



Murder in the Dark

Steve Demaree

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Twelve people arrive at a remote inn to spend the weekend. After dark, the doors and windows are locked, the lights go out, and someone starts murdering the guests. Is the murderer one of the twelve or someone else? Each guest must decide whether he or she should form a bond with any of the other guests, none of whom appear to be a murderer. Those guests, chosen specifically by the murderer, include a doctor, a judge, a private detective, a kindergarten teacher, a firefighter, a mystery author, a librarian, a taxidermist, a real estate agent, an insurance agent, a funeral director, and a computer programmer. Is the murderer one of them, the butler, or the owner, who is blind and confined to a wheelchair? Or did someone else find a way to sneak into the inn?

Murder in the Dark Details

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From Reader Review Murder in the Dark for online ebook

Martha Mcneely says

Another winner by Steve Demaree! This one is complicated with a huge cast of characters. Parts of it I found just slightly spooky and once I had to actually put the book away until daylight hours! I'm not a "thriller" reader so keep that in mind while judging rather or not to read this book.

I, personally, LOVE this author and I will read ANYTHING he writes. His characters are so well developed and each and every book drags you in and doesn't let you go until the last page is read! Steve Demaree is a master of mystery!

Twists and turns are an ever present factor, however, this is the first book I have read where I thought I knew who did it and was actually right in the end. Even I was surprised when that happened!

I'm giving it a 5 star rating and highly recommend it to all mystery/cozy mystery fans and this one has some spine tingling involved as well!

Michelle says

Good book

You people should just read this book yourselves and write your own review on this novel yourself and I really enjoyed reading this book very much so. Shelley MA

agbale grace says

Whoow gess no more suspense and fear

The book was terrific.... The one you least expect is always the culprit.. Poor the detective though ..I thought he would unfold the mystery

Dewey Carroll Brackett says

Great book

A great thriller by Steve Demaree. I thoroughly enjoy reading this author who knows h o w to write without gory violence or sex scenes. He gets your attention and holds your attention.

Serena says

My Rating System:

* couldn't finish, ** wouldn't recommend, *** would recommend, **** would read again, ***** have read again.

Amy says

This was a fun concept that kept me engaged. Very reminiscent of the movie "Clue". However, the writing was atrocious, and whoever edited this book should be fired immediately and never allowed to work in publishing again. The ending was a cop out but I love books about people being trapped somewhere and slowly killed off, I love books about big old houses with hidden secrets, I wish all of that could have overcome the awful writing, the clumsy dialogue, and all of the typos.

Harmonie says

Pacing is odd but story is okay.

I have read this author before. Just like his Sgt. Dekker series this book starts off with odd and disjointed pacing. It is quite distracting and makes it difficult to really get into the story, it took several days for me to get to the point where I couldn't put it down.

Eventually the story does take off and the last 1/4 - 1/3 of the book is pretty paced. As a mystery it did keep me guessing I wasn't able to guess the murderer's identity and was surprised by the reveal.

That said the author's style of writing takes awhile to get used to. Not sure I will continue on in this series even though after a few books into the Sgt. Dekker series the writing improved and I enjoyed the last few in that series a lot.

I will say that he writes clean. Can't recall any swearing in this book or others and only hand holding and light kissing. If that is important to you than you won't be disappointed in that respect.

Cynthia Rodrigues says

For **Full and Detailed review**, check <http://cynthology.blogspot.com/2015/0...>

Murder in the Dark by Steve Demaree takes a page out of the old Agatha Christie tradition. Twelve people from varying backgrounds are invited to spend a Survivor weekend in an isolated house, surviving whatever comes their way in exchange for a host of attractive prizes. Soon it becomes apparent that the Survivor Weekend requires them to survive quite literally. One of them is a murderer and is there to settle some score.

Beginning by giving us a brief introduction to the cast of characters, the author leads us into the third person minds of a few characters. The chapter from the third person viewpoint of the murderer was particularly

annoying. In order not to give away the slightest clue about the identity of the killer, the author sought to avoid the use of pronouns completely, and ended up repeating the words, 'the murderer,' once too often. The last paragraph in this chapter contains 6-7 references to these words.

The writing sorely needed some tight editing. I found it convoluted, amateurish and tiresome. A lot of the details seemed superfluous even at the outset. They didn't serve any purpose, other than to achieve the targeted word count. The thing to do should have been to introduce us well to one character, and let them meet the others. The strategy of devoting one chapter each to multiple characters means that there is too much back story, and the Survivor Weekend does not begin until the 17th chapter.

The author does a good job with the conversation. The dialogue is real and lively, and the touch of humour is a relief. He also manages to build the atmosphere well.

I have another grouse with the endless repetition of the cast of names and their professions. It comes at the beginning of the book, and then when all the guests meet at dinner, they introduce themselves in detail. The rest of the book reads Molly Pride, the librarian, did this, and Molly Pride, the librarian, did that.

