



Dying in Style

Elaine Viets

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Mystery shopper Josie Marcus's report about Danessa Celedine's exclusive store is less than stellar, and it may cost the fashion diva fifty million dollars. But Danessa's financial future becomes moot when she's found murdered, strangled with one of her own thousand-dollar snakeskin belts-and Josie is accused of the crime.

Dying in Style Details

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Author : Elaine Viets

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From Reader Review Dying in Style for online ebook

Dharia Scarab says

Since I don't normally write reviews unless I have something specific to say, here's the break down of how I rate my books...

1 star... This book was bad, so bad I may have given up and skipped to the end. I will avoid this author like the plague in the future.

2 stars... This book was not very good, and I won't be reading any more from the author.

3 stars... This book was ok, but I won't go out of my way to read more, But if I find another book by the author for under a dollar I'd pick it up.

4 stars... I really enjoyed this book and will definitely be on the look out to pick up more from the series/author.

5 stars... I loved this book! It had earned a permanent home in my collection and I'll be picking up the rest of the series and other books from the author ASAP.

Dani "The REAL Cullens_Girl since 2002" says

At first the premise of this book seemed to be really great. What's not to love about shopping? Unfortunately, I found this particular character particularly unlikeable, mostly due to the fact that she makes TSTL decisions. She seriously had NO common sense which doesn't make for a desirable crime-solver for me. This book read basically like a VERY BAD Janet Evanovich novel... it has a very similar style to it, but poorly executed.

1/2 way through I was ready to put it in the DNF file but I ended up waiting for an appt while it was in my bag. The book does pick up for its somewhat predictable (and slapstick) ending.

I'm not sure whether or not I'll continue on with this series. I do have the first book to Viet's Dead-End Job series so I'll be trying that one out first before closing the door.

Kristen says

In the first installment of Elaine Viets's Josie Marcus Mystery Shopper series, Dying in Style, we were introduced to Josie Marcus. She was a single mother of a nine-year-old daughter in St. Louis and worked as a mystery shopper for the local mall. Her own mother wasn't much of a shopper herself. When she shopped at Danessa Celedine's exclusive store for her first assignment, she wasn't pleased with the handbags and wrote a negative review. In lieu of that, it provoked threats of an impending lawsuit. That might've cost the fashion

diva fifty million dollars. But her financial trouble became the least of the worries, when she was found murdered--strangled--by her own snakeskin belts as Josie was accused of the crime. In order to clean her name, she needed to bag the killer, before she becomes the next victim on the list.

Katy Smith says

This took I while to get into but I ended up liking it and will read the next in the series

Rebecca Dauber says

Loved it! It was fun and entertaining, and kept me on the edge of my seat right until the very end.

Cindy says

This was light and I liked Josie. I may try the next in the series.

Laurie says

a fun read

Mandy says

Josie's life hasn't been easy the daughter of a single parent and one as well she's made the best out of life. She works as a mystery shopper which gives her the flexibility to be home when her daughter is. When Josie's next assignment is the local fashion diva's stores things go horribly wrong. Her boss says he will support her decision to give Danessa a negative review. When she shows up in his office he throws Josie under the bus causing her to defend herself against Danessa.

Next thing Josie knows Danessa and her boyfriend are both dead and her finger prints happen to be on the murder weapon that killed Danessa a belt. Josie did try on the belt that was used to kill Danessa after all it was part of her job. She remembers the girl who helped her that day and knows that she exists even those Danessa herself denied having an employee that looks like the blonde. Josie will need to find the blonde as well as clear her name or she may find herself in prison for a murder she didn't commit.

I instantly liked Josie she's a single mom who's world revolves around giving her daughter the best life she can. She even pretends to be someone she's not so that her daughter won't be made fun of. She lives below her mother's flat so she has support and a helping hand which I liked. Josie also has a best friend who happens to live in the rich luxury part of town Alyce who helps get her out of trouble and I loved her. The pair almost reminds me of Lucy and Ethel from I Love Lucy.

I've had Dying in Style on my TBR forever so when it works for this my reading challenges this week I jumped at the chance. This is my first book by Elaine Viets so I had no idea what to expect what I got was a pleasant surprise. The characters are easy to connect with memorable and I very much enjoyed all of them. Dying in Style is a fast paced cozy mystery that mixes in real life, romance and enough suspense to keep me on the edge of my seat. The story is well written it flows from start to finish and I found myself getting lost in Josie's story and I can't wait to read the rest of her series and see what happens next. I like that Dying in Style is my idea of a perfect read for a lazy afternoon. I can't wait to see what trouble Josie and Alyce get into next.

Sarah says

Fun mystery novel, not incredible.

Allison Kratz says

Such and fun AND funny read! Josie and Alyce are my favorite best friend duo. Looking forward to digging and discovering more with this series. Highly recommend this series to my cozy mystery friends.

Janet says

Not bad for the first book in a series. I look forward to seeing where the characters go from here.

Julie says

This series just gets gooder and gooder!!!

Yun Zhen says

Seemed like a white American suburban story to me. And it could be for that reason why I didn't connect particularly well with this story. It seems to leverage too much on stereotypes and characters are kind of lacklustre and boring. The mystery part was also somewhat long and tedious with a rather haphazard way of solving a mystery, and too much luck involved.

Cathy says

well written. ..held my attention. ..will read more of these books!

Julia says

What shopaholic doesn't want to read about a mystery shopper? Well, I almost abandoned this book half way through. I found most of the characters annoying and two-dimensional. However, Elaine Viets seems to have got more into her stride towards the end of the book, particularly where Josie and her mother's relationship was concerned, although Josie continues to make stupid decisions.

What drove me to distraction, however, was the appalling editing of the book. I lost count of the inconsistencies and contradictions in the story. In Chapter 9, Josie promises her daughter that she'll make the school book sale tomorrow. By Chapter 13, the book sale is that night, even though the chapter covers events occurring the same day as in Chapter 9. In Chapter 10, Josie's friend Alyce voices her suspicion that a neighbour had an affair with one of the murder victims. When another neighbour confirms the affair in Chapter 20, the news comes as such a surprise to Alyce that she spills her drink.

If the characterisation and editing improve, I'll stick with the series. If not, there are plenty of other cosy mysteries out there and, if I want to read more about the world of the mystery shopper, there's always Kate Harrison's Secret Shopper series.
