



# Murderous Matrimony

*Joyce Lavene , Jim Lavene*

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Includes Perilous Pranks, a novella in the Renaissance Faire Mystery series, PLUS Book Six, Murderous Matrimony. A prank too far: Wanda Le Fey is dead, and Renaissance Faire lover, Jessie Morton, looks suspiciously like the person who killed her. Jessie was simply returning the prank Wanda played on her by dyeing the other woman blue. It wasn't her fault that Wanda was also stabbed in the chest by a sword as she tried to get out of her shower. Now Wanda's blue ghost is prodding Jessie to find her killer. And a dead Wanda is far worse than a live Wanda. And a deadly Renaissance wedding: In less than two short weeks, Jessie Morton will marry Chase Manhattan at the Renaissance Faire Village and Marketplace. But so much can go wrong in that short time. A man is murdered in Jessie's new Arts and Crafts Museum and her assistant is being scrutinized for the deed. Chase's brother and parents have arrived and are still against their marriage. Wanda's ghost is busy making Jessie's life miserable. The Ren Faire wedding of her dreams may never take place. Can she talk Chase into eloping before it's too late? Murderous Matrimony "This book is more than just a murder mystery. There's some paranormal elements, one of them is the blue ghost Wanda, whose rather ornery? obnoxious? antics will leave you laughing until you cry. She really makes the book! If you are a fan of Renaissance Festivals, you will have to love this book. It really feels like you are getting a inside look at how these festivals work and the kind of people that work for them. This is definitely a series not to be missed." -- Andrea Guy, Cruisin' through the Cozies Perilous Pranks "This novella whets your appetite for the next book in the Renaissance Faire Mystery series - Murderous Matrimony, coming in November 2013. This is a quick fun read. It will keep you turning the pages so you can find out whodunit. The story is well plotted and will keep you intrigued with quirky characters and red herrings galore. Well, Joyce and Jim have done it again - they never disappoint. So if you like your mystery with the fun of a Renaissance Faire, then you should be reading Perilous Pranks."- Cheryl Green

## Murderous Matrimony Details

Date : Published (first published November 13th 2013)

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Author : Joyce Lavene , Jim Lavene

Format : 350 pages

Genre : Mystery, Cozy Mystery



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# From Reader Review Murderous Matrimony for online ebook

## Michelle says

Murderous Matrimony by Joyce & Jim Lavene, Chase Manhattan and Jessie Morton plan to marry at the Renaissance Faire along with 250 other couples. They are employed by Adventureland the company that owns Renaissance Faire Village and Marketplace and are taking part in the published weddings.

Adventureland is providing the site, cake and flowers. It has been a dream come true for Jessie to work and live at the village. But she is a little unsure of The Great Wedding Fiasco as she refers to it. She did not exactly plan to share her special day with 250 other couples, their family and friends.

The weeks leading up to the wedding has been hectic. There has been yet another murder. This time at her Arts and Crafts Museum. Manny her assistant director at the museum is the prime suspect. Although Manny looks guilty and is hiding his true identity Jessie knows in her heart Manny would not commit murder and sets out to find the real murderer. Anything and everything that could go wrong does. Wanda Le Fey, the resident ghost is up to her tricks. Causing terror and pulling pranks all over the village. Not only does Jessie have to put up with the pranks but she is one of a few that can see and communicate with Wanda. She is a constant shadow following her every move.

Chase the village Bailiff is investigating the murder, protecting the residents and visitors and cleaning up after Wanda's not so funny pranks. His family arrive in the mist of the chaos and are set to brake up their union.

Joyce and Jim Lavene has written over 60 novels. This one is a fun mystery with a Renaissance setting. It is well written, fast paced and a easy read. The characters are undeniably funny and well thought out. I don't read many books other than Christian but found this one to be enjoyable and a clean read. I give Murderous Matrimony book 6 in A Renaissance Faire Mystery Series 5 stars. I really enjoyed this book and would like to visit a real Renaissance Faire on day.

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## Paula Ratcliffe says

This is the 6th book in the series and this one starts out with Jessie and Chase getting ready for their wedding in two weeks, but unlike most weddings this one will be held in the village with all their friends and family. That is of course if Jessie can get a ghost off her case and solve a murder. Jessie can't seem to get Wanda off her case a woman who died and is now spending eternity harassing Jessie. Jessie is determined to find a way that Wanda can't haunt anyone else, including Jessie herself.

