



## A Dose of Murder

*Lori Avocato*

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After years of chasing around sniffly munchkins with a tongue depressor, nurse Pauline Sokol has had it. She's sick of being an "angel of mercy"—she'd like to raise some hell for once! But finding a new career won't be easy for someone who's had no experience beyond thermometers and bedpans.

Luckily, the smarmy head of an agency that investigates medical fraud thinks she'd be perfect for the job, since, for him, a potential employee's most important qualification is a killer pair of legs. So now Pauline's a p.i., but since she knows as much about detective work as a potted geranium might, the hunky and mysterious Jagger steps in to teach her the ropes. Her first assignment—going undercover at a local clinic to investigate fake insurance claims—promises to be a hoot ... until the healers around her start inexplicably dropping dead. And before she can say, "streptococci," Pauline's stuck in a true health care crisis with her own continued wellness in very serious jeopardy.

## A Dose of Murder Details

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## From Reader Review A Dose of Murder for online ebook

### Jamie says

Wow, I really don't know what to say. Loved the concept of investigating insurance fraud. First book I have read with that idea. Very slow to start as some new books in a series are due to laying the groundwork for how the main character came to be in the position they are in. Very confusing at times. One paragraph Pauline is in the office talking to someone, the very next paragraph she is taking a bath or she's on the phone calling someone, the next paragraph she's grabbing them by the arm. Couldn't figure out, did I miss something? No, went back and I had read correctly. The protagonist Pauline could not seem to stay focused, always started daydreaming when around men she found attractive which made me think she was sex deprived or in need of some Ritalin. I supposed she was supposed to be quirky and a little dysfunctional but I really just found her annoying. Probably will not be reading the next book in series.

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### Sue says

The heroine didn't resonate with me; lacked depth?

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### Nicole says

My biggest gripe with this book is that the main character couldn't function if a good looking guy was around. Seriously, that does not happen in life. I'm hoping she calms the hell down next book because it wasn't that bad otherwise. I did guess who the bad guys were. It was pretty obvious.

I'm not too worried with how stupid she was with the tech because it was early 2000s and she was in her 30s so a lot of it is new. I taught my mum how to use an iPhone and remember it was exactly the same.

Also what was the point of Nick? He helped her for a whole two seconds and then just kept getting mentioned throughout the book.

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### Hannah says

Cute, but mindless fluff. Take with caution.

Pauline Sokol is a (supposedly) smart nurse holding numerous degrees, who decides one day that she's had enough of nursing and wants to try something else with a bit more excitement. She gets thrown head first into investigating by a friend, and finds out it's just a *tad* more than she can handle. In comes your typical sexy expert sleuth who saves her more times than you can count and puts up with her idiocy like no other can.

In other words, your everyday "cozy mystery" featuring an amateur female sleuth. There are some cute and funny moments and it makes a nice, quick read where you can keep your brain turned off, but prepare to get

irritated by Pauline, who doesn't seem to have a single intelligent thought in her head. Is this woman horny 24/7?! Every single scene with her and Jagger features a Pauline who can't even walk straight, let alone think straight, and although it might be an understandable reaction to "a walking orgasm" like Jagger at first, she continues this throughout the book and never actually gets over it. Good lord.

Thankfully she's not as hopeless as Stephanie Plum and certainly not as indecisive.

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### **Book Concierge says**

ZERO stars

Registered nurse Pauline Sokol is burned out, so she quits her nursing job and decides to try something entirely different. Her gay roommate recommends her as an investigator for an insurance company looking into fraudulent worker's comp cases. But she hasn't a clue what she's doing and needs lots of help.

This is just terrible. First, it's a complete rip-off of the Stephanie Plum series. Her initials are the reverse of Plum's. Instead of a grandma, she has an elderly uncle who lives with her parents. She frequently stops at her parents for home-cooked meals – meatloaf, pot roast, etc.

Okay, the similarities are evident, but what is really irritating is that this "registered nurse" is absolutely too stupid to live. I wouldn't hire her to clean toilets, let alone investigate fraud.

Well, it was a fast read and it satisfied several challenge tasks. But don't waste your time.

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### **Sandy says**

What I liked about this book was that it had striking similarities to the Stephanie Plum series by Janet Evanovich. It kept me reading but then came the difficult parts. It was kind of boring. What bothered me the most was how the main character, Pauline Sokol, decided to jump into the role of an insurance fraud investigator and taking on her first case right away. Her incompetency was obvious, as well as her being a klutz and a little slow. If you're going to write about a person switching careers, the transition should at least be smooth, or written in some way that doesn't frustrate the reader, namely me. I know it's just fiction but I like reading about heroines who are more confident and competent. And strong-willed. And one who kicks ass! Pauline just kept rambling, revealing her position - giving it away, and dived head first into a murder mystery with no idea how to do just about anything.... if it weren't for Jagger.

Overall, the story was bland and had no visible climax or surprises, and the plot was dry. It wasn't exciting and I almost quit reading it a few times. I would not recommend this. What's more, I really wanted to like it. This is a real disappointment that failed to make any impression. The storyline sounded great but written on paper ...no. 1.5/5 stars.

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### **Jody Hamilton says**

Pauline Sokul is a Stephanie Plum wannabe without a partner in crime (ie LuLa) and the resulting hilarity. Pauline even goes to her parents house often for dinner and has an Uncle Walt rather than Grandma Mazur. Her mysterious love interest also has a one word name: Jagger, who offers his assistance when she gets into trouble. And, like Stephanie, she doesn't have enough money to pay her bills.

Okay, but nothing special.

