



Every Trick in the Rook: A Birds of a Feather Mystery

Marty Wingate

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Julia Lanchester's perch is knocked askew when murder hits a little too close to home in this delightful cozy mystery.

"Marty Wingate's Birds of a Feather mysteries provide a perfect blend of quirky characters and atmosphere."—Christine Goff, bestselling author of the Birdwatcher's Mystery series

Julia Lanchester is flying high. She's nesting with her boyfriend, Michael Sedgwick, and she's found her niche as manager of the tourist center in her picturesque British village. Thanks to all her hard work, visitor traffic was up—way up. Her reward is an even more hectic schedule. Michael's busy, too, traveling all over as the personal assistant to Julia's father, celebrity ornithologist Rupert Lanchester. With precious little time together, Julia's romantic weekend with Michael can't come soon enough.

But the getaway is spoiled when Julia's ex-husband is found murdered on her boss's estate. And after a witness reports seeing Michael near the scene of the crime, the press descends, printing lies and wreaking havoc. To protect Julia, Michael vanishes into thin air, leaving her to pick up the slack on Rupert's show and track down the real killer—even if it means putting herself in the flight path of a vicious predator.

Don't miss any of Marty Wingate's charming Birds of a Feather mysteries:

THE RHYME OF THE MAGPIE | EMPTY NEST | EVERY TRICK IN THE ROOK

And look for her captivating Potting Shed series:

THE GARDEN PLOT | THE RED BOOK OF PRIMROSE HOUSE | BETWEEN A ROCK AND A HARD PLACE | THE SKELETON GARDEN | THE BLUEBONNET BETRAYAL

Praise for Marty Wingate

"Marty Wingate plants clever clues with a dash of romantic spice to satisfy any hungry mystery reader."—Mary Daheim, bestselling author of the Emma Lord series

Every Trick in the Rook: A Birds of a Feather Mystery Details

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From Reader Review Every Trick in the Rook: A Birds of a Feather Mystery for online ebook

Linda Baker says

Julia Lanchester is happily settled into her newly refurbished cottage with her boyfriend, Michael Sedgewick. Both are thriving in their jobs, Michael as personal assistant to Julia's celebrity TV ornithologist father, and Julia as the tourist manager for the Fotheringill estate. The problem is that they are both working every available hour. On the eve of taking off on a getaway weekend, both Julia and Michael receive a cryptic email from Julia's ex-husband, Nick Hawkins, asking for a meeting. Independently, they decide not to deal with it until returning. After all, Julia has heard nothing from Nick since he took off to St.Kilda to follow his passion for "vagrant" birds and solitude. They both turn off their phones, only to turn them on to many messages. Nick's body has been found on the Fotheringill estate, dead in a derelict summerhouse. Naturally, the police want to talk to them, in the person of the formidable DI Tess Callow. Upon returning they find the village overrun with the press and the assumption that Michael must have killed Nick. Michael decides to move out and step away hoping that it will protect Julia from the press invasion. Instead, Julia ends up trying to do both of their jobs, resulting in predictable exhaustion and added stress. And the press will not stop hounding her, especially one very strange and aggressive woman.

Every Trick in the Rook has the characters I loved in the first two books; the villagers, Lord Fotheringill and Julia's loving family. There are welcome additions; Gwen, a widow, and her daughter, Tennyson. Tennyson has a pet rook named Alfie who quickly becomes a character in his own right. I confess to having little interest in birds but if I had known how intelligent rooks are, I might have felt differently. I am now searching for Esther Woolfson's *Corvus*, a book that Marty Wingate mentions as her inspiration for Alfie. I had not connected with Julia as a character so much before but now I feel I have more insight into what makes her tick. Every Trick in the Rook is a delightful read with a satisfying puzzle.

Thanks to NetGalley and Random House Alibi for an advance digital copy in return for an honest review.

