



Murder is No Accident

A.H. Gabhart

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Young Maggie Greene may be trespassing in the old, empty Victorian mansion on a quiet street in Hidden Springs, but all she wants is some private time in the magnificent tower room to write her stories. Certain she'll be in trouble if caught, she hides when a realtor shows up. But someone else is in the house too, someone even more worried about getting caught. When Maggie finds the realtor's body at the bottom of a flight of stairs and the other person gone, Deputy Sheriff Michael Keane is called in. He assumes the realtor's death is a tragic accident--until a second person is found dead in the house. When Maggie is threatened, Michael must catch the murderer before anyone else dies.

Cozy mystery fans will love this third installment in The Hidden Springs Mysteries series from an author who knows how to make small-town America sweet, sentimental--and a little sinister.

Murder is No Accident Details

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From Reader Review Murder is No Accident for online ebook

Susan Snodgrass says

I have truly enjoyed my visits to Ann Gabhart's fictional small town of Hidden Springs. For such a quiet little town, there sure has been a lot of crime lately.

Gabhart has created a wonderful place full of wonderful characters. I just enjoyed seeing them all at again during my latest visit. The author does all this so well that I want to head on over for a visit!! But not during a crime wave!

Michael Keane once again finds his life in this terrible little town interrupted by a murder. Then even more issues pop up. But Michael is up to the task. I just love these folks!!

*I was given a copy of this book by the publisher. My opinions are mine alone.

Dawn says

Hidden Springs has seen its share of mysteries. So Michael Keane is hoping that things settle down, finally. Yet when a woman is found dead at the Chandler mansion, questions arise. Was it an accident or was it murder?

I've really enjoyed this series. The characters are quirky and loveable. I've come to enjoy these books.

I love how Michael is determined to keep the town safe and that he somehow finds himself in the midst of mysteries. This one kept me turning pages all the way to the end. I had an idea as to who was the bad guy, and I wanted to see if I was right.

I received a copy of the book for free from the publisher as part of the Revell Reads program. My thoughts and opinions are my own.

Recommended to fans of mysteries.

Rating - 4 stars

Amanda says

I've been a fan of A.H./ Ann Gabhart's books for years and, since I'm an avid reader of cozy mysteries, was delighted when she started writing them. The entire Hidden Springs series has been excellent, but this one reaches new heights. I was hooked on the first page and couldn't put the book down.

Highly recommended!

Laura says

First, the disclaimer. "I was provided a free copy of this book. All opinions are my own." That done, MURDER IS NO ACCIDENT is the third book in Ms. Gabhart's Hidden Springs Mystery series. I hope there will be more. I dearly love Michael.

A house shrouded in mystery. Deaths ranging from the past to present. A congressman. An antique dealer. A murder writer. And a tower room where a young teen likes to daydream.

Is the past murder tied in with the present? Or are the deaths unfortunate accidents? When another man is found dead, questions are raised. And Michael doesn't have a clue. Just a romance that seems to be dying a slow, agonizing death.

I thought I had who-dun-it figured out. But then my suspect turned up dead. I couldn't sleep. I made a list of possible suspects, but couldn't quite put my finger on it...

You know a writer is good when a reader goes to that much work! I absolutely love this series.

If you like cozy mysteries, you'll want to read MURDER IS NO ACCIDENT. You can read it as a stand-alone, but you will want to read Murder on the Courthouse and Murder Comes by Mail.

