



The Alpine Icon

Mary Daheim

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ALL THE MURDER FIT TO PRINT

Editor-publisher Emma Lord and her Alpine Advocate staff suspect excitement when glamorous Ursula O'Toole Randall returns to Alpine to marry her third husband. But hers is a lethal homecoming. . . .

Ursula, clad in satin pajamas, is found dead in the shallow waters of the Skyhomish River. Sheriff Dodge suspects foul play. Yet as Emma hunts for a stop-press story, a snake-in-the-grass killer, unap-peased by one murder, slithers unnoticed through the shadows. . . .

The Alpine Icon Details

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Author : Mary Daheim

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From Reader Review The Alpine Icon for online ebook

Glenn Harris says

Editor/publisher Emma Lord once again helps Sheriff Milo Dodge find the killer. Daheim does a great job of keeping a limited number of small town characters interesting in book after book.

Mary Kovarik says

The continuing story of murder and mayhem in Alpine. I enjoyed this book a lot.

Tiffany Westlund says

I was excited to read a mystery by a northwest author....but it was just ok. Too much church business and not enough mystery.

Margaret says

Enjoyed this story - all of Mary Daheim's books in this series are consistently good. And in this one, Emma finally seems to be over her son's father. Now if she could just reconcile with her son, Adam ...

Patricia says

I am hooked on the backstory of the characters and not as much on the mystery side of things. Consequently, I do some scan reading. This time I did guess the culprit before it was revealed. I do not often do that in this series.

VJ says

This is the first of this series to have major continuity errors. Most glaring is the insurance settlement that allowed Emma to purchase the Alpine Advocate. All other books mention insurance money being \$500k and the newspaper being \$200k. This episode, the insurance was \$200k.

Meh. I found this book to be much slower paced than any of the previous books. Maybe the little town of Alpine is fully described and populated in my mind. It seems as if you can almost guess the "who" without always knowing the why or how because the "who" is always going to be one of the two or three outsiders introduced. I think this series is losing its luster for me. The consistent use of vulgarity in the form of the f-bomb also has been a turn off. I'm going to take a break from this series for awhile.

Johnny says

I thought I'd read every novel in this marvelous series of mystery novels. However, when I found a cast-off copy in a brother's collection and read the back cover, I realized that I hadn't read *The Alpine Icon*. In this "episode," Emma Lord's Roman Catholic background is intertwined with a mystery that involves a socialite who is prominently involved with the Seattle Diocese, a power struggle within her church, mysterious minor crimes in the small Snohomish town where she is editor, and the usual potpourri of interpersonal problems with her idiosyncratic staff, as well as her own sexual tension with regard to the local sheriff. It also has a parallel incident with regard to one of those "tabloid"-style miracles where a cracked vase appears to be a sacred image. The timing of this incident with the problems in the church and the ironic circumstances of her son's identity crisis proves to be fascinating. I like the way everything is left pretty open-ended. It seems honest from my perspective and I appreciate the way this is done.

The mystery involves the usual misdirection with regard to phony identities and potential suspects. None of the red herrings was plausible enough to throw me off the track, but they were enough to make you wonder, enough to enjoy. Some of the foreshadowing was extra special because I had read the sequels to this book and knew where the hints were headed. It's a great series and this was an above-average mystery.

Incandragon says

I think the best way to read this series is the first three in a gulp, and then the rest slowly. You really need to have a historical investment in the characters to feel the tension of the personal issues.

Janet Ankiel says

Daheim explores the role of religion, specifically Roman Catholicism, greed and revenge, racial intolerance, the effects of a weak economy and much more in Alpine, Washington. With her observer role securely anchored in her ownership of the local newspaper, Emma can watch, speculate and evaluate all she sees. Once again the supporting characters provide comic relief even as they help move the plot. A good summer read even if it is a bit dated.

Ailisa Evans says

This book rates as average. The victim of this book was not very likable, and didn't evoke a curiosity in me to find the actual killer. Also, the little problems in Alpine such as the picnic fiasco, the special elections, the feuding spouses, and the exhausted priest came off as filler material. I did like Emma's growing relationship with the sheriff, but the most shocking part was finding out Adam's chosen vocation. I plan on reading the books in order, so I don't want to spoil myself, but I have a feeling Adam will not stick with this choice.

George says

#9 in the Emma Lord newspaper publisher in a small central Washington town mystery series. Two former Alpine residents return after several years away with one dying under suspicious circumstances. Emma and her employee Vida help Emma's lover, the town sheriff, solve the mystery. There are several strands to the story involving the town Catholic Church and dealings within the congregation, the declining economic condition of the town and its affects upon the residents, and the trials and tribulations of various residents.

Catherine Woodman says

This is a competent if not exciting series, and definitely one of my favorites by the author

Pam Bales says

Journalist Emma Lord has a hard time keeping her tiny paper afloat in the Washington mountains. We're up to the 25th book in the series now and it is an entertaining series of cozies.

Diane Dunham says

Another great Emma Lord mystery.

Karen Huffman says

I used to love Mary Daheim - maybe I've read too many Emma Lord mysteries over the years. In this one, Ursula returns to Alpine after inheriting a lot of money from a former husband. She's set to marry another returning Alpine native and likes to feel superior over those she feels to be 'less fortunate' than herself. Throw in issues with the Catholic school, a miracle vase, and another reporter nosing around and you have the bones of the story.
