



# Claws for Concern

*Miranda James*

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**Charlie Harris and his Maine Coon cat, Diesel, are embroiled in a new mystery when a cold case suddenly heats up in the latest installment of the *New York Times* bestselling series.**

Charlie Harris has been enjoying some peace and quiet with his new grandson when a mysterious man with a connection to an unsolved murder starts visiting the library...

## Claws for Concern Details

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Author : Miranda James

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# From Reader Review Claws for Concern for online ebook

## Nicole says

It's back to Athena, Mississippi for fans of Miranda James' Cat in the Stacks series, and this time Charlie and Diesel have a surprise visit from a previously unknown relative who brings with him the secret to a quadruple murder from decades in the past. As with the rest of the series, Claws for Concern is cleverly written and oozes southern charm. Loved it!

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## LORI CASWELL says

### Dollycas's Thoughts

This is one of my favorite cozy series. That cat on the cover, Diesel, always makes me smile and now remember my own big kitty Wiley who passed away January 17. Diesel is a little bit more intuitive than Wiley was but he comes darn close.

This time Diesel and his person, Charlie Harris, take on a cold case when a man at the library asks for help just after telling Charlie he is the son of his late aunt's husband. Charlie and Diesel are enjoying a new baby and fielding inquiries from a man that wants to write about all the mysteries Charlie has solved. While not interested in being the feature of a book, Charlie and the author team up to solve one together, even if it means putting his newly found relative behind bars.

I loved everything about this story. The mystery really didn't take hold until about halfway through the book, but this reader was drawn in and entertained from page one. James' writing style makes it feel like you are having a conversation with Charlie or watching everything right over his shoulder. When the mystery is revealed Charlie takes us along as he visits everyone that could have the answers he needs to solve it. When his daughter and son-in-law observe a crucial "accident" it gives Charlie what he needs to press for even more answers.

Miranda James is a fantastic storyteller. Her characters are engaging and feel like friends or neighbors you like to spend a lot of time with. Charlie relationship with Helen Louise is moving along nicely now that she is getting more help at her restaurant. His daughter recently gave birth to his first grandchild and his son's wife is due soon. Diesel is already a good baby minder, he feels it is his job to watch over that child and alert everyone if the baby barely makes a sound. Charlie's housemates are also top-notch and of course his housekeeper Azalea is the one who keeps everyone in line.

This is a wonderful addition to this series. I do recommend you start at the beginning but this story does stand on its own.

If you are looking for a comfortable, cozy mystery to curl up with, look no further than Claws for Concern, or any other Miranda James story.

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## **Margaret says**

The latest Cat in the Stacks is a little bit flat compared to earlier ones.

I think it's because this time there is another amateur detective helping Charlie and it just seems a little too contrived. There is no real tension, pertaining as it does to a cold case, even one that casts shadows into the present day.

The crime seems peripheral to Charlie's new obsession with his namesake grandson.

I'm hoping this one is a one-off, and the tension is back in the next case.

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## **Carla Johnson-Hicks says**

This is only the second Cat in the Stacks Mystery I have read, but I really enjoyed it and had no trouble following this story. Charlie Harris and his Maine Coon Cat Diesel are well known for helping the police solve crimes. He receives a letter from Jack Pemberton, a writer of true crime, asking if they can meet to talk about a project. Charlie is not really interested. Meanwhile, Charlie meets a lonely gentleman at the library where he volunteers. It turns out that this man's father was married to Charlie's aunt. As more facts come out, Charlie finds out that he was a suspect in a multiple homicide 20 years earlier. It also occurred in the town where Jack Pemberton is from. When Bill Delaney is the victim of a hit and run that appears to be deliberate, Charlie and Jack begin investigating the cold case to see if they can either clear Charlie, or prove that he did it.

Charlie and Diesel are a delightful pair who love people, food, Charlie's grandson and justice. They work well together as Diesel is an excellent judge of character. I have read many cozies where the amateur sleuth is intrusive and often rude putting themselves at risk, but not so with Charlie and his friend Jack. They work well together and both have good intuition. Will they find out who killed the family? Will Bill be guilty? Is Bill in danger? This is a well paced story with a good plot line. The investigation did not occur until about halfway through the book, but I still very much enjoyed this story and the characters in it. I will definitely look for more books in this series and from this author. I received this book from the First To Read Program, the comments and review is my honest opinion.

