



# That Touch of Ink

*Diane Vallere*

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SLEEK, CHIC AND CONSTANTLY SURPRISING...

"The suspense is intense, the plot is hot and the style is to die for. A thoroughly entertaining entry in this enjoyable series." - Catriona McPherson, Agatha Award-Winning Author of the Dandy Gilver Mystery Series

When a rare five thousand dollar bill arrives in the mail, interior decorator Madison Night knows it's a message from her past. In happier times, she once joked that she could be bought for \$5000—how could she deny a bill with her name on it? Suspecting the bill indicates trouble, she consults a numismatist. They set up a meet, but upon arrival she finds an abandoned office, a scared dog,...and a dead body in the kitchen. The twist? The victim isn't the numismatist; it's a John Doe.

The police—led by Lt. Tex Allen—are on the case, but it's Madison who discovers the victim's identity. But where's the numismatist? Before long, she uncovers a kidnapping plot, a unique counterfeit operation, and the true price of her own independence.

Praise for THAT TOUCH OF INK: "A terrific mystery is always in fashion--and this one is sleek, chic and constantly surprising. Vallere's smart styling and wry humor combine for a fresh and original page-turner--it'll have you eagerly awaiting her next appealing adventure. I'm a fan!" - Hank Phillippi Ryan, Agatha, Anthony, Macavity and Mary Higgins Clark Award-Winning Author of *The Other Woman*

"All of us who fell in love with Madison Night in *Pillow Stalk* will be rooting for her when the past comes back to haunt her in *That Touch of Ink*. The suspense is intense, the plot is hot and the style is to die for. A thoroughly entertaining entry in this enjoyable series." - Catriona McPherson, Agatha Award-Winning Author of the Dandy Gilver Mystery Series

"A fast-paced mystery with fab fashions, an appealing heroine, and a clever twist, *That Touch of Ink* is especially for fans of all things mid-century modern." - Reader to Reader

"Diane Vallere...has a wonderful touch, bringing in the design elements and influences of the '50s and '60s era many of us hold dear while keeping a strong focus on what it means in modern times to be a woman in business for herself, starting over." - Fresh Fiction

Books in the Mad for Mod Humorous Mystery Series: MIDNIGHT INK (prequel novella in OTHER PEOPLE'S BAGGAGE) PILLOW STALK (#1) THAT TOUCH OF INK (#2) (April 2014) WITH VICS YOU GET EGGROLL (#3) (April 2015) Part of the Henery Press Mystery Series Collection, if you like one, you'll probably like them all... Author Bio: Diane Vallere lives in a world where popcorn is a breakfast food and Doris Day movies are revered for their cultural significance. After over twenty years in the fashion industry, she now writes full time, juggling the Mad for Mod series, the Style & Error series, and the upcoming Material Witness series. She launched her own detective agency at age ten and has maintained a passion for shoes, clues, and clothes ever since.

## That Touch of Ink Details

Date : Published April 1st 2014 by Henery Press (first published July 25th 2013)

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Author : Diane Vallere

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Genre : Mystery, Cozy Mystery, Amateur Sleuth, Womens Fiction, Chick Lit, Whodunit

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## **From Reader Review That Touch of Ink for online ebook**

### **Larissa Reinhart says**

If you love mid-century vintage, The Mad for Mod Mysteries are for you. As a fan of Doris Day and Danish Modern, I enjoy steeping myself in the delightful world of Madison Knight, interior designer for mid-century lovers. In the second mystery, Madison's Philly past has brought himself to Dallas where she's tried to create a new life for herself. Not only does Madison's ex show up on her doorstep, he pulls her into a James Madison five thousand dollar bill counterfeiting ring. Even worse, she can't tell if her ex's lies from the truth, or whether she should help him get out of his mess or hand him over to her cop friend, Tex.

Vallere balances the cutsey kitsch of mid-century and Doris themes with a tough, let-me-do-it-on-my-own heroine in Madison Knight. She's more than blonde hair and blue eyes and determined to prove it. The intricately woven mystery provides twists galore to keep your pages turning quickly. Madison's love life is as tricky as the mystery itself as she juggles three men who find her both frustrating and appealing at the same time.

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### **Mark Baker says**

When decorator Madison Night receives a five thousand dollar bill in the mail, she realizes this rare denomination is a message from her past. Sure enough, her ex-boyfriend Brad is soon back in her life trying to reconcile even after he lied to her to get her out of her life. But Madison has other things to worry about, like the dead body she stumbled upon. What has Brad gotten her involved in?

