



## Maggie Dove's Detective Agency

*Susan Breen*

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As Susan Breen's compelling cozy mystery series continues, Maggie Dove's budding detective agency has given her a new lease on life. Only one thing stands in the way of success: her clients—or lack of them.

After catching the killer who shook her small Hudson River town, former Sunday School teacher Maggie Dove stumbled onto an exciting new career and found a way to take her mind off her own tragic past. Now, despite her best efforts to promote the agency, Maggie can't seem to land any new cases—until Racine Stern, one of the village's wealthiest residents, offers her a thousand dollars to convince her “evil” sister, Domino, to stay out of town.

While Maggie's business partner thinks she's crazy for turning down a potential client, she doesn't want her agency to get a reputation for accommodating bizarre requests. However, Maggie is soon caught up in the family drama anyway. Racine may fear for her life—and her inheritance—but it's Domino who takes the fall when she plunges to her death from a tower at Stern Manor. Was it an accident or something more sinister? Maggie's investigation will test her faith—and her ability to survive.

## **Maggie Dove's Detective Agency Details**

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Author : Susan Breen

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## **From Reader Review Maggie Dove's Detective Agency for online ebook**

### **Annette says**

This is the second in a series, but it is easily a stand alone read. Maggie Dove and the citizens of her small town in New York are part of a complete story.

Maggie and 2 of her friends have opened a detective agency. The 3 women, Maggie, Agnes and Helen are all talented in different ways. Each of them bring those talents to the agency. But, in this story most of the actual detecting is done by Maggie.

At first they have no clients. Then Racine, a woman who has lived nearly her entire life in the village comes and asks that Maggie Dove try to keep her younger sister, Domino, from coming home.

Racine explains that Domino is evil. At first Maggie refuses to help Racine. When Maggie decides to try to prevent Domino from returning home, it is too late. Domino, Lucifer her rock star husband, Milo their 13 year old son and a young woman who evidently is close to both wife and husband all arrive in town and move into the family castle.

The plot is filled with Maggie Dove's strong faith in God and the power of good to overcome evil. Domino does present herself as a woman with a strange set of values.

There are people in town who are a part of Domino's history. Each person contributes something to the story. But, no one understands the story in its entirety.

Maggie Dove is an interesting character. Every now and then, I felt there was too much inner thought going on. She has overcome tragedy in her past and that tragedy kept her from truly participating in life for a very long time. At times, it seems that keeping herself isolated for so long held her back in her relationships.

Maggie is not a warm and cuddly person , but she inspires her friends to care about her, because no matter what, she cares about others. She has grown close Helen's little boy, Edgar. They have a mutual love for one another.

The secondary characters add a great deal to the plot. Much of the story is developed from the past. As in real life, who people are is based on who they were.

This is a story which moves the reader along at a good rate. I enjoyed it very much.

I received this book from the publisher through NetGalley in the hope I would write a fair and honest review. All opinions are my own.

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### **Julia says**

This is the second book in the Maggie Dove cozy mystery series. Maggie Dove is a 62 year old widow, who has been alone since her daughter died in a car accident 20 years ago. She has just opened a detective agency

along with two of her friends. Unfortunately, they have not had a case since opening. Their fortunes change when Racine Stern hires Maggie to discourage her sister from returning home. Racine's sister is Domino, who left town 30 years ago, married a famous rock star and is living an alternative lifestyle. When Domino arrives, it becomes apparent that she is looking for money from her and Racine's wealthy mother.

Racine becomes convinced that Domino wants to kill her, and hires Maggie to look into it. A death soon follows and Maggie begins investigating. There is a witch craft element to the death, and Maggie looks to a local coven to get answers. The beliefs of the witches is at war with Maggie's own beliefs, as she is a devout Christian and Sunday School teacher. Maggie's religious beliefs come into the story at times, but the book did not seem overly "Christian" to me.

This is an enjoyable cozy mystery. I think Maggie has become a softer, more likable person since the first book. The mystery was pretty entertaining, and the ending caught me by surprise. There are a lot of strong, female characters here, but most of them are pretty unlikable. Both Racine and her mother Simone are rude to everyone they meet. Her coworker, Agnes, has terrible mood swings that include yelling at Maggie. At times, I felt the author went out of her way to make Agnes unlikable. This is the second book in the series, but I feel it can be read and enjoyed without reading the first one. I give this book 4 out of 5 stars.

I received a free ARC from NetGalley and the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Betty says**

Does EVIL exist? Believe in WITCHES, good or bad? This book will make you think about it. The area's description will hold your attention. Maggie Doves' character considerably develops. Maggie has started a detective agency with Agnes and Helen. Francine Stern asks Maggie to find a way to remove her sister, Domino from the town. Domino tells Maggie she is a witch and can put a spell on Francine so Domino will do as she wishes. At a Halloween party, Domino jumps or was pushed from the balcony. Working on the case Maggie discovers a witches' coven in the area. Maggie must trust in her beliefs before she ends up dead. I recommend this book.