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## **Karen says**

This is one of my favorite all time series and as many of you may know my own cat adoptions were because of this book series and how Miranda James helps the reader fall in love with Diesel! In Claws for Concern I was drawn in right away and the mysteries were so intriguing, and almost all consuming. I could not wait to get back to the book when I had to put it down. I found myself at one point trying to draw vendigarms to try to figure out who the killer was and find the connection. This book was better than I could have imagined and I loved the big reveal. It was outstanding, start to finish. If you ever need a series to binge read start with book one and you will never be disappointed, each book gets better and better and feels like you are with friends. Southern Charm, A strong and wonderful Male character, perfect companion and a setting and with heart that will have you wishing you too lived in the South. This one is a Berkeley Mystery and it is out February 20th.

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## **?Dani? ?Touch My Spine Book Reviews? says**

This book was a cozy treat and highly enjoyable. I LOVED Charlie and Diesel and their bond. I am a crazy cat lady so love books featuring cats! When I saw this cover I fell in LOVE! Cats and Books!!! Well silly me, I didn't pay attention to the fact it was the 9th installment so I felt I missed out a tad. This book can still be read as a standalone and was a fun mystery! I always love a mystery with a cold case so was pleased with this title and definitely will be checking out the previous books in this series!

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## **Lesya says**

It's always a pleasure to return to Mississippi to the world of Charlie Harris and his Maine Coon cat, Diesel. Although Charlie gets involved in murder investigations, he's grounded with his job, his family, and good friends. It was time to pick up Miranda James' latest, *Claws for Concern*.

Charlie's too caught up in his new role of grandfather to be interested when an author wants to talk to him. But, Jack Pemberton does try to smooth the way, in traditional Mississippi fashion. One of Jack's friends is also a friend of the Ducote sisters, and she encourages Charlie to listen to the author. Jack is a true crime writer who is interested in telling some of Charlie's stories. As a southern gentleman, though, Charlie doesn't feel right talking about himself or putting himself forward.

The highlight of Charlie and Diesel's lives right now is the new grandbaby, Charlie. When his grandson's scheduled for a visit, Charlie's impatient to leave his volunteer job at the Athena Public Library. He still notices the stranger in the library, a man he'd started seeing in the last week. When the man finally gets around to asking for help, he finds an address in an old phone directory, and stuns Charlie when he asks if Charlie's Uncle Del is still around. When there seems to be a family connection, Charlie's interested in Bill Delaney's story.

But, Jack Pemberton has a warning for Charlie. It seems Bill was once involved in a shocking murder case. Instead of welcoming Delaney into the family home, or writing with Jack Pemberton, Charlie finds himself investigating a twenty-year-old case, teamed up with Pemberton. This case has family written all over it.

Yes, Charlie's latest case is intriguing. I'm always a fan of cold cases. It's fascinating to watch the sleuth dig into the past and try to put the puzzle together. But, the real reason I return to the Cat in the Stacks mysteries? It's Charlie and his world. It's a pleasure to read about a mature sleuth with a family he loves. They've had problems at times. And, Charlie's work life hasn't always been easy. But, he's a gentleman who loves his community, friends, and family. And, James makes this such an essential part of every story. It's a joy to return to a world where two charming males, Charlie and Diesel, enjoy their lives.

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## **Mark Baker says**

Charlie's grandson has been born, and he's delighted to be spending time with this addition to the family. But he soon begins to get drawn into another mystery. First a true crime writer wants to write about some of Charlie's past cases. Then there's the mysterious man in the library asking questions.

This is definitely a slower book in the series as it took a while for us to figure out exactly where the mystery might be. There is one in the book, and I enjoyed it once Charlie started investigating. As always, the characters, both new and old, shine. I loved getting to spend more time with the usual gang, and most of them get at least an appearance. We also get to see some characters from the author's other series, which was a lot of fun.

NOTE: I received a copy of this book.

Read my full review at Carstairs Considers.

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### **Lisa Ks Book Reviews says**

Murder in a cozy mystery doesn't always happen on page four. Author Miranda James offers readers a cold case twenty years old. This made for an even more thrilling case to try and solve for series lead, Charlie Harris, and for readers!

With CLAWS FOR CONCERN, there's not much I can say other than what I say each time I read a book in the Cat in the Stacks mysteries. Author James has created an excellent plot that draws the reader swiftly into the story. With the same consistent style, the author's writing held me spell bound as I joined Charlie and Diesel in their investigation of the decades old case.

