



Bantam of the Opera

Mary Daheim

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Bed-and-breakfast hostess Judith McMonigle Flynn isn't exactly bellowing "Bravo!" over the news that obnoxious opera star Mario Pacetti and his entourage are coming to stay at the Hillside Manor. The world-class tenor is a renowned pain-in-the-neck--a bloated buffoon who could easily eat her out of house and home. So when the puffed-up, would-be Pavarotti inadvertently drinks poison and falls down dead on his toscas, accusing eyes turn to Judith and her amateur sleuthing partner, cousin Renie. Now it's curtains unless the cousins can unmask the real culprit--before a killer's final, fatal encore.

Bantam of the Opera Details

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Author : Mary Daheim

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From Reader Review Bantam of the Opera for online ebook

Jenn says

It took me a very very long time to finally clear this from the bedside table stack. I'm assuming it was my "no love" for opera that made this such a chore. I didn't really care who lived or died and I certainly couldn't give a flying fig about whodunit. The one true thing is that it was all wrapped up nicely at the end. I still love these b&b cousins and would gladly read anything they star in.

The Badger says

I have an affinity for cozy mysteries. They generally aren't written in pursuit of a spot on the bestseller list; rather, cozies are written to give the reader a sense of comfort and calm (ironically, by way of murder).

My mom read cozies to escape her three eccentric young daughters and grumpy husband: one daughter, the artist, painted five-foot tall green flowers on the side of the freshly painted rental when she was four; the adventurous daughter asked which way north was, and was found by neighbors five hours later walking up the beach, wearing a backpack, in pursuit of Santa in the North Pole (we lived on an island--she wasn't the brightest of the three of us); and the oldest daughter (that would be I) caused her first-year kindergarten teacher to quit by demanding that all classroom toy soldiers and toy weapons be removed from the classroom so that her classmates would not become violent adults, and that the teacher immediately stop smoking on her breaks because she would surely die of lung cancer. As to my mother's husband, he had some strange notion that feeding 40 stray cats, a stray goat, a duck, and 4 turtles (not stray) out of a 2-bedroom apartment was odd. He also became irrationally upset when the cat gave birth in his shoe. So you see, for my mother, it was either read a cozy or drink (or possibly dispose of the children and husband).

Years later, when my grandmother came to live with us (bigger house, different country, revolving pet door, dad retired and usually lost in Best Buy, girls now goth, theater geek, and raver) we slowly replaced her true crime books with cozies in order to keep her from roaming the house at night after taking her pain pills, looking for the Son of Sam whilst armed with a shoe horn.

And all this is how I came to read cozies myself, because they were always there to help me escape my crazy family, you could carry on a screaming match with a sibling and not miss much in the book, and thanks to grandma's Dahmer intervention, there were always a shitload in the house. (Serious reading was done away from the insane people.) I have an affinity for cozy mysteries. They generally aren't written in pursuit of a spot on the bestseller list; rather, cozies are written to give the reader a sense of comfort and calm (ironically, by way of murder).

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Laura says

I love the series, but this wasn't one of my favorites in the series. I would give it more like 3 1/2 stars, because I liked it, but not as much as the others, which I generally give 4 stars. I figured out the "who dunnit" relatively early, and even the motive. I don't know if that detracted from my rating or added to it, but I guess the plot was pretty easy to figure out. The book was about opera, which is one of my least favorite things, so that made it less interesting to read.

VJ says

I figured out the "how" of this one right away. As to the "who" or "why?" I'm going to keep reading.

I'm also beginning to HATE the word "reposed." Can this author not use a thesaurus?

Finished the book and again, I didn't see the "who" coming, although the "why" became obvious halfway through the book: money.

Getting to like these characters a bit more, so I think I'll keep reading.

Glenn Harris says

This time Judith McMonigle Flynn's bed and breakfast is filled with the entourage of a famous opera star (and the bulk of the star himself). Of course someone is murdered and of course it is up to Judith and her cousin/sidekick Reenie to catch the killer.

Terry says

Not my kind of female detective mystery. I'm testing our library's e-book capabilities and this sounded

interesting.

Nicole says

A preening, hypochondriac tenor with his wife and agent, their ditzy secretary, and their flamboyant producer with enormous appetites stay at the B&B.

Linda says

Ok entry in the series. I was totally kept guessing as to the identity of the murderer and even after I needed help with the why.

Anne says

Horrible name, weird cover art, but overall an excellent book. Of course, I only picked it up because of the name and art. I thought it was going to be about chickens solving a mystery.

Susan says

An operatic tenor and his entourage are staying at Judith Flynn's bed and breakfast. Though there's dissension in the group, murder is the last thing Judith expects or wants, especially since her policeman husband is off at a conference and his partner's wife is having a baby.

Tracey says

This series is becoming addictive. Short stories around 200 pages. Reading them in order keeps the main story going. Downright ridiculous mysteries but worth reading.

Jamie Jonas says

I'm giving this one five stars because it compares very favorably with the baker's dozen of "cozy mysteries" I've read previously. Daheim creates an engaging, down-to-earth protagonist with a very believable personal life, and weaves an opera-centric murder puzzle that is well thought-out and skilfully executed. In a genre that I haven't found very impressive overall, she's a definite stand-out.

Wanda says

The owner of a B&B has some opera people as her guests and the tenor gets murdered. She searches for the killer as she doesn't want the person staying at her place. Her cousin helps her while both their husbands are out of town. She also is having an old toolshed converted to an apartment for her mother.

Linda says

I do believe I have this one before and enjoyed it just as much. Judith and her cousin Renie and the two mothers that can not get along.

Dana says

enjoyable read
