



Murder on the Precipice

Penny Goetjen

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Set in an old family-run inn on the rocky, tumultuous coast of Maine, *Murder on the Precipice* engages readers in a captivating escapade. Elizabeth Pennington, a successful Manhattan interior designer, grew up in the inn and is thrilled to leave behind her tyrannical boss and the big city for a few days, accepting her grandmother's invitation to return to her childhood home. Upon her arrival, Elizabeth learns a young female guest is missing in a case eerily similar to an unsolved disappearance on the property years earlier. She makes it her mission to find the girl and save the inn. But in her search for answers, Elizabeth uncovers shocking details that challenge everything she thought she knew about herself, her family, and her past.

Murder on the Precipice Details

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From Reader Review Murder on the Precipice for online ebook

Paula says

I received this book from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. Oh dear...well, ok.

Why do I feel like I'm kicking a little puppy here (which is why I'm giving it an extra star)? But that's how I feel, because the book feels so...amateur. Like a first novel. Which, hey, kudos for effort. But...when I looked up the author after I read this novel, I found out this wasn't the case. Setback.

Quick plot summary: Elizabeth a (milquetoast) interior designer in NYC, is summoned by her grandmother to come up to their family home in Maine (once a former girl's school and now a cozy inn) because something has "happened". So, in line with the milquetoast that she is, Elizabeth sneaks out of her office on a Friday evening so that she can avoid her (stereotypically) hard-edged 50-something (with withered skin? in her 50's??!), stiletto-heeled, hard-driven boss, who seems to delight in flicking cigarette ash on poor Elizabeth's Brooke's Brother suit. Because all really dedicated hard-driven female bosses are bitches on wheels. Ok, well, thanks for that Penny. I'm 63 and I still don't have "withered skin". Are you getting your descriptions from dames in nursing homes?

Elizabeth runs like a scared rabbit for her car (which she keeps talking about, ALL the time), a E7 Silver BMW (which she never refers to as a car, just the E7). She is startled because the mailroom clerk has followed her to deliver a package, which she tosses on the back seat. CLUE. If you care.

I will spare you pages (and I do mean pages) of the trip up to Maine where Goetjen does a whole lot of telling and not showing. By the time you get there, you want to talk with anyone other than Elizabeth, and you need a stiff drink to numb the boredom of being trapped in a car with her.

Elizabeth finds out that a 14 year old girl is missing and that the police will be there to investigate.

And here we go. At this point, I was all-in for some mystery and suspense.

We meet everyone. Including the hunky tennis pro (God what a stereotype), but uh-oh, sometimes he has a "sinister" look. But...she's attracted to him instantly. Not only that, she thinks she is falling for him...instantly. And he says to her he is "on her side". When you find out later who he is, you shake your head that someone in his position would even say something that stupid to someone he just met. Cue to employer: Fire Him.

Elizabeth decides to take the case because, you know, even though the police are now all over the place, only she can save the day. But, this is harder than it sounds because what follows is a litany of Elizabeth showing us how inept she is. She falls down. ALL the time. She hits her head. ALL the time. She faints, AAAAALLLLL the time. I haven't seen a protagonist faint this many times since the last time I read a regency romance.

Romance. That's the issue here. I have been known to enjoy a good romance novel. But. This book just can't decide what it wants to be. It's not really a mystery because you will figure out everything about this missing 14 year old girl, very, very early in the novel. It's not a suspense novel because, ummm, there's no suspense. It's more of a romance novel, but I can practically feel the hackles raising by some very adept romance writers who execute this genre a heck of a lot better.

This book is just...dumb. You have the Head of Police wanting to arrest Elizabeth because he found something from the missing girl in her car. Never mind that Elizabeth was 6 hours away, IN NYC, at the time! But hey, I guess they don't look into alibis in Maine? It's ridiculous.

That's not the only ridiculous, implausible aspect to a book filled with ridiculous, implausible events, populated by a host of stereotypical characters. And the last couple of paragraphs at the end? Please, so dumb. I got an overpowering whiff of Reese Witherspoon exiting the Courthouse in Legally Blonde, which was scripted a whole lot better.

I got this book for free and I'm still thinking I could have read something else during that time. Or had a V-8.

I love mysteries. I love suspense novels. Combine them and you will have me at hello. But this is just a heap of milquetoast.

