



## Marcie's Murder

*Michael J. McCann*

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## **Marcie's Murder** Michael J. McCann

A beautiful woman is murdered in a small town in Virginia and Homicide Lieutenant Hank Donaghue is the prime suspect!

Donaghue is on vacation when he stops overnight in Harmony, a quiet little town where very little happens. Until, that is, the police kick down the door of his motel room in the middle of the night and drag him off to jail on suspicion of having strangled a woman behind a bar. Although he insists he's a cop himself and had nothing to do with it, the local chief of police won't listen. An eyewitness claims he saw Donaghue go behind the bar where the murder took place – and the victim was Chief Askew's wife!

Stuck in a cell in a small town, surrounded by cops who are convinced he's a murderer, Donaghue must find a way to free himself and find Marcie Askew's killer before it's too late. When he's finally allowed to make a phone call he dials the number of the one person he knows can help him out of this mess – Detective Karen Stainer.

## **Marcie's Murder Details**

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Author : Michael J. McCann

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## **From Reader Review Marcie's Murder for online ebook**

### **Sandra says**

Marcie's Murder is set against the backdrop of a small town named Harmony. The story explodes with a first chapter that places Lieutenant Hank Donaghue in serious trouble as a potential suspect in a woman's murder while he's on vacation there. His partner, Detective Karen Stainer, arrives on the scene to help him out, and things heat up as she negotiates his freedom in no uncertain terms. In an odd twist, the detectives end up helping the local police solve the murder.

Donaghue and Stainer are mainstays in a cast of entertaining characters McCann has created in Marcie's Murder, the second installment in the series. Donahue is cool and collected, whereas Stainer is outspoken and quick to react. The contrast in personalities doesn't diminish their ability to read each other when interviewing suspects. If anything, the disparity in their approaches adds a realistic and interesting perspective to the investigation and to the dialogue between them.

The other members of the cast are equally fleshed out and their individual history, temperaments, and quirks contribute to a well-rounded story. Several suspects are offered as events unfold, but when the real killer surfaces, everything falls into place and results in an action-packed capture.

Marcie's Murder is an easy read, the setting and characters feel genuine, and it's apparent McCann has done a lot of research on weapons and small-town attitudes. I definitely recommend it and look forward to the next book in the series.

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### **Martha Bryce says**

Donahue and Stainer #2 have sent me in search of the first book of the police partnership's adventures. The characters are so well developed that I found myself swaying between never wanting to meet Stainer in a dark alley and wanting her to be my advocate. Intelligent characters, great plot, easy read and I want more!

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### **Jeannie Walker says**

I have been stuck in a small town, and almost put in a jail cell by mistake - not for a murder, but for a traffic offense. I can tell you that was a very scary experience for me, especially since I didn't do anything wrong to deserve being confined in a jail and almost stuck in a cell while I was on vacation. I can certainly empathize with Donaghue, the character in this novel. He must find a way out of jail so he can root out the person who killed a police chief's wife. Just imagine your worst nightmare of being identified by an eyewitness who maintains he saw you where the murder took place. Donaghue has one phone call and calls the one person he feels can help him get out of this mess. This is the scary part - although this an intriguing mystery, and fiction - it could really happen in a small town where the police is set in their ways.

Jeannie Walker Award Winning Author

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## **Rebecca says**

EXCELLENT MYSTERY!!

Detective Karen Strainer, Lieutenant Hank Donaghue and assistant Detective, Ansell Hall are working together to solve the murder of Marcie Askew. Marcie is the wife of Chief of Police, Billy Askew.

The murder took place in Harmony, Virginia. Detective Strainer was brought in from Glendale, Maryland Police Department. The portrayal of a small town feels authentic and a perfect backdrop for a murder investigation. Of course, the Chief is put on administrative leave until it's cleared up.

I highly recommend this intriguing mystery. It is the sequel to Blood Passage, but is truly a stand-alone novel men, women and teens will thoroughly enjoy.

The sequence of events leading to the identity of Marcie's murderer, are exciting and you will find it hard to put this book put down.

The nice smooth pace makes for easy reading also. I like hostage situations in the books I read and this section of the book was exciting and well written.

Rebecca Scarberry

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## **? Kimberly says**

My rating a 3.5

Marcie's Murder is the second book, in author Michael J. McCann's, Donaghue and Stainer Crime Fiction novels and my first time reading his work. I found this to be an entertaining crime novel, with likable characters.

The tale begins when Donaghue is awakened in the middle of the night, beaten and handcuffed. Despite his cries of being a police officer, he is dragged down to the station. His vacation stop in Harmony quickly turns into a nightmare as he is accused of murdering the chief-of-police's wife. When he gets his phone call, he calls his partner from the Maryland PD, the snarky Detective Karen Stainer. Stainer quickly gets Donaghue released and they end up assisting the local police department. Small town politics and secrets make this tale interesting as they work to solve the case.

Town folk are reluctant to share but Donaghue and Stainer begin putting the pieces together. McCann's depiction of the small town and the characters residing there was colorful. The story is told in third person, and we are provided information regarding the murder and suspects as they are revealed to the detectives. Clues helped me piece together the information before it was revealed, but I enjoyed the climactic capture of the murderer.