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### **Carol says**

Pauline Sokol, a nurse gets burned out and decides to quit the nursing profession. She end up seeking a job with her roommate's relative in the insurance industry. Little did she know this would be an insurance investigator. She knows nothing about doing investigations but is willing to learn. But this job requires on the job training. But Pauline never expected to deal with medical insurance fraud, murder, tension, drama, suspense with plenty of thrill, chills, twists and turns. The characters were creatively crafted, eccentric, vivid and colorful. They were involved in a plot that in addition to the murders, fraud, Pauline inexperience contained humorous situations, laughable shenanigans plus a touch of romance.

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### **Nicole says**

Awesome Book.

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### **Linda says**

Practically from the first page of this book I was reminded of Evanovich's series Stephanie Plum. This series is very similar. Instead of the bounty hunter job of Stephanie's, Pauline, a burned out nurse, gets a job as a private insurance investigator for a sleazy boss. Pauline is Polish and her parents live in a Polish section in Connecticut. There's Jagger who is a sexy mysterious hunk with who knows what job- but he always turns up when Pauline is in trouble. No Lula but there is a glitz transvestite.

In this book Pauline must go under cover in a local orthopedic clinic to uncover fake insurance claims but soon people start to die. I must admit that I was surprised when the author revealed the perpetrator of the crimes and the relationship between two employees.

I already have book #2.

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### **Sherri F. says**

Maybe a 3.75...it was my first Avocato (Pauline Sokol) book and it started off a little slow for me but I really liked the characters so kept going and was surprised by liking it much more than I expected.

I burnt-out-nurse turned new medical fraud investigator with a full fun cast of compadres. There was a few moments I felt Pauline was a little too "duh" considering she was smart enough to be a nurse and given her age but that tends to be the genre of book. Since I like the supporting cast of characters, I hope she has good cases in future books in the series.

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### **Chibineko says**

As a big fan of quirky mysteries, I've been eyeing this series for a long time. I first noticed the series due to the author's last name (made me hungry each time I saw it) & liked the idea of a burnt out nurse switching careers & becoming a PI. It's an interesting idea & isn't too overly done. Sadly enough, the book never quite lives up to the potential it promises!

The main character of Pauline Sokol was a nurse who was slowly getting burnt out by the constant demands of nursing. Finally deciding that this wasn't the career for her, she quits her jobs & takes up a career suggestion from her gay roommate Miles- work at a family member's PI firm. Sokol does, but fails to get even the basics of investigating right & it's only when a fellow co-worker (Jagger) starts instructing her that she begins to improve. Meanwhile her simple beginner case of insurance fraud has begun to take a more sinister turn as people start dropping dead around her.

Like I said, the premise of the book showed a lot of promise. Unfortunately a good chunk of the book is Pauline drooling over her hunky coworkers Jagger & Nick, which gets really tiring after a while. The only thing that is more irritating is how idiotic Pauline can be at times. While I know my fair share of bubble-headed nurses, at times it just seems like she's just unreasonably dim. Oh, and did I mention that Pauline lusts after her hot coworkers? Because the book did. Like every single page. The main focus of the book seemed to be more about whether Pauline would jump into bed with Jagger rather than if she'd ever get her PI skills down & solve the crimes. While that plotline was interesting at first, it really wasn't interesting enough to carry the majority of the book. The only thing that makes that worse is the knowledge that the "drooling over Jagger" plotline is stretched thin through the next 3 books! This wasn't a terrible book, but it was a little tedious to read. If I hadn't already gotten the other books I have to admit that I probably wouldn't have given this series another chance. On the plus side, there is a bit more action in the next book & I do have a faint hope that at some point the series will be more about mystery & less "ooh, he's hawt! I'm so thin & cute! Tee hee, I just messed up & big stwong man has to help me!" (The constant whining about weight also irritated me. If I had to read one more word about her size 4 figure & how she thought she was getting fatter when she didn't exercize, I was going to scream!)

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GOOD: Interesting premise, fans of the Stephanie Plum series may like how incredibly similiar it is to that series

**BAD:** Verrrry slow moving plot. Much of the book is spent in inaction rather than having something happen & a good chunk of the book is comprised of Sokol lusting after men. Ending is a little rushed & anticlimactic.

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### **Carla says**

Actually 3.5. This book is the first in a series written by Lori Avocato and it is very similar to the Stephanie Plum series by Janet Evanovich. It's about a burned out nurse who starts a new career as an insurance fraud investigator. Her roommate has an Uncle in the business who hires her and of course, she has no experience except for her nursing background. She has 2 love interests, one of whom reminds you of Ranger. And instead of Lulu, she has a transvestite friend named Goldie. She also has the somewhat crazy family, with the odd Uncle that lives with the family instead of Stephanie's Grandma. While I still love Stephanie Plum more, this was still a fun book and made me laugh out loud in several places. I will read the rest of the series.

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### **Nicki says**

This is one I got given and didn't really expect too much of. It's not necessarily a book I would have picked for myself, and I didn't truthfully expect to get through more than a chapter or two before moving on to something else.

Which is why I was so surprised by how good this one actually is for the genre. As others have commented, it's kind of like the Stephanie Plum series, but actually I liked the style of writing here much better.

Pauline is funny, a bit ditzy, but a likeable and cute heroine for this accidental investigator series.

The supporting characters are also great. I loved Goldie and Miles.

I would definitely read more in this series.

I did start to guess the villain, but I convinced myself I was wrong, so it wasn't extremely easy to pick.

Fun light reading, worth a read.

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### **Evelyn Wilson says**

Justina gave me this book. I don't think it took me as long to read as she said it took her. It is a cute book. Pauline is wacky as they come. Forgetful, very distracted and funny! Jagger is adorable and obviously good looking. Murder. Solutions!

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