Kristina says

Murder is No Accident by A.H. Gabhart is the third book in The Hidden Springs Mysteries. Maggie Greene is up in the tower room writing of the Chandler house when she hears noises below. Maggie stays as still as possible so she will not be discovered. Then Geraldine Harper, the local realtor, enters the house. Maggie hears Geraldine find the intruder and an argument ensues. Geraldine goes to call the sheriff, but it is her last act. Only after she is sure the trespasser has departed, does Maggie venture down from the tower. She finds Geraldine dead at the bottom of the back steps (many big Victorian homes had a fancy front staircase and a serviceable back staircase that was very narrow). Maggie is afraid she will be accused of trespassing even though she has permission from Fonda Chandler, the owner of the house. Maggie uses Geraldine's phone to call 911 anonymously and then she quietly leaves. While Maggie did not see anyone nearby, someone saw her. Deputy Sheriff Michael Keane receives a call that Miss Fonda (as she is called) has once again escaped from the Gentle Care Home where she is looked after by Mrs. Gibson. Miss Fonda has dementia and forgets that she no longer lives at Chandler house. Michael arrives at Chandler house as he is notified of the 911 call. He notices that her car is out front and enters the open house. He finds Miss Fonda holding Geraldine. She believes it is her deceased sister, Audrey who died in a very similar manner. Geraldine's death is ruled accidental. But soon another person is found dead inside the Chandler home. Maggie is afraid to come forward after she receives a threatening call from the killer. Has someone decided to search for the rumored treasure of Chandler house? Michael will need to work quickly to find the guilty party before the killer takes further action.

While Murder is No Accident is the third book in the series, it can be read as a stand-alone. I was never able to get into and enjoy this book. It is hard to describe the writing style. Murder is No Accident is jam packed with activity. There is just one incident after another. Besides the main mystery there is Miss Fonda escaping from the care home (frequently which does not speak well for their care or vigilance), fishing, the fifty-year-

old mystery of how Audrey, fishing, Miss Fonda's sister died, Sonny trying to sell Miss Fonda's home, fishing, the romance between Michael and Alex Sheridan (which was very prevalent), Betty Jean Atkins dating life, Lana Waverly's tea shop and investigation, and more fishing. In the small town of Hidden Springs, everyone gets involved in your life (even if you wish they would not). One of the problems with *Murder is No Accident* is the number of characters. I stopped keeping track after twelve. I did not like how fifteen-year-old Maggie was portrayed as simple minded when she actually is creative and smart (she likes to write). The Christian element is very subtle (mostly prayer). *Murder is No Accident* is more cozy than mystery. I give *Murder is No Accident* 3 out of 5 stars. The mystery may seem complicated, but the solution was not (at least part of it). I enjoy Christian mysteries (I get new ones every month), but this one was not for me. I think the right elements are present, they just needed to be put together differently.

Zac Weikal says

This review was originally posted on Buy, Borrow, Skip I received this book for free in exchange for an honest review. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review. Journey again to Hidden Springs, a small-town with an old, empty Victorian mansion on a quiet street that becomes the place of murder in *Murder is No Accident* by A.H. Gabhart.

I almost passed up on this book because I didn't enjoy the previous one in the series, but I decided to give it a try and I'm glad I did. I liked the cover of the book and the way it painted the picture of the mystery in my mind. The concept of the murder right below the stairs made for a interesting plot line and one that's believable. This made the police think the death of the realtor was an accident.

I picked up this book for the mystery aspect of the story. While there was some romance in this book, it didn't do that much for me. I know it was necessary to have something else beyond just solving the mystery, but the mystery was my main interest.

Overall, this was a good book. There were a number of characters that gave the small-town America feel. While this book didn't make my must read list, it did give me a cozy mystery to read.

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Karen says

An enjoyable cozy mystery in the perfect small town setting of Hidden Springs, Kentucky! The third in a series, but easily read as a stand alone.

Romantically challenged sheriff's deputy Michael Keane has a mystery on his hands when a body shows up in the old Chandler mansion. As he digs deeper, a similar cold case surfaces, and things get more complicated. If only Miss Marble the resident cat could talk.

I liked revisiting Hidden Springs after reading book one, and felt this story hooked me a lot more. The character Maggie and her dilemma of whether she should ask for help versus take care of everything herself, was one that many could probably relate to, along with her problems at home. Loved how the town comes together to watch out for each other, though small town gossip makes keeping a secret difficult. Michael is a lovable character who gets in over his head sometimes. The story has a fun Andy Griffith type feel to it, with

the siren loving deputy Lester.

Recommend to clean cozy mystery fans who like a southern setting. 4.5 stars

(Book provided by NetGalley and the publisher. All opinions are my own.)

Maureen Timerman says

We are back in Hidden Springs with some well known friends, as this is book three in the series, and there is a lot of action and sadly murder going on.

