



A Dog Gone Murder

Elaine Viets

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Mystery shopper Josie Marcus is getting the dirt on doggy day-care centers, and discovers that one dog-loving local celebrity is really bad to the bone.

Josie has been asked to investigate Uncle Bob's Doggy Day Camp, known for its commercials featuring Uncle Bob liking dogs so much that he acts like one. But Josie soon learns how Uncle Bob acts when the cameras are off. Her mother's new tenant, Franklin, who works for Uncle Bob, plans to quit after seeing the man's true nature. But before he gets the chance, Bob is murdered, and Franklin goes from the doghouse to the big house.

Now it's up to Josie to clear Franklin's name. Her investigation reveals that Bob was more of a dog than anyone knew—and had been kicked out of his house for bad behavior. As she digs up new clues, Josie will have to catch the killer quickly, before any more trouble is unleashed.

Includes Shopping Tips!

A Dog Gone Murder Details

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From Reader Review A Dog Gone Murder for online ebook

Becky says

I've read 9 of the 10 books in this series, and in my opinion this installment was less light-hearted than the others. It dealt with animal abuse and alcoholism, which makes it difficult to still be funny and easy. I'm also disappointed that this appears to be the end of the series. This is my least favorite story in the series.

Doward Wilson says

Elaine Viets background stories are always as interesting and compelling as her murder plots. This is no exception! Mystery Shopping with Josie Marcus is always a learning experience about many different things. Some that we take for granted and some that are totally new ideas. Day care for pets is a new one and even more challenging than finding good day care for your kids. The murder was original and kept us chasing each clue and suspect to the totally surprising ending. Totally entertaining and extremely well plotted, this one takes us to a new level of detecting.

Kerry says

As always, I absolutely LOVE this series. Elaine Viets is a favorite author of mine and she never disappoints.

Darcy says

Josie's job of shopping doggie day care's made me laugh. The options available made me wish that I was a pampered pooch instead of a human.

I liked how Josie's family life is changing. Amelia is in that odd age when parents become evil. I hated seeing that as the girls were close and had a good relationship. When trouble came to Amelia and her friend I loved that she made the right decision and called Josie and Ted. It was the right thing to do, even if it made her not so popular at school. I loved how things played out for Amelia. The old adage of what comes around goes around was very true for Amelia.

Things for Josie's mom were up in the air. It seemed like she was pulling away from Josie, unusual as the two have been very close. I did like how this ended and am glad that Jane is starting a new chapter in her life.

Ed says

#10 in the Mystery Shopper series. Mystery shopper Josie Marcus is assigned to check out three dog care centers and being a mystery winds up having to solve a murder, but since it's also a cozy, Josie's domestic life needs to be updated. Newlywed Josie is comfortably adjusting to life with Ted. Her tween daughter

Amelia is not as comfortably maturing and her first co-ed party is a disaster with inattentive chaperones and freely available sex and alcohol.

#10 - Mystery Shopper series - Josie has been asked to investigate Uncle Bob's Doggy Day Camp, known for its commercials featuring Uncle Bob liking dogs so much that he acts like one. But Josie soon learns how Uncle Bob acts when the cameras are off. Her mother's new tenant, Franklin, who works for Uncle Bob, plans to quit after seeing the man's true nature. But before he gets the chance, Bob is murdered, and Franklin goes from the doghouse to the big house. Now it's up to Josie to clear Franklin's name. Her investigation reveals that Bob was more of a dog than anyone knew--and had been kicked out of his house for bad behavior. As she digs up new clues, Josie will have to catch the killer quickly, before any more trouble is unleashed.

Judith says

I knew what I was getting into with this series, and it wasn't profundity, but holy heck, where in the world were the editors? The multiple inconsistencies and errors throughout the books drove me far crazier than the banal prose and formulaic plots. Still, I read all of them, didn't I, so much of the blame is on me, which I why I settled on two stars rather than one.

Megan says

I'm finding that I really enjoy reading cozy mysteries that have animals in them, and this one was good. The mystery was okay, but I liked the set up (the mystery shopper aspect) and will have to check out the others books in the series.

Mary Garrett says

I've learned to expect a fast-paced adventure, full of twists, turns, surprises, and wit, and to clear my calendar before beginning a book by Elaine Viets. Secret shopper Josie involves family and family pets in her investigation of doggie day care, and finds shocking conditions . . . and a murder. When Frank Hyzy, Jane's "just a renter" friend, is arrested, Jane asks Josie to help him, resulting in danger, suspense, and action, leavened with love and humor.

