



Faith, Hope, and Murder

Elise M. Stone

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Emotionally wounded, with prayers unanswered, Faith Andersen turned her back on God years ago. She's devoted herself to her work as a web designer—and a series of meaningless relationships in place of the love she desires. She's happier that way; at least, that's what she tells herself.

When her best friend asks her to help a stranger, she has no idea the problem is murder. The victim, a smuggler who brought drugs and human beings over the Mexican border, had plenty of enemies. And even more dangerous friends.

Pastor John Menard has problems of his own. When the pretty skeptic appears in his office to discuss a new web site for the church, John is intrigued, but cautious. With a recent divorce and an accusation of misconduct, he must win back the trust of his congregation—or risk losing his church. While he struggles to prove his innocence, there's no space in his life for a relationship.

As Faith investigates the murder, she finds herself with more questions than answers. Who killed the coyote? Is the stranger really who she seems?

When John discovers Faith is poking into a homicide, he fears for her safety. Spiced with danger and opposing beliefs, their mutual attraction grows. But have they gotten themselves into more trouble than either of them could have imagined?

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Faith, Hope, and Murder Details

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From Reader Review Faith, Hope, and Murder for online ebook

Mimi Davis Hopkins says

Great Read

This is a nicely written story, there is no way the reader can walk away from reading this story without a general understanding of the issues of border security. And that it's an extra!!? The characters are life like, very enjoyable and well defined. Great storyline with an easy steady flow, which includes twists and turns that are totally expected. If you want a great mystery, thriller or just a great read, read this.

Tonya says

Disclaimer - I received this book in an e-format from the author in exchange for a review.

In the beginning of the book we met Faith, she's just lost her job, ended a bad relationship and is struggling with her faith. She has a good friend named Hope who is aptly named as she keeps hope alive in Faith. While searching for work, Faith ends up helping Ursula, a German immigrant who is determined that her fiancée did not kill a Mexican drug coyote. Through Hope, Faith also meets Father John, a pastor that is going through some struggles of his own.

I find it hard to believe this is a debut novel! This book had a bit of everything, romance, friendships and suspense. I truly enjoyed the character development, the relationships and the descriptions of the landscape. This novel is Christian based, but in no means preachy. I would recommend this to anyone who loves a great story! I am looking forward to reading more novels by Elise Stone.

Lade Tawak says

I received a free e-copy of this book courtesy of the author

This is the first book in the series and is a debut novel by the author.

The Book

We follow Faith Andersen, web designer, who is unsure about God and is now suddenly unemployed. Faith has promised to help Ursula, a German immigrant, prove that her fiancée (Michael) is innocent and not responsible for the murder of Carlos Fuentes who before his death sold Mexicans dreams of a better life in America.

Enter Pastor John Menard, divorcee and father of one, who wants to update his church's website for a little bit of romance.

My Opinion

This is a nice, well written book with a great plot. The characters are distinct. We see most of the story from Faith's POV. John and Hope's POV come up sometimes but it's never confusing.

The story line is easy to follow. The pace is good and steady. Not too fast. Not too slow. There's no rush. Everything is well thought out.

I liked that it's not preachy, yet there's the underlying theme of faith/belief in God.

All in all, Stone put together a well written piece with everything you'd see in a regular mystery.

Recommended for readers who are squeamish but enjoy a good mystery. And who don't mind a bit of religion.

R.P. Dahlke says

I enjoyed this book on so many levels. One because it's about Tucson and our monsoon season--wonderfully written passages that makes you think you're right there in this desert landscape.

The author did a very good job of giving the reader perspective on all sides of the "illegal" problem--the difficulty of getting into this country, much less staying here--and how people need to treat each other.

The book is Christian, but not preachy, and the protagonist is a young woman whose own faith has been sorely tested. I liked that she's not the one who is trying to convert anyone, nor are the other characters preaching to her, or to the reader. All in all, the story was what I'd call "uplifting," and with that, I can honestly say that I highly recommend it.

Tim Loehr says

Creative w/o being contrived.....

While not classic literature to be savored for generations, this book was well done for its genre. The author was well acquainted w/SW climate and lifestyle. The Christian life was accurately portrayed as doubts, fears and consequences from sin weren't glossed over.....though the rainbow deal was a stretch. Nonetheless, I will read more of Stone's books.

Cindy says

Didn't figure this one out - an odd thing. Very Christian-friendly (won't beat ya to death with it) and no hate speech. Clean, and enjoyable. Highly recommended.

