



If Errands Could Kill

Jim Bronyaur

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Up at sunrise to enjoy the quiet of a sleeping household, Eve Bailey gets her coffee, prepares breakfast for her three children, and has a spare tie ready knowing that her husband, Ben, will definitely spill something on the one he is wearing. Their oldest daughter, Delaney, is one game away from moving onto the soccer championships, their son, Cody, skipped school yesterday, and innocent 7 year old Penny is trying to communicate with her goldfish. Eve's days are that of a typical stay at home mom.

Her typical day changes drastically after she drives Cody to school as part of his punishment for skipping school. Cody's creepy science teacher, Mr. Jackson, approaches Eve to let her know that her check for Cody's field trip had bounced. Knowing it had to be an error, Eve heads to the bank to figure it out. While in line, she chats with her mother in law who works at the bank. Then she notices Janet, another bank employee and self-made town outcast, acting very strange at the back counter.

Eve's concern grows when she is leaving the bank and sees Janet open the gas tank door and then drives away. Against her better judgment, Eve follows Janet. What happens next is something unheard of in quiet Marysville, Pennsylvania.

Janet is murdered in front of Eve's eyes, and the police find drugs in her car.

Murder and drugs? It doesn't make sense. Eve is now a witness and determined to disprove the "drug deal gone wrong" theory.

Can she convince the police that she knows who the killer is, save her family, and make it to Delaney's big soccer game in time?

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The Minivan Mom Mystery Series is a creation from horror, thriller, and mystery writer, Jim Bronyaur.

Jim has had over a hundred pieces of fiction published and won Best Horror Short Story for 2010.

If you enjoy horror or thrillers, be sure to check out Jim's other books here on Amazon including Within the Walls (part one), The Failed, The Devil's Weekend, and more!

Don't miss his next crime series, featuring one of the most interesting characters you'll ever meet: Johnny Cooper. The first book of the Johnny Cooper crime series is titled "Nice Day For a Red Wedding" and is scheduled for a 2012 release.

New release!

The second book in the Minivan Mom Mystery Series is now available! Don't miss A Mess to Die For, available on Amazon - <http://www.amazon.com/Mess-Minivan-My...>

If Errands Could Kill Details

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Author : Jim Bronyaur

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Julie says

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Angela says

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Stay-at-home Mom's can really be super heroes, but how dangerous of a situation is too much for a Mom? Eve is "wonder Mom", she takes care of all the household duties, keeps the kids in order, goes to her daughter's soccer games, makes sure the other two kids are taken care of too, makes sure her husband always has a spare tie (for those oops moments of his) and has decided to take up finding a murderer too!

To prove a point one day, Eve takes her son to school (an embarrassment tactic to make sure he never skips school again) and her life is changed forever. At the school her son's teacher sees her there and swings by her car to tell her that there was a problem with her check she made out for her son's field trip and he just wanted her to know so she could get it straightened out before the trip so her son could still go. Well, Eve knows there are more than enough funds in the bank and there should be no reason for any issues, so she decides to go to the bank and check it out. That is where her day changes from normal "Mom stuff" to amateur sleuth. In the bank she notices Janet (a woman from the neighborhood and bank teller) acting funny and extremely out of the ordinary. When Eve is outside getting ready to go back home after straightening out the check issue, Janet comes out and opens her gas door on her car and then proceeds to drive off. Confused, but also wanting to help Janet in case any light was on in her car due to the open gas door, Eve follows her in hopes to catch her when she stops to tell her the door is still open. Following her and then stopping because of a phone call on her cell, Eve witnesses something she never would have imagined seeing that day...Janet being murdered...shot in her car by someone in a black Lincoln. Eve calls police, but she just can't let it go, she wants to help solve the murder because she thinks the police are looking at all the wrong leads. Her husband, mother in law, and the local police tell her to back off and let the police do their job. Eve just can't bring herself to do that though. She just knows they are looking at leads that were meant to lead them away from the real killer. So, she takes it upon herself to investigate more and try to figure it all out for the police. Is this a smart thing to do? Will this "helpfulness" lead to Eve's own murder?