Not far into the book a murder is committed. David a madman to the village is found dead and Jessie's new worker is their prime suspect add to that Jessie's museum is off limits until the murder is solved. Is this a case of a hatred between the two men and one of them killing the other or is something more sinister going on? Will Chase and Jessie have a happily ever after or will there even be a wedding?

I love reading this series it's unlike any other cozy mystery. You have the mystery but then you have the whole Renaissance Faire thing going on that I love people in costumes and the way they talk it's incredible how the authors have added that to the story. I also love how Jessie is able to investigate without too much negativity with Chase. He doesn't warn her against it. And of course going back to read about various characters and what they are up to now is always a great treat in itself.

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## **Kathy says**

I must say, this is the first installment of this series that I did not enjoy. It seems like someone decided, "Ya know what? Supernatural is hot right now. Let's jump on that bandwagon." Unfortunately, this series already had it's own bandwagon. It had enough going on with the atmosphere created by its unusual setting at the Faire as well as its cast of kooky characters. It didn't need more. (Don't get me wrong. I love paranormal mysteries and read many.) It didn't need to seem split between ideas and genres. What it needed to do was stick with what it knew, what made it popular. Instead of being a fun, goofy mystery, as we've come to know and expect from this series, it becomes a disjointed, and truthfully boring, mess. Every detail, every bit of dialogue, seems forced. The entire plot seems choppy and lacking. It's not really anticlimactic. It's just plain flat. Somehow, it made me not even give two figs about the wedding. Hopefully, the authors will return to the old formula, the one which made this series special. Otherwise, I can see myself, and others who follow this series, leaving the Faire to explore other options.

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## **Ruth Hill says**

This had to have been one of the more unusual cozy mysteries I have possibly ever read. Part of the problem is that this is the first book I have read from the series. While I had no difficulty jumping into the action, I felt like I was playing catch-up for the first portion of the book. I also was not prepared for the ghost. Now don't be worried. This ghost is not scary. She is reminiscent of "Topper" (I was a fan of the old "Topper films" from old Hollywood).

I reveled in the setting of this story. Who doesn't like a Renaissance Faire? It is clear that some unusual things are going on, and not everything makes sense. In fact, I see this mystery as a blend of fantasy and mystery. The characters didn't really connect with me, but again, that is probably due to my not reading the other books in the series. The story was simple enough to read, and there was honestly never a dull moment. Also, the profanity was practically nonexistent.

I could have done without the implied bedroom scene. it didn't seem to make sense when the couple was supposed to be getting married at the end of the story, but that is just my opinion. I could have done without the ghost and some of the other stranger elements of the story. This was not necessarily my favorite, but I can honestly say that the author writes well.

I was sent a copy of this book in exchange for my honest review. I was not financially compensated, and all opinions are 100 percent mine.

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## **Priscilla says**

When it comes to settings, this is bar none my favorite series. I always tell my husband that I want to live with Jessie and Chase at the Renn Faire. I really enjoyed this book (#6) in the series because Chase and Jessie finally get to get married, but not before not one, but two murders are solved. The aspect that is different in this book from others in the series is that there super-natural aspect to it..... a ghost is hanging out with Jessie and causing mayhem throughout Renn Faire Village.

I personally did not feel that there was too much super natural aspects to the book; or, that the aspect of a ghost took away from the story line. However, it is possible that there might be a few that will not like the

book solely because of that factor.

There is more than enough story line for the book for everyone to enjoy.

Chase and Jessie always and forever!! Huzzah!!

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## **Tess says**

Hear Ye', Hear Ye'

Have you received your invitation to the wedding? What wedding says you? Well it's the wedding of Lady Jessica to that hunky man, Sir Bailiff Chase. In attendance will be Robin Hood and his merry men and Lady Marion, the pirates will leave their ship for the occasion. The Madmen, jesters, ladies in waiting, the minstrels, Merlin and 250 couples, (Adventureland sees this as a huge press advantage) who will also be sharing in the wedding day of Jessie and Chase. King Harold and Queen Olivia will be there, after all you can't have a proper wedding without them! Do you wonder if Wanda the ghost who is causing so much trouble will be there?