Michael and Alex are still not really together and by the looks of their relationship it may never happen, she is living in Washington DC and of course he is the Sheriff in Hidden Springs. His Aunt is still teaching and worrying about Michael and Alex and of course Reese, now you are going to quickly find out whom all of these folks are, or you can do yourself a favor and read the two previous books.

What we have here is questions about an old murder, an elderly woman with dementia, someone or someone's greed, and threats against children. You are going to change your mind more than once as to who is responsible.

I hope we come back here again, but if this is goodbye, I loved this series and these people.

I received this book through Net Galley and the Publisher Revell, and was not required to give a positive review.

Jaylee says

What happens in the past stays in the past.

Sometimes.

Dementia has Miss Fonda living as a time traveller. Sometimes she's here, sometimes she's then. When she finds the body of Geraldine Harper at the bottom of her steps, she's transported to the past, to her sister's death.

It was an accident then, and it was an accident now too... or is it?

When a second body shows up, it's obvious that something caused Geraldine's fall. But with all the new people in Hidden Springs, who was it? And when Alex comes to town... will Michael be able to handle her leaving again?

It you like your small-town America sweet and quirky--with a dash of sinister--you'll love this latest whodunit from deft storyteller A. H. Gabhart.

The third Hidden Springs Mystery is here! One thing I definitely love about the Hidden Springs Series is its covers. :) Cute, curious, and cat-y all at once.

The first thing I noticed when I opened it up was the A. H. Gabhart switched her POVs around. I really enjoyed it. I got to see a little through Maggie's eyes, a lot through Michael's, and then a little through Alex's and Malinda's.

Some of you might remember that I reviewed the second Hidden Springs Mystery. I went back and read it again. One thing that annoyed me in the last book was that their dialog got a bit redundant to me. Not in this book! The dialog was great and intriguing. I had a really good time reading though it (It took me two days-- only because I started reading in the evening and I had to go to bed :/)

The plot line was great. I think it only helped it out to see things from Maggie's view as well. (Who is Maggie? Read and find out!) Miss Fonda was also amazing. Without her, nothing would have been as complicated as it was. Nothing would have been brought up about Audrey, nothing would have been suspicious until the second death, and the plot would have had a slow beginning. With Miss Fonda however...

The characters were awesome, as usual. Betty Jean is funny, as is Malinda. Alex was still... Alex. I'm not sure what to think about her actually. Michael was his usual self, eager to help, but with more layers than you'd expect at first glance. Miss Fonda introduced an interesting new character. It was cool the way she added a new aspect to the story that certainly wouldn't be there without her.

I was slightly hesitant about requesting this book. I wasn't thrilled with the last book, but I am so glad I did! I enjoyed this book thoroughly. If you get a chance, definitely pick it up. I hope that you enjoy it as much as I did. :D

"An intimate town where everyone knows everyone and a secret is hard to keep."

-- Publisher's Weekly

I received a copy of this book in exchange for my opinion. All views expressed here are my own.

Carolyn says

As posted on my blog:

Howdy, Folks!

I have spent every spare second since I last posted reading "The Hidden Springs Mysteries." This is because I am voluntarily reviewing a copy of "Murder is No Accident" by A. H. Gabhart through a partnership with Revell publishing and Netgalley. The book is the third installment in the series and the latest release for Gabhart, who also writes under the name Ann H. Gabhart. If you are a fan of the cozy Christian whodunit, clear your calendar, because you won't be able to do anything else until you've finished this tale. Note that though all these books share a location and characters, they each can be enjoyed as a standalone without difficulty.

That said, this volume begins when teenager Maggie Greene is looking for a place where she can daydream and write her stories in peace. Unfortunately, she sneaks into the tower room in a mansion in small town Hidden Springs, Kentucky. Shortly after she arrives, she hears raised voices and the local realtor tumbles down the staircase to her death. Not wanting to get caught trespassing, she uses the victim's cell phone to report the incident anonymously to the police and runs away. However, in dodging one problem, she creates a whole host of others. She didn't escape unnoticed, and whoever saw her wants to make sure she stays

silent. Her only choice is to contact law enforcement. Deputy Sheriff Michael Keane starts investigating what looks like a routine accident, but then someone else dies in the house. This time it's clearly murder. Can Michael connect the events and track down the perpetrator before someone else gets hurt?