Disclosure: I received a free copy from Alibi through NetGalley for an honest review. I would like to thank them for this opportunity to read and review the book. The opinions expressed are my own.

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### **Vi says**

Maggie, Helen and Agnes now share a detective agency. Of course, Maggie handles most of the actual detective work; at least she will when they have a case! Or she will when she accepts, or isn't fired off the case!

Good cozy mystery read; not as well written as the first book. Maggie is developing more confidence and dealing better with her grief. Still a good read. 3 1/2.

Book free for honest review from Netgalley and publisher.

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## **Lisa Morin says**

I absolutely love Maggie Dove. Her character is so believable that I can picture myself visiting with her and becoming fast friends.

In this story, Maggie is working to make her detective agency prosper. Her two partners, Helen and Agnes are quite different from Maggie and at times she finds herself thinking that the agency will never work. Struggling to find clients, Maggie receives a phone call from a local resident who desperately needs her help. Even though Maggie doesn't feel the job is right for them, they agree to take it on and encounter everything from witchcraft to murder.

This story will keep you on the edge of your seat. The author kept me in suspense and I had no idea who was behind the nefarious deeds.

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I voluntarily reviewed an Advanced Reader's Copy of this book.

## **Kathleen says**

In Maggie Dove's Detective Agency, the second book in the Maggie Dove Mystery Series, author Susan Breen weaves an entertaining and fast-paced cozy mystery set in the small village of Darby-on-Hudson, in Westchester County, NY, that follows the latest investigative adventures of former Sunday School teacher turned private detective Maggie Dove. Maggie is trying to promote her new detective agency, but she's having a hard time securing clients until wealthy resident Racine Stern wants to use Maggie's detective services for complex family matters, and while Maggie is reluctant to get involved in family drama, she ends up investigating the murder of Racine's "evil" sister Domino, after she plunges to her death from a tower at Stern Manor. Maggie is determined to investigate the murder and find the killer, even when danger lurks around the corner.

Maggie Dove's Detective Agency is a well written story that has enough quirky characters, intrigue, suspense, humor, and drama that easily draws the reader into Maggie's latest investigative adventures. This intriguing story will keep the reader interested and guessing the identity of the real killer until the surprising conclusion. You can't help but love Maggie and cheer her on as she tries to promote her new detective agency business. This spunky church lady turned detective, is determined to solve the murder mystery even when mayhem ensues, and she takes the reader along for the ride. I look forward to reading the next installment of Maggie Dove's investigative adventures!

I really enjoyed the author's usage of her hometown to provide the reader with a rich description of the scenic Hudson River Valley setting in Westchester County, NY, it definitely makes me want to visit the area the next time I go to NYC. I would be remiss if I didn't mention how much I enjoyed the wonderful description of the Victorian Stern Manor.

Maggie Dove's Detective Agency is a delightfully eccentric whodunit tale that cozy mystery fans will want to add to their reading list!

Disclaimer: I received a copy of the book from the author / publisher via NetGalley in exchange for my honest review and participation in a virtual book tour event hosted by Great Escapes Virtual Book Tours.

### **Vanessa says**

I definitely liked this, but not nearly as much as the first. Maggie Dove is a Sunday school teacher that has just started a detective agency with 2 of her friends. Their first client is willing to pay them to convince her sister not to return to town. When the sister appears with an odd entourage, all sorts of strange things start to happen, including the apparent suicide of said sister. They encounter real life witches, psychotropic drugs, polyamory, a missing tarantula, and many other things on the way to finding out what really happened. My only issue with this was that there was a bit too much talk of religion and faith for my taste. I still recommend it, but definitely read the other book in the series.

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### **Leslie aka StoreyBook Reviews says**

This is the second book in the series and I thought there was a great bit of improvement over the first book. The first book was good but seemed to drag on for me, but this book rolled right along and kept me interested in the story and trying to figure out was Domino murdered, did she commit suicide or was it an accident. While I wasn't surprised at the ending, I did not expect the end result.

There are some interesting characters and I'm not sure about Agnes who is bankrolling the new detective agency. She is all over the board with her emotions and it can be very tiring at times. Hopefully she will settle down in future books.

I liked that we learned more about Helen's past since Maggie just wants to help her where she can when it comes to Helen's son, Edgar. He is 6 and a bit rambunctious and I'm surprised there hasn't been any move to try and get him to be more calm or at least not head butt Maggie in the stomach. Maggie sure does put up with a lot from him but since she is alone, I imagine she loves being looked on as a grandmotherly type for Edgar.

Overall a good book and I'll be interested to see how this detective agency continues in the future.

