



Getting Old Is Murder

Rita Lakin

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Gladdy Gold 75 narrates driving retirees around Ft Lauderdale from their Florida condos. Selma and Francie are the first to die, coincidentally days before their birthdays. Can slow gardener Denny hear his mama on the phone nightly? Detective Langford has a hot dad, Glad's style.

Getting Old Is Murder Details

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Author : Rita Lakin

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From Reader Review Getting Old Is Murder for online ebook

Linda says

A cozy mystery. I wanted to like this more than I did. Crime solving senior citizens in Florida- what's not to like. But I was put-off by the stereotypical women characters. It was written in the early 2000s but the characters acted like they were living in the 1950s days of simpering after men, putting up with sexist jokes, etc. Given all that, it was a pretty good mystery with lots of red herrings. While reading it, I changed my mind several times about who I thought "did it" So it did keep my interest.

Rachel Kramer Bussel says

In this start of the Gladdy Gold cozy mystery series, retiree Gladdy proves herself an excellent sleuth, capable of outdoing her local police department and avenging her friends' deaths. Lakin introduces us to Gladdy and her Gladiators, aka, sister and friends, who live in a Florida retirement home but are itching for something to do besides gossip. Gladdy is the one who starts to put together the idea that the heart attacks suffered by elderly women were actually something more sinister. Her spirited defense of those who doubt the elderly, her battles amongst her friends over who's going about their sleuthing best, and a hint of romance with Jack Langford make this a fun read. Gladdy's nods to her love of reading mysteries, her genuine expressions of doubt, guilt, fear and longing, all make this beginning an exciting one, and open up a world where being old means you have all the more life experience to draw on when solving crime. Gladdy is a brave heroine who risks upsetting those around her and doesn't rest even when the cops do that she's made sure to catch the killer.

Diane Large says

This was a serious murder, but an incredibly fun read. I'm a single retired lady living in a retirement village and enjoyed all the situations that these ladies got themselves into. The pool, grocery store, and playing cards really made me laugh. I will read more.

Linda Appelbaum says

Absolutely charming book, a quick read. If you like the TV program "Murder She Wrote" you might like this book. This is the 1st of several books in a series about Gladdy Gold, an over the hill sleuth, who lives in a Ft. Lauderdale retirement village. Sprinkled with Jewish expressions, this book is delightful even if you aren't Jewish or if you have never been to one of the retirement villages in Florida. A glossary in the book helps with unfamiliar words and there is even a drawing of the place where Gladdy lives, surrounded by an interesting group of married and single retirees. In this book, gladdy solves the murders of several elderly women who get knocked off in most unusual ways. Can't wait for the next book.

Sandra Holladay says

Initially, I was going to give the book three stars, but the last third of the book was so good I couldn't put it down. This is a really fun cozy read, a little slow to start, but definitely worth reading it through to the end. I loved the old Jewish ladies, the humor was great.

Drebbles says

When Gladdy Gold's neighbor, Selma Beller, dies, Gladdy is saddened, but not concerned, at 75 and living in a retirement community, Gladdy is accustomed to death. But when her best friend Francie dies, Gladdy is heartbroken and begins to be suspicious since both Selma and Francie died around the time of their birthdays. Gladdy tries to convince the police that murder may have taken place, but they don't believe her so she starts investigating on her own. After two more deaths and a couple of autopsies that show the victims were poisoned, the police finally believe Gladdy. But will they be able to catch the murderer before Gladdy becomes the next victim?

"Getting Old is Murder" is a nice, humorous first entry in what looks to be an enjoyable cozy mystery series. Gladdy is a wonderful creation, very funny and still full of life (and romance) at 75. Her friends are all well written, with a nice touch of humor that makes them seem real but doesn't poke fun at the elderly. Each character stands out as an individual: the wisecracking Hy and his wife Lois; Gladdy's sister Evvie, a movie critic; Sophie with her slightly off-kilter cliches ("you're a broken record, play another"); Harriet who is young but lives there to take care of her elderly mother, Esther); Enya who never got over the loss of her family during the Holocaust; and Denny, the mentally slow handyman. Although the book is a cozy mystery and the elderly don't hesitate to solve the crime, it also shows the real problems of getting old, especially in the bittersweet case of Irving struggling to take care of his wife who has Alzheimer's. All of these characters are well written and come alive on the page.