Once again, Joyce and Jim Lavene have captured my attention as soon as I got my invitation to the royal affair. Oh yes, this little old reviewer has been asked to attend! I have been blessed, once again, to have received an ARC of this book, so I got about a weeks head start on you. I adore this series by the Lavenes, as well as their other books, as some of you know. Joyce and Jim are one of the reasons that I got hooked on cozy mysteries. They and a certain author and her fabulous cat, no names mentioned, have the ability to make my hands itch, at just the mention of a new book by them coming out. If you are a faithful reader of the Renaissance mysteries, I know we will meet at the wedding. HUZAZH! HUZAZH! HUZAZH!

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## **Andrea Guy says**

Murderous Matrimony is the 6th book in the Renaissance Faire Mystery series. Once again, I jump into a series that is really established. Since I've read many of books Joyce and Jim have written, I wasn't worried about that.

I jumped right into this series and instantly felt like the characters were old friends. I loved the two lead characters, Jessie and her soon to be husband, Chase. They are a wonderful pairing, and I liked that Chase doesn't totally discourage her from trying to find out who killed David and then Bob. She goes with her instincts when it comes to her friend's innocence. I loved her loyalty.

The best part about the mystery is that when it is solved, the reader (at least I was) will be totally surprised. Yes, you get hints at who is involved, but the actually murderer is really a surprise.

But this book is more than just a murder mystery. There's some paranormal elements, one of them is the blue ghost Wanda, whose rather ornery? obnoxious? antics will leave you laughing until you cry. She really makes the book!

If you are a fan of Renaissance Festivals, you will have to love this book. It really feels like you are getting a inside look at how these festivals work and the kind of people that work for them. All I needed was to have an appearance by Cast In Bronze with the wonderful carillon and it would be like being at the Pittsburgh Renfest.

Oh and let's not forget Chase and Jessie's wedding. It was so wonderful, and I let out a squee of delight when they read the inscriptions on their wedding bands.

This is definitely a series not to be missed.

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### **LORI CASWELL says**

In just 2 weeks Jessie Morton and Chase Manhattan will become man and wife in one of the biggest Adventureland events ever. That is if Jessie can get Wanda's ghost to behave and leave her alone, get past the fact that Chase's family thinks she is all wrong for him and solve a murder or two. Maybe she and Chase should just elope.

#### **Dollycas's Thoughts**

I love these books. I have never been to an actual Renaissance Faire but because of these books I hope to attend one in the future. What a great ESCAPE from reality! Where else can you see Kings, Queens, Lords, Ladies, madmen, fairies, mermaids, dragons, Robin Hood and hundreds of people in full costume walking about enjoying the fantasy of it all? Plus the food, don't forget the food.

Joyce and Jim Lavene take us there and they add the suspense of a murder or two in each installment. The descriptions are so vivid. I can see Sherwood Forest, the castle, the dungeon, the streets, the shoppes and every colorful character. Their words paint beautiful pictures in my mind. Even the curmudgeonly outsiders who enter the village who don't believe. It is usually the outside police that come in to assist Chase but this time it includes Chase's family as well.

This story has a great mystery with plenty of suspects to keep us guessing – Fabulous characters including a ghost – Takes place in a fantastic setting. I love reading stories that leave me smiling at the end with a few giggles throughout and anxious for the next book.

You just can't go wrong with a Joyce and Jim Lavene mystery. (Or a J.J. Cook or an Ellie Grant, yep, that's them too!) While I would recommend reading the series from the start the authors do a wonderful job making each book read well all on its own. Congrats Joyce and Jim and thank you for inviting me to the spectacular wedding!!

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### **Joseph says**

I have to be honest, I did not enjoy this book as much as I have the all of the previous ones in this series, primarily because of the new addition of supernatural elements in this one that the others did not have and did not need. The previous stories were just fine without and IMO this one could have been too, the additions of things like ghosts, sorcerers, and dragons did not really add anything and instead did seem to be a bit distracting from the realistic human interactions that made the previous books so enjoyable. Another pet peeve of mine is that since this title unfortunately had to be self-published the proofreading was rather poor, it had a great amount of punctuation errors. I hope that the next book in this series goes back to the better realistic cozy mystery format that the series has been up to now, even if they have to come up with some wild explanation for all of the supernatural to have suddenly vanished. I'll probably read it anyway even if it doesn't, just to see where the story goes now.

