



March of Crime

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A doll walks into a bar...

Ida Gilbertson of the Battle Lake Senior Sunset nursing home has a new hobby: crafting life-sized dolls and displaying them around town. Budding PI Mira James finds the homemade mannequins creepy enough on their own, but when she's forced to sit next to one and discovers a human corpse under the hat and wig, it becomes personal.

Police Chief Gary Wohnt is all too eager to pin the blame on Mira. When her sleuthing gives him the perfect excuse to lock her up, it's up to Mayor Kennie Rogers and Mrs. Berns to help her out. Racing against the clock, Mira must unmask the murderer before she either becomes a jailbird or the next dolled up victim.

March of Crime Details

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From Reader Review March of Crime for online ebook

Angela says

I really really love this series of mystery novels set in small town Minnesota. I've waited patiently (and by patiently I mean stalking NetGalley and Amazon and the author's website) for each new release. And I've enjoyed every delicious moment of librarian sleuthing, senior citizen joking, boyfriend avoiding, festival attending, and the good guys overall trying to keep out of trouble while helping find the bad guys.

But this one failed me. Lourey wrote this installment just a little too much on the other side of lewd and bawdy. I've gotten to know the main character over the years, and she wouldn't forget underwear, much less deliberately go without it. I didn't like the contrived sensuousness at all.

The mystery was a little macabre for me as well. I just want to go back to the earlier books and enjoy a decent cozy mystery without wincing and scrinching my nose.

Maybe my tastes are tame compared to yours. Maybe you like when things get a little crazy and you were disappointed with earlier books, waiting for more crazy to happen. If so, read March of Crime, and you've got your wish.

Netgalley provided an advance copy in exchange for an honest review.

Mystereity Reviews says

"Gary," she said on her way out, "I got my nails done. What do you think?" He looked. She held up both her middle fingers. His nostrils flared. I tugged Mrs. Berns outside before he did anything more.

If I could give this book a standing ovation, I would. I had a serious book hangover after I finished this one; actually, I finished the last page and went "Auuugghhhaahhhhhh!!!!" Thrilling, hilarious and entertaining, it was a great comeback for Mira and the Battle Lake gang. I love Mira, she's smart and tough on the outside but so vulnerable and insecure on the inside (and dang it, girl you make some rotten decisions!) Mrs. Berns is always laugh out loud funny and like Mira, I want to be her when I grow up. The plot was fantastically creepy (dolls are creepy enough, but when you stuff corpses in them? *shudder*) and I never saw the end coming. Add in Kennie's hairbrained money making schemes (which had me rolling with laughter!) and Chief Wohnt (gaaahhhh!!) and you've got a blockbuster book.

An excellent read and I definitely recommend this series for cozy mystery fans. I can't wait for the next book (please Lord, let it be soon!)

Kimberly says

I'm not sure if I'm happy with the conclusion of this book. I feel like Mira should be paying more attention to what's right under her face and the person who so heroically saved her and clearly cares for her and that she is clearly attracted to instead of pining for someone that's not right for her. Everything else was the usual

crazy mystery, crazy sidekick, and quirky characters and recipes in a setting that is equally bleak and charming. That's all good. I am really hoping that personal issues get resolved and Mira wises up in the next book. And I'm really hoping there is a next book. She has to do April. Please, please!

Breann says

Not my favorite of the series, but March of Crime offers a charming return to Battle Lake with all of the fun and quirky characters that keep me returning to Jess Lourey's writing. And any tale with references to Minnesota hot dish, a meat raffle, and other Midwestern delights is sure to resonate with fellow members of the GenX Midwestern diaspora. Lourey also sets the stage for some emotional growth for Mira in the next installment (fingers crossed), but part of the fun of these has always been the freedom from taking anything too seriously. Long live Mrs. Burns!

Patty says

March of Crime by Jess Lourey is the 11th book in the Murder By Month Mysteries series, and my first book by this author. I loved this book! I laughed out loud through the whole book. Where have I been, that I have not read this series before. Not only is this book really funny, it has a great mystery as well. Just what you need for the perfect escape of your real life. I found this book to be a quick read, with a well developed plot and characters. I am looking forward to reading the other 10 books in the series. If you love humorous cozy mysteries, I strongly recommend this book.

This review is based on the ARC provided by the author and/or the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for my honest opinion.