The target audience for this story is age twelve years old and up. There is no objectionable content in this volume, and wonderful Christian truth is woven seamlessly into the pages, but sensitive youngsters may be impacted by the violence portrayed in the genre. I highly recommend this series to people who like Irene Hannon and Nancy Mehl. My rating is five out of five stars. For those who are interested in the complete experience, the publication order is as follows:

Murder at the Courthouse (Hidden Springs Mystery #1)

Murder Comes by Mail (Hidden Springs Mystery #2)

Murder is No Accident (Hidden Springs Mystery #3)

All these adventures are available now, so look for them at your favorite retailer. Until we meet again...

Happy Reading,

Carolyn

Betty says

I have just started this book and already am enjoying it. Is it wrong to enjoy a book that almost begins with a death? I don't think so, having quickly discovered that the author writes with a thread of humor throughout and the death may simply be a deadly accident. This story, which as I mentioned I have just begun, is pulling me in quickly with its small town, cozy but with its fair share of seniors and dementia added to the mix. Old, well-hidden secrets also seem to be woven into everyday life. This is my first book by A.H. Gabart, and I'm looking forward to what will come to light in this quirky town. Mystery, history, dementia, family, faith and secrets seem intertwined with what should have been and what is. Who is in such a hurry to sell the old Chandler house while the owner is still living, though not occupying the house? What does Miss Fonda know, trapped in her mind? Most importantly, who is hiding in the house and searching for what?

Maggie, a young girl who cleans the old house, is terrified; though she finds a dead woman, she did not see her fall, nor how she died. Why does she feel so threatened? But this story is not just about death, fear or possible murder. This is a town of curiosity, longing, and life. A town of close neighbours and caring, yet fear has invaded, love and living put on hold. Hidden Springs, a lovely name, what was a lovely town. Secrets and mystery have taken it over. I love this book! In many ways it is uplifting even in light of the "incidents" that are trying to shake up the townspeople. Are these incidents accidents or murder?

I love the determination of the life of Miss Fonda, with her dementia and the forms it has taken. She is a major focus, for all her confusion. There is always something important if the time is taken to understand it, and what is important to her is home and the deceased sister she believes still lives there. **A.H. Gabhart** is a gifted writer that makes a story sound and feel real with all its foibles, friendships, caring and grace.

Janell R. says

I gotta admit, I signed up to review this book because of the cover. I've always loved the board game "Clue" and its layout. Always made me wish I could climb inside it. So when I saw this book, I couldn't resist

despite the fact that it was the third in a series. Well, before I started reading it, I'd decided I'd see if I might get a hold of the first two books somehow (through Kindle lending if nothing else). Well, as it turned out the first one is free at the moment. So I snagged it and as I was nearing the end I knew I HAD to read the second one, so I broke down and paid for it...but it was totally worth it! And finally about 10 days after I initially received the book, I finally got to read the third one.

Okay that was all back story. Now for my review.

Even though I did read all three in order, I think even if I had only read the third one it would have been fine as a stand-alone. There are references to occurrences in the previous books, but nothing that would be confusing or detract from the story. This was a truly enjoyable book to read.

Despite what I said in my last review about enjoying being shocked at the end of a mystery to find out "who-dun-it", I still enjoyed figuring out who it was almost from the start of each of these mysteries. The last one was a little more difficult for me than the other two and I only ended up getting it half-right after all. There was definitely a surprise waiting for me at the end of this one.

I loved Michael and Alex's little side story that wasn't directly related to any of the mysteries, but, ugh, Mrs. Gabhart still left me with some unanswered questions. Could we have one more little novella please?

I loved all the towns people that helped fill out the story so wonderfully. Honestly, it's almost like a modern day Mayberry, all the way down to Aunt Lindy in place of Aunt Bee, and Lester in place of Barney Fife. I gotta say though, Hank the news reporter just about got on my last nerve.

