



Sex in a Sidecar

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Sherri Travis is tending bar at the Bath and Tennis Club where two women have been murdered. A rich socialite, who comes in daily for her quota of side-cars, decides to commit suicide by being the next victim, but first she has to decide who the murderer is. Sherri pours the drinks and listens to the stories, trying to make sense of it all

Sex in a Sidecar Details

Date : Published November 16th 2009 by McArthur & Company (first published 2009)

ISBN : 9781552787731

Author : Phyllis Smallman

Format : Paperback 351 pages

Genre : Mystery, Cozy Mystery

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From Reader Review Sex in a Sidecar for online ebook

Leslie says

Very entertaining

I have found this book and the first book in the series very entertaining. Had a hard time putting them down.

Sheila says

Sherri is a bartender and loves what she does, meeting new people and making friends. A hurricane has Florida in its sights when the book first begins. A customer, Gina is obsessed with finding her sisters murderer and she believes the Sunset, where Sheri works holds a possible clue to the identity to the murderer. As Sheri prepares to close down, she discovers her keys are missing. Gina gives her a ride but heads in the opposite direction from safety, choosing instead to return to the house her sister died in. Sheri and Gina get separated and Sheri once again is stranded without keys or a vehicle. Another body is found but the police aren't convinced it is a murder, choosing instead to consider her a victim of the hurricane. Sheri isn't convinced and starts to investigate. I enjoyed the book but thought her first book was better.

Philip says

Sort of alright read but ??????? Maybe it's me and maybe I can't really grasp what defines a "cozy" mystery but I thought there had to be a small town location, a bunch of weird and wacky characters, a likeable amateur sleuth with one or more love interests, a bumbling police presence, usually an animal like a dog or cat, often some humour and not too much violence or too many murders and I just can't see why so many readers are classifying the books in this series as "cozies". Maybe it's my sense of humour but I have not really found many funnies in either of the first two books that I have now read and I would slot this one in as a fairly dark and quite gritty serial killer story. Yes it has the bumbling amateur sleuth and but I didn't find Detective Styles to be an inept and bumbling police officer and I really think he should be Sherry's main love interest 'cause I really don't like Clay very much and for a long time I even thought he should have been suspect number 1. To me he comes across as too possessive and trying to be too controlling but, again as in book 1, I don't really like Sherry too much either and it becomes very difficult to rate a book very highly when you don't have much of a liking for the main characters. I also thought it was a bit off after all the build up indicating there was some common motive linking all the murders to finally reveal that their only commonality was a psychotic monster serial killer. This is by no means a bad book and because I have acquired the next couple of books as freebies I'll probably get around to reading them sometime but they aren't a very high priority on my TBR list and I won't consider them as to be the light, fluffy and funny reads I need with which to unwind after reading something like a Rick Mofina or Don Easton thriller.

Toni Osborne says

Book 2 in the Sherri Travis Mystery

The Sherri Travis Mysteries are fun to read, light with no fuss about them. A refreshing break one can take between other genre and zip throw them in just a few hours.

This sequel to "Margarita Nights" has Sherri fighting to survive hurricane Myrna now battling the west coast of Florida and threatening to obliterate everything in its path. She fights to keep the drinking establishment she works at open as long as possible but when a patron Gina Ross is murdered and Sherri discovers her lifeless body, skull crushed and laid out in crucifixion fashion, a decision had to be made. It was time to move inland, ride the storm out and apply her trade at the Bath and Tennis Club, a ritzy hangout for the rich and famous.

Over the next few days, while serving cocktails, Sherri learns that Gina's murder was not unique. Gina's sister was also recently murdered and the circumstances of her death were similar to the murder of tourist Bunny Lehre. Nothing like a serial killer on the loose and a bartender with big ears playing detective..... A lethal brew if there ever was one.....will she become one of the many victims?

"Sex in a Sidecar" has many humorous twists and a storyline that is fast paced. The characterization is colorful; some are a tad annoying and far fetched. The volatile interaction between Sherri and her in-laws and the depiction of the bar scenes and its upper crust characters are simply hilarious. The narration is crude and simple at times to highlight the personality of the characters. The author's description of Mother Nature and all her fury attacking the Florida coast is especially well done, not an envious situation to be in. The novel provides a decent mystery but it lacks cohesiveness in its plotting, it is all over the place....like the Hurricane....

If you read and enjoyed the first novel, you will also enjoy this one.

Ladiibug says

#2 Sherri Travis mystery

4.5 stars

Florida bartender Sherri Travis returns, this time as Hurricane Myrna rages into town. Sherri's evacuation becomes chaotic when a female bar patron gives Sherri a lift, but then heads inland, instead of off the island. No Spoilers -- a murderer lurks and strikes. Sherri takes a temporary bartending job while her regular bar is repaired post-hurricane. The ritzy Bath and Tennis Club seems to be a hot spot as far as murder victims and suspects go. As she mixes sidecars (a drink) for one wealthy and beautiful woman, Sherri is amazed at the woman's theory and "plan".

