



CHARLIE
FLOWERS
MURDER
MOST RURAL

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TROUBLE ALWAYS FOLLOWS MR AND MRS SABIR...

Meet Riz and Bang-Bang. MOD troubleshooters by trade, their work normally involves covert ops and counterterrorism. A routine exercise with the SAS takes them to a sleepy Essex village, where not only do they stick out somewhat as a British Pakistani couple, but there has also been a mysterious suicide. Or have they stumbled across the perfect murder?

Murder Most Rural Details

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From Reader Review Murder Most Rural for online ebook

MARIA C JACOBI says

Not rushing to read the others

This book was o.k. but I was confused a lot of the time. Perhaps it was the esoteric jargon that was sometimes explained and other times not. Maybe it was because I didn't read the previous books. Some of the characters were thrown in for no reason and didn't further the plot. At times it felt like a frat party. I didn't like the main character's wife. She was too erratic and immature and didn't feel like a real person.

L. Sengul says

Murder Most Rural takes Riz and his wife Holly on a mission to Essex, where they instinctively discover a murder masked as a suicide has taken place and they cannot for whatever reason let it go, they have to investigate it off record and have the suspect charged. They enjoy the chase and so did I as the reader. A great action, murder mystery in Riz style!

Stephen Edger says

This is the first Riz book I've read and I enjoyed it enough that I'm going to go back to the start of the series to read all about the missions leading up to this intriguing tale. If you're wondering what it's like, think of a crossover between Midsomer Murders and Strike Back, and you'll be in the right area. A cracking yarn written with tongue firmly in cheek!

Ted Tayler says

"high octane excitement which you can't stop reading"

This is the first title in the Riz & Bang Bang series that I've come across. After reading 'Murder Most Rural' I'm certain to be playing catch-up!

The main characters are engaging and in this adventure, lightly drawn. I hope to find out more about them when I go back to the beginning. The pace is unrelenting and the plot line kept me reading chapter after chapter; there was no chance of me putting it down until I finished it.

I was bamboozled by the MOD jargon, but this tale was more about the murder mystery the pair stumbled on in the Essex countryside. As this was unraveled, Charlie Flowers treated us to some beautifully descriptive passages that convinced me he had trodden those paths and woods near Patching End himself; it felt as if he was on his own patch.

Joseph Brewer says

Rizwan and Holly 'Bang-Bang' Sabir seem to have a nose for trouble even when carrying out a routine government intelligence operation in the quiet English countryside. But it's not just any locale - it's a quaint village in a part of the world Riz got to know during summers of his youth, the type of hills and woods and haunts that captures a lad's imagination, and vastly different from his East London life.

They set about doing what they seem to do best - tossing a little bit of fun into your basic humdrum training exercise, being the cute couple that they are, with their 'crack baby' adopted daughter and myriad of memorable special forces friends popping up to create a buzz in the community.

But then there's a suicide - the wife of the local big wheel, politically connected and nearly untouchable. Riz has his doubts about the circumstances - was it suicide or the perfect murder? Riz and Bang-Bang use their talents to piece together the scheme, and call on friends in high places to get to the bottom of the caper. What emerges is a top-flight mystery.

'Murder Most Rural' is my first taste of Charlie Flower's storytelling and I'm hooked. He spares no detail in bringing to life Riz and Bang-Bang's skills, quirks and banter. I love the characters and the detailed telling of military and special ops, even in the least likely of settings, and a style that keeps the story moving. I'll be back for more.

Mark Fine says

A fascinating collision of genre's and cultures, and it works spectacularly! All heats up in the Larry Bond military fiction tradition (but with a decidedly British Empire accent), and then seamlessly transitions into the bucolic Essex countryside, with a deadly mystery that would have delighted Agatha Christie's Miss Marple. But in lieu of the staid Miss Marple, author Charlie Flowers has blessed us with the dynamo--Holly Bang-Bang! I adored this gal. No mere sidekick to her husband, the resolute and gung-ho Riz, but an equal partner in their deadly cat and mouse adventures. The fiery Bang-Bang can cook a fine curry too. [Every time she was stirring onions into a curry sauce I found myself salivating--clear evidence of the author's gift of bringing all the senses in the scene to life!]

"Murder Most Rural" is one hundred proof entertainment, but I credit Mr. Flowers for gently taking a dig at those that are inclined toward prejudice. The comeuppance to those that ridicule the Pakistan heritage of the married couple at the heart of story, makes the read all the more satisfying. The fact that Riz and Bang-Bang have the deadly skills of an elite special force team, yet confront all challenges with wry wit and mutual respect, makes them all the more memorable. I was so intrigued by this unconventional couple, and their full-throttle with cumin and turmeric adventures, that I find myself wishing to read other books in the Rizwan Sabir Mysteries series. I suggest you similarly treat yourself to a thoroughly entertaining read.

Jean Gill says

Explosive writing! Brain dynamite!