I just loved this book! From page one I was hooked on the character Eve and her personality. Eve is the perfect wife/Mom. She makes sure everyone's needs are met and that the house is always in order and that her wifely/motherly duties are always done before her personal wants. In a small town like Eve and her family live in nothing happens that they all don't know about. I love that fact in this book. It makes the murder all that much more...out of place or mysterious. This book takes off near the beginning and doesn't let the reader rest until the end. It is action filled and has comedy too. Not only is the plot very well written, but the characters are developed in such a way that you can't help but think of people you know that they remind you of. Every time I thought Eve had it figured out and so did I something would be added that made me and the character back pedal our conclusions and re-examine things. When Eve does figure it out, it may well be too late to matter, for now the murderer has another target set...Eve.

Great read and book, would highly recommend to anyone wanting a small town mystery and unforgettable characters.

5/5 Stars!!

Lori Henrich says

Eve Bailey is a typical stay at home mom. She runs errands, cleans the house, does laundry and prepares meals for her husband and three kids. She goes about her business pretty content with her life. She is at the bank check on why a check might have bounced, when she notices one of the employees acting strange. Eve doesn't know Janet very well and is intrigued by her actions. For some reason Eve follows Janet as she leaves the bank. In fact she follows her out of the parking lot when she sees Janet open the door to her gas tank and then drive off.

Eve had no idea that she was about to witness a murder. The police have their theory, but Eve doesn't buy it. Eve innocently set about to figure out why Janet was killed and to make sure she isn't next.

I thoroughly enjoyed this book. It was engaging and the characters were well developed. I liked the antagonism between Charlotte the town gossip and the other characters. It will be interesting to see what other situations Eve will get herself into if there are future books.

Wendy Hines says

This has got to be one of the best cozy mysteries I have read in awhile. Eve is a busy momma with three kids and a husband. I know from experience that if you have a child in sports, you are active. Not to mention that one is on the verge of being a teenager and testing his boundaries. A husband that would be lost without you and a house to run, I can definitely sympathize with Eve, but she does it with joy and an innate sense of humor.

She follows Janet from the bank, very unlike Eve to follow someone she hardly knows, but it bothers her that Janet was acting weird at the bank, not to mention leaving the gas tank door open. Thankfully, Eve is a quick thinker, and when she sees another car approach Janet's, she reverses into cornfield to hide. Unfortunate for Eve, she sees Janet get gunned down.

The police believe it is a drug deal gone back, but Eve doesn't buy it. In fact, she takes it upon herself to do her own investigation. But the closer she gets to the truth, the more danger that surrounds Eve's life.

With clever writing, strong key plot points and twists, If Errands Could Kill is a superb start to a new series. The characters are well-rounded and I look forward to getting to know them a bit better in the next installment. If you enjoy cozy mysteries, you won't want to miss this one!

Wendy

*I received a complimentary copy of If Errands Could Kill in exchange for an honest review. All thoughts and opinions are expressly my own.

Melissa says

"If Errands Could Kill" was a good cozy mystery. I think the concept of a Minivan Mom Mystery is cute and a little different - I liked it. I did get a little worried at the end that there was going to be some blood and gore that might have been a little graphic. The author did a great job of "glossing" over the details and keeping with the cozy mystery concept of keeping the goriness out of the story. Surprisingly the author is male. He did a great job retelling the day in the life of a stay at home mom. My only complaint ... the editing could be better. There were quite a few character names misused and the grammar at times slipped me up. If you are looking for something that is complete fluff and entertaining this is a great book to pick up. I downloaded it for free, but I believe it is priced under \$4.

Sandy S says

IF ERRANDS COULD KILL by Jim Bronyaur

IF ERRANDS COULD KILL is an indie publication from author Jim Bronyaur. If Errands Could Kill is the first book in Jim's new "Minivan Mom Mystery" series. Jim has previously self-published many short stories and novellas, but this is the first instalment in his new series.

Eve Baily is a stay-at-home wife and mother, raising 3 children in a typical suburban neighborhood. Like most families, her children are involved with soccer, class projects and trips, as well as the occasional playground fight. Her husband Ben is a lawyer, handling contracts and business accounts, but the family is well respected in the small community of Marysville Pennsylvania. With her only son Cody's class trip days away, the science teacher informs Eve, that the cheque has bounced, and Cody will not be allowed to attend, without payment. Hoping to straighten out the issue at the bank, Eve doesn't realize that the world she once knew is about to change.

Witnessing what she believes to be a potential case of fraud, Eve follows bank employee Janet Vanden out to her vehicle, but notices that Janet has opened her gas tank before she drives away. But a simple case of fraud, has suddenly turned into something bigger when Eve witnesses Janet's murder. When a large black Lincoln quickly leaves the area, Eve knows of only one potential person in town, with enough money to afford the luxury automobile. But when the police interview Eve, they reveal more information about the murder than first believed. Perhaps someone was being set-up?