Then there are some continuity issues. At the end of one chapter, we are told that the funeral director decides to stay in his room. And yet in the very next chapter, he is out in the basement. At one point, Charlie, the novelist, pulls out a plastic bag out of his knapsack and throws a 100 or so marbles down, letting his pursuer fall. Where did the marbles come from? Why weren't we readers told that he was carrying them? Writing mysteries requires the following of some rules. You cannot pull out random brand new objects out of the bag of Dora the Explorer.

How the murderer manages to commit multiple murders in pitch darkness is beyond me. It is also annoying when multiple chapters end with variations of the very same cliff-hanger – he didn't expect to see what he saw. Overall, the narrator's voice is a little too smart-alecky and frivolous for comfort. Somehow I felt that the narrative tone succeeded in undoing whatever good effect the author had attained.

Nicole Lipson says

The basic storyline was good and enough to keep me reading, but I didn't care for the excessive metaphors which seemed to get worse and worse as the story progressed, and the click bait ending of every single chapter. This book was also in serious need of editing to clean up the numerous typos, unrealistic dialogue, and overall amateurish writing.

Brenda Roberson says

This book will bring to mind an old movie called "The Haunting of Hill House" (the old version rather than the new updated version) in that 12 people, of different backgrounds, are given a gift of a weekend stay at a "wilderness sanctuary" and one by one they start "disappearing". To win the grand prize they must complete the entire weekend at the "mansion" until check out time on Monday morning. They are told it is a survival weekend and that after the big dinner that night they are all virtually "on their own". They're biggest questions are "who would spend that amount of money on someone they didn't know and why? What kind of activities are they expected to participate in? And how is the winner to be determined?"

A fast paced who-done-it. Secrets, twists and turns make it an intense story that will keep you glued to the pages. Some of the characters are likable, while others are not so great. A good murder/mystery. I highly recommend to those who love a "keep you guessing" who-done-it.

Veronica Knack says

Interesting plot twist and ending. It was too wordy though.

Susan Ferguson says

I liked this story. It is the first book in the Off the Beaten Path series.

Twelve people receive special invitations for a "Survival Weekend" in a remote house/inn in Lexington, Kentucky. All of the people are from Lexington and some, unknown to themselves, have a connection. The weekend games are supposed to begin at 10:00 pm on a Friday. The people invited are a kindergarten teacher, a mystery author, a judge, a doctor, a computer programmer, a fireman, a private detective, an insurance agent, a real estate agent, a taxidermist, a librarian and a fireman. The inn has been rented for the weekend and the guests are on their own for meals, etc. after dinner at 8:00 pm on Friday night. There are only the guests whose rooms are on the second floor, the owner who lives on the third floor and his butler who is not to be found. The first guest to go missing is the private detective, who checks in but never appears at dinner after going out to explore the grounds.

Then the lights go off after the doors and windows automatically lock at 8:00 pm. Batteries have been removed from the guests' flashlights and candles cannot be found. The guests are not supposed to go to the third floor, but they do when they find the fireman dead - shot through the head - while he was trying to check the lights to see if he could get them to work. The computer programmer, who might have been able to reprogram the lights and locks, falls down the stairs. He isn't terribly hurt and certainly not killed, but he's not happy about falling down the stairs. Oh, the owner of the inn is blind and disabled.....

The death toll mounts....

I did get a little weary of every chapter ending with "what they saw was not what they expected" or a version of that. The next chapter begins with the unexpected they saw - I get that, but every chapter was a bit much. At first I expected them to stumble over a body, like the first time, but then I noted it was used whenever they saw someone they didn't expect or something curious....

It wasn't a deal breaker, but it did put me off for a while until I decided to overlook it and not worry about it.

gary c lehn says

Great job..

I enjoyed this story of adventure and mystery. The author did a wonderful job of telling his story, Steve put a little humor here and there throughout the tale to make it a bit fun.

Carly Krewitsky says

This was a really good murder mystery. I had no idea who the murderer was. 12 people are selected to participate in a survival weekend at a mansion in the wilderness. One of them is a judge, one is a doctor, one is a firefighter, one is a mystery author, one is a kindergarten teacher, one is a librarian, one is a real estate agent, one is an insurance agent, one is a funeral director, one is a private detective, one is a taxidermist, and one is an antisocial computer programmer. The judge and the doctor are the only two who know each other; they are friends. The mystery author who's name is Charlie, makes a romantic connection with the the kindergarten teacher, who's name is Kim. I really liked the dialogue between Charlie and Kim because it was humorous. The owner of the mansion is a man named Mr. Manchester; Mr. Manchester is supposedly blind and confined to a wheelchair. Mr. Manchester has a butler who is not very friendly. Some of the guests believe that the butler might be the murderer. Many of the guests act suspicious, especially the judge, the doctor, and the librarian. Why did the taxidermist's invitation tell him to arrive a day later than everyone else's invitation?

Doina Condrea says

Oh wow this book was like a workout for the brain. I constantly felt like I should be getting out a notebook and taking notes on who was who, where they were at any given time, who was still alive and who wasn't. I was left wondering about who could've been responsible until the very last possible moment. I would probably read more by this author.
