



Murder in Just Cause: A Doyle & Acton Mystery

Anne Cleeland

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Doyle was back at Scotland Yard after taking maternity leave, and the powers-that-be had decided they'd ease her way by assigning her to assist DS Isabella Munoz, which was a fate only slightly worse than death. Annoying, it was, that she had to answer to Munoz; not to mention that Munoz wasn't given many high-quality homicide assignments in the first place.

As a case in point, the first assignment out of the box was a possible suicide at the housing projects, something that happened with such regularity that it was a wonder the responding officer had even thought it worthy of a detective's notice. . . .

Murder in Just Cause: A Doyle & Acton Mystery Details

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From Reader Review Murder in Just Cause: A Doyle & Acton Mystery for online ebook

Kathy Jund says

4.5 stars!

The 9th installment in the Acton & Doyle mystery series!

The elusive Chief Inspector Acton is not himself, his wife, the ever intuitive Officer Kathleen Doyle who is always concerned his dark moods are the result of self imposed pressure in the orchestration of not so good deeds. Doyle's return to work places her in assist mode for the sultry Munoz, finding themselves in the dilapidated stairwell in the projects to investigate an apparent suicide, sets the pace for the questioning of loyalty and actions justifying the means. Doyle knows with all her being things are not right but is hard pressed to determine if this is an Acton staging or someone else's. And faith assured Acton isn't making things easy, although it appears he knows what is at play he's not sharing with the wife of his bosom!

Kathy says

Murder in Just Cause by Anne Cleeland is the ninth book in the Doyle and Acton Mysteries, and I devoured it like I always do a book in this favorite series. The Irish fey lass married to the sophisticated powerful Lord provides no end of interesting and humorous scenarios, but the stories are also about serious crime and too often corruption in the esteemed policing institution of Scotland Yard. Acton's tendency to be swift with his own justice and ruthless is tempered by Doyle's Roman Catholic sense of right and trying to save him from going to hell. DCI Acton's a man of many secrets, but his wife is one wily woman and manages to ferret them out with unerring accuracy. Of course, it helps that they both enjoy a good roll in the hay, quite literally, too.

What gives me so much enjoyment from these stories is that they are police procedurals with the procedure thoroughly tweaked by Acton. With his own sense of justice and Kathleen trying to tame it, the cat and mouse game is a hallmark of the series, the vehicle for the unraveling of clues. One of those twists of justice which Acton approves of is a matter of law on the English books called "murder in just cause," in which a murder can be committed with, well, just cause. Doyle, of course, thinks that there is no just cause for any murder. She has a strong sense of right and wrong, and she believes in letting the chips fall where they may for the guilty. All the while, of course, her husband is gathering those chips to avert scandal.

Back at work at Scotland Yard after maternity leave, Detective Sergeant Kathleen Doyle is disappointed to learn that she will be assisting DS Isabel Munoz, being her second, instead of having a separate caseload. Adding insult to injury, their first case is the suspected suicide by drug overdose of a "kook" at the less than desirable location of a seedy housing project. It turns out to be a "kook" with whom Munoz is familiar. "Kooks" are those people who wander in off the street or call the police station with what they deem important information on either an old case or one they claim to be reporting. Usually, the information from these people turns out to be useless, but all the officers must take "kook" duty at some point, interviewing the would-be heralders of coveted news. That there are already two police officers on deck at the scene in the projects makes Doyle wonder why detectives, such as Munoz and herself, were called in. Of course, the suicide is determined to be a homicide, and Doyle again wonders at its sloppy set-up to look like a suicide. She soon learns that it was instead a trap, one intended to knock off her fellow detective and often nemesis

Munoz. And, what's even harder to believe is that she, Doyle, was sent as Munoz's assistant to shield against the success of that attempt. Something is definitely rotten in Denmark, and it might seem like Greek at first to the fair Kathleen Doyle, but she already suspects that her puppet master husband, Chief Inspector Acton, is pulling strings behind the scenes, even though he wasn't the one who sent her there. As Doyle is kept on assignment shadowing Munoz, strange events keep piling up, and Doyle even enlists a certain knight to help her try to decipher Acton's continuing non-involvement/involvement in what seems to be more corruption in the Scotland Yard police force.