I liked both Detective Donaghue and Stainer. They are bright, intelligent and witty. They seem to work well

together. Donaghue, for having been beaten and held in prison has a well tempered personality. He is quiet and calm; she is loud and in your face. We learn more about Detective Stainer and her background. She is engaged, but hasn't completely opened up to her fiancé about family matters and her fears. She is haunted by an old case and confesses this to one of the townsfolk. We learn of her affection for guns. This woman knows her weapons. She is a tough cop and doesn't take any crap. McCann creates a unique set of characters for the town of Harmony, each with their own history. This made the murder; the town and the story feel genuine. He completely captured the politics associated with living in a small town.

Fans of weapons will love the detailed description of weapons throughout the novel. We also get an in-depth look at Indian ancestry from a friend of the victim. This occurs when Donaghue interviews her. I felt both topics were not necessary to the plot, and slowed the pace. I did find the information interesting and it was well researched. This was a good story, but the overall plot wasn't as fast paced and intense, as I prefer in a crime novel. The pace was fast in the beginning, fell flat in the middle, and moved at a maddening pace towards the end.

I recommend Marcie's Murder to fans of crime novels and small towns. Fans of the Agatha Raisin series and Cozy Mysteries should find this delightful.

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### **A Book Vacation says**

Donaghue and Stainer are back in McCann's latest crime novel, expertly unraveling the mystery surrounding Marcie Askew's murder, the police chief's wife. A woman with many secrets, Donaghue and Stainer have their work cut out for them as they scour the town for answers, interview reluctant witnesses, and dealing with a small town police division set in their ways.

I really enjoyed watching this novel unfold, especially as Donaghue and Stainer are the perfect team and their witty remarks make for a very fun read. There is an art to writing crime novels, and McCann has perfected it, giving the reader just enough insight to allow him/her to make educated conclusions about the murder, only to throw new information into the mix, changing the pathway of the novel completely.

Donaghue and Stainer are also fleshed out more in this second novel of the series, giving the reader more background information, especially about Stainer and her love for guns. While there is a little more technical talk about guns and police business than I am interested in, it is blatantly obvious that McCann knows his material and has really done his research, adding validity to his story, and his characters, as the novel unfolds...

To see my full review (4/12):

<http://bookvacations.wordpress.com/20...>

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### **Kathleen Kelly says**

Marcie's Murder by Michael J. McCann takes place a short time after the previous book, Blood Passage.

Homicide Detective Lieutenant Hank Donaghue is on a much needed vacation after the previous case that he and his partner Detective Karen Stainer solved. Wherever the road takes him is where he goes and when he decides to stop in a small town in Virginia, he finds himself in trouble. He checks into his motel room but he can't sleep so goes to a bar for a beer or two. He sees a woman on his way into the bar but other than a glance at her he does not pay her a lot of attention. He has his drink and heads back to the motel, goes to sleep but is awakened by the local police. They proceed to take him to the jail after they have roughed him up. The police chief is one of the ones who had a hand in beating him and even though he tells them he has had nothing to do with the murder of a woman they do not believe him and keep him locked up. It turns out that the murdered woman is the police chief's wife and the woman that Hank saw at the bar. She was found behind the bar strangled. Hank finally gets his phone call and calls his no nonsense partner Karen Stainer. There the story really gets going. Getting the police to believe that Hank had nothing to do with the murder with Karen's help is not an easy task but they finally do let him go. Both Hank and Karen are asked to help with the investigation, they are reluctant at first in the light of how Hank was treated but they eventually agree. That is all I am going to say about the story other than the fact is that you absolutely have to read this authors work. This can be read as a stand alone novel but I would recommend that you read *Blood Passage* first so you do not miss out on getting to know Hank and Karen. A thoroughly enjoyable novel and I eagerly await the next installment in the Donaghue and Stainer Crime Novel Series. I give it 5 stars!!

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### **Jen says**

After receiving *The Rainy Day Killer* from NetGalley, I broke down and bought *Blood Passage*. When I recently found that my interest was waning in some of the books I'd started, I gave in and ordered two more by McCann: *Marcie's Murder* and *The Fregoli Delusion*.

In *Marcie's Murder*, Hank Donaghue finds his otherwise uneventful vacation interrupted by an accusation of murder in the small town of Harmony. His phone call, when he eventually gets it, is not to his lawyer, but to Detective Karen Stainer.

When Hank is finally released, he and Stainer are asked to help in the investigation. Although not at all happy about his treatment, Hank does agree to help--partly because he had seen the woman shortly before she was murdered.

He and Stainer have had a lot more experience with murder than the small town of Harmony. The two work well together, capitalizing on their differences in personality and technique.

I'm enjoying this series and each book works efficiently as a stand-alone. Even though I started with the newest in the series, I liked it well enough to go back and pick up the earlier books. The characters are likable, and the contrast between Donaghue and Stainer keeps things interesting.

Mystery/Crime. 2012. Print version: 258 pages.

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### **John says**

An excellent mystery!!! I particularly enjoyed the author's focus on his male and female protagonists

dissimilar personal styles and emotional and mental characteristics and how he applied their characteristics with the secondary characters to solve the mystery.

I thought he was very clever to consistently focus on the close bond and interdependency of Donahue and Stainer without forcing a schmaltzy romance between them on the reader. His emphasis on their involvement and dependency on one another without developing a romance was unique and interesting. This restraint was very important to the success of the mystery and I appreciated it.

I recommend the book.

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