Carla says

I stayed up way too late last night finishing this. It wasn't that I couldn't put it down, it was that I didn't want to. For a few hours, I escape my own world and get sucked into Mira's. Like so many young persons, Mira is kind of a mess, just looking for her place in life and love. Mrs. Berns provides more than comic relief as she reminds me of the love, laughter, and support I received from my own Mrs. Berns who taught me "old doesn't mean dead." The heartbreak I felt at the conclusion of February Fever came flooding back as we pick up with Mira just weeks later. And, of course, she stumbles upon murder in the most unlikely of places. As someone who has worked with children, trauma, and the foster care system, I read with intrigue and hesitation, and was pleasantly surprised with the sensitivity and realism with which this was woven into the pages of the story. I sat in bed not wanting to turn the last pages, not wanting my suspicions confirmed, and not wanting to say goodbye to Battle Lake, knowing I will have to wait impatiently, hoping I get to see how April unfolds and how Jess Lourey is going to pen a satisfying conclusion to the series.

Jamie Canaves says

Funny!

Packed with charmingly ridiculous characters, I laughed my way through this small town mystery. Mira James has a few jobs, including being a librarian—she took a serious pay cut in hopes of keeping the library open—and PI. The PI part she's still working on, since Minnesota mandates that before using a PI license you have to work 6,000 hours of supervised investigation. She'll probably get through those hours quickly, though, since she seems to have the I-keep-finding-dead-bodies syndrome. This time around, one of the life-size creepy dolls a town resident has been making has a hidden surprise: A very bad surprise of a dead body. Now James, who either loves or hates you, is trying to figure out who committed murder, while working at the library, and taking on a side job as a phone sex operator for those looking for a Minnesota accent—hilarious. If I had to pick a favorite thing about this novel, it would be James's octogenarian best friend, who is a kiss-my-grits, tells it like it is, lives life to the fullest, thong bikini-wearing lady. All the emoji-heart eyes. (You can jump into the series here, like I did, and not feel lost, but it does give away the ending of the previous book. I'm fine with that because I plan on starting at the beginning of the series and will have forgotten by the time I get to it.)

--from Book Riot's Unusual Suspects newsletter: Innocent Man Saved from Death Penalty by CURB YOUR ENTHUSIASM & More!

<http://link.bookriot.com/view/56a8200...>

Lelia Taylor says

This cozy series has been fun and frothy since the beginning and I continue to like them a lot, especially because they never seem to get stale, if you know what I mean. They have plenty of humor along with tension and Mira Ross might as well be called the Jessica Fletcher of Battle Lake, Minnesota, since people seem to drop like flies in her vicinity. No wonder this mild-mannered librarian has aspirations of being a private eye!

One thing that intrigues me about cozies is the myriad ways authors find to present a dead body without offending sensibilities and I think Ms. Lourey has outdone herself and everyone else this time. Lifesize dolls are kind of creepy anyway (to me at least) but when one turns out to be an actual corpse sitting proudly right next to Mira, well I ask you, how could she NOT want to snoop? Mira and her assorted crew of cronies and nemeses are soon hot on one trail or another and I chortled all the way to the end.

Suellen says

Advance Reading Copy disclosure:

I received this book for free from the Publisher in exchange for an honest review. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review.

Before:

I have to get caught up on my ARC's plus I need something lighthearted to read. I've been reading a lot of "doom and gloom" lately. Hoping this fits the bill.

After:

A very entertaining read. One of the funnier parts is when some of residents of this small Northern town want to open up a Minnesota phone sex line. "Use your strongest Minnesota accent, and get Minnesota

kinky." Too funny...think Fargo. ? Oh yeah, and the book centers around a very bizarre murder.

Sheryl says

I have read the first three books of this series back in the mid 2000's and I loved them then but I had gotten away from them for a while, my bad! I cannot even describe how much fun I had reading this series again. Mira Ross is a 30-year-old woman who is fairly new to the small town of Battle Lake, Minnesota. She has already gotten the reputation of a "corpse" magnet with the police chief. She just has this awful habit of stumbling over dead bodies. She is trying to make financial ends meet by taking on about any small job she can come up with until she can get her Private Investigator license. Presently, she is working as the librarian at the city's almost defunct library as well as writing a column for the local newspaper.

The very colorful and I do mean "colorful" Mayor Kenni Rodgers, "think aging southern belle with a Midwestern accent" not to mention her sense of style and resourceful western wear that she designs. She is all bling from her Stetson snowcap to her pink plastic Barbie western boot dangling earrings. She has stuck poor Mira with some of the most off the wall ways to raise money to keep things going at the library during as while Mira is also trying to keep a low profile from the police department as well get to the bottom of this latest who-dunnit that she's found herself embroiled in. Her best friend is the sassy senior Mrs. Berns who is also her assistant at the library and she is up for anything. Mira makes a comment that she would like to be more like Mrs. Burns, but then she decides she would love to be Mrs. Berns! I cannot say I would blame her one bit.