Although Acton is a cool customer, Doyle intuitively knows that something is troubling him, as his over-protectiveness with their baby Edward seems extreme. And, even though extreme protection is something that is normal for Acton, Doyle doesn't want the presence of their baby to cause her husband to go off the deep end. So, she must work out what is troubling Michael and if it's related to the "kook" death and its subsequent events. She would also like to untangle what's going on at Scotland Yard so that she can really get back to work and quit being under Munoz's thumb. Munoz does show a little softening in this story, as she realizes that it's love she wants in a relationship and struggles to understand how that might play out. Doyle must determine why Munoz is in danger and from whom if Izzy Munoz is to continue to have a love life or any life.

Murder in Just Cause left me wanting more, because one of my greatest reading pleasures is getting back in touch with the characters in this series, and I just can never get enough. Doyle and Acton drive the plot, but they have an outstanding supporting cast to help them. Fans of this series will be delighted to see Isabel Munoz break her stern, serious posture a bit, actually having conversations with Kathleen that border on snark-free inner feelings. Reynolds, the ever-loyal butler to Doyle and Acton, seamlessly delivers helpful information to Doyle, while never being condescending towards her. Detective Inspector Thomas Williams, who serves as both Kathleen Doyle's best friend and Acton's unflinching henchman, lends a hand to Kathleen when it's not compromising his duties to his boss, and Williams, once set on life with Kathleen himself, always has her back. Then, there are the ghostly characters at Acton's ancestral estate of Trestles and Acton's mother, the Dowager, who can't be trusted in her loyalties. She is the bad penny that keeps turning up, but through whom we learn interesting Acton background from time to time. With these regular characters and new ones showing up in each book, Anne Cleeland keeps the story moving through its thrilling twists and turns. Perfection each and every time.

carol j. britvec says

Exciting read.

It would benefit if tighter editing was employed. The author does not need to summarize previous books, police procedures etc. It stops the forward movement of the plot.

Joan says

Murder in Just Cause is another outstanding installment in the Acton and Doyle Mystery series. Doyle is back from maternity leave and paired with her quasi-nemesis Munoz on a case that has many more layers than it first appears. Poor Lord Acton is practically having panic attacks as a new father but Doyle's fey gifts

helps sort out the root cause of his anxiety and leads to solving the "just cause" murder. Favorites characters rounds out the story, Reynolds is his usual rock-solid, loyal self, Williams seems to be back on track, and even the mean dowager Lady Acton makes a brief but acerbic appearance. I loved every minute spent in the Acton and Doyle universe and eagerly awaiting book ten!

Jane Shibilski says

A crackin' good read!

Anne Cleeland has done it again. She manages to untangle a seemingly hopeless puzzle and, at the same time, gives us all the charm of Acton and Doyle together again. You will not be disappointed, even though they are now parents, and should be more circumspect in the danger that crime-solving brings to their lives. Don't miss this one!

Elizabeth Dodd says

This is a wonderfully engaging series. The two main characters are very fully developed as three dimensional people.

I love their strange and quirky behaviors.

This is another dense story with much going on, but with little given away. We, the readers, are trying to work out the mystery just as Doyle is. Her "intuition" helps, but the situation is very complex and not easy to see.

Mari (Smut Duchess) says

3.25 ?

I had hoped that the mystery would be new. I got tired of the corruption rig that dominated the series. Unfortunately the mystery was about more corrupt police. Doyle still comes across as a simpleton. Much of her dialog makes no sense. Her 'Irishness' is overdone. There seems to be less and less Acton in each new book.

Barbara Rogers says

Series: Doyle and Acton Mysteries #9

Publication Date: 2/24/19

of Pages: 251

I am always excited when a new addition to the Doyle and Acton Mysteries series is released. I thoroughly enjoyed this one. It is well written, well plotted and the characters are complex and interesting. You can read this as a stand-alone book, but to get the real flavor for the characters, you really need to read at least the first

couple of books – but why not read them all, they are all good, fun and quirky.

