



A Cast of Vultures

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There was every possibility that I was dead, and my brain hadn't got the memo. Or maybe it was that I wished I were dead. On reflection, that was more likely.

Usually sharp-witted editor Sam Clair stumbles through her post-launch-party morning with the hangover to end all hangovers. Before the Nurofen has even kicked in, she finds herself entangled in an elaborate saga of missing neighbours, suspected arson and the odd unidentified body. When the grisly news breaks that the fire has claimed a victim, Sam is already in pursuit. Never has comedy been so deadly as Sam faces down a pair from Thugs 'R' Us, aided by nothing more than a CID boyfriend, a stalwart Goth assistant and a seemingly endless supply of purple-sprouting broccoli.

A Cast of Vultures Details

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Author : Judith Flanders

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From Reader Review A Cast of Vultures for online ebook

Karen says

This is an English based cozy about a Canadian living in England. When a local abandoned home, burns to the ground after housing squatters for years the community comes together to support the family that has lived there. The suspicious fire has main character Sam helping to solve the mysteries of the fires and missing neighbor. I loved the talk of gardening and community feelings I got from this book. This book is out February 21st.

Neil Plakcy says

A very clever, well-written mystery set in the book publishing world in London. A very believable sleuth & lots of interesting secondary characters.

Damaskcat says

I have enjoyed the previous two books in this entertaining and well written series and this one is even better. Well written, they feature a narrator with an acid tongue and a tendency to poke her nose into things which might be better left alone. In this book editor, Sam Clair, fears for her job as her employer decides to restructure but there are things going on in her neighbourhood which soon serve to take her mind off her troubles at work.

A series of unexplained fires and a missing neighbour provide food for speculation and Viv, an elderly friend persuades Sam to ask a few questions about the missing man which lead her into more danger than she can ever have imagined. Readers who don't like heights may want to read some scenes with eyes half closed!

I loved the plot of this book and the characters are, as always, memorable. There is Sam's super efficient mother, Helena, her neighbour, Mr Rudiger, who has some surprising talents, her partner, Jake - detective and Sam's fellow employees at T&R. I really enjoyed the spiky dialogue and I could empathise with Sam's desire not to spend too much time with crowds of people as I am much the same. She is a lady after my own heart. These novels can be read as standalone stories but are probably best read as a series.

MB (What she read) says

3.5 stars. I enjoy this series. This one ended kind of abruptly.

Anmiryam says

My favorite in this series so far. Sam Clair is truly my alter ego, even if she and Judith don't know it.

Betty says

This is an outstanding mystery full of suspense. It is not about birds. The characters are developed, the area descriptions will place you in London and neighborhood. The presentation of how a book is published and the politics involved is delightful. The fact the MC did not do anything too stupid to place herself in danger is pleasing.

Samantha aka Sam is woken one night by the smell of smoke and noise. Going outside she watch the "Empty House" burned to the ground. Sam knew that the house had occupants even if the authorities did not and inform Jake, her live boyfriend who is a police officer of the fact. All got out safely. Therefore, it was a surprise to find a body in the fire ruins. Sam and friends begin to explore what happen and she needs to interact with office policies at work. Sam must find an answer to the fires before she becomes a victim.

Disclosure: I received a free copy from St. Martin's Press through NetGalley for an honest review. I would like to thank for this opportunity to read and review the book. The opinions expressed are my own.

Jonathan says

I've been so busy that I haven't even picked up a book for almost a week. I actually forgot that I had ordered this book from my library, so when it came in, I knew that I had to read it. I love the first book, devoured the second, and the third (this one) was just as good. I can't recommend this series highly enough. Judith Flanders knows how to put all the thoughts that go on in people's minds into print, and, better yet, how to make them hilarious as she goes. Highly recommend!

Jennifer says

I really enjoy following the plucky Sam Clair on her (mis)adventures. These mystery novels succeed in smartly entertaining the reader, while not taking themselves too seriously. Fun, lighthearted reads with a panoply of wonderful, well-developed characters, and enough suspense to keep a reader up well past her bedtime to reach the denouement.

Lynn says

A Cast of Vultures is the third book in the Sam Clair mystery series. Sam Clair is an editor for a publishing company. She has a sharp wit when observing situations or interacting with characters. It is very interesting to see how life and work is in a publishing company. Right now the company has hired consultants to interview the workers to restructure the company. It is evident that the consultants don't understand what makes the publishing company work. I think many readers probably have had the same experience at past jobs.

Vi , a friend that Sam met in book two, calls her. A neighbor of Vi's was invited to dinner at Vi's and didn't show up. He has not been back to his apartment and she wants help from Sam to locate him. This starts the

mystery in motion. There are break ins, fires, a body found in one fire and a several life threatening situations for Sam. The other side takes us to award banquets and publishing meetings.

