



Faux Paw: A Magical Cats Mystery, #7

Sofie Kelly

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Magical cats Owen and Hercules from A Midwinter's Tail are back and ready to help librarian Kathleen Paulson pounce on a killer art thief...

Normally, the arrival of an art exhibition at the Mayville Heights library would be cause for celebration. But thanks to the overbearing curator and high-tech security system that comes with it, Kathleen's life has been completely disrupted. Even Owen and Hercules have been affected, since their favorite human doesn't seem to have a spare moment to make their favorite fish crackers or listen to Barry Manilow.

But when Kathleen stops by the library late one night and finds the curator sprawled on the floor—and the exhibition's most valuable sketch missing—it's suddenly time to canvass a crime scene. Now Kathleen, her detective boyfriend Marcus, and her clever cats have to sniff out a murderous thief, before anyone else has a brush with death...

Faux Paw: A Magical Cats Mystery, #7 Details

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From Reader Review Faux Paw: A Magical Cats Mystery, #7 for online ebook

Sapphyria says

Mayville Heights library has the unique pleasure of hosting an art exhibition and the residents are excited to have it in their small town. With the art, however, comes Margo, a high maintenance curator. When Margo is found dead and the most valuable art piece stolen, Kathleen, her boyfriend Detective Marcus Gordon, and her magical cats Owen and Hercules try to piece together what happened that night at the library.

Faux Paw is a great book in Sofie Kelly's Magical Cats Mystery series. The pacing is steady and the entire novel is easy to read and understand. Multiple suspects keep the reader guessing and keep Kathleen and Marcus on their toes. I really enjoy the Magical Cats Mystery series even if newcomers to the town are the ones that are murdered. I don't like it when authors kill off main characters or characters that are important to the Hero/Heroine. The continued world building and character development of Kathleen, her magical kitties, and Marcus, along with the secondary characters, is fresh and original with each installment.

The books in Sofie Kelly's Magical Cats Mysteries are descriptive without going overboard. I feel like I'm in every scene of the story. The books also have the right amount of suspense to keep the reader engaged all the way to the end. The romance included isn't over the top and doesn't overshadow the mystery solving. It's a nice addition to give the story and characters realism.

The Magical Cats Mystery series is one of my favorites. I enjoy the lowkey nature of cozy mysteries. They keep me entertained with their quirky main characters.

Paperback review copy was purchased by me for my bookshelf.

Katie says

[I'm over the "fake fight" type things, though. It was obviously a set up. Why not let the re

? Irena ? says

[a bit of jealousy into the mix when it comes to Kathleen and Marcus, I knew I wouldn't like any of

Beth says

At least four people yawn and then apologize by saying, "It's not the company." Which seems to be the sort of authorial tick an editor should catch.

Aside from that, this is really charming, even if it's a little farfetched and even if Kathleen is always right.

That's no mean feat.

Yvonne says

I was ecstatic to see a new entry in the “A Magical Cats Mystery” series. This is another one of my favorites by another one of my favorite cozy authors, Sofie Kelly.

Kathleen Paulson is back with her kitty cats, Owen and Hercules. Each one has their own special talent. One disappears and the other walks through walls. Kathleen has full fledged conversations with them, but they don't speak so it's a bit one sided. However, they do appear to understand what she's saying. That happens to me with my two kitties all the time. LOL

Anyway, Owen and Hercules are just as much a part of solving the mystery as Kathleen. It's a fast moving storyline which keeps readers guessing along with our amateur sleuth.

Besides the mystery storyline, we also have Kathleen and her boyfriend Marcus' relationship growing. He seems to accept her interference in his cases a bit more than the first book :) Another secondary storyline is about one of Kathleen's friends and her romance with a much younger hockey player. I found both romances to be as interesting as the mystery. I feel like I get to know the characters better with each story.

The mystery itself is a standalone and solved in this book, but I recommend reading this series from the first book so you can see how the characters grow and develop with time.

This is coziness at its finest. I adore those magical cats! I do hope to see this series continue. I can't wait to catch up with these characters again. Now, hopefully, I won't have to wait a whole year to visit Owen and Hercules.

FTC Disclosure: The publisher provided me with a copy of this book to review for this blog tour. This did not influence my thoughts and opinions in any way. All opinions expressed are my own.

Megan says

I need to stop reading contemporary cozy mysteries. I keep trying, though, because I worry that it's internalized sexism that keeps me from liking or appreciating them. But I'm coming to understand that I bristle at the constructed bubble of safety~ that the crime occurs in but doesn't actually threaten. It's not a fantasy I enjoy or believe in or find worthwhile, either in real life or in the world of the story. I find too much in the narrative that undermines it: the way protagonists undermine law or order in their own investigations; the way crime is not something that leaves a lingering effect on the community; the way victims are frequently people who are not missed, and so that allows the cast of recurring characters to get on with their lives until the next murder. And I get that cozy mysteries aren't meant to deal with any of that, that the crimes featured are specifically constructed to avoid touching cyclic violence or the systematic forces of poverty and racism that dominate the way people deal with the criminal justice system.

But I can't let it go. But I keep going back to cozy mysteries because I want to read less gore and less exploitation and sensationalism in my crime fiction, and because I want to make sure I'm not just being sexist in recoiling from a woman dominated subgenre.

I. Just. But nearly every contemporary cozy I read just whips me up into a hostile frenzy.

Magical, clue-finding cats? Yes, I'm down with that. I like these cats and the magical digestive systems that allow them to eat tons of human food. I find that charming. I like them.

What's not charming? The librarian protagonist, when building a case to her detective boyfriend that she suspects someone could be a thief/murderer, includes in her reasoning that the person in question checked out "*A Coffin for Dimitrios* and *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd*. Eric Ambler and Agatha Christie. Mystery classics."

what. the. fuck.

