



A Case of Bad Taste

Lori Copeland

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Frustrated author M. K. Diamond is suffering from another bout of writer's block when the perfect plot unfolds in real life: a burglar in Morning Shade is breaking into homes and redecorating, of all things! If only Maude can keep her feisty mother-in-law, Stella, on the case before the trail grows cold and her manuscript freezes up again.

A Case of Bad Taste Details

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Author : Lori Copeland

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From Reader Review A Case of Bad Taste for online ebook

Bethany Swafford says

Struggling to work on her latest manuscript, Maude has to contend with her widowed mother-in-law and her widowed daughter. Throw in the strange break-ins happening all around town, and Maude will either find inspiration or sink.

I could definitely sympathize with Maude's struggle as a writer. She has doubts about whether she's lost all inspiration or if she's just going through a rough patch since so much is going on in her life. The story progression is a bit slow at times, but has a fairly good pace.

The mystery is fun and all of the side characters are memorable. For a contemporary, Christian mystery, you won't go wrong with this one.

Linda Musgrave Bever says

It was an audiobook, so thanks to some really long trips in a really short time, I made it through it. If I had to read it on a snowy afternoon...probably find a seed catalog instead.

readingr says

Who hasn't walked into someone's house and thought "Ugg! Why did you use a blind decorator?"? But there aren't many of us that would do anything about it. Hey, if they want to live surrounded by a plaid red and green couch with purple polka-dot wallpaper, that's their problem.

Not in Morning Shade! Someone in this little town is breaking into homes and redecorating. They aren't stealing anything. They are adding items, rearranging furniture, and packing away offending nick-knacks.

This is listed as Christian Inspirational. Every so often it does get a little preachy but it is the same thing over and over. MK Diamond is a frustrated Christian author. Stuck for her next book she begins to rely on the goings-on of her little town for a plot for her next book. Mostly the preachy parts come in the form of MK throwing herself a woe-is-me pity party.

I'll save you some time. Skip the first disc. Here is all that takes place on the first disc...

MK has writer's block

She has never made the Best Seller List

Poor MK

She is a widow

Her daughter is newly widowed

Her mother-in-law must come to live with her because of finances

Poor MK

Her daughter is coming back home to live to adjust after losing her husband

Oh, why does everything happen to poor MK?

For a book touted as a Christian book there is an awful lot of self pity. She drones on and on about how horrible everything is for her. Forget that everyone else has been uprooted and had to move into someone else's home. God should help her write this book. God should give her ideas worthy of the Best Seller List because that is her dream. God should just write the book for her. OK, I made that last one up but that's what it seemed she wanted.

Once you get past the pity party you have to deal with the plot. It is predictable and not much of a mystery at all. The culprit is practically dangled in front of you several times throughout the book.

The characters were well developed. The only problem was that out of the three main characters only one of them isn't a cry baby. I've already told about MK's miseries. Then there is the daughter. Don't get me wrong. Anyone that loses a spouse deserves a period of time in which to dwell on the dark days ahead. But I'd had enough of that already with MK.

If you're looking for a book that won't require too much brain power to finish, pick this one up. Take it to the beach or the pool and then leave it there when you're done.

I didn't totally hate this book. I think the mother-in-law saved it for me. If I run across the rest of this series (this is #1) I may pick them up just to see what she gets herself into next.

Because of its predictability and whiny main character I can pretty much guarantee I won't reread this one. I'm giving it a 2.75 on my bookometer.

Cindy says

The story centered around the small town of Morning Shade and a frustrated author in her 60's whose husband had passed away. Her cranky 87 year old mother in law moved in with her. Then her daughter's husband passed away also, forcing her to move in along with 3 dogs and then a cat. Moving three grown women into the same house made for some funny antics!

If that relationship wasn't enough, someone in the small town began going into people's houses but instead of stealing anything, they rearranged furniture and cleaned the house (which someone could do in my house anytime!) Stella, the mother in law began doing a little detective work of her own. The book was interspersed with bible quotes and reflections on the Lord, but not in any kind of overwhelming way.

All in all, it was just an ok book. It was a very light mystery and didn't always hold my attention. It was one of those books that you read so far and just have to continue to see how the story plays out.

Linda says

Interesting characters and story but it repeats the same theme over and over again. An easy read but could have been a few pages shorter.

Elaine says

p. 1 - on getting older ...

"...if a body part doesn't hurt, it isn't working."