This short novel is a high-adrenalin romp with Rizwan and Holly, an extraordinary English couple whose superpowers are non-magical and range from assassination and high-tech surveillance to pub games. Not only will they use any means to fight injustice but the more criminal the methods they use, the more they enjoy them. This is especially true of Holly, known as 'Bang-Bang' for good reason. Oh, and they also have

an adopted toddler they rescued.

I've never read anything like this and I've read a lot of different books. I mean a lot! As a reader, you have to accept that morality means good guys don't get hurt and bad guys get what's coming, in enthusiastic and well-trained violence. Then you can enjoy the black comedy of stormtroop tactics and weaponry being used to solve an English village whodunit.

I loved every English detail, the references to what is familiar background to me: the wild wood, the pub characters and the idea that playing Radio 4 in your car would let the police know you're one of the good guys. I loved the satirical humour; the incidental racism is spot-on – funny but makes you go 'Ouch'. I don't like the modern tendency towards such short chapters but I enjoyed the minimalist style and snappy dialogue.

One moment was too painful for me and jerked me back to real, serious morality. Bang-Bang says, 'One thing you need to learn, baby Maya, if you're going to be one of us. One thing. You gotta be taught how to hate.' Throughout the book, Charlie Flowers' humour is on the edge of posing serious questions. He made me wonder, 'What's the difference between anti-terrorists and terrorists?' This same question often arises in crime novels. How are the law enforcers different from those they pursue? I don't have the answer yet but I think Rizwan and Holly will keep posing those sorts of question, below the surface.

'Murder Most Rural' is Book 5 in the series but I found it easy to read as a stand-alone.

Geoff Nelder says

Holly (Bang-Bang) Kirpachi is the female half of an MOD troubleshooting duo with husband Riz having to deal with terrorists in the UK. Holly is marvellously described as an Essex Girl from Mars. "Non committal hazel eyes" Brilliant. Pages loaded with dynamic phrasing and humour some of which stay such as the Secretary of State who has eyebrows with a life of their own. I can imagine them semaphoring their own thriller novel right now.

The author writes this contemporary thriller with some authority because he has worked in security. The nearest I've come to working with terrorists is as a teacher but fending off flying chairs in a classroom and luckily, most of my pupils wanted to learn and were well behaved. However, I've been involved as an editor with novels written from the point of view of a Muslim and one was a terrorist plot to blow up the Olympics—The Last Olympiad—written by my writing buddy on Cyprus, John Goodwin.

Chapters are punchy short making them fly by and I liked the description of the part of Essex our two heroes went to: mud, wheat, sheep.

A fair bit of techie stuff from Holly but only enough to make her role convincing—along with her curry cooking. I knew some of it (not the culinary) eg Yagi aerials because in my capacity as an IT Advisory Teacher years ago, I'd installed them, along with 1 metre dishes on the roofs of most of the high schools in Cheshire. I'd encountered interesting caches of stuff on those roofs, some of which also related to the illicit goings on in MMR. Haha. I could write a book... Holly (Bang-Bang) is far from a typical housewife as you could get, she's mad, clever but very loyal to Riz: not just his right hand, but arm and leg too.

Their 'help' was the all-female Black Eyes army unit one of whom, Calamity, wore a necklace of human ears whose previous owners were London gangland leaders. My ears twitched when I read that.

The plot is a grittier version of Miss Marple or Midsomer Murders eg nice Mrs Bradley dies but was it suicide? There are clues, side tracks and ironic humour. The setting in rural Essex evoked haunted old

buildings, overgrown woods and shady goings on, exquisitely crafted. I commend this book, which although is the fifth in a series can easily satisfy as a standalone thriller.

Richard Knight says

I like Charlie Flowers. His writing is so sharp, so exact. Like slicing celery on a cutting board. After having read other tales in the Riz saga, I'm happy to say that this most recent story, *Murder Most Rural*, is just as tight and as clever as his other books. And you're rewarded for starting from the beginning of the series, as the relationship between Riz and Bang-Bang is enjoyable and, even though some of the ordeals they go through are unbelievable, seems believable. This power couple shoots, breaks glass over people's heads, and then kiss. They compliment each other. They're definitely one of my favorite romantic duos in modern day story-telling. And the chapters move so briskly, even more so than in books past. You feel compelled to keep flipping pages, just like in every good thriller. As long as Charlie Flowers keeps pumping out these Riz stories, I'll keep reading them.

Andy says

I discovered this book by accident (my brother lent it to me) but I'm glad that I did. 'Riz' and 'Bang Bang' immediately stand out as far more interesting than your average main characters and were fantastic to follow. The plot is tightly woven and inventive (think 'Spooks' crossed with 'Midsomer') frankly, I couldn't put it down! My only gripe is that I've started the series at book five so I'll have to go back to the start and pick it all up from the beginning. Top stuff.

Neil Plakcy says

These books are so much fun. Riz and Holly are great characters and the books are full of authentic details. I love the dialogue and the non-stop action.