RATING- 4.5 Stars

Ivonne Rovira says

I've loved both of Marty Wingate's Birds of a Feather cozies, *The Rhyme of the Magpie* and *Empty Nest*; however, *Every Trick in the Rook* simply didn't measure up to the first two. It just seemed so contrived. Julia Lanchester, tourism director at Smeaton-under-Lyme, Suffolk, has been happy with both her job and her live-in boyfriend, Michael Sedgewick. Unfortunately, Julia's ex-husband, gone for five years, turns up one day and gets killed at the estate where she works. The gutter press focuses attention on Michael as a probable suspect and ...

...And then the novel veers off course. Michael leaves both Julia and his job working for Julia's father to lead the tabloid press away from Julia and Rupert Lanchester? Really? Does this make any sense? Why wouldn't they just stake out both sites? And since when does the murder of a two-bit bird scientist start a press feeding frenzy anywhere? It's not like Julia is Kim Kardashian. Rupert, while the beloved, longtime host of a BBC Two nature show *A Bird in the Hand*, would get no more attention than Bill Nye the Science

Guy should his family suffer the loss of a no-name ex-son-in-law. Let's face it: The gutter press doesn't operate like this. They save their venom for someone who might actually sell newspapers, not a non-celebrity.

I'm not giving anything away — well, not much anyway — as all of this occurs by about 15 percent into the ebook. One implausible event or character leads to another culminating in an implausible climax near the end. I still love Julia Lanchester, but she's even more self-doubting, impulsive, and whiney than usual. I hope that she — and author Marty Wingate — can get their acts together before book No. 4. They've both been so wonderful thus far that I'm hopeful enough that I'll be back for that novel, despite the flaws of this one.

In the interest of full disclosure, I received this book from NetGalley, Random House Publishing Group, and Alibi Alibi in exchange for an honest review.

JoAn says

Every Trick in the Rook by Marty Wingate is the third in Ms. Wingate's A Birds of a Feather mystery series and was a great addition to this series. Although it is the third in the series, I do believe that it could be read as a standalone as Ms. Wingate makes sure to give a little of each character's backstory in this book.

Ms. Wingate introduced three new characters to the village, Gwen, her daughter Tennyson and Alfie, Tennyson's rook. I adored Alfie and enjoyed learning about rooks. It was fun to see Alfie play a major role in discovering the killer. The pace of the plot was steady with a liberal amount of clues sprinkled about as I read. I was shocked that I actually guessed correctly who the murderer was before the reveal because I almost never figure that out with one of Ms. Wingate's books. The characters are developing well and it was enjoyable getting to know them better in this book. I would love to visit the village and meet all of these delightful characters.

I voluntarily reviewed an Advance Reader Copy of this book from Alibi via NetGalley.

Betty says

Marty Wingate has done it and this edition this is as good as the previous books Julia Lanchester and Michael Sedgwick both receive emails from Julia ex-husband that he wanted to see them. Before they can meet her ex is murder on the estate. Michael becomes a person of interest. The smut journalists begin to printed nasty stories accusing them of killing her ex. The harassment is hard to handle. Michael decides to leave hoping the journalists will leave Julia alone. She tries to handle both her job and Michael job, only to find it too much. This put Julia in awkward circumstances. Julia makes a couple of new friends Tennyson and Alfie, a rook. The bird is extremely smart and aides Julia in solving the case. For an action back adventure, I highly 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 are my own.

Nicole Doll says

This was a very charming story! I absolutely loved it from start to finish. The setting and characters were delightful. It is definitely a must read book! I can't wait for the next story in this series!

Marlene says

Originally published at Reading Reality

Welcome to the latest chapter in the trials and tribulations of Julia Lanchester, otherwise known as the Birds of a Feather series.

I put it that way because Julia's very amateur mystery solving keeps getting itself tied up in Julia's romantic life as well as Julia's relationship with her famous father, Rupert Lanchester. Rupert just happens to be a well-known ornithologist (read bird watcher) on the BBC, and producing his weekly TV program used to be Julia's job.

Now it's the job of her boyfriend, the much put-upon Michael Sedgwick. Or at least it's Michael's job when Julia's past, Rupert's present, and dead bodies don't turn up and get themselves in everybody's way.

