



Murder Superior

Jane Haddam

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The Order of the Sisters of Divine Grace is holding a convention on the Philadelphia campus of St. Elizabeth's College—and the list of invitees is studded with unlikely Main Line luminaries like charmless coronation king Henry Hare and foul-mouthed Norm Kevic, the most-talked-about radio talk show host in Philly. Also on hand is guest speaker and retired FBI agent Gregor Demarkian. The festivities include a reception and buffet dinner... which turns into a Last Supper for the nun who keels over due to a fatal case of pate poisoning. It's murder for mother's day—Who stuffed the ice sculpture with fugu, a foul-smelling, potentially lethal Japanese food fish? And why kill a nice nun like Sister Joan Esther when it's the truly evil Mother Mary Bellarmine whom everyone despised? Demarkian has to sort through an ever-shifting maze of facts and suspects—including a Society Hill matron who's no saint and a minor celebrity with a very bad habit—before he can crack a case in dire need of divine deliverance... from death.

Murder Superior Details

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Author : Jane Haddam

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From Reader Review Murder Superior for online ebook

Jennifer O'bryan says

For anyone who likes murder/mystery stories, I highly recommend the Gregor Demarkian series. All the stories (27 so far) make for great reading. The characters are well developed and genuinely likeable.

Patricia says

I'm a fan of this series. But having now read an earlier book in the series, I think I can say it improved with age.

Cyd says

Not as satisfying as some of the other Gregor Demarkian mysteries, but fine as escapist reading.

Alaina Patterson says

For the full review -- including an actual reason for its rating (for once), and an assist from *The Simpsons* -- follow the link to [That's What She Read](#).

Catherine Woodman says

Amazingly, a Gregor Demarkian that I had not read that we had in paperback--I read this on my trip to France, and it was a good one--a good plot, not as complicated as they become later in the series, but very good murder mystery and light read.

Helen says

a nun convention - good red herrings- satisfying justice

Gloria Mccracken says

This is a reread of one of the Gregor Demarkian books. Just as good the second time around.

Kyrie says

Not my favorite Demarkian story. It advanced the personal relationship between Gregor and Bennis, but I didn't care all that much for the mystery.

The nuns seem to be taking over his life - is the Roman Catholic church so desperate it has to keep turning to a lapsed Armenian Orthodox detective to solve things?

Ricki says

Gregor Demarkian isn't sure if he is going to be asked to help with any more investigations...Not a detective, not a PI, but as former FBI agent he gets involved in the most dastardly of crimes in the most bizarre circumstances. Who would expect a murder at a convention of nuns? Jane Haddam does so well with these mysteries..I am going through them one by one to get caught up on the ones I have missed!

Joyce Lagow says

The Gregor Demarkian series is not a heavy-weight one centering around brooding and/or hard-boiled detectives with troubled lives of one sort or another. Its protagonist is a mid-50s, ex-FBI man who, after the death of his beloved wife Elizabeth, returns to the Armenian-American neighborhood of his childhood--which neighborhood not only supplies a colorful and at times hilarious backdrop to his occasional work solving murder cases but at times is an integral part of the plot.[return][return]In this instalment, Demarkian is present at the first convocation of the Order of Divine Grace nuns, run with a firm (not to say iron) hand of the Reverend Mother General. When a nun dies during the opening reception--obviously murdered by the intake of exotic fugu fish--Demarkian becomes involved in the investigation by the express invitation of Reverend Mother General and more or less bemusedly agreed to by the Cardinal archbishop of Philadelphia--who is well aware, as he wryly notes, that although he is the nominal religious superior of the nuns, he really has no say in what happens in the convent. [return][return]Again, this is not a heavyweight plot. But in this book, Haddam's affectionate treatment of an order of nuns provides the main entertainment. Definitely, nuns in this order have entered the 20th century post-Vatican II with a will, and their differing reactions to a universally hated Mother Superior of a regional house provides much of the humor in the book. Another instance: when Demarkian wants certain people present at the scene of the crime, the Cardinal archbishop of Philadelphia confidently assures Demarkian that he can deliver any practicing Catholic within the archdiocese. Reverend Mother General coolly states that she can deliver the pope--and you believe her, you believe her! And that is a typical interreaction.[return][return]The Armenian-American neighborhood and Demarkian's friends in it, including the priest, Father Tibor, are recurring characters in this series, and very welcome ones. The book is a bona-fida mystery with a light-hearted touch. Highly recommended.

Samira says

Total brain candy and not the best mystery ever, but it saw me through a couple of hours on the exercise bike at the gym this weekend.

Liz Banks says

Murder at a convention of nuns where everyone looks pretty much alike and most have the first name of Mary. It is tidily solved by the American-Armenian Hercule Periot. Quite enjoyable.
