



## Mixed Up With Murder

*Susan C. Shea*

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# **Mixed Up With Murder**

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## **Mixed Up With Murder Susan C. Shea**

The third book in the thrilling Danielle O'Rourke mystery series brings fans once again into the elegant and exciting world of Devor Museum's chief fundraiser.

Dani is flying east for what should be an easy and interesting diversion, a short consulting assignment to help a small New England college with a plentiful gift of money and art from an alum. Unfortunately the donation comes with some strange terms, and she soon learns the donor is a powerful man hiding some alarming secrets. When the college's vice president drowns on a golf course, Dani finds herself in the center of a dangerous plot, and is once again mixed up with murder.

Praise for the Dani O'Rourke Series:

"Wickedly Funny."—Kirkus

"Smart, surprising plot.—Booklist

"Fresh, fast-paced and great fun."—Library Journal

## **Mixed Up With Murder Details**

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Author : Susan C. Shea

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## From Reader Review Mixed Up With Murder for online ebook

### Marla Bradeen says

MIXED UP WITH MURDER is an enjoyable cozy mystery. It started off a little slow for my tastes, but picked up more toward the end. At times the story is humorous, and it offers a glimpse into the art world, which I'm unfamiliar with but made for interesting reading.

I thought the book was well-written, but I had trouble connecting with the main character. Although she was likable enough, I never really found myself rooting for her. She seemed to vacillate between wanting to solve the mystery and wanting to return to her normal life, which might have contributed to my ambivalence. This is the first book I've read in this series, so others who have followed along since the beginning might feel differently. And I will say that I had no trouble keeping up despite not reading the first two books. Shea does a good job of introducing the recurring characters without bogging down the action.

Readers looking for a more intellectual cozy than the mainstream might enjoy this one. Bonus points if you like stories centered around art or those with academic settings.

Review disclosure: I won a paperback copy of this novel in exchange for an honest review.

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### InD'tale Magazine says

4.5/5.0

This is a smart mystery with a lot of twists and turns.

Read full review in the 2016 September issue of InD'tale Magazine.

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### David says

Fun and witty mystery. Third in the Dani O'Rourke mystery series. Now, I will go back and read books one & two!

The third book in the thrilling Danielle O'Rourke mystery series brings fans once again into the elegant and exciting world of Devor Museum's chief fundraiser.

Dani is flying east for what should be an easy and interesting diversion, a short consulting assignment to help a small New England college with a plentiful gift of money and art from an alum. Unfortunately the donation comes with some strange terms, and she soon learns the donor is a powerful man hiding some alarming secrets. When the college's vice president drowns on a golf course, Dani finds herself in the center of a dangerous plot, and is once again mixed up with murder.

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### **John says**

This series has become a favorite of mine. Once again Susan has provided an interesting original plot that I entertains from start to finish. As a resident of Northern California I particularly appreciate how Susan uses an accurate depiction of the geography, art scene, privileged class of San Francisco and Silicon Valley as keystones of her story. I hope that Susan brings Dani back for my enjoyment very soon.

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### **Lesa says**

It could be mixed up with art, or mixed up with academia. Susan C. Shea's Dani O'Rourke is mixed up with a world that combines both in her latest mystery, *Mixed Up with Murder*.

Dani, the chief fundraiser for Devor Museum of Art & Antiquities in San Francisco, is flattered when a board member asks her to serve as a consultant for Lynthorpe College in Massachusetts. He's worried about a large gift, and wants her to ensure that the college can accept it without legal hiccups. Vincent Margoletti, a graduate, has offered his alma mater twenty million dollars, and the bulk of his contemporary art collection. What could be wrong with it?

What if no one at Lynthorpe is enthusiastic about Dani's work except for a researcher? What if a vice-president dies suddenly on the golf course? What if Dani is uncomfortable while she searches for discrepancies in two sets of records? It isn't long before a simple consultancy turns into a case in which, once again, Dani is mixed up with murder.

Tension rises as Dani digs herself deeper into the world, only to find assistance from two unexpected sources, her ex-husband, Dickie, and her boyfriend, Charlie, a San Francisco homicide investigator. They were the only ones she could really trust, two outsiders, but she's determined to step up and save herself by finding answers.

And, that's where I have a problem with Dani's actions. She takes too many risks, feeling she can't rely on the local police to find answers. And, I'm not the only one who feels Dani takes too many risks. She jeopardizes her relationships when others feel the same way, and she even admits she is sometimes too impulsive and quick to act.

*Mixed Up with Murder* is a plot-driven mystery, one that skillfully combines the world of art research and the politics of the academic world. Shea's mystery is for those readers who appreciate rising tension propelled forward by the actions in the plot. And, those who enjoy mysteries set in the world of academia will appreciate the college setting, although perhaps wishing for a little more campus politics. Susan C. Shea brings together art and academia to thrust her character into a setting in which she's, once again, *Mixed Up with Murder*.