Scotland Yard has been through scandal after scandal over the last several books and many – if not most – of the higher-ups are either jailed or removed from their jobs. They are working short-handed, but hopefully, all of the bad actors and the scandals are behind them so they can concentrate on protecting the citizens and providing justice.

It is Doyle's first day back from maternity leave and the powers-that-be have decided to ease her back into the routine by having her assist DS Munoz on her cases. They are almost immediately dispatched out to the scene of a dead body that they assume is an overdose. It is in the slum area that is riddled with drugs, so the assumption is a reasonable one. However, when they arrive, they discover that it is not self-induced – not accidentally nor purposefully. They have a murder on their hands.

Acton quickly arrives on the scene because he's not happy that Doyle has been sent into that neighborhood. To say that Acton is a determinedly protective husband would be putting it very mildly. Not long after he arrives, he realizes that there is more to this scene than meets the eye. He quickly comes to understand that it was a set-up as a way to ambush DS Munoz and the only reason it didn't go as planned was that Doyle was there also.

We soon learn that the last of the corruption isn't yet out of Scotland Yard and that if things aren't handled with finesse, there will be yet another scandal. As usual – Acton is behind the scenes manipulating things to work out the way he wants – and he keeps poor Doyle in the dark. Doesn't matter, she always figures him out and calls him out on it.

This is a lovely, fun, quirky, and interesting read

Janice M. Sillers says

Love this series! The characters remain true to themselves and very entertaining. Should not enjoy as much as I Do.

Linda Moore Cooper says

I love this series of books. You'll think I'm crazy, but I have reread every single one of them at least 3 times. Whenever I'm out of new books, I reach for Acton and Doyle. Anne Cleeland had me at book number one. The main characters are quirky, different and even funny. I'm always afraid the latest will be the last. Keep them coming.

Talltree says

The best of the series, IMO

AlwaysV says

My favorite book in the series! I expected a great book but *Murder in Just Cause: A Doyle & Acton Mystery* went even higher than my expectations! What struck me so forcefully was the way all the coppers looked up to Doyle as their true hero. Acton and Doyle complemented each other so perfectly. He upheld the law as efficiently as he saw fit with a touch of vigilance while she followed the letters of the law and left the gray areas out of it.

Acton worked behind the scene in this book to bring down as well as to stop corrupt law enforcers from a deadly show down against honest ex-Special Forces men. Acton was super amazing as always. Took his maternity leave/vacation and stayed home with his baby Edward. Got everything done so exquisitely anyway!

I wouldn't recommend that you try this book as a standalone. But it would act as an exquisite hook! Sharing Doyle's progress in her learning of English . . . well . . . maybe of French. One of my favorite scenes:

"Nat a traditional gallery, then. It would be important not to overdress, and black is probably de rigueur."

"Of course, it is," Doyle agreed. "There's nothin' like wearing' rigorous black."

"In deed, madam. One can never go wrong."

Doyle brightened. "Acton likes me to wear black, whether it's rigorous or not."

Danielle says

This is by far my favorite series! As you start reading the book, you wonder what mysterious adventure you will be going on this time. I love reading this book as you try to guess what this mystery is! This series never ceases to amaze me and I'm so glad this series isn't over.

Alice says

On her first day back from maternity leave, Doyle is worried about Acton, missing spending time with baby Edward, and not best pleased at having to stick by Munoz's side as they are sent to the scene of a body in a project apartment. The beginning of this book had me as off balance as Doyle as plots within plots are set up and slowly revealed. *Murder in Just Cause* had me at the first chapter and kept me turning the page to see what was happening to these wonderful characters. Anne Cleeland has once again hit the mark with this the 9th installment of the Acton and Doyle mysteries.

Jason Daugherty says

So good

I love Doyle and Acton and I am always glad when a new one is out. I have a soft spot for them and Ms. Cleeland brings them to life. I wish they were real... I would love to be their friend!!!!