Especially Julia's. Especially because the dead body in this mystery is the body of her ex-husband. Not that there seems to have been much life in Nick Hawkins, or in their marriage, when they were together. A time that is now five years in Julia's past, and not missed at all. And neither was Nick.

Julia just wishes he'd stayed out of her life, and on his extremely remote island birding sanctuary where he belonged, instead of turning up dead on the grounds of the local estate where she runs the Tourist Information Center. Even in death, Nick Hawkins manages to snuff all the joy out of Julia's life. One last time.

Escape Rating B: My teaser/summary of the plot above feels just a bit sarcastic, and reflects some of my mixed feelings about the book.

I like Julia Lanchester as the heroine quite a bit. She seems both real and relatable, except for the way that dead bodies and mysteries keep inserting themselves into her life. But we wouldn't be reading about her if they didn't.

And her ex sounds like a complete piece of work. We are never sorry that he's dead. And neither is Julia, which provides a great deal of angst in her story. His death brings up all of her negative feelings about him from their unhappy marriage, and she feels guilty for not feeling more grief. Mostly she's angry, and mostly at herself. I'll admit to being able to relate. Many of us probably have a couple of exes that we firmly believe the world won't miss.

The behavior of the paparazzi is utterly hateful. Again, something that we all currently believe is all too possible. The gutter-press seems willing to insinuate anything and everything dirty, salacious and malicious

in the hopes of getting a reaction. Their story will then be the reaction – none of them seem remotely interested in the truth. And doesn't that feel all too familiar?

But what made this outing in the series less entertaining than particularly the first book, The Rhyme of the Magpie, has to do with Julia's, as well as her boyfriend Michael's, reaction to the ensuing mess.

Many long-running mystery series have either a romantic subplot, or a will they/won't they romantic dilemma in them somewhere. Julia and Michael resolve their romantic quandary in the first book. But unlike the author's other series, the Potting Shed mysteries, Julia and Michael have not (or at least not yet) become true partners in solving the murders that Julia trips over. Instead, the murder investigations in Empty Nest and now Every Trick in the Rook drive a wedge between them. Once seems plausible, twice starts to stretch coincidence.

I sincerely hope this doesn't happen again in the fourth book, which is another way of saying that I also sincerely hope that there IS a fourth book. I still like the series.

And one of the reasons that I like the series is that the author usually does manage to fool me into not solving the mystery too soon. I got my inklings of the solution about the same time that Julia did, and the resolution kept me turning pages briskly, especially at the very end. And if that wasn't enough, Tennyson, the rook of the title, absolutely steals the show – along with the shortbread!

Carol says

Let's visit Smeaton-under-Lyme, a lovely English town
where Julia Lanchester the daughter of the famous birder,
Rupert Lanchester lives with her boyfriend, Michael
Sedgwick. Michael is Julia's father personal assistant.
Julia manages the town's Fotheringill estate tourist center
Julia and Michael are off on a holiday when they get a call
to return to the village. They both had gotten an email
from Nick Hawkins, Julia's ex-husband. Both ignored the
emails planning to attend to them upon their return. Their
vacation is interpreted, calling them back to town.
A dead body has surfaced on the grounds of the Fotheringill
estate.
The body is Nick Hawkins!!! He has been stabbed to
death!!!
The star of the book is rook, named Alfie. He was found as
a fledgling then raised by a young girl named Tennyson.
Alfie is essential in solving the murder!!
Great cast of characters with an array of suspects. All the
characters were well-developed, colorful, some quirky but
each bringing their own flavor to the mix.
Mix together birding, danger, intrigue, mystery, a well
plotted book with humor plus romance and this cozy
mystery gives you a captivating read.
This is book # 3 in A Bird of a Feather Mystery series.

It can be read as a stand alone.
I volunteered to read this eBook. Thank you to Alibis
via Net Gallery for the opportunity. My opinion is my own.

Suzanne says

Follow the Rook

Julia Lancaster's ex husband, who left her years ago to live in virtual seclusion has turned up dead on the estate.