I highly recommend this light but intelligent mystery series. I'm puzzled as to why author Phyllis Smallman is not more well known - her books are *so* enjoyable and well written!

Sherri Travis mystery series:

#1 Margarita Nights

#3 Sex in a Sidecar

#3 A Brewski for the Old Man

Toni McKilligan says

This has been on my list to read for a while and I admit that it was the title that grabbed me. Sex in a sidecar? How does that work? Well, while there was some non-explicit, non-gratuitous sex, there was no sidecar. Apparently Sex in a Sidecar is a drink. I was deeply disappointed! (Not really.) This isn't a great work of literature, but it is an okay book. I'm not thinking: Well, that was 7 hours I'll never get back! But neither am I running out to find more Phyllis Smallman to read. The story has potential, but the ending is too cliche. What is supposed to be a twist, is more of a minor veer slightly to the left(ish). But who is killing rich women in Florida? That's what Sherri Travis wants to know. From her place behind the bar at a swanky club, she intends to find out. The problem is, she's just not very likeable. She's flighty and obnoxious and insecure, so when she does make a daring move, it's... unbelievable. Again, there's lots of potential with this character, but she's too much - of everything! - in weird little bits and pieces. It's hard to explain. Anyway, not a total waste of time. If you're looking for something light and a bit mindless, this book would fit the bill.

Beverly says

I thought the first book, Margarita nights was good! This was even better. From the first page Phyllis Smallman had me hooked. Sherri Travis may not be a cop, she may not be a super sleuth, but she is a bartender and she has a nose for trouble and she tends to get herself into trouble before she knows it! Great read!

Carol-Ann Rudy says

Fun Reading About Quintessential Florida, in a Great Island Setting

This was my first Sherri Travis mystery read. Having lived in Florida, I can say the author's descriptions of settings were spot-on and the crime element, deftly interwoven with Travis' love-life, kept a good pace.

Barbara Nutting says

This is a fun, fanciful Florida series. Sherri just can't stay out of trouble - this time it's a hurricane!! And, yes, people do ride the storms out at "hurricane parties" but some don't make it!! Off to the next book to see what sort of mess she encounters.

Kevin says

Sherri

The second in the series was equally as satisfying as the first. Sherri Travis just has a knack for finding trouble! A murder of a friend starts this one off! A good read. Enjoy!

Susie Perri says

Awesomesauce

Could not put it down, kept you at the edge of the chair. Really like tis series. Awesome book to read!!♥?♥

Laura Speer says

Light....quick read.

Shelleyrae at Book'd Out says

As the second in Phyllis Smallman's mystery series about bartender Sherri Travis, we return to Jacaranda just a few months after the events of Margarita Nights. Sherri is struggling with her independent nature, trying to build a relationship with Clay and recover from the murder of her childhood sweetheart.

Tending bar at the Sunset, Sherri hears more than a few secrets and when Gina confesses that she is on the trail of her sister's murderer, the circumstances of the recent death of socialite, Bunny, is too similar to ignore. As a hurricane bears down on the coastal town, Sherri finds herself embroiled in another brutal murder.

Smallman has created a complicated protagonist who is easy to relate to, Sherri is a flawed character and eminently likeable for that. A lot of her character history is established in Margarita Nights and I think that background is important in understanding her motivations and relationships in this book. Her romance with Clay is equally complicated, but his character lacks depth so it's hard to invest in it.

I like Smallman's style of writing, it's accessible with a sense of humor. The pacing is much improved from Margarita Nights with some chilling and tense moments as Sherri is stalked by the murderer.

The mystery is perhaps not as cohesive with possibly too many suspects introduced but it is still interesting and the resolution is well handled.

I'd suggest you read Margarita Nights first, though this could work as a stand alone as it's strength lies in characterisation. Sex in a Sidecar is an entertaining, light read with plenty to recommend it as an amateur sleuth mystery series. I hope to continue reading it with A Brewski For The Old Man

Laurel says

This is the second book in the bartender/sleuth Sherri Travis series, -each book being named after a cocktail. Sherri invented this new cocktail while nervously awaiting the arrival of Hurricane Myrna to hit the coast of Florida, afraid of the havoc the storm could create for the inhabitants and businesses of her island community. This book was even more fun to read fun than the first. Phyllis Smallman's dialogue crackles with sarcasm and dry wit, and she is not afraid to poke fun at the rich and famous who frequent Florida's gated communities and country clubs. The plot motors quickly along, picking up speed and creating tension.

There is no shortage of suspects for several murders that occur, and Sherri finds herself in harm's way on more than one occasion. Sherri is no shrinking violet and can hold her own with drunks and uppity, rich females who spend their time seducing pool boys and recovering from plastic surgery, to maintain their frozen, cold faces. Ouch! I will definitely be back for another round when Sherri reopens the Sunset Bar after the renovations are completed, due to hurricane damage. Book 3 should provide more laughs, additional skewering of the seamier side of the rich and famous, and not-so-rich, who frequent the sunny coasts of Florida. Throw in a few murders to solve, and it will be time to enjoy one of Sherri's concoctions, and enjoy the show!

Sue Sharp says

A good summer read!