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### **Book Him Danno says**

A well written and thought out story-line with a colorful cast of characters. The main character appears to be a very sincere individual who is always trying to do what is correct and right. If you enjoy very light reading mysteries this would be an ideal book for you. I felt a more in depth description and background for the characters would have been very helpful in fully understanding the story-line.

I have rated this book at 3.5 stars.

I received an ARC from Netgalley for my unbiased review.

Thank you Frank for your Reviews

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## **Mary says**

I received this book free from Netgalley in exchange for a review.

This book had a bit of everything in it, some romance, witchcraft, high jinks, murder, and, suspense!

Maggie Dove is an older woman who wants to be a detective, so she starts up a Detective agency with the help of two friends, Agnes and Helen, all three of them know nothing much about being detectives. But they try! Agnes and Helen both have other jobs, but Maggie does not leave all day she stays in the store all day alone. Her first customer is a strange one, Racine Stern who lives in the Stern Manor the largest house and the richest family in town. She wants to hire Maggie to stop her sister Domino from coming back to Darby, New York. Domino left to go to California 30 years before after being disgraced by someone in their village. People thought she was a witch for all those years and now she wants to come back! Racine wants to keep her away from her mother who is very ill and might die at any time. Racine knows that Domino has lost money and she needs more and wants to get their mother to give it to her. So Racine gives Maggie her cell number and \$1000.00 to stop Domino from coming back.

Only Maggie is not sure she can stop Domino so she tells Racine she cannot take the case, the only case that she has had since opening the agency last month. Agnes hears Maggie turn down Racine and gets irate and yells at Maggie, they need the money to keep going!

So Maggie is talked into taking the case and calls Racine. Racine tells her that it is too late. Just as a Limo is coming down the Main road headed toward Stern Manor. When the Limo gets in front of the Detective Agency the window rolls down and Domino waves to Maggie.

After a few days, Racine calls Maggie and offers her \$5,000.00 to find out why Domino wants to kill her and why Domino left her pet Killer Spider in her bed to bite Racine. This time Maggie jumps at the job.

That is when all the mayhem starts! You must read the book to understand what happens. If I try to explain it to you, I will let something slip and spoil the whole book for you. The book is a good one and well worth the read! It will keep you interested to the end!

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## **ALEXA says**

Sixty-two is not the usual age at which to start a new career. But then, Maggie Dove is not your usual older woman. Having solved a murder recently (in the first book in Susan Breen's series) she decides to open a detective agency. With two partners as eager as she to start solving cases, Maggie anxiously waits for clients to come through the office door -- and she waits, and waits and waits. Finally, one of the small town of Darby-on-Hudson's wealthiest residents, Racine Stern, appears on the doorstep asking for help. And Maggie turns her down, finding her request too bizarre! Her partners are understandable angry with her.

So Maggie takes on the job of confronting the recently returned Domino, the celebrity sister deemed evil by Racine. Convinced her life and her considerable inheritance are in jeopardy, Racine is shocked when her family drama takes an unexpectedly deadly turn, leaving the last person she suspected it would happen to dead. Now Maggie has to investigate first one, then a second death, as well as the complicated relationships

within the Stern family. A tarantula, a mistress, witches and Domino's rock star husband by the name of Lucifer are just some of the challenges Maggie must face.

Religiosity bogs down the story a bit at times, but when the main character is also a Sunday school teacher, that's not unexpected. Maggie delves into the goings on at a coven and Wiccan beliefs, a far cry from the church activity with which she is familiar. White witches, black witches – it's intriguing if confusing. But she cannot let herself become too sidetracked by unconventional religious practices when a very real killer may be on the loose. Or not. The deaths she's investigating may actually be accidents or even suicide. Maggie has to hope and pray that the next deadly mishap doesn't happen to her. Will her first case also be her last?

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### **Linda Baker says**

Sixty-two-year-old widow and Sunday School teacher Maggie Dove has opened a detective agency along with her two friends, Agnes and Helen. Sleepy Darby-on-Hudson does not seem to be particularly fertile ground for a detective agency and the ladies have had no clients. But when Racine Stern comes to the office with a problem, Maggie is ready to spring into action. The Stern family is the wealthiest in the village and the most reclusive. Racine has given the last 40 years of her life over to caring for her ailing mother. She is distraught that her younger sister, Domino, is returning for a visit. Domino, who married a rock star has been tabloid fodder for years. Racine says that Domino is evil, a witch, and she wants Maggie to keep her from coming. It's too late though and Domino returns with the rock star, her son, and an entourage. When Domino plummets from a balcony at the "welcome home" Halloween party she throws for herself, is it suicide, an accident or murder? There is a lot more going on in the village than Maggie ever knew, including a coven of witches.