In real life, I'd hope nothing short of the Patriot Act (and even THAT, but I recognize that the Patriot Act is law and whatever) would get a librarian to be that shitty to a) think reading mysteries makes someone suspicious (among other things, but SERIOUSLY), b) voluntarily and proactively violate a patron's privacy by--without court order, without the law enforcement office even requesting it--reveal to a law enforcement officer what a patron checked out.

Nothing. Cozy. About. That.

(Also, I thought the mystery was boring. The characters are all right if bland, the worldbuilding is nice, and I like the cats.)

Dakota says

I still find this series very charming

Erin Cataldi says

I needed an audiobook filler and I thought a nice cozy mystery with cats would be a nice change. I was mistaken. Maybe cozy mysteries just aren't my thing, maybe it was just this book, or maybe it was "magical cats" assisting with another murder in a small quaint little town. Whatever it was, this was not a book I was into. Even though it was the 7th in the series, it read fine as a stand alone, it was pretty straightforward; no crazy plot twists, predictable characters, non-stop eating and describing food, everything was kitschy and quirky. It was too much. Too much ugh. A traveling museum exhibit is coming to the library. The lady in charge of arranging the exhibit is found murdered in the library and a valuable art piece is stolen. Oh no! The librarian and resident cat lady is determined to find the killer so the library can re-open. She and her boyfriend (who is also conveniently a detective) bounce scenarios off each other until the case is solved.... They get a couple of clues from the librarian's magical cats along the way (one can turn invisible and the other can walk through walls.... totally normal). Hard pass.

Juli says

Faux Paw is book 7 in the Magical Cats Mystery series. I've enjoyed each book so far! The series is a fun mix of humor, mystery, and feline magic. Kathleen Paulson is a librarian in Mayville Heights, MN. She adopts two unusual cats from a nearby feral colony. Owen and Hercules have strange powers. One can become invisible and the other can walk through solid walls. As a cat owner, I have frequently joked that my felines can materialize out of thin air, especially when I open a can of food. I think the antics and awesomeness of Owen and Hercules are why I enjoy this series so much!

In Faux Paw, the library is sponsoring an art exhibit. Kathleen is being run ragged by the curator who demands installation of a high-tech security system among other requirements. Imagine Kathleen's surprise when she stops by the library late one evening to find the curator dead on the floor and the most famous sketch in the art collection missing! She's soon on the trail of a murderer and thief!

The mystery in this 7th book was engaging with plenty of suspects and suspense, but I don't think I read this series for the mystery. I enjoy the characters and the humor. It's a series that I know I can pick up and just have a relaxing evening of reading. It's like a reunion with old friends. I like the cute supernatural aspects of Kathleen's cats. It isn't overdone....it's just a bit of specialness added to them. :)

Each mystery in the series is its own separate story, so it isn't vital to read them in order. But, the character's relationships and story do develop with each book....so for those who would like to read the entire series, I really recommend starting at the beginning. Kathleen is a great MC -- intelligent, witty and determined. The side characters all come together to add depth to the setting and the plots. It's just an enjoyable cozy series! I highly recommend it for cat lovers and cozy mystery fans!

Sofie Kelly is a pseudonym for YA author Darlene Ryan. She also writes under the name Sofie Ryan (Second Change Cat Mystery series -- another favorite of mine!) There are 8 books in the Magical Cats series, with the 9th book (A Tale of Two Kitties) coming out in September 2017.

Pat Beard says

Still enjoyable even if I figured out whodunnit the minute the character was introduced.

Kevin says

[two non-conspiring criminals it was harder to come up with who committed the crime. (hide spoiler)]

Betty says

Owen and Hercules Are Important

A good cozy mystery featuring Owen and Hercules, two magical cats and their Human Kathleen. The cats personalities are developing and we see that cats are different individuals. They help provide Kathleen clues in a normal cats way and their magic abilities are not stress. The romance of Kathleen and Marcus is developed. The romances of the other characters are continued especially Roma and Eddie. The Mayville Library is hosting an Art Exhibit and temporary security system is required to protect the paintings. The night before the exhibit is to open the show director is found dead in Kathleen's office. The most valuable painting is missing. The library and Exhibition are closed by the murder. Owen and Hercules must provide the clues for the murder so the library can be open. If you are a cat lover you will like this book, if not buy another book. This the best book of the series.

Glen says

Another mystery solved by the magical cats.

A prestigious art display is going to be held at the town library, and with all the prep work, plus a control freak curator, the life of the whole town is disrupted. The curator is killed, one of Kathleen's friends is a suspect, and supercop Marcus doesn't have a clue.

Another superior mystery.

Randee says

This is the seventh book in the adventures of Kathleen, Hercules and Owen. I have read them right in a row, pretty much, after reading the first in the series. Sadly, I shall now have to be patient since the 8th will not be published until October 2016...sigh. I find these cozies completely charming and find, Hercules and Owen (the two cats), very simpatico, having cats of my own (who do not solve mysteries but communicate with me in ways not unlike Hercules and Owen.) I highly recommend this series to everyone who likes cats and/or cozies.

Andree says

Well, the mystery solving portion of this took a turn for the ridiculous about two thirds of the way through this one. I also enjoy how much Kathleen always manages to figure out via Google. Just, honestly never visit this town. You will inevitably be unceremoniously murdered, probably in some way tangentially connected to the library. It's a good thing I'm totally not here for the mystery aspect of these, I guess.

The series continues to be charming, and I continue to really like the cast of characters. This one's a solid addition to the series. (view spoiler)