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## **Sharon says**

Very cute, lighthearted mystery novel, part of a series revolving around a gal who somehow keeps getting sucked into murder mysteries. Funny in places, quirky. Fun read.

this was a goodreads giveaway

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## **Ana Manwaring says**

It isn't surprising so many stories emanate from the art world. Art can mask a multitude of secrets and make a person rich and dangerously powerful, something Dani O'Rourke, chief fundraiser for San Francisco's Devor Museum of Art and Antiquities, is reminded the hard way in *Mixed Up with Murder*.

On the recommendation of the Devor's board chairman and board member of Lynthorpe College in Bridgetown, Massachusetts, Dani is hired to facilitate the acceptance of a valuable art collection and the twenty million dollar endowment to support it from wealthy class of 1970 alumnus, Vincent Margoletti. It's an important gift that will enhance the college's reputation and everyone wants a speedy and legal settlement of terms. That's the problem—Margoletti made his billions brokering Silicon Valley tech deals and is known to play an angle if it will get him ahead. Dani is pressured to sign off on the gift, as the college atmosphere turns dark, and when a terrible event strikes too close for comfort Dani makes finding answers personal.

Written with depth and humor, *Mixed Up with Murder* is an engaging, smart read in part because author Susan C. Shea gives readers an insider's look at the business of fine art. The other part of the equation is Dani O'Rourke, complex, polished, witty, and sharply intelligent. As well crafted as the protagonist, the plot moves in surprising ways. It never lags and I couldn't predict the turns. Shea's writing style is smooth, clear, informative and never redundant. The story flows through concepts, images and dialog in a natural and logical progression that made it impossible for me to put down. I'm grateful to the author for providing me an advanced copy in exchange for an honest review—reading *Mixed Up with Murder* has been a pleasurable experience on every level.

*Mixed Up with Murder* is the third in the Danielle O'Rourke series. I don't know how I missed the first two books, but I'll be going back to catch up with this strong, smart character and her compelling world of art, money and murder.

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## **Elizabeth A. says**

“I’d love to. It’ll be a nice break from the routine.” — Dani O’Rourke

On one hand, Dani O'Rourke, chief fundraiser for the Devor Museum in San Francisco, can be forgiven for thinking a trip back East to serve as a consultant at a quaint New England college sounds like a pleasant distraction. On the other hand, Dani has an unfortunate history of finding herself caught up in highly irregular situations... ones that usually involve dead bodies. (*Murder in the Abstract* | *The King's Jar*).

Not one to turn down an interesting professional endeavor—the consulting job involves overseeing the donation of a large art collection, as well as a twenty million dollar endowment—Dani heads to Lynthorpe College in Bridgetown, Massachusetts for what is billed as a straightforward one-week review. She's there less than a day, however, when it becomes clear there is some dissension amongst the bigwigs at the school about the terms of the donation.

It seems the donor, school alumnus Vincent Margoletti, while never outright accused or indicted, has been involved in some business deals during his climb to wealth that some have found shady at best. And for some strange reason he's pushing the college to accept the donation immediately, before Dani's vetting process is completed, with a not so implied threat of its withdrawal otherwise.

Before Dani can have a sit-down with the college's vice president most concerned about the donation, the man turns up dead on the local golf course, apparently drowned in one of the water hazards. When a second death occurs barely a day later—also someone working on the donation project—Dani has no choice but to accept the fact she finds herself, once again, mixed up with murder.

Perhaps the highest compliment I can give to author Susan Shea is that even though I'm someone who doesn't normally read so-called cozy mysteries, I absolutely adore the Dani O'Rourke series. Then, for my money, Shea's writing wonderfully skirts the line between traditional cozy and straight-up crime fiction. Though the violence is not gratuitous and there is no profanity to speak of, neither does the action all conveniently take place off-stage, either. Dani, much to her chagrin, finds herself up close and personal with both bodies and suspects. And just as the O'Rourke mystery plots manage to keep one foot on either side of the cozy/traditional crime line, so does Dani herself.

While not a police officer, bounty hunter or private investigator, neither is Dani some eccentric homebody with a wacky quirk who sets out to poke her nose into amateur sleuthing. She's an intelligent professional who works in the extremely high-stakes world of contemporary art. She doesn't seek out the situations she gets mixed up with, but neither does she turn into a shrinking violet either.

Shea, herself active as a non-profit executive for over two decades, brings first-hand knowledge of how things work in that world to her writing, which, when combined with a smooth infusion of information about how a multi-million dollar art collection and endowment donation process unfolds, makes for reading that is both exciting and educational, a rare and welcome combination. And though I highly recommend all the Dani O'Rourke books, you can jump right in with this one if you're new to series, so go ahead... get Mixed Up With Murder.

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### **Karen Cleary says**

3.5 stars. I like this series much more than Shea's Burgundy books, the characters are more pleasant and the plots are entertaining. I hope she may return to this one.

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