux, on the other hand, has a starring role as the survivor of a lethal auto accident. Bordeaux is undergoing a heat wave and drought, which keeps Cooker and his assistant Virgile busy consulting on distressed vines and speculating on the effects of global warming on the French wine industry.

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### **Susan Johnston says**

I look forward to each of these books. I learn something new about wines every time and I am entertained by characters with whom I like to spend time. In this outing, we meet Margaux, Benjamin Cooker's daughter. She is another great character to add to the mix but her life is almost extinguished because she gets in the car of the wrong person.

When the car crashes and it is determined that it was not accidental, Benjamin is drawn into discovering who sabotaged the vehicle and why. It is intensely personal this time so both he and his assistant, Virgile, go to great lengths to unravel the mystery.

I suspect we may see more of Margaux and Virgile and that would be fine with me. I rather liked the tentative way they started their relationship. As always, once the crime is solved, there are no huge surprises, just something that makes a lot of sense.

If you have not yet discovered this series, I recommend it especially if you are a fan of wine. You could probably sample any one of the books first and still find your way in the story line. But if you are looking for some good summer reading, perhaps with a glass of wine by your side, this might tickle your taste buds.

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### **KyBunnies says**

Review to come

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## **Melinda says**

Having an intimate glimpse into the Cooker clan was wonderful. Peeling the many layers of Benjamin Cooker has been an adventure with every book, but seeing his tender fatherly side in this particular installment was a sweet surprise. A fabulous portrait of a family filled with love, Elizabeth and Margaux come to life as we finally become personable with both as opposed to snippets as in previous narratives. Cooker's edges soften as we discover the family dynamics up close and personal.

Alaux and Balen provide another original mystery filled narrative. Every book in the series is inventive, never formulaic, never predictable, always keeping the reader engaged in true whodunnit tradition until the very end. The sensual descriptions of wine and food hook the reader further, a very welcomed treat, one this peruser appreciates.

Satisfying ending, the core and motivation of the mayhem understandable given the harshness unveiled.

Another clever and highly entertaining mystery by an incredibly creative writing duo, never disappointing, always marvelously atypical.

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## **Nicola Mansfield says**

Another fine entry in the Benjamin Cooker series! I'm in love with these characters and this sixth book is a real family affair. I started with book 2 so from that point on, this is the first time that Cooker's wife plays a role throughout the entire book, it's the first time the much mentioned but never seen office manager actually has a scene but the best part is when Virgile and Margaux finally meet. Cooker is always so playful about Virgile's stereotypical French lover playboy lifestyle, that is until he meets his daughter! LOL. Loved how those two got along, Anyway, the mystery was great too and kept me reading. In keeping with the family theme, it all starts with Margaux just barely escaping death in a car accident where the driver is hideously burned! Classic cars, fine wine and French dining all add to an atmosphere of class. One of my favourite series to turn to when I'm looking for something cozy and fun!

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## **A Holland Reads says**

Do you like wine? Do you like mysteries? If so then I say you should give this series a shot. This was another exciting installment in the Wine Detective series. From the first page I feel as if I am transported straight to France and am right in the midst of this mystery. You will go on a journey of Merdoc and its wine estates while trying to solve this murder mystery. I like how this mystery has wine and food has a part in the story. After reading this book I want to go to France even more. I also like hearing about Benjamin's family and how they have their own little stories within a story. That is another part of what makes these books nice to read. You feel for Ben in this story since it was his assistant who was killed. These mysteries are short so they are quick reads. I am looking forward to the next book in this series. Each one that I have read so far has been very good and enjoyable.

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## Wayne McCoy says

'Mayhem in Margaux' is book six in the Winemaker Detective series. There is a bit less sleuthing this time around, but I still found it an enjoyable read.

It's summer in Bordeaux and a heatwave is threatening the vineyards. Benjamin Cooker is on a holiday and wants to assess the vines. He also has his daughter visiting for a vacation. When she is involved in an accident, it becomes a personal case for Cooker and his young assistant Virgile. Between rivalries and bad feelings, it's hard to know what the motive behind the accident was. As if that's not enough to worry about, there might be something happening between Cooker's daughter and Virgile.

The mystery is there, but it seems to take a back seat to other things, but I was okay with that. I love the relationship between Cooker and his daughter. I like that the winegrowers aren't all enamored with Cooker and his wine reviews. It's a series of short books that are well translated from the original French, and they make nice, light reading.

I received a review copy of this ebook from Le French Book and NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. Thank you for allowing me to review this ebook.