Warning: allow plenty of time when you pick up this book because you will not be able to put it down. The story is filled with twists and turns that will keep you engaged from start to finish. The plot is a bit more teen sleuth than usual cozy murder mystery, but that's not an issue at all, and everything makes sense by the end. This is combined with fantastic characters, led by Madison who gets some real growth here. Fans of Doris Day will spot a couple of winks to the movie That Touch of Mink here, but if you haven't seen the movie, you are still in for a delightful read.

Read my full review at Carstairs Considers.

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### **Merna Malmberg says**

I liked this one too, of the "A Mad For Mod Mystery ". But you have to read them in order to follow the story. Can't wait to read the next, "Midnight Ice".

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### **Tess says**

What a fun book, I'm sorry I missed the 1st one in the series! Anyone who loves Doris Day, Rock Hudson and the whole crazy 50-60 era is OK in my book! Love, laughter, cats, dogs, throw in a counterfeiter or two

and you have a very enjoyable story. In my humble opinion, I don't feel that we are through with these folks yet, at least I hope we're not.

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### **Lynn says**

Recently I read the 1st book in the Mad for Mod mystery series and I enjoyed it. I normally do not read the next book in the series for awhile. However at the back of my mind, I kept thinking about reading the next book in the series That Touch Of Ink.

I initially did not read this series due to the subject matter of a protagonist who decorates in mid century style and dresses and looks like Doris Day. I like Doris Day but I grew up in those times and it didn't interest me. I did not care for the covers either. They have a cute feel.

However, I am glad I read the first book which made me want to continue with the series. In That Touch of Ink the mystery was quite good with twists and surprises. I did not know who was mystery person behind the murders until the author divulged it. Madison Knight is 47 and has a bad knee. She is striving to be her own woman and is quite spunky. Madison keeps important information to herself rather than sharing with her detective friend. Some of it was when someone was threatening her life by actually trying to injure her or scare her off. She was trying to be her own woman. I did not care for this part of the book as I felt due to the very real threat to her life, she should have shared the information.

I am looking forward to continuing with this series. I have downloaded the third book in the series.

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### **Kate Eileen Shannon says**

Madison Night is a Doris Day look alike who accentuates that by dressing in retro clothes. So refreshing to have a female protagonist that wears ballet flats instead of high heels. This is a well written mystery with very well developed characters. Madison receives a James Madison \$5000 bill in the mail that is worth \$100,000 and that delivery is followed by the arrival of former lover, Brad Turlington. Quickly Madison finds a dead body and is plunged into the dangerous world of counterfeiting. The stakes rise when her friend ends up in the hospital following brake failure while she is driving Madison's car. Madison is also confused about her feelings for the two men in her new life in Dallas, Tex and Hudson – made more confusing by the reappearance of Brad. I missed the first book in this series but I plan to go back and read that as well as all of Ms. Vallere's other books. A very satisfying read.

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### **Cindy says**

That Touch of Ink was second in the Mad for Mod mysteries. I had not read the first one but the author gave enough background info that I didn't feel lost in the book. Yet there wasn't too much given that I had no need to read the first, something that has actually happened a time or two in my years of reading.

This was a well written mystery and I was on edge trying to solve it. The book was a real page turner! Madison has three men interested in her so I can't forget to add a bit of romance in there with the mystery, murder, kidnapping and counterfeiting.

Madison is an interior decorator who specializes in the vintage Doris Day era, her favorite actress. When the author would describe what Madison was dressed in, I could picture it from all the Doris Day movies I've watched. That added to the fun part of the story!

I would definitely recommend this book! You will not regret it since it is a fun very enjoyable mystery! And I plan on going back to read the first one and any future books about Madison.

\* Thank you to the publisher and NetGalley for giving me a copy to read and review. Every word of this review is my own honest opinion.

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## **Cathy Cole says**

Diane Vallere's Madison Night series continues to be my Find of the Year. Normally I do not let myself read more than one book in a series per year. This works well because there are dozens of series that I follow closely. But when I fall for a series as hard as I did this one, that rule can go out the window. I began by reading the most recent book, *The Decorator Who Knew Too Much*, then I bought the rest of the books. I've only got one left to be completely caught up, and the question is-- will I be able to hold off reading it until next year?