Eve, hoping to gather her own information about the murder, sets out to investigate, but soon realizes that she has crossed the line with both the police and the potential suspects. When she follows the black Lincoln around town, she is quickly swept into melee of rumor, innuendo and threats against her life. But when her husband learns that his wife has continued to involve herself with the murder case, she is asked to step back before she gets hurt, but not before the victim's husband, wants to meet with Eve. Hoping to learn more about his wife's murder, Ted Vanden becomes distraught and defensive when he is suddenly pushed deeper into the rumor mill, with stories surrounding a possible affair and drugs.

Throughout the storyline, the Bailey family and their issues with time management, school activities and sports teams, play a secondary but important role within the novel. As part of the Minivan Mom Mystery

series, Jim has woven real –life activities into a mystery, letting the reader know-that family is important and will not step aside. Life continues, even when you should NOT be investigating a murder.

Eve’s investigation soon threatens the stability of her family and the town. The police believe the murder is drug related, but Eve suspects that the police have been set up, as well as the victim. When Eve reveals what she knows and suspects, she is suddenly thrown into a scenario, where life or death, are her only options.

Jim Bronyaur writes an interesting mystery without the use of sex, foul language or graphic violence. The premise and scenario could be taken from any news headline, but Jim wraps the package with a nice secondary storyline involving the heroine’s family and home life. The one drawback-the suspect, perhaps, was a little too obvious. I wanted to smack Eve a couple of times, for her involvement with the investigation, especially when she was risking her life as well as her family, but shouldn’t all good storylines emotionally involve the reader? A good writer will always pull the reader into the story. I have no problem recommending IF ERRANDS COULD KILL.

Elizabeth Gardner says

Great cozy mystery.

Bette says

Very little mystery here. Christian fiction for the young adult.

Suzanne says

More like 2.5 - 2.75.

Sandy S says

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Bob says

A rather simplistic mystery involving a housewife who has a nose for trouble and stubbornly pursues the truth despite being warned off by her husband, the police and the baddies. Woven thorough out is the travails of daily life with a husband and 3 young children. A very light and quick read and it could have used a bit more proof reading. It served to kill a few hours at least.

Chris Morton says

There are a few typos but don't let that put you off. It's well written, perfectly paced, and an extremely warm and fun book to read. The family life of the protagonist is rather "ideal" in an Enid Blyton sort of way but this works as advantage because you genuinely enjoy being a fly on the wall in the household. Reading about a happy marriage, well brought up kids, it's a nice world to be entering. (We can't be fascinated with the dark, messed up lives of others all the time now, can we?)

And then there's the non-offensive murder mystery which keeps you turning the pages as any book in this genre should. Especially when the action hits in at the end. Back to Enid Blyton though, I actually think this would serve rather well as a kids book.

But whether you're young or old, if it's light reading for your kindle that you're seeking then look no further.

Lisa says

Eve is a stay-at-home soccer mom whose day of errands leads to her witnessing a murder. She consequently feels driven to investigate all while trying to manage her family's busy life. I really enjoyed this book! I typically only read female authors; I didn't realize until the end that a male author had written this book. The plot was interesting, and the characters were likable. And, Eve really did have compelling reasons (other than just nosiness) to look into the murder. I'll definitely be checking out the other book in this series. There were a few minor errors (usage, omitted words), but they weren't so numerous as to detract from the story. I thought the seven-year-old daughter acted and was treated more like a four-year-old, which I found a bit annoying; so – in my mind – I made her five. Problem solved. ;)

Melissa says

There should be more heroines that are middle aged soccer moms. However, we should not hear their internal dialogue about how lame laundry is each chapter. I'm a stay at home mom and I feel a lot of the same conflicts Eve does; I love my work at home, but it can be trying at times. Those feelings belong in the story, but if Eve could give us fewer of those moments, I think the story would be much more enjoyable.

Stephanie says

If you are thinking this sounds like a completely ridiculous book you are right. The entire premise is a super amazing stay-at-home mom solves a murder and still makes it to her daughter's championship game.

Yes. Really.

It was free on Amazon one day when I needed something to read while feeding the baby. I definitely don't recommend it. I don't think I was supposed to roll my eyes as much as I did.