Amelia helps with computer searches, and faces her own teen issues with out-of-control parties and mean girls — what a role model on how a teen extricates herself safely from a bad party. Thinking now about cell phones — how did we stay safe before we had them?

Along the way, there are lessons in botany (azalea leaves are poisonous but bitter), geology (Precambrian Period = 4 billion years, how long some waits feel) and how to pick good day care for dogs.

This is part of the Mystery Shopper series, but can be read as a stand-alone, with enough "catch-up" information to follow the story without spoiling earlier books in case a reader wants to go back to the beginning.

Lin says

Entertaining! Quirky characters and interesting mother-daughter interactions. Plot twists at every turn. Well written and well plotted mystery. Keeps you changing your mind on “who did it” until the very end....

Michele says

This, as all other Josie Marcus books, was a great read..but aside from finding a body and solving a murder, it deals with real life issues. Josie's daughter is 12, Josie has just gotten married and moved into a house with her new husband....so life happens along the way!

Chelsea says

I love this series, Josie Marcus, Mystery Shopper and this book was as exciting to read as all the others have been.

At first, I wasn't going to start reading this series because I didn't think I would enjoy reading about a single mother, mystery shopper, but I was wrong!

Possible spoiler starts here

Like all of this author's books, great research went into it. In this book, the issues dealt with were dog spas and daycares (behind the scene), and I really enjoyed it since I love animals. She also dealt with drinking and AA, and tween issues such as peer pressure and drug use.

I read cozy mysteries because sometimes I enjoy mysteries without the gory details and love happy endings. This book was no exception to those points. And after reading all the books in this series, I have gotten to know all the main characters well and enjoy keeping track of their lives from book to book.

With no exception, the author included a shopping tips section at the end of the book. In this book, the tips had to do with finding a safe dog spa/daycare. She also includes very unique ideas to pamper your canine companion.

Happy reading!

Betty says

This is the tenth book in the series and the first book that I have read. It can be read as a standalone as I had no problem understanding the characters. The description of the area and activities was complete. I understood the descriptions of the dog day businesses. I especially like the lawyer, Renzo Fisher. There is

information that I found hard to credit. There is first-class information on selecting a day care or kennel for your animal.

Josie is a mystery shopper. Her assignment is to inspect 3 doggy day care facilities. who are looking for a certificate of merit? Josie's Mother's tenant, Frank is working at, Uncle Bob's Doggy Day Care. He is involved in an incident where a senior dog is hurt by Uncle Bob. Frank stays employed to watch over the dog, Josie leaves at the facilities. He resigned when he knew the dog was safe.

Uncle Bob is poison by azalea 's leaves. The police decided the Frank is guilty of the crime due to circumstance evidence. Josie begins to explore the event looking for the killer. I will read more of this series. I recommend this book

Melodie says

I like this series. The characters grow and change and life situations change. Too many series always seem to stay in the same place. Some of the subplot stories were more interesting than the actual murder mystery this time around. In some ways that was good, and not so good in others. Will be interesting to see how Josie's mom's story grows. Not the best in this series, but definitely worth a read.

Fred says

A Dog Gone Murder is the tenth book in the Josie Marcus Mystery Shopper series.

Josie's mystery shopper's assignment this time is to check three Doggie day care centers and the best will get a prestigious Certified Pet Care Center designation.

Josie's first stop is Uncle Bob's Day Camp. Uncle Bob is an icon in St. Louis, what with his ridiculous television commercials, with Ralph the Labradoodle. At first the camp looks it would have everything one would want for their pet, but Josie finds out that in reality, Uncle Bob hates pets and has recently broken the leg of Sharon's dog Angel. A couple days later Josie returns to get more information about Uncle Bob's and finds Bob near death in his office and later dies. The cause of death is poisoning by an item in his lunch's salad. suspicion to Frank, an employee and the tenant in Josie's mom 's duplex, and probably the last to see Bob alive. While continuing to perform her mystery shopping, Josie and her friend, Alyce begin to search for clues as to who might have sent Bob to meet his maker.

This series offers the reader a wonderful cast of characters, too. Josie and Ted are adjusting well to their new marriage. Amelia's tween life is about what is expected. After a disastrous first girl/boy party, two of her fondest dreams come true, One D and new neighbors move in next door and have a boy about Amelia's age.

Looking forward to the book in the series.

Camilla Harry says

Another good book - by an author I enjoy. Looks like I've now finished both the Mystery Shopper series and the Dead End Job series. Unless she's written a new one recently in either, I'll have to check out "her darker side" books.