A fun addition to the series for readers is the presence of Charlie's new grandson, and his and Diesel's interaction with the baby. Charlie is such a proud Grandfather, I could feel the love oozing of the pages. And Diesel's fascination with the baby brought a smile to my face.

A great addition to this series, CLAWS FOR CONCERN is written proof of why readers continuously return to the Cat in the Stacks Mysteries.

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### **Toni (T.C.) LoTempio says**

Another good entry. Even though the killer is pretty obvious, it's always a treat to follow along as Charlie and Diesel investigate! Long time fans will love it.

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### **Betty says**

In the ninth edition of the Cat In The Stack series we Find Charlie Harris and his Maine Coon cat, Diesel relaxing and enjoying the presence of Charlie's new grandson. Diesel is fascinated with the baby and is a constant presence when little Charlie's is around. Volunteering at the local library Charlie noticed a stranger and becomes interested in him. Charlie is surprised to learn that the stranger, Bill Delaney is the son of his Uncle Delbert. He is ready to offer him a room when he learns the Bill is the main person of interest in a cold case. Working together with a writer of true crime stories, Charlie research the facts of the case. The twists this tale will retain your involvement in the book. Sean is expecting his first child and Charlie awakes the birth. His affair with Helen Louise continues. I highly recommend this book and series.

Disclosure: I received a free copy from Berkeley Publishing through NetGalley for an honest review. I would like to thank them for this opportunity to read and review the book. The opinions expressed are my own.

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### **Amy says**

I liked the book. It was different than the prior ones in that they were investigating a murder that happened over 20 years ago. The relationship between Charlie and Helen Louise continues to deepen and everyone enjoys Baby Charlie, including Diesel. I just didn't feel all that vested in solving the mystery. However, I love this series and look forward to the next book...

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### **Lisa Morin says**

Claws for Concern is another wonderful book by the talented Miranda James. Charlie and Diesel are two of my favorite characters in my cozy mystery world.

Charlie and Diesel have the best adventures and while I'm always so excited to read another story, I'm sad when it ends. I read these books over and over again, they are some of my comfort zone books and they make me feel like I'm with family.

Readers will not be disappointed when they grab their own copy of Claws for Concern.

I voluntarily read an ARC of this book provided by the publisher and NetGalley.

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### **Tina at A COZY GIRL READS AND WRITES Blog says**

Charlie Harris is a Maine Coon Cat owner and librarian. He is kindhearted. Claws for Concern has a unique premise. With Shocking twists and turns. Diesel the cat showing his human-like qualities makes this book beyond enjoyable. A charming cast of characters. Like reconnecting with old friends.

Charlie has a good spirit and well-meaning for even the most obscure of a relative when they become a suspect for murder. Charlie sets out to try to find a murderer with someone who wants to write a book about him about his previous crime-solving adventures. Look forward to reading the next book in this favorite of series.

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### **Patty says**

Claws For Concern  
By  
Miranda James

What it's all about...

Charlie and his much loved Maine Coon Cat...Diesel...are sleuths...they both like being involved in crime solving. This is my first venture into this series. Charlie is sort of semi retired and volunteers with Diesel at his local library. In fact...Charlie and Diesel are mostly always together. When Charlie goes to bed...Diesel is right next to him with his little kitty head on his own pillow. However...I shouldn't refer to Diesel as little...he is huge for a cat...he weighs nearly 40 pounds and can stretch his kitty body out to almost four feet!

Why I wanted to read it...

I loved the title of this book and I was in the mood for a nice Southern cozy mystery. I certainly got what I wanted when I read this book.

What made me truly enjoy this book...

Charlie meets an “almost” relative at his library. This leaves Charlie and the man he meets with lots of unanswered questions. While learning about this relationship an old unsolved crime involving this man comes to light. Events begin to happen based on this...some really dangerous situations and tons of unanswered questions about the past. Charlie...along with Diesel...starts to investigate. Charlie just can't seem to help himself.

Why you should read it, too...

Readers who enjoy cozy mysteries should truly enjoy this one. It's well written and while not exactly a page turner for me...it was a pleasant reading experience. I think I might want to read another book of Charlie and Diesel's adventures just to get a better feel for them. Although Charlie is really remiss in the way he feeds sweet Diesel.

“I received an advance reader's copy from the publisher and NetGalley through Amazon. These are my honest thoughts.”

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