The best part of the series for me is the wit and the characters. The characters include Jake, Sam's policeman boyfriend, Sam's wonder woman mother Helena , Mr. Rudiger her neighbor, Vi and another Sam a young man that Sam likes and is helping. The mysteries are always good. Sam makes the series shine with her wit and personality. This series is different than many mystery books. I am looking forward to the next book.

Rage says

a fun read! suspense, lots of possible suspects, a clever narrator with a classy British inflection. I also enjoyed the bits about the publishing industry. the one thing I didn't get was why Sam's in a relationship with Jake, because for the first 70% of the book they had 0 chemistry and he seemed primarily to irritate her. I definitely want to read more of this series :)

Alicia says

<http://wordnerdy.blogspot.com/2017/02...>

I really, really enjoy Flanders' Sam Clair series, about an editor who finds herself mixed up in mysteries. Her writing is just really funny and engaging, and Sam is a likable and entertaining character. Flanders also tooooooally nails the intricacies of the publishing world--and I'm just as interested in her assistant and their office politics as I am in the case of the moment (this one involves a friend's missing neighbor, though things quickly grow more complicated--as they are wont to do, in a mystery!). I could quibble a bit with the plotting of this mystery, which relies on a lot of coincidences, BUT I enjoyed this book so much--seriously, really strong writing and characterization--that I don't even care. I can't wait for more from Flanders. A/A-.

A review copy was provided by the publisher. This book will be released on February 21st.

Cathy Cole says

There's no simpler way to put this: I love Judith Flanders' Samantha Clair mysteries! Sam and I agree on meetings, shopping, and socializing. Now if I were only one-tenth as witty as she....

The mystery is a good one in *A Cast of Vultures*, even though the reader quickly learns the identity of the killer. The trick is in deducing why. In addition, Sam's impromptu investigation has some very scary moments in her home and at Kew Gardens-- and they showed me the importance of having a flashlight app on my smartphone.

Flanders also serves up another brilliant glimpse into the world of publishing. This time Sam's publishing house is restructuring in order to save money. The problem is, the experts that have been brought in have no clue what Sam and her co-workers actually do. Sound familiar?

The author (who is also one of the foremost social historians of the Victorian Era) has served up what is, to me, the perfect blend of mystery, the world of books, characters with whom you want to be best friends, wit, and humor. I don't want her to ever stop writing them. They are a delight, and if you haven't read any of them, I urge you to do so as quickly as possible.

Holly says

I really enjoyed this! For some reason I wasn't expecting to like this as much as I did. I'm happy when something can surprise me!

This is actually the 3rd book in this series but I haven't read the first 2. I didn't find that to be a problem. I never felt like I was coming into the middle of something and feeling lost. So I do think this could be read without the benefit of the other two. Although, since I did enjoy this one, I will go back and read from the beginning:)

I really liked Sam as a character. She was a solitary, book loving, sarcastic, dry witted woman. I chuckled several times at the things she said. Somehow she gets herself involved in a murder investigation. That only finds herself into trouble a few times. But thanks to her cop boyfriend, Jake, she'll manage to get herself out of them. I like Jake too but now that I think about it, I mostly enjoyed all the characters. Anyway, I thought the mystery was well done. The whole time I was interested in the "truth".

**Thank you to the publisher and NetGalley for an e-copy in exchange for an honest review.

Marta says

This series started strong, and book three may be the best so far. The mystery starts with a missing man and a house fire. Editor Samantha Claire's involvement comes through two sources- an elderly rather bossy woman who chores her into helping to check on her missing neighbor, and later, the fire displaces squatters that Samantha knows through the odd jobs they do around her London neighborhood.

She opts to investigate when it seems the police are being unfairly close minded about who might be to blame.

One thing that Flanders has done really well through the whole series is give Samantha's life as a book editor a lot of rich detail and book space. I like the characters we meet through her publishing life and I like that Samantha is mid career. She is not passionate nor is she burnt out, she is consistently dedicated to her job and it is an enormous part of who she is.

Also richly drawn are her agoraphobic neighbor, a dignified and distinguished architect from India, and Samantha's formidable, brilliant, petite, intimidating mother. I don't feel I have as much of a grasp on the personality of her partner, Jake. In the first half of the book he seems grumpy all the time, in the second half very protective. Either way, he is not as interesting to me as some of the other people we meet. If he's going to be around through the whole series, I would like to be invested when he turns up on the page.

I didn't see how this one would be solved, yet the conclusion was totally believable.

Joyce says

This is a light mystery and an enjoyable read with a London setting. Samantha Clair awakes with a hangover after her post-book- party to learn about a fire in the neighborhood, also that there is a body and that people are missing. Before the news comes out, Sam finds herself in the center of all the action and mystery. The book is well written with humor, smart and clever retorts as well as dry wit. You will like Sam and her friends and characters. Enjoy!!