There is one thing that brings it down to 4 stars for me. The spiritual content lacked much to be desired. The only one that seemed like she was probably a real Christian in the entire series was Aunt Lindy. The rest were all pretty wishy-washy. Not only that but there is a Presbyterian woman pastor that is painted in a very positive light which I found very annoying.

So my over all review: for a good, clean, enjoyable, cozy mystery, this is a great choice! But don't expect much in the spiritual department.

Disclaimer: I received this book from Revell Books in exchange for my honest review.

Amy says

Murder is No Accident is the third installment from Ann Gabhart's series, Hidden Springs Mystery. Maggie finds herself in quite a situation when she sneaks into an old Victorian mansion. Two people are murdered in the house and her life is, also, threatened. Sheriff Michael Keane must catch the killer before another life is shortened.

I enjoyed this cozy little mystery of who done it. I was surprised to find out how the mystery was solved. I liked Maggie from the beginning and felt so bad for her for what she went through in the story. I, also, enjoyed Sheriff Michael and his developing romance with Alex. I am hoping there is another upcoming release in the future from the series, so I can read more about these two.

I found this book to be a great read and hope to read more of the series in the future, as I have enjoyed the whole series so far.

Highly recommended.

5 plus stars.

Mark says

A.H.(Ann) Gabhart has quickly become a favorite author of mine with this series. The Christian fiction market is mostly a woman's market, and it is unusual for a female author to write a series of books where the main character is male..... but that is exactly what this author has done in this series. I also like the fact that this isn't your run of the mill "guy meets girl in trouble, falls for girl, proposes or marries at the end of the book". In this series, there is a very slow romance going on, but the couple has known each other since they were kids and have been in love for pretty much all that time.... and they don't live near each other. The romance does not dominate the story, which is cool for this confirmed bachelor. :)

Onto this book: Murder Is No Accident is #3 in the Hidden Mystery Series, and hopefully not the last..... though the ending may indicate it is the final book. As with the previous two books. the story revolves around Deputy Sheriff Michael Keane as he tries to keep the small town of Hidden Springs safe.

Two murders are stopping the town from being safe, and the author does a great job of keeping the reader guessing the identity of the murderer and the reason for the murders. I have enjoyed every book in this series, but this one may be the best of the three. There isn't the page turning non-stop drama and suspense of many suspense novels, but rather an even slower paced suspense that still kept me wanting to read on and not put the book down. I thoroughly enjoyed the book, and though I enjoyed the very climatic ending, I hated to see the end come when I had to leave this fictional town I have come to love.

I was given a copy of this book in exchange for my honest review.

Marcie says

Hidden Springs, a small rural town in Kentucky, reminded me of Mayberry RFD. It is a place where everyone knows everyone else, plus their family history. The story introduces many local characters as an accident (or perhaps a murder) is discovered in the Chandler House, Hidden Spring's historical mansion. This is the 3rd book in the series. I had not read the previous books but I can assure the reader this book can stand alone.

As the book begins, fifteen year old Maggie is in the Chandler House tower room. She come here often because she feels this is where does her best creative writing. The owner, Miss Fonda, is now residing in an assisted living facility. Miss Fonda has given Maggie permission to use the tower room whenever she wants. However, since Miss Fonda now has dementia, Maggie is not sure she would remember giving that permission. The house is supposed to be empty but Maggie hears a noise downstairs. She is afraid she will be accused of trespassing, so she hides. As she listens, she hears two people arguing. She then hears one person tumble down the stairs, and the other person leave. When Maggie creeps out, at the bottom of the stairs she finds the body of the local real estate agent. Maggie knows the woman is dead, but it doesn't seem right to just leave without telling anyone. She calls 911 to report the death, and flees before the police arrive. Deputy Sherriff Michael Keane comes to investigate what appears to be an accident. However, he becomes suspicious as he delves more deeply into the death. This sets the stage for the book.

As the tale unfolds, there was a little romance, plus a lot of suspense. The book kept my interest throughout.

I'd recommend it for anyone who enjoys reading cozy mystery stories.