Linda Zaragoza-zrubek says

I loved this book. I had many twists and turns and enjoyed each role the characters had in this book. It was

an easy reach, held you captivated until the end. Never a lull in the story, and I would recommend this book to all. I will be looking forward to reading more books by Elise Stone. I love finding a new author and was glad she sent me this book to read and review!

Elise Stone says

Yes, I only gave my own book four stars. I am stingy with five star reviews, only giving them to books I consider outstanding. I believe I should be as honest with my own books as I am with those of other authors. Faith, Hope, and Murder is a good book, a solid mystery with characters I love. I recommend it to anyone who enjoys realistic Christian fiction.

Scott Rudolph says

This is Elise Stone's first published work, and for a first novel, I think she scored well. I received this novel by participating in a Goodreads.com giveaway!

The story focuses on Faith Andersen, web designer, who when the story opens finds herself out of a job, and losing the married man she's been sleeping with. Faith is struggling not only with a bad choice in a relationship, but with her own faith (small f) in God and his plan for her. What better time to meet a handsome Pastor, who is in need of some web designing. The two find they have some feelings for each other, and both have some issues that make the possible romance a good read in itself. Fortunately, Stone doesn't doom the reader to a Harlequin pick of the week, as she brings to life an equally interesting mystery surrounding the murder of Carlos Fuentes who prior to his untimely demise sold Mexicans dreams of a better life in America and left them with only nightmares in an Arizona desert. Faith sets off to help the German woman Ursula prove that Ursula's now imprisoned fiancé is innocent.

Kudos to Stone for being able to tell this one without a lot of profanity which seems to fill far too many current novels. Its nice, to find those books that are able to tell a decent story without every other word starting with the letter "F". The plot unfolds at a good pace and there's a lot packed into the 210-218 pages. Stone's descriptive style, make the background and characters come to life, and you get a good feel for the setting. It's well thought out and the plot elements related to the mystery fit well together.

When reading the title one might worry that it would be a "preachy" piece, and while the book does deal with belief in God, and sends some very clear messages; it feels well balanced with the other elements of the story. Overall, however, Stone pulled together a well written piece with most of the bells and whistles you'd look for in a mystery. If you enjoy a decent mystery, and don't mind a book with a message, then this is one to pick up.

Check out my full review of the book @ <http://ibereadin.wordpress.com>

Ann says

I really enjoyed this book. It was very easy to get caught up in the story and the lives of the characters and

certainly kept me guessing until the final pages. The story could be taken from today's headlines and gives a interesting look into the issue of immigration. This is the first book I have read by this author and it won't be my last. I definitely look forward to the next book in the series. I was furnished with an e-copy of this book from the author in return for an honest review.

Linda Husvar says

Faith, Hope, and Pastor John unpacked life-challenging turbulence as they dealt with border patrol problems, International intrigue, and unsolved murders. Amidst gruesome reality, we see spiritual struggles as the characters developed. I liked the author's increased awareness of the dangerous war on drugs and border-patrol issues in the Southwest. Recommended for those who like intense murder mysteries with faith-building overtones.

JoAnn says

A great suspense/romance. This is the first book I have read by this author but definitely will not be my last. Believable characters. The main character has turned away from God. While others are doubting their faith. This book is set in Arizona and touches on the immigration issues that Arizona faces with Mexico. I have never been to Arizona but the author's description of the area makes you feel as if you have. I highly recommend this book if you like suspense with a touch of romance. I look forward to revisiting Arizona and the characters in this book in book two. I received a copy of this book from the author for my honest review.

MaryAnn says

I would give this book a solid 3.5 stars. There are some areas that could have been explored a bit more to add another layer of depth to the characters.

I thought this was a good debut novel. The main character, Faith, is a transplant into Tucson after having a bit of a rough time in life. Faith is a web designer that loses her job and lover in the same day. Everything kind of spirals from there. I think this was listed as Christian fiction, which I enjoy, but I would say this is a fairly light on the overall faith aspects of Christianity. There is definitely the theme of having to struggle through life while trying to find you way.

One thing that I really enjoyed different though then some forms of Christian fiction is that the people lead genuine lives. Everyone had struggles in different areas of there lives. Sometimes stories can come off as everything is perfect with the white picket fence and 2.5 kids, but that isn't how I perceived this book at all.

I would like to talk to author to allowing me to read her work in exchange for an UNBIASED review.

Lynda Knapp says

Very good!

I really liked Faith. She tackled the mystery head-on and didn't show much fear while doing it. I liked Hope and the way she was supporting of Faith. I wonder what is going to come of Faith's relationship with Pastor John and her budding relationship with God. Very good book and will look forward to reading more from this series and this author.