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## Magdalena aka A Bookaholic Swede says

*It's a hot summer in Bordeaux and the vineyards are suffering because of the lack of rain. Vine expert Benjamin Cooker's daughter Margaux is visiting and one night she and Antoine Rinetti, a guy she just met that works in a vineyard, is involved in a car accident. But the police soon discover that it was not an accident and Benjamin Cooker and his assistant Virgile begin to snoop around to find why someone would sabotage Rinetti's car.*

This is the second book I have read in the "A Winemaker Detective Mystery series," the first book I read was **Cognac Conspiracies** and I enjoyed this one a bit more than the last one. For instance I found the story in this book much better than the last and even though there was not that many suspect to choose from just last the last book I read was it an enjoyable read. I think this series is quite nice to read when you need a break from more darker books, for instance a perfect beach book or why not in the evening on the terrace with a glass of wine.

One part of the book that I really enjoyed was the meeting between **Virgile** and **Margaux**. I was not sure if they had met before since I haven't read the first books in the series. But they hadn't met before and it was quite funny to read how uncomfortable **Benjamin** got when his hot and charming assistant met his young daughter. Even though they just seemed to be friendly (for now) was **Benjamin** a bit, how should I put it, fatherly when it came to **Margaux**. He likes **Virgile**, but damn it, he is a bit of a ladies' man. So, I will with great interests look forward to future meetings between **Margaux** and **Virgile**.

*I received a copy from the publisher and france book tours in return for an honest review!*

Review also posted on And Now for Something Completely Different and It's a Mad Mad World

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### **Ladyce West says**

De quando em quando um livro atravessa o meu mundo que suscita a pergunta: o que foi que uma editora brasileira viu nessa obra, que valeria o investimento na compra dos direitos autorais, no pagamento de um tradutor, no investimento de imprimir e distribuir uma obra, com a confiança, até certo ponto, de que tal investimento iria trazer o lucro mínimo que a companhia precisa ter para continuar sua vida editorial.

Essa pergunta voltou a me perseguir na leitura de *Desvendando Margaux*, dos autores Jean-Pierre Alaux e Noël Balen. Estava a procura de uma leiturinha fácil, de um livrinho de mistério, detetive, qualquer coisa, para passar uma tarde de folga e esquecer o cotidiano quente do verão carioca. Peguei esse livro que é o segundo de uma série policial da dupla, passado nos vinhedos franceses. Um dos autores é especialista em vinhos e seu parceiro é jornalista.

É um dos livros policiais mais insossos que já li. Não há tensão. Não há um mistério que agarre a atenção. Os personagens são comuns, o drama sofrível, o mistério quase inexistente. Há sim algumas noções de gerenciamento de vinhedos e o panorama por trás da produção de vinhos. Mas falta aquela trama que não deixa dormir. Essa obra não dá ao leitor o frenesi de ter que chegar ao final, nem é cheia do charme de uma Miss Marple que resolve as intrigas da cadeira de balanço de sua casa na aldeia.

Depois da leitura, enquanto me deliciava com um bom Simenon, procurei mais informações sobre outros livros da dupla. E realmente há muitos. Os autores são populares e até traduzidos para o inglês. É possível que eu tenha tido a falta de sorte de pegar uma de suas obras mais fracas. Mas para isso confia-se no selo da editora.

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### **Donna Maguire says**

I really enjoyed this book, its a lovely cosy mystery and it did keep me guessing to the end as to whodunnit and why. The book flows very well and the descriptions of the scenery, food and wine make you feel like you are there. Really nice way to pass a couple of hours. I received a copy of this book from the publishers in exchange for my honest review.

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### **Zeb Kantrowitz says**

The area around Bordeaux is suffering from an extended heat wave that threatens to ruin the current years grape harvest. Though some turbulent years produce great wines, most vintners are worried about losing their vines. During his visits to the different vineyards, his visiting daughter (whose name in Margaux) gets involved with the manager of a chateau recently bought by a Swiss bank.

When his daughter and the manager crash his Porche, the police find that the brake lines had been cut. When the manager dies it becomes a case of murder for the Benjamin Cooper (the Winemaker detective) and his assistant Virgile.

Besides making the Bordeaux area safe for good wines, saving the current crop and having a great time

buying Virgile a vintage car, they also manage to find the murderer. A fun time was had by all, except that Ben is now worried that Virgile and his daughter have become too close.

Zeb Kantrowitz [zworstblog.blogspot.com](http://zworstblog.blogspot.com)

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