



You Have the Right to Remain Puzzled

Parnell Hall

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When Benny Southstreet, a small-time hustler with a big-time gift for constructing crosswords, accuses Cora of stealing one of his creations, it's clearly a case of mistaken identity...until Cora's own attorney files a plagiarism suit against her. To add to the enigma, when Benny is found dead, the police charge Cora with his murder!

At the heart of the matter is the not-so-little white lie Cora has been living for years: assuming the grandmotherly public face of her publicity-shy niece Sherry, who designs crossword puzzles and publishes them under Cora's name—aka the Puzzle Lady. It turns out that Sherry's and Benny's cruciverbalist paths had recently crossed, resulting in the current incriminating conundrum.

As if Sherry's wedding engagement jitters and a nasty battle over missing antique chairs weren't enough to deal with, now Cora has to solve the ultimate mystery: how to keep the secret of her identity without losing her life. Because not only does all evidence point to Cora, but someone seems to want her dead. It looks like a riddle with no answer. Luckily for Cora and Sherry, that's their favorite kind!

You Have the Right to Remain Puzzled Details

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Author : Parnell Hall

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From Reader Review You Have the Right to Remain Puzzled for online ebook

Jeanne says

Another good Puzzle Lady mystery. I figured out the "how" but not the "who." But, it was well plotted and believable. So I would definitely recommend it to puzzle and/or cozy mystery fans.

Nancy says

This book, as well as the others by Parnell Hall, combine my two favorite subjects: mystery and crossword puzzles. Admittedly it is "light reading," but Hall's characters never fail to elicit smiles and even chuckles all the way through.

Claire says

So silly. This read is just something light and fun. But I must say, you can really tell that this is a male author trying to tell a tale using a female voice. The main character, Cora comes across of a cross between an old, feisty, but funny old bitty and a crusty old, off-color old man. It in interesting conundrum. I think that I am hooked regardless.

Ferne says

Very light reading. A fun read. My first read by this author.

Diane Heath says

This time Cora is accused of stealing a crossword puzzle from Benny Southstreet. Then Benny turns up dead and Cora's fingerprints are on the gun. How she gets out of this mess while stealing chairs, breaking into barns and getting shot at makes for a fun read

Beverly says

The Puzzle Lady mystery series is just fun. Parnell has been at Magna Cum Murder in Indiana for years and, in person, his personality is just like the wacky, all over the place plot and pace of his puzzle lady books. And...there are crosswords to solve!! In this particular story line Cora is accused of stealing another puzzler's puzzle...chaos ensues!

Robyn says

Cute book -- a mystery that includes crossword puzzles at the end of every chapter. I didn't bother to complete them, but one could. :)

Catherine Cruz says

I gave this book 4 out of 5 just because, to me, some characters are just to annoying to overlook! But as always, love it!

Elaine Roberson says

A fun series with great characters, the puzzle lady always delights. Cora is back with a brand new mystery that contains great clues and wordplay and always new puzzles to solve.

Mark Baker says

The Puzzle Lady is back and dealing with stolen chairs, charges of plagiarism, and being framed for murder. And to think she was complaining about being bored. I was impressed with how everything was tied together in the end. My only real complaint here was that the witty banter between characters I normally love had too much of an angry tent to it for the first half of the book. Still, there were plenty of laughs. Now, if only Dennis would die soon I'd really be happy.

Read my full review at [Carstairs Considers](#).

Sherrie says

"You Have the Right to Remain Puzzled" by Parnell Hall
(from back cover)

When Benny Southstreet, a small-time hustler with a big-time gift for constructing crosswords, accuses Cora Felton of stealing one of his creations, it's clearly a case of mistaken identity.....until Cora's own attorney files a plagiarism suit against her. To add to the enigma, when Benny is found dead, the police charge Cora with his murder! Not only does all the evidence point to Cora, but someone seems to want her dead. The Puzzle Lady needs some clues fast--if she has any hope of staying out of jail.....

MY THOUGHTS: What do you have with a crossword puzzle, some missing antique Rattan Chairs, \$5,000, an Ice Pick and some undeveloped pictures? The clues to who killed Benny Southstreet. Now all Cora needs is to know what they all have to do with the murder. Cora is in real trouble. She has lots of charges against her. Plagiarism, fraud, false advertising, using the Internet to defraud, conspiracy to commit fraud and false

advertising, two counts of breaking and entering, two counts of criminal trespass, burglary, larceny, and petty theft, which Cora admits to do all the above. But she was trying to solve a crime. Wilber's antique Rattan Chairs had been stolen over a year before. Cora was investigating the crime. The only crime NOT committed by Cora is the murder of Benny Southstreet. She has to connect all the missing pieces to solve the crime and get herself out of trouble. If you like a good murder mystery, you will like this book. You won't know who done it until the very last chapter of the book!!

Megan says

This is the latest mystery in Hall's "Puzzle Lady" series, which is more of a "hard-boiled" mystery series. It is as amusing as ever, and comes to a satisfying, surprising conclusion.

The only thing that bothered me about it is that the "Puzzle Lady"'s niece has an abusive ex-husband, against whom she has a restraining order, but she doesn't bar him from the house, and she has a lot of contact with him. In real life, she wouldn't let him anywhere near her, especially since he was physically abusive.

Kate says

To be fair, I didn't finish this book. I'm just not as interested in this series as I was at the beginning. It suffers from "Murder, She Wrote" syndrome- too many murders for such a small town. I will probably get around to finishing it based on the positive reviews I've seen here but overall I think I'm done with this series.

Amended review:

I powered through and finished this book, and actually really enjoyed the plot. My issues with the series still stand. First, there are too many murders connected to a small town that there's basically no plausibility left, for me. Second, the puzzle gimmick was handled well in this book but I think the other books after mostly hit-and-miss with how they present the gimmick. Third, the relationship between Sherry & her ex-husband really irritates me.

Mary Ann says

It was an okay story. I just felt that a woman posing as a person who makes puzzles and likes to solve them was a bit stilted. She seemed to constantly be getting into trouble by jumping to conclusions.

Sarah says

I haven't finished, but really don't want to. It sucked me in at first but after the first 30ish pages I'm not interested. I don't really have a desire to finish it. If it was the only book I had, I would finish it, but I since I do have others I'm putting it down and saying enough.