The main reason why I kept ignoring these books is due to the covers, even though they do remind me of all the patterns my grandmother the seamstress had when I was growing up. These covers have a tendency to make the books appear to be-- there's really no nice way to put it-- nothing but fluff. If you go so far as to read the synopses and realize the titles are based on old Doris Day movies and that Doris Day is the main character's role model, you might be excused for shaking your head and walking away. Except-- you're reading this review, and now you know better.

Like the other books in the series, *That Touch of Ink* has a strong mystery, full of twists and turns and suspense galore. They have Style, just like Madison's clothes and interior design business. The cliffhanger from Madison's personal life is resolved from book one (*Pillow Stalk*), and there are three men attracted to this woman, which may (or may not) shock younger readers because Madison is forty-seven, single, has never been engaged or married, and has a bum knee (so she knows she's not Wonder Woman). I was very pleasantly surprised at how well Doris Day translates into twenty-first-century life.

Even if you're not familiar with Doris Day, you're going to like Madison and sympathize with how hard she's had to work to live the life she wants. If you are familiar with the versatile actress/singer, like I am, you just might find yourself watching some of her films. Whether you do or not, the one thing you must do is read these books! They are a delight.

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## **books are love says**

I am up in the air with this book. Don't get me wrong the read was fun and fast paced. A fun mystery to say the least just up in the air.

I think it is Madison that has me up in the air the most. She is this woman who thinks she is independent and

can solve things but hasn't moved on from her past. Her past truly dominates her being. She isn't trusting in herself or others and she is very confusing when it comes to her ideas and thoughts. Sometimes her confusion is warranted but her constant questioning can drive you batty.

Brad, her past and could be her future, is a charming yet troubled guy. He is protecting her and goes to so many lengths to do so. So far as to sacrifice himself for her in every sense of the word. She should have trusted him but their past got in her way and then she muddled things with her own distrust.

Tex a guy that all woman would love at one point. Keeps her out of the loop and is similar to Brad but he gets her loyalty. Go figure. Great guy though and I do hope they end up together.

Hudson I love him but poor guy is treated to a broken heart. Glad he stepped back and took back his life.

The story will be a fun fast paced read that in some parts will have you chuckling and others yelling at her to get her head on straight. A nice mystery story to fill your beach day or curl up in front of a fireplace with.

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### **FangirlNation says**

Nine months after learning that her boyfriend lied to her that he was married in order to protect her from bad people in his life, **That Touch of Ink** by Diane Vallere, Madison Knight gets a \$5,000 bill in the mail, which she realizes has come from Brad. Knowing that this bill is worth approximately \$100,000, Madison makes an appointment with a numismatist to get it appraised and arrives just in time to find a dead man in the office. Calling Tex, the cop who helped her in the previous case, Madison has rather a panic attack and then agrees to go out to dinner with Brad when her ex calls her. Dinner soon turns into a series of conflicts at which Tex shows up and has a confrontation with Brad. At this point, Madison goes home to hide from the world.

Read the rest of this review, more reviews, and other wonderful, geeky articles on FangirlNation

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### **Terri Austin says**

Madison Night is back and she's in a heap of trouble. When her old love shows up, Madison's confused about whether or not to let him back in her life. And his reappearance brings a sudden slew of \$5000 bills. Dead bodies, forgery, and possible romance are keeping Madison from doing her real job--mid-century design with a Doris Day flair.

I was lucky enough to score an ARC, which tickled me because I loves me some Madz! Mad For Mod is such a fun series. Madison models her life on her idol, Doris Day. Lots of fun references. If you like your mystery with a dash of romance and a Que Sera Sera attitude, you'll enjoy this one.

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### **Kendel Lynn says**

I was lucky to read an advance copy of THAT TOUCH OF INK, and if you liked PILLOW STALK (which I very much did), then you'll love this follow up. Diane writes with wit and savvy and sophistication, blending mystery and suspense into page-turning entertainment. Love!

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**\* Jennifer says**

3.5 stars. A Netgalley arc that had a LOT of editing errors; I hope they'll be gone before publication. Overall a good story.

Full Review: <http://jenn.booklikes.com/post/827226...>

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**Lauren says**

i loved that this mystery was just as much about character development. to be honest, i'm enjoying these characters enough that the mystery is just a small bonus. i do think madison needs to have a talk with her neighbors and friends about letting people in her house or giving them her keys lol. can't wait to see what happens next with madison and tex and hudson.

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**Tina says**

An easy, clean read. A bit more disjointed than the first. The story was predictable and vague. This book was entertaining, but frustrating. There were lots of sub plots that were started but never went anywhere. I feel as if in this book the author is mistaking a lack of information as being mysterious.

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