And lastly, can we please stop having characters talking to dead people? Is that a thing that we can lay to rest outside the paranormal genre (which is where it works its magic)?

Not recommended.

Veronnica says

The commencement of the book was very well written and flowed in a gentle way but later on the story got a bit off track and seem to be a bit rushed. That was disappointed me but reading about the coast of Maine and the environmental factors which occur in this location intrigued me and kept me wanting to know more about the story. overall, well done. I enjoyed the story and can't wait to know what will happen next if there is to be a continuation of the story??

Cindy Eastman says

Between the engaging mystery and the beautiful descriptions of the landscape, reading this book was an enjoyable experience that came to an end much too soon. I made the mistake of taking it with me to a recent family wedding, the mistake being that I had to keep putting it down to attend events!

What I loved about this book was that I was caught up from the beginning with Elizabeth's journey and was not disappointed throughout. The story keeps the reader guessing, too. Just when I thought I had something or someone figured out - I had figured wrong!

The story is well-paced and the characters are accessible and sympathetic including the formidable and beautiful coast of Maine. With winter almost upon us, this is a perfect sit-by-the-fire mystery - get it for yourself soon!

Susan says

This is a Connecticut author whose book I found at our local library. It kept my interest throughout, and the author knows how to build suspense. The characters were not very realistic. Most of the story takes place at a historical inn on the coast of Maine. Being a lover of that area, helped sustain my interest in the book. But

really, with a category IV Hurricane approaching, who would seek refuge in a lighthouse built out on a breakwater?! Lizzi's arrest & escape from the Maine State Police was also beyond belief. Some of the descriptions of life in New York City, the place where Lizzi worked & lived, did seem more accurate (personally, I hate the city & can only take very small doses of it).

Sandra says

The plot was wonderful and the characters believable.
I felt the pain the heroine was enduring.

June Hyjek says

The Precipice is a wonderfully written mystery with characters that are so likable you feel like you want to protect from the evil acts you see happening around them! Set in a small ocean-side inn in Maine, the scenery is beautifully described and you can imagine yourself actually there. If you want a mystery in which you feel as though you're part of the story and find yourself deeply caring about the characters and the outcome, The Precipice is a must read!

David Whitesell says

I enjoyed this book but often felt that the main character was too willing to let unanswered questions stay unanswered. It bothered me throughout the book. I did order the authors first book and look forward to reading it.

Giulia says

2.5 stars rounded up to 3 star review. This book has a promising premise that sort of ends up sputtering due to the complete dullness of the characters. I did not like or dislike the main character-Elizabeth sometimes referred to as Liz and Lizzie. She was quirky but to me she just was not interesting and the rest of the cast just seemed superficial. I give higher marks for the writing as it was not bad and liked the descriptive language it just seemed this story line was not as tightly woven as some other mysteries I have recently read. This leaned more toward romance and that romance was really mediocre in my opinion. However, that may have a market I could recommend this book to. I think my expectations were too high on this one.

Thank you to Netgalley and the publisher for a chance to read and review.

Mai says

Solid and atmospheric murder mystery. I liked it and will likely read the first novel by this author.

(I received an ARC via NetGalley.)

Mary Rush says

I found the this book to be a great read. The characters were interesting and fun to follow. The writing was very descriptive and transports the reader to Maine. This is a book to enjoy reading so kick off your shoes, put your feet up and just have fun.
I recommend this book immensely.

Julie says

Overall I enjoyed this book. Parts of it felt a little pedestrian and some of the sentence structures seemed amateurish but the story was fast paced and interesting. No great surprises in store and indeed I worked out the plot very quickly but there was something appealing about the book which just kept me from putting it down. Thanks to #NetGalley for the free ARC.

Myreadbooks says

I was immediately attracted to the cover. We see Elizabeth in the middle of the night looking towards an illuminated tower.

The story tells us about the life of Elizabeth architect at Manathan. She grew up in an inn and returns there thanks to the invitation of her grandmother. Once she arrives at the top, she learns that a young woman has disappeared, she finds similarities to an investigation that occurred years earlier. She will seek answers to this disappearance and save the inn from her childhood. Except that the more she goes forward in her search, the more she will learn about her past, her family.

A moving and captivating story. I read this book in one go. Elizabeth's character is endearing. Look forward to reading another book by this author with potential.

Brenda Freeman says

The books characters didn't call to me. I kept expecting the best friend to be one of the bad guys. Story didn't flow well.
