



Death in Blue Folders

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A bullet sends a prominent lawyer into permanent retirement amid a bonfire of blackmail papers, and Harald finds a filing cabinet brimming with suspects and motives. Wading through a flurry of forged documents, trust funds, and contested annuities, Harald searches for one missing file--the one marked M for murder.

Death in Blue Folders Details

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Author : Margaret Maron

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Nicole says

I really enjoy Margaret Maron's later work and was excited to read one of her earlier works. Her solid writing style and plot twists were present in this book. The main character, Sigrid, is someone that I would like to learn more about. She appears very stoic with some quirkiness just below the surface. Interesting mysteries within the main mystery. Most importantly, short chapters and a dead body right away (the ingredients of a good mystery, per my Mama!).

Wanda says

Sigrid is a detective in the NYPD. She is investigating the murder of a lawyer. The more she finds out about the guy the more suspects she has. He had been blackmailing several people and she has to find out why and who killed him.

In the meantime two others associated with him are murdered with the same gun. She and her partner track down lots of leads before finally figuring it out. She also is in the process of finding a new place to live which adds a little extra stress to her life.

Enjoyed the story and characters.

Tobinsfavorite says

I picked this up from the library because it was there and looked somewhat interesting. It is somewhat interesting.

I wavered back and forth about how much I liked it; it was easy reading, not completely obvious, and kept me turning pages, but somehow it's not compelling.

That said, I went back and read the first one...

Christine Cody says

This is the second book of this series I have read. In both, although I've enjoyed the books quite a bit, the endings left me cold. I don't think it is a SPOILER to reveal that, in both books, after investigating complicated cases with numerous leads, both real and false, Harald realizes that the murderer is a very likeable person, if not the most likeable among a large "cast" of characters. With each book, it put a damper on the resolution because it was very sad and was going to make very good people very sad when they learned the truth. If it's a formula, it's not a very satisfying one.

Suzi says

I am reading all of the Sigrid Harald series after I read Corpus Christmas over the holidays. I don't know how I missed them since I really enjoy all of Margaret Maron's Deborah Knott books, her stand alones, and her short stories. Here Sigrid finds a new home and wears a formal gown, lipstick and nail polish. And solves an interesting murder or two or three with help from Tillie, as usual. I love seeing Sigrid reveal herself to be the lovely person she is. Looking forward to the 2017 Sigrid, too.

I am an old lady and enjoy mysteries. I am so happy to find authors and characters I enjoy and can rely on. Old women can't sleep as well as they used to and may need a favorite book to help them pass the nights. We don't like to keep trying insipid writers and/or series.

I never keep reading a book I don't enjoy, nor do I review it. (Just in case you're wondering why I have only 4 and 5 star ratings.)

Erin says

I saw the solution coming, but it was a fun puzzle mystery. I was actually expecting more character development, but the story stayed on plot the whole time.

Lynda says

I liked this book, third in the Sigrid Harald series because it filled in the gaps in Deborah Knott's background in that series by the same author. A lawyer is found dead in his office with many of his files burned and the office in disarray.

Sigrid, a New York City detective and her team must investigate. They discover that all of the clients whose cases are in "blue folders" had secrets that could be motives for murder. An interesting side theme is Sigrid's search for a new apartment. It struck me, after reading so many of the J.D. Robb series that Sigrid could have been the model for Eve Dallas. Both are determined to solve the cases using whatever methods necessary. They are outspoken, blunt, care nothing for their appearance, and don't like to waste time on social niceties. This is a good series to read in order.

Jerry B says

Sigrid Harald, #3 of 8, well done!

"Folders" follows the basic form of most of Maron's titles -- a murder occurs fairly early in the tale, as here, often in chapter one; and we work the clues and the successor crimes with Sigrid and her police colleagues until she nabs her crook. Usually the character descriptions and set changes are what I've heretofore referred to as "minimalist", yet make no mistake that Maron is a fine writer who conveys anything she really wishes to with little difficulty.

The plot provides an immediate abundance of suspects, as the blue folders in question are the "private" files set aside without even the knowledge of his staff by a killed-before-he-could-retire lawyer. It seems clear from the outset from a quick look at his bank account that he was blackmailing these special clients; while Maron chips away at first one then the other of the half dozen or more targets, she solves in an interesting

way the mini-mysteries of why each person was being blackmailed. So we get some ongoing resolutions while working the main case to a conclusion, a very entertaining technique.

The familiar cast members from previous and subsequent stories are just about all here, so this is a most representative member of the set. Recommended!

Mary Garrett says

So many tangled webs! I loved following the myriad clues, teasing out the possible answers to the varied puzzles. Also enjoyable were the side plots of formalwear, apartment hunting, friendship and family and the elegance of writing. I have just begun this series, and am looking forward to many more.

Virginia Adi says

enjoyed this one!

Barbara says

Mostly three stars...a good book. It got four stars for:

"It reminded Sigrid of diagraming complex-compound sentences in seventh-grade English classes, an ordeal for others but strangely satisfying for her."

Betty says

Cause of Actions

Errors, typos annoying. Roman, Tillie are developing nicely. Captain McKinnon's backstory interesting, not sure believable. Sigrid is a detective. Glad the apartment situation settled. I bet on the wrong horse in this whodunit.

Need more on Sigrid and Nauman's relationship. Needs to be fleshed out. Sigrid doesn't have "friends or flames" and other than the Art department murder of their initial meeting there is no earthly reason for this overbearing, conceited artist to think twice about her or her about him.

Polly says

Good solid mystery from a good solid mystery writer! It's an unpopular viewpoint, but I kind of prefer Sigrid

Harald to Deborah Knott--as I've said, I like my mysteries to be mostly about the mystery rather than the detective, and I like New York City much better than I think I'd like North Carolina--never been there, so I can't be certain--being a northern, urban kind of person. I like the historical aspect of this particular book, with fictional famous characters from twenties and thirties Hollywood and New York rubbing shoulders with real ones, and a rather debonair gentleman blackmailing them forty years later!

Susan says

I had read all of the Deborah Knott books by Maron and enjoyed them, but for some reason I had never bothered to read any of the Sigrid Harald books. I picked one up a couple of weeks ago and have found myself enjoying them.

Linda Brue says

I'm a big fan of Margaret Maron's Deborah Knott series, and I've been starting to read her Sigrid Harald series. This is the third in that series. I'm finding it difficult to get ahold of these books; I've bought two used, and I'm trying to get the rest through inter-library loan.

I find Sigrid to be an extremely interesting character. She's complex, a bit standoffish, and doesn't suffer fools gladly. She's worked hard to get where she is.

Death in Blue Folders is about a lawyer who seems to have a lucrative side business going in blackmail. He picks his "clients" carefully, and keeps their information hidden away in his desk in blue folders. His office is ransacked, and the lawyer is dead. But only a few of the folders and their contents are left. Does the timing of his murder have anything to do with the lawyer's upcoming retirement? Sigrid is left with few clues and lots of suspects--if she only knew who they were.