The dialog between Mira and Mrs. Berns had me laughing so hard I had tears in my eyes. I just keep going on about the shenanigans that they pulled to get to bottom of this latest crime. This is an adorable series and I am so glad I got the chance to read this latest installment. If you love to laugh as much as I do than this book, series will not let you down. I would like to thank Midnight Ink Press and NetGalley for providing me with a copy of this e-galley for my honest review

Kathleen Gray says

This was my first chance to read a book from this series- but I don't think I missed a thing. Mira, after finding herself sitting next to a corpse dressed as a doll, also finds herself under suspicion. Like Mira, I found the life size dolls created by Ida, senior with too much time on her hands, creepy. I wasn't a fan of Chief Gary (who would be?!) but I did like that the Mayor and Mrs. Berns helped her out. Loved the small town Minnesota setting (and the sly humor). Thanks to Netgalley for the ARC. I'm going to look for Lourey again.

Beth Ann says

Mira James is at it again in Battle Lake and as always her shenanigans kept me laughing throughout the entire book. Jess Lourey is gifted at writing the perfect cozy mystery filled with witty conversation, memorable characters and a story line that is as unpredictable as any North Carolina mountain road with a thin coating of ice on a foggy morning.

March of Crime features some of the cast of characters from previous Murder by Month mysteries but also introduces us to a few new ones. Who can forget Mrs. Berns, Mayor Kennie Rogers, and Police Chief Gary Wohnt from previous escapades involving non other than librarian and wanna be PI Mira James?

If creepy dolls aren't your thing don't worry--even though they play heavily in this mystery they are not creepy enough to deter you from reading the adventures of Mira as she finds yet another body. As her body count total escalates Mira wonders if it is her that is the problem and starts questioning the sanity of having relationships when people around here seem to be continually dropping dead.

Lourey entertains her readers in her latest novel with her wit, her creative writing, her imagination and her characters that are like non other. March of Crime is my favorite book in this series. I loved it and anxiously awaited its arrival in my mailbox. But now I am disappointed. Because it is done. I can only hope that there will be an April book coming soon. Please. Don't let it be the end.

Susan says

Part-time journalist and librarian Mira James doesn't mean to find a dead body--not for the eleventh month in a row--but when she does, the local police chief has had about enough. He doesn't suspect her, exactly, but he wants her out of his investigation. Unfortunately, Mira is really curious and she hates her reputation as a jinx and she's just broken up with her boyfriend. Surely it wouldn't hurt if she asked a few questions...Between her innocent questions and her foray into Minnesota phone sex, and the puzzle of a young foster child who wants her to pay him for detecting (as if!), Mira gets in too deep. Then she finds a second dead body in her car and she lands in the local jail!

Lisa says

Jess Lourey's Murder By Month series is one of my all-time favorites. I couldn't wait for March of Crime to hit the shelves so I could buy my copy and am so glad I did. Unlike other series which can get stale after awhile, these books remain fresh, funny and funky.

The series main character is Mira James, a young woman who is the head librarian and part-time reporter in the sleepy town of Battle Creek, MN. At least it used to be sleepy, before Mira came to town. Since she's been back, she's discovered - or somehow been associated with - a dead body about once a month. (Yes, this plot point requires some suspension of disbelief, but most books do, so it's not a big detraction.)

Mira and her 80-year old BFF/sidekick, Mrs. Berns, are forever getting in trouble as they try to solve the mystery behind the dead body and keep Mira off the suspect list. These two are a hilarious pair and I laugh (okay, maybe snort) out loud at their antics. The dialogue is snappy and snarky, the characters - including the supporting cast - are quirky and interesting in their own right, to say the least. (I mean, how can you not love the town's mayor, a middle-aged cougar who's always coming up with dubious schemes to help build the town's revenues such as a phone sex line company geared towards men who get turned on by Minnesota dialect?)

An added bonus is how, beneath all the sarcasm and fun, is how much Mira loves her friends, her town and her life. The only aspect of the series which rang a bit false is Mira's relationship with her on again, off again

boyfriend Johnny. I hope if there are more Murder by Month books (and there had better be!) that this part of the story gets resolved, one way or the other.

That minor quibble aside, this is one of the best light, humorous mystery series going. Start at the beginning though with the first, *May Day*. If you enjoy Janet Evanovich, Elise Sax, Aurlalee Wallace, you will love Jess Lourey!

Jean Cole says

This is a very amusing cozy mystery set in a small town in Minnesota. The narrator and detective, Mira Ross, is a single, relative newcomer to Battle Lake who has attracted the attention of local law enforcement due to her physical proximity to more than one murder victim. Mira is a bit of a mess. She loves chocolate, wine and men. She also can't help investigating local murders, despite pointed advice from Police Chief Gary Wohnt. There's a great supporting cast of characters, including Mira's best friend Mrs. Berns, a wild-at-heart septugenarian, and the mayor, who dresses like Dolly Parton. Think Amy Schumer meets Jessica Fletcher of *Murder She Wrote* in the far north version of Mayberry. I enjoyed it.

I'd like to thank NetGalley for providing an advance copy of this book in exchange for a review.
