



Past Malice

Dana Cameron

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What bones are buried in the shadows of the past?

Asked to join a dig at the site of the eighteenth-century Chandler House, archaeologist Emma Fielding and her student crew have descended upon Stone Harbor, Massachusetts. But certain residents of the tiny coastal community are none too happy about Emma's arrival -- especially when her excavation uncovers a pair of freshly slain corpses. There are dark forces at play in this dangerously divided town, where a distrust of strangers wars with a desire for tourist dollars. And when a young local's life is snuffed out, Emma is determined to get to the twisted roots of the strange secrets buried in this killing ground. But a mystery that lies among the tumbled ruins of a once grand manor could change Stone Harbor forever. And for some murderous someone, one more death -- Emma's -- would be a small price to pay to keep it hidden.

Past Malice Details

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Author : Dana Cameron

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From Reader Review Past Malice for online ebook

Fiona Brichaut says

I know historical archaeology is a serious discipline, I know that Americans want to know more about the effects of European settlement on native Americans, but still.... As a European I find it hard to take seriously a book about an archaeologist working on a house that is 200-300 years old, sifting through soil for artefacts. My house is 52 years old and we still think of it as a "new" house. 200 years is quite old for a house, as 15 is quite old for a cat. But when you dig up the land you call it "gardening", not archaeology.

Petty, no doubt, ignorant even, I freely admit. Downright stupid, if you will. Lambast me for being a cultural snob. Do your worst, but it won't change the fact that this just spoiled the book for me.

"For an American, 100 years is a long time. For a European, 100 miles is a long distance."

Stephanie Thompson says

Emma Fielding is an experienced archeologist working in the NE. Good working relationship with spouse. Not clear why the murderer did what she did. Enjoyed the description of area and archeological information.

Rose says

3 of 6

Judy says

Good enough to make me interested in others in this series

Lchamp says

This was an interesting and fun read if you are interested in history and archaeology (and mystery). This is the first of her novels that I have read and I will read more of her novels.

Daniele says

Just had to give up. Pages after pages of very useless description. I can probably summarize the first 135 pages in about 7 lines. I'll never know who's the killer. And that's fine.

Doreen Richards says

I wasn't as fascinated with the book as I thought I ought to have been. And i think that is largely in my mind that the site being excavated was too recent. So recent that there should be a lot of documentary information. So the setting interfered with my enjoyment of the book.

Lynn W Stubenrauch says

Book 3 of Emma Fielding

I didn't enjoy this book quite as much as the previous ones because to me, the main character kept making dumb life- threatening decisions. Here's this extremely bright archaeologist who continues to put herself and her family at risk to solve murder mysteries. This book read like a typical horror movie where the female goes into the spooky basement all alone, after promising not to take risks, because she thinks she's smarter than everyone else. Sadly, it just made her look egotistical and stubborn, and not particularly bright. I was disappointed that the author went in this direction.

Nancy says

Archeologist Emma Fielding has her hands full at her latest dig. Not only does someone associated with historic Chandler House hope to chase her away after she finds the body of a security guard, but her husband isn't too keen on her investigating either. Will she risk her marriage to keep snooping, or will she ignore the secrets the townspeople are so anxious to hide? Emma isn't a person to quit on a job, and soon danger is flying along with the dirt. A solid mystery with an insider's look at what it means to be an archeologist in the field.

Donna says

A solid mystery series. The main character is Emma Fielding, an archaeologist in New England. In this one, Emma is working at the Chandler House, where she becomes involved in two murders. An interesting subplot showing tension between Emma and her husband.

Erika says

this is the best one so far, I haven't really enjoyed them. This one had more action and seemed easier to get into then the previous books.

Carien says

This is yet another great read.

I really like how Cameron builds up the mystery in these books, letting you guess at what could be going on. The characters are interesting and intriguing, even those not involved in the mystery.

Emma can't help getting involved in the murders and gets herself in danger. I love how the people close to her (like her husband) react to her adventures. It makes everything feel even more real.

In this book Emma has her sister over for a visit, and I suffered along with Emma over Bucky's behavior. I would have sent her packing for less than what she says and does to Emma, I can tell you.

This book also has a quote that I LOVE and have to share:

"I was still surprised that people only wanted money for books. Not body parts or firstborns or souls. Just money. It always seemed like a steal to me."

(page 222)

All in all this is a really wonderful read and I can advise it to anyone looking for a good murder mystery. You bet I'll continue reading this series.

DAISY DISNEY says

This one was more of a 2.9 for me. The story did keep me interested and it did have good mystery tied to it. However the ending fell short for me. I don't think the motive behind the killings were really explained and I hate to be left hanging like that wondering.

Jessie says

This series is getting better as it goes along. I'm glad to have found another series to enjoy.

Scilla says

Archaeologist Emma Fielding is digging at Chandler House in Stone Harbor, Massachusetts, but she discovers two current bodies. There are bad vibes at the site where there appear to be bad feelings among many of the employees and neighbors. Emma borrows a boat and finds it has been sabotaged. Her husband isn't too happy about her working at a site where people kept getting killed, but Emma plods on and eventually figures out the culprits.