The mystery itself is nicely done with some neat red herrings and when the murderer is finally revealed, there is a real motive behind the slayings. There are some minor flaws - Francie's death is well telegraphed (it's never a good sign when the heroine in a mystery wonders what she'd do if something happened to her best friend!). There's also some minor editing errors, such as when Gladdy remembers dropping a friend off at the dentist when she never did so. Not a major error, but enough to stop the flow of the story for a second or two. Rita Lakin takes you into the victim's minds as they are dying, which I found unsettling in a cozy mystery.

But these are indeed minor flaws and this is a very enjoyable, funny cozy mystery. It's worth buying just to read the scene in which Gladdy convinces a gang of teenagers to help her break into her car after she locks her keys in it. One of the funniest scenes I've ever read!

Lindsay says

This series is super funny. There's something about little old ladies running around trying to solve a mystery while forgetting what's going on half the time that makes me laugh. It was also a little twisted. In this book, Goldy's friends keep dieing from a "heart attack", but she thinks otherwise. So she and her friends try to find

out what's going on. Mostly it's just her, but the others are entertaining. Kind of made me think of The Golden Girls, where Dorothy was always in charge and the rest just followed. Only there's isn't a slutty one like Blanche. They are also Jewish, so you get to learn a lot of Jewish words. Good times.

Dale says

love these 'old'ladies!

Bgpriley says

If it takes two pages in the front to explain who the characters are, there are too many characters.

Ed says

#1 in the Gladdy Gold series. Quick, fun read. Interesting introduction to a large cast of quirky characters. My only quibble is that the solution to the puzzle was telegraphed too early.

Gladdy Gold series - 75-year-old Gladdy Gold and her gang of Fort Lauderdale retirees are hunting down a killer - one who is stalking them. Selma Beller was the first to go - but Gladdy and her neighbors never suspected murder until another of their friends died in a similar way. Now a handsome young detective won't listen to them, and crazy old Greta Kronk is doing everything possible to make herself into a suspect. But amid the rounds of poolside kibitzing, early-bird specials, and interminable shopping trips, Gladdy and her gals are about to discover how the murders are being committed.

Jeannie and Louis Rigod says

This book was a witty romp into the world of condo's and life in Ft. Lauderdale if you are a retired widow. You are introduced to the language of Yiddish and do expect to laugh.

The mystery was sad and even though you cheer the capture of the villain, you still feel the sadness.

Luckily, I have the series so am off to the next one "Getting Old is the Best Revenge."

Nancy Haddock says

This is another series hubby and I are sold on! The women and fellow residents are quirky, and while the murders and other issues are serious, there is some great humor in each book. The Publix grocery store? Well, we have one here, and the scene had us in stitches!

Nate says

I first heard about this series in a Cozy Mystery group I am apart of and instantly ran to Amazon and bought the first two books. Yesterday I started and became obsessed. I am going to go on a limb here and say this could be the funniest and greatest Cozy I have ever read. Gladdy and her friends Sophie, Bella, Ida and sister Evvie are infectious. Not only are they so well written but each is truly a different character. They are sassy, they are classy and they are always up for a meal. In this book the condo community has been struck by a serial killer who is picking off elderly women on their birthdays. I was hooked, I was biting my nails, I was LIVING for these broads and laughing along with them. Rita weaves together a story where you feel like you know these characters and you just need to push forward, be distracted by red herrings and finally come to the conclusion. I simply cannot recommend this Cozy Mystery more.

Joyce Adams says

I enjoyed this first in the series of the Gladdy Gold series set in a retirement community in Fort Lauderdale. Gladdy and her girls get involved in trying to solve a rash of murders in their condo community. A fast and entertaining read.

Batgirl13 says

I really wanted to like this one. I like the setup and the idea and even most of the characters, but something fell flat for me. I adore cozy mysteries. Maybe the murders just felt too sad or the characters seemed a bit too overdone, but something about it just made it hard for me to get into. I might try the second in the series and see if maybe it is better. If you are retired and living in Florida, this may resonate with you a bit more.
