



NYPD Puzzle

Parnell Hall

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When young attorney Becky Baldwin hires Cora Felton to accompany her to New York City to meet a new client in his penthouse apartment, the Puzzle Lady jumps at the chance. Cora is just coming off a bad breakup, and finding out that Chief Harper testified at a parole hearing for a killer she helped put away has her feeling old. But when she and Becky arrive at the apartment, they find the man is dead. There's a puzzle on his chest, and a prowler is searching the bedroom. Cora pulls her gun out and gets off a shot as the intruder ducks out the window. The NYPD now think Cora is the murderer. Getting her off should be a breeze for Becky, but when the fatal bullet is too badly damaged to identify, Cora is lucky to get out on bail.

Meanwhile, a diabolical killer is leaving puzzle clues. If only they were just sudoku puzzles - Cora can't solve the crosswords without the help of her niece, Sherry, who's back in Bakerhaven taking care of her toddler. In order to clear her name, Cora must match wits with a gruff NYPD homicide sergeant who is quite attractive, except for the fact that he suspects her of murder.

NYPD Puzzle is a clever mystery, boasting madcap hijinks as well as fun puzzles. Mystery readers will thoroughly enjoy this latest from acclaimed author Parnell Hall.

NYPD Puzzle Details

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From Reader Review NYPD Puzzle for online ebook

Frances says

I used to read all of Parnell Hall's Stanley Hastings mysteries but had sort of grown away from them. Recently, I ran into Parnell at Left Coast Crime and decided to try one of his puzzle lady mysteries. It is a cozy and dialogue driven and while it is easily gobbled up on an airplane flight, it wasn't very satisfying to me.

Stuart Macmartin says

Typical fun banter book. Still can't quite guess how old Cora is. This isn't about the mystery, because it's obvious. The details of what was done? That was silly, but it's not the point of the book. Enjoyable light read, but not the best of the series.

Kevin Tiemeyer says

15 books into the series and the stories and characters never get old. Cant believe it has been that long since I seen the first book in Manhatten. Thoguh probably good to start from the beginning to know the characters, the book is really a fun read. Look forward to seeing the author at the Left Coast Crime event in March 2014

Chi Dubinski says

When puzzle lady Cora Felton accompanies lawyer Becky Baldwin to New York City to meet a client, they don't expect to discover him dead, and the killer disappearing out the window. Cora is arrested as a suspect—she didn't do it, but how to explain away the crossword puzzle found on the body? Puzzles by Will Shortz and sukoku clues are included.

Gloria Feit says

It would not be a Puzzle Lady Mystery unless Cora Felton gets herself into a most outrageous situation. And in this latest entry in the series, she outdoes herself. It begins when her attorney, Becky Baldwin, asks Cora to accompany her to meet a new client in his bachelor apartment in New York City. When they get there, they find a body on the floor, shot and killed.

Cora checks out the rest of the apartment and finds a stocking-masked perpetrator in the bedroom. She pulls out her gun and tells him to freeze. Instead he jumps out a window and she fires at him, missing. And when the cops arrive, of course she is found holding the proverbial smoking gun. Cora is arrested, but is released when Becky points out that a comparison of Cora's gun and the slug in the victim wouldn't match. Meanwhile, a crossword puzzle left on the corpse provides the first clue.

That is the beginning of a series of crossword and sudoku puzzles spanning the novel, leaving clues of a sort along the way. A Puzzle Lady Mystery is always good for an amusing read, as well as for an intriguing plot. Cora's wacky dialogue and behavior certainly adds to the zest of each story. And "NYPD Puzzle" keeps up the reputation of the series. Recommended.

Audrey says

I really enjoy this series, but I wish Mr. Hall would stop dropping hints about the next book in them. Referencing Arsenic and Old Lace prior to Arsenic and Old Puzzles made things too obvious at the start of the book. And in that book referencing the first case with the dead girl at the grave only made it extra clear who the perp was when they mentioned him again and again at the start of this one. Still, despite that bit of obvious it was an enjoyable read. But I swear if the next one is about Dennis and Brenda I'm going to scream.