I received an advance digital copy of Maggie Dove's Detective Agency in return for an honest review. I was not aware that it was the second in the series and feel that I might have had a more positive reaction had I read the first. While I like Maggie as a character, the book was much more Sunday School than sleuth. That being said, I was completely surprised by the solution and found the book interesting overall. I am intrigued enough to read the first in the series, Maggie Dove, if only to discover how these three very different women came to open a detective agency. Thanks to NetGalley and Alibi.

RATING- 2.5 rounded up to 3

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### **Elissa says**

Interestingly, I didn't especially like the character of Maggie Dove when I first met her. I found her to be overindulged and self-indulgent. Yes, she had suffered two major losses within a year of each other: her husband who was the love of her life and her much beloved daughter, the latter in a horrific car crash. But instead of moving on with her life or coming to terms with her grief, she spent 20 years moping about in a fog.

A priest once told my father that it is absolutely normal to mourn and grieve for a lost loved one. He said the

most agonizing period normally runs about a week and then the pain gradually becomes duller. It is unlikely that the sorrow will ever completely go away but it becomes manageable and, for most people, reasonably quickly. In fact, he said, after seven days it is no longer grief but indulgence. While his timetable is a bit strict, the basic thought seems to me to be a fair summation of how most humans cope.

And then there is the thing of everyone calling her Maggie Dove. Mrs. Dove, yes or Maggie, but Maggie Dove? Had this been set in the South, I would sort of understand this type of affection, but we're in mid-state New York just north of White Plains and south of West Point, along the Hudson River. (These locations are beautifully described, by the way, and, having been in that area a number of times I have enjoyed revisiting them through the book.)

The first book in the series dealt with Maggie Dove (see! even I'm doing it!) finally coming to terms with her grief and, incidentally, solving a murder mystery. Despite my underlying antagonism to the heroine I found that I had enjoyed this well-told story and looked forward to more.

[<https://www.amazon.com/review/R2LIXGI...>]

This novel continues Maggie's return to fully embracing the real world. She and her friends have formed their own detective agency and are now awaiting clients. Halloween-themed, not only does the main action occur on the actual holiday, but the subsequent investigation turns up witches and Evil.

So this rather lengthy prologue of matters not discussed in the book, but relevant to the subject, boils down to the fact that this story does, in fact, make you think more than you would expect a cozy mystery to do. And that's probably one of the reasons I keep reading. Of course, one can just simply skim along and enjoy the solving of the plot--if you can (caution: surprise ending!). That, too, it is enjoyable.

Disclaimer: "I was given an advanced copy which I voluntarily reviewed. All opinions expressed are my own." Please note, however, that I SELECT the books I want to read, much as you do, with an expectation of enjoyment. Should the book fail to live up to my expectations I'll so warn you! This one did not fail.

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## **Nancy says**

### **Maggie Dove Encounters Witchcraft and Murder**

After solving one murder, Maggie and her friends, Agnes and Helen, have opened their own detective agency. They know little about being detectives, but that doesn't deter them. Since both Helen and Agnes have other jobs, the task of keeping the agency running falls to Maggie.

She's alone in the office when Racine Stern, a daughter of one of the richest families in town, seeks out their services. Her sister, Domino, is planning a visit. Racine wants to pay the agency a thousand dollars if Maggie will undertake to convince Domino not to come. Domino is involved in witchcraft and other unsavory activities. Racine is afraid for herself and her invalid mother if Domino and her husband, Lucifer, come to stay.

Maggie is a strange character to be running a detective agency. She's a Sunday school teacher who has been immersed in grief for years over the death of her daughter. In this novel, she starts to come out of her shell, but she's still quite rigid in her beliefs. She turns down Racine's job because she thinks the prodigal should be welcomed home. Her partners are not so sure. In fact, Agnes is furious.

The plot is focuses on dysfunctional family relationships, witchcraft and finally, murder. I find it a little difficult to see the very proper Maggie involved in stalking a killer, but the author makes it reasonably believable.

If you like cozy mysteries this is an interesting one with an unusual heroine.

I received this book from Alibi and Net Galley for this review.

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### **Laura Salas says**

This second installment with Maggie Dove has Maggie in a now-official detective capacity with two partners. The mystery has a gothic feel to it, with family secrets, witches/Wiccans, huge storms, mansions, and oddball characters. But the relationships between the characters are finely drawn--with enough range to make them believable, but not so much range there's not a sense of who each person is. The mystery and ending were satisfying for me.

I gave this one four stars instead of five (which was my rating for the original), though. Maggie Dove's character--always interesting and introspective--verged on the whiny and irritating during the first third or so of the book. Her self-awareness helps mitigate that, but I was getting tired of it nonetheless. Luckily, that eases off as the book continues, and Maggie forges ahead with real life despite decades of cocooning herself in grief over her daughter's death at 17.

Overall, I really liked it. The characters were complex, the plot worked, and I wanted to know whodunnit. So, a quite satisfying read!

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