With her new boyfriend Michael the chief suspect, Julia has decided to "help" the police because even though they don't believe Michael did it, every thing points to him.

When Julia makes friends with Tennyson and her pet rook Alfie it seems that Alfie has all the answers.

Somehow along the way Marty Wingate has been able to give the birds in her books the same great personality as her characters.

Carolyn Injoy says

Every Trick in the Rook: A Birds of a Feather Mystery by Marty Wingate is an enjoyable cozy mystery. I thought Alfie, the rook was enchanting and the story kept me guessing. I gave it four stars.

I received a complimentary Kindle copy from Random House Publishing Group - Alibi and NetGalley. That did not change my opinion for this review.

It is in pre-order status until March 7, 2017, so I could not leave a review on Amazon or Barnes & Noble.

<https://www.amazon.com/Every-Trick-Ro...>

Pernette says

Marty Wingate's Every Trick In the Rook was the best British cozy mystery I have read in a while. I liked the characters and the story line moved right along. The common theme of birds and the antics of Alfie made this story more fun. I would definitely read another Marty Wingate mystery.

Karen says

This book is the third in the series, but the first I have read.

I really enjoyed the characters, the setting and the whodunit.

This is a well written book and I will seek out the previous two books, and look forward to reading more with these characters.

I voluntarily reviewed an Advance Reader Copy of this book.

Lisa Morin says

Every Trick in the Rook is the second book I've read in this series by Marty Wingate.

Julia Lanchester is a great character. Her colorful personality adds a fun twist to the series.

I loved the addition of Tennyson and Alfie to the series.

They add a quirky touch to book and it truly makes it a fun read.

Julia is settling into her life, however, when a murder strikes close to home, literally, it sends her life into a downward spiral.

Separating from her boyfriend Michael is too much to bear, leaving her no choice but to actively investigate.

Before long, Julia is discovering secrets and soon finds herself face to face with the killer.

I enjoyed every minute of this book.

The author captivated me with the different twists and turns, making this book impossible to put down.

I voluntarily read an Arc of the book provided by the publisher and NetGalley.

Cindy says

This is book #3 in the Birds of a Feather series. I haven't read the first two but plan to do so since I enjoyed this one so much.

The setting of the story was a small village in Britain that I'd love to visit. The author brings the village and its people to life. When Julia's ex-husband was found murdered, the press descended like vultures after Julia and her boyfriend, Michael.

My favorite characters in this book were a little girl, Tennyson, and her pet rook, Alfie! A bit quirky but lots of fun! I love birds and this was one smart bird who actually helped solve the mystery.

I would recommend any of Marty Wingate's cozy mysteries.

* I was provided an ARC from the publisher and NetGalley. This review is voluntary.

Julia says

This is the third book in the Birds of a Feather cozy mystery series by Marty Wingate. I have read a book from Marty's other series, Potting Shed Mystery, but this is my first book from this series. I thought this was an enjoyable little mystery. The setting, a small English village, was great. I loved the look at life in a small village. It seems so nice and cozy.

Julia Lanchester is trying to go on a weekend getaway with her boyfriend, Michael Sedgwick. Her father is Rupert Lanchester, a famous ornithologist, and Michael works as his assistant. Unfortunately, their holiday is cut short when the dead body of Julia's ex husband turns up at the estate where she works. Julia has to contend with suspicion falling on her and Michael, as well as aggressive tabloid journalists bent on making her life hell.

This was a nice book. The bird facts were interesting. I really liked the introduction of the young girl, Tennyson, and her rook, Alfie. A rook is a large bird, like a raven, and Alfie is very smart. He ends up playing a role in solving the mystery. This is not the best cozy mystery I have read, but it is an enjoyable way to spend an evening.

I received a free ARC from NetGalley

Kim says

Another great cozy mystery in the Birds of a Feather series. As usual Marty Wingate serves up a charming cast of characters and a peaceful idyllic setting in Smeaton.

It would be great if the rook Alfie got his own series.

This ARC was provided to me by the publisher through NetGalley.