Mary says

This was a very funny book. I love crossword puzzles sudoku puzzles, so this was right up my alley. It turns out that the killer leaves puzzles for her at the scene of the crime. Only she has a problem, that you have to read the book to find out.

It is well worth the time. You laugh at the problems she has. The book was good from the beginning right to the end!

Susan says

Cora Fenton, the Puzzle Lady who really can't solve a crossword puzzle herself, becomes suspect in a New York city murder even as she's helping her local police chief with a few puzzles back home in exurban Connecticut. The murderer seems to be taunting Cora and her new friend Sergeant Crowley. This series is never slice of life realistic, but with this entry we've really gone a giant step from credibility, unfortunately.

Stephanie Topper Flint says

I have liked this series because the dialog is witty and the books are a quick read. This one, however, left lots to be desired. The story didn't flow well, it was hard to follow the dialog and the solution to the mystery seemed to be tossed in at the end just to wrap up the book quickly. It didn't really make sense.

Robert Scott says

---The use of puzzles makes this interesting more than the plot deserves. Otherwise it is mostly a cutesy

romance between Cora Felton the puzzle lady and Sergeant Crowley of the NYPD. Thrown in are the real crossword constructor, Cora's niece Sherry, Aaron her reporter husband, Jennifer their daughter, Chief of Police Hanley and the ME an old boyfriend.----

Earl says

The 15th book in the Puzzle Lady mysteries proved to be another fun and fast read with familiar likable characters and clever dialogue. When the plot became too convoluted, I just read through it and enjoyed the many twists and turns. Having actual puzzles to solve always added to the fun of the books. This was actually my review for the 9th book but the words hold true after all this time.

Fmorlan says

Becky Baldwin hires Cora as a guard when she gets a request for an interview in NYC. But when they arrive there is a body and Cora confronts a burglar and takes a shot. NYPD come and arrest Cora and Becky. They taken to the station where they meet Sgt. Crowley. He doesnt know what to make of Cora or Becky. Cora gets released to go home where the sheriff is trying to figure why the town hall was burglarized. Then enter corpse #2 and Cora thinks it is connected to the NYmurder as there is puzzle and sudoku. No valid suspects just the killer. It has twist that are unexpected but a good story. It keeps you guessing.

Mark Baker says

When lawyer Becky Baldwin gets a new client in NYC she doesn't feel comfortable with, she asks famed Puzzle Lady Cora Felton to act as her body guard. But when they arrive for the meeting, the client is dead with a crossword puzzle on his body. Then Cora is arrested for the murder. What is going on?

This books are always fun and quick witted, and this is no exception. The plot is a little weak, but the characters get frustrated by my frustrations, too, so it was on purpose. Still, fun overall and definitely one fans of the series will enjoy.

Read my full review at Carstairs Considers.

Stacy Schmidt says

I thought this book would be fun because of the puzzles. I was really disappointed. I (mistakenly) assumed that you would need to solve the puzzles to solve the mystery (with maybe an answer key in the back in case you get stumped), but that wasn't the case at all. The characters just solved the puzzles themselves, so there really wasn't much point in trying to solve them yourself. Also, it felt like there was really an excessive amount of pointless dialogue in this book. It seemed like it was supposed be humorous, but I found it to be boring and a waste of time. It didn't move the plot along at all or provide much amusement. I really wouldn't recommend this book to anyone.

Caro says

This was a good book. There was a little suspense to it but mostly it was about the mystery. This was spunky, had good characters, was definitely convoluted and sometimes just hard to follow her train of thought, had lots of dry humor, and had a good ending. Overall, I enjoyed reading this but it wouldn't be a go-to. Something to read for relaxing with a little puzzle figuring added.