This is a fun read. Not exactly exciting, but fun, nonetheless. Barely a year after her own husband dies, Maude's mother-in-law, Stella and Maude's daughter CeeCee move into her house. Stella was in a nursing home but the funds are no longer available to keep her there. CeeCee's young husband died, leaving Cee with more than surprise bills. Her house is on the market and she moves in along with her 3 dogs. Cee spends her time eating chips and dip, crying and crooning. In the meantime, Maude must work on writing her book but ideas are slow in coming and there are many interruptions.

Stella spends her morning at the local Citgo sleuthing. Seems someone entered Lucille's house and rearranged her furniture, of all things. That was right after Pansy's complaint over Lucille's setup of her furniture being just plain boring, lined up along the walls just so, making Pansy feel as though she's sitting in a subway car.

Maude's agent called asking her to ghostwrite a book for a popular evangelist. Might be the thing to do considering Maude is having writer's block with her present book.

Some repetition throughout but overall a good book. My favorite characters: probably Stella and Maude; both are witty.

Kelly says

Poorly written or edited, many inconsistencies. Frances was described as having jet-black hair and then as having white hair. Maude complained about the dogs ruining her carpet and then later said it didn't matter because she had hardwood floors only to later remark about the carpets. Uggh...

Ky says

I thought all three books of the Morning Shade Mysteries were adorable!! This book was a fun, light cozy mystery about a woman named Maude who ends up having her mother-in-law and daughter move into her house at the same time after her husband passes away. I especially loved Stella, Maude's mother-in-law, as a character. She was a hoot! I loved how, even though she was 80-something-years-old, she was so stubborn and determined to solve the case! CeCe was a bit whiny, but considering her negative circumstances, I suppose that she had a reason to be. I kept wanting to slap her upside the head, and I wished that she would be nicer to her mother and realize she had a new start in life. Overall, however, the book was a fun, light, charming read.

Susie says

Cute but a bit whiny and preachy in spots. I listened to this audio book and I always feel that the reader's voice influences my reaction to the book.

Gretchen says

"I rolled to my side and punched the pillows into shape. Getting old is like sucking peanut butter through a straw. Difficult." So begins "A Case of Bad Taste". Maude lost her husband a year ago and can't quite seem to get back on track. It is easy to relate to Maude and her negative attitude at the beginning of the book. Often when we have suffering or discouragement in our lives we get off track, we feel sorry for ourselves, and are easily irritated by those around us. Maude experiences all of these things. Also, she is lacking in creativity. She is a writer and has a book deadline, but can't seem to come up with a story or interesting characters. Then one day, there is a burglary in town. But this is not your ordinary burglary. Maude is intrigued and so is her mother-in-law, Stella. Slowly their lives begin to get back on track. We get a glimpse into Maude's inner life as well as she struggles with pride and obedience. Often she knows how she should behave, but has trouble doing it. I enjoyed this mystery and found it refreshing to have all the fun of a mystery without a murder.

Massanutten Regional Library says

Robin, Central patron, July 2018, 5 stars:

Funny mystery. Animals help solve the mystery.

Jennifer says

Slow, repetitive, predictable, inconsistent plot and whiny characters. Don't read this author again.

Amber says

I did something I rarely do: I returned this book with finishing it. One chapter in, the story was slow. But I don't quit easily. I read 5 chapters of whining, complaining dullness. I just couldn't take more than that.

Donna says

In Morning Shade, Arkansas, nothing ever happens. This little town of about 350 people boasts 60 year old writer and widow Maude Diamond who strives to make the bestseller list but with more than 40 novels, she hasn't made it yet. Her husband died last year, her mother-in-law Stella moved in with her and her daughter

became a widow so she had to move back in also. Maude has serious writers block and can't believe she might actually be using the ideas that Stella and her senior card players gossip about. Someone in town is breaking into unlocked houses and doing such things as rearranging the furniture, buying new lamps for the homes, cleaning, organizing closets, etc. The so-called local deputy is a joke so Stella is forced to do stake-outs and she and Maude try to figure out who the "thief" might be.

The story is pretty lightweight with little suspense but I found parts of the book to be humorous. I think it's a nice Christian fiction book intended to be uplifting.

Cheryl says

Light entertainment for the most part. The cover was very attractive. I liked the premise of the mystery and I kept thinking what if..... Wanting to see what the burglar was going to do next kept me reading. I sure could use the same surprise as Nancy Pickett!

The difficulties of 3 generations struggling to make it together in one house was something I could easily identify with. Those teeth! I couldn't help laughing at times. Living with someone else's pets, even those that belonged to a beloved daughter, isn't always a piece of cake and can try one's patience. The struggle of wanting to avoid prideful behavior while at the same time longing for the recognition of a job well done also resonated.

As a Christian, I felt the Christian references were out of context. (view spoiler)

Sensitive readers: (view spoiler)