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## **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 had 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.

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## **Rhonda says**

### **4 STARS**

This is the first book Ren Faire Mysteries that I have read. It was a fun surprise. It is not only a cozy mystery but full of surprises. Renaissance Faire Village and Marketplace sounds like a fun place to visit. Without the murders of course.

Now I have read three books in the series and the other two reviews are linked below.

It is charming, silly, fantasy, history, romantic, haunted and crazy. You are not sure what to believe is real and what parts are not. the people who act and live full time in the Renaissance Faire Village dress for the part all the time it is open and can't have use of modern tools.

The characters are a variety of fun and crazy people. They even have Robin and his merry men living in tree houses in the forest. They have wizards, fortune teller and Queen and King and court living in a castle. Plus their are lots more fun characters waiting for you in every chapter.

Jessie Morton and Chase Manhattan are two of the main characters. They are getting married in big wedding in the village in two weeks. Jessie is open a arts and craft museum soon, She is not happy about what her wedding is being turned into and for last two weeks she has been haunted by a blue naked angry ghost Wanda that wont leave her alone.

Chase is the Village Bailiff with a force of fifty security guards under him. He is kept busy. He does not

believe that Wanda is really haunting their apartment at first.

A body is found shot with a crossbow and killed in front of the Renaissance Arts and Crafts museum. Her assistant Manny is a suspect. Jessie does not believe he is guilty and decides to figure out who the murder is and why.

I know I would love to read more about the characters and would love to go read the previous books in the series.

I was given this ebook to read and asked to give honest review by the authors

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### **Marseydoats says**

At the rate the villagers get killed off, it's a wonder there's anybody left. I was really glad to dispose of Wanda though, she was a horrid character.

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### **Linda says**

Jessie Morton should be the happiest person on earth. In less than two weeks, as the new Director, she will be opening the Renaissance Arts and Crafts Museum in the Village, and she will be marrying the love of her life, Village Bailiff Chase Manhattan. But she is not! Could it be because Adventureland, parent company of the Renaissance Faire, has taken her wedding and turned it into a PR promotion, with another 250 couples joining her to take their vows--all on camera! Could it be that her new in-laws do not approve of her marriage to her son and will do everything to break them up! Or could it be that despite having solved her murder, Wanda Le Fey continues to bedevil Jessie and the Village, in all her malevolent ghostly blue nakedness! And as if this weren't enough to deal with, another murder has been committed. The body of Madman David is found outside the museum and the prime suspect is her new assistant director, Manny. Can she solve the murder and get rid of Wanda before the wedding? I loved the characters in this book, from the irascible Wanda to the colorful Robin Hood of Sherwood Forest. The story was fun with some interesting twists, and I look forward to the next Renaissance Faire adventure. Disclosure: I received this book in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Shannon says**

It's two weeks before Jessie's wedding to Chase and she has the very dead, very blue Wanda Le Fey still haunting her. Instead of focusing on her big day, Jessie decides to take on the task of solving the murder of Madman Dave, who was killed with a crossbow outside the Renaissance Faire Village Arts and Crafts museum where she is the director.

Will Jessie solve Madman Dave's murder, will she marry Chase and will Wanda stop haunting her? Pick up this fantastic novel in the delightful Renaissance Faire series by Jim and Joyce Lavene to find out!

**\*\*I was given a copy of this novel by the authors before it's release, however, that in no way influenced this review.\*\***

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## **Melina says**

This was a great cozy with a touch of fantasy. A great read from Jim and Joyce Lavene as always. It was a very well written story, and it kept my attention throughout. There was plenty going on to keep me entertained. This story has murder, ghosts, dragons, sorcerers, a Renaissance era wedding, and that is just to name a few of the great things in this story. Jessie is determined to find out who killed "madman Dave" and she kind of stumbles upon who the killer is. This story is filled with great characters and I can't wait till my next trip back to Renaissance Faire Village, great job Jim and Joyce, keep up the good work.

I received a complimentary copy of this book for my honest review.

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