



Over Maya Dead Body

Sandra Orchard

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FBI Special Agent Serena Jones arrives on Martha's Vineyard with her family, ready for a little bit of R&R and a whole lot of reminiscing as they celebrate the engagement of an old family friend. But crime doesn't take a vacation, and she's soon entangled in an investigation of a suspicious death tied to an antiquities smuggling ring.

When her investigation propels her into danger, Serena must stay the course and solve this case before anyone else dies. But just how is she supposed to do that when the two men in her life arrive on the scene, bringing with them plenty of romantic complications--and even a secret or two?

Over Maya Dead Body Details

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Author : Sandra Orchard

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From Reader Review Over Maya Dead Body for online ebook

Maureen Timerman says

Just finished the third book in this series, and it sure didn't disappoint, and can be read by its self, but you don't want to miss the other two!

Of course, bodies seem to follow our FBI agent Serena around, and going to Martha's Vineyard is not exception for her, and this is sad for her family at the same time.

You will be changing your mind as to who is involved from page to page, and just when you think you know for sure, guess what! There is a lot of action too, firebombs, break line cuts, gunshots, etc., better duck.

Our girl ends up with both of the guys who have their eye on her, they come to be of help, but will she ever choose just one? They actually both sound perfect!

Of course, darling Aunt Martha is here, and who does she not know? She is one amazing woman, and we are about to learn more about her, and she seems to have access to all kinds of help.

I adored the epilogue at the end of the book, and maybe there will be another novel in the offing, we can hope!

I received this book through Revell Publishing Book Bloggers Program, and was not required to give a positive review.

Staci says

What a fun conclusion to the Serena Jones Mystery Series!

Aunt Martha continues to be a riot. She is so eager to be a part of the action and sticks her neck out routinely in search of clues.

The author takes Serena, Nate and Tanner out of St. Louis in Over Maya Dead Body. This forces Serena to see Nate and Tanner at the same time and in a different environment. I was thrilled with who she ends up with at the end of the novel.

Speaking of the ending, the final pages were spectacular. I was smiling ear to ear as I read the conclusion and epilogue.

I look forward to what the author offers next.

My gratitude to publish Revell for a complimentary Net Galley copy of the novel. I was not required to post a review and the opinions expressed are my own.

Melanie Kilsby says

ABSOULTELY AWESOME.

Excellent plot pacing and dynamics through out the entire manuscript. I really had a hard time guessing who

did it!

pulls hat off head and bows to Sandra

SO GOOD!

I have to admit this was by far the best in the whole series. Normally, a series tends to get weaker into the third book. That is definitely not the case. A brilliant end!

Also, the love triangle did wrap up, all-be-it interestingly and not what I expected at first. I still hate love triangles but it was a good read none-the-less.

I love seeing how the plot affected Serena Jones more so in this book than in others. I also enjoyed getting to know all of these characters even more.

... even some of their darkest secrets :D

I really hope we get a book 4--just saying!

Highly recommended as an Adult Christian suspense novel.

Amanda Tero says

If you're wondering if this book can be jumped into without the other two books having been read...read the others first. I'm not going to give anything away, but a lot of things in this book would have a more powerful punch if you've gotten to know some of the characters in previous books.

That being said, yes, I read this book without having read the other two Serena Jones books. I picked up on the threads that I likely missed (so it CAN be read as a stand-alone, but references to past books make me want to read them) and enjoyed the book overall.

As a mystery... five stars hands down! My brain was swirling with the "whodunit" and I didn't piece together things as quickly as Serena did (which I liked; I like a good mystery that has me puzzling all of the way through).

As a Christian book... eh... it is very, very clean. There were no parts that made me cringe, no unacceptable language. God was mentioned, prayer was said. But overall as a Christian book, it wasn't a very strong one. What stood out to me far more was the romance.

As a romance... there was a love triangle (hides face). I don't like love triangles! But, this one ended happily for me, cause she ended up with the guy I shipped. That being said, there was a kiss, and almost-kiss. There were a LOT of feelings. I mean, Serena has two guys she likes and they both definitely like her, and she's confused as to which to choose. So yeah. If you don't like love triangles, you may not want to read this.

Overall though, I'd give this book 4.5 stars. I enjoyed the style (first-person contemporary is something I'm finding I enjoy), the mystery, and the cleanliness of this book (I've read some more strictly "Christian" books that made me cringe more than this book).

I received this book from Revell books and happily provided my honest review

Jazzy says

READ FULL REVIEW HERE: <https://thrivinghope.blogspot.com/201...>

initial reaction: WOW WOW WOW WOW WOOOOOW. RTC!!

my review - 5

I received an ARC of this book from INTERVIEWS AND REVIEWS in exchange for my review. (sorry this is so late, I got totally caught up in school. but it's here now!)

I don't normally do mysteries, but YOU GUYS. I literally got hooked the first page. Maybe it was her writing? Or Serena? Or maybe it was dinner... food can put me in certain moods. Whichever was the case, I could hardly put it down once I started it (which OF COURSE) I had to because I'm a senior and us seniors gots lots of thingies we need to take care of in school. *dramatic eye roll* Blast you, education and numbers. Blast you.

READ FULL REVIEW HERE: <https://thrivinghope.blogspot.com/201...>

Mikayla says

I would just like to clarify really quick that the two star rating is not from any bad content. This book is extremely clean. The rating is only based on the ending.

Okay, so the first two books were cute. They were clean mystery's. For the most part, this one was pretty good.

I was excited there was a tiny bit more spiritual content in this one. The problem is that even though Serena struggles with some things, she never resolves them. I really didn't like that.

The main thing I hated about this book was the ending. Just.... no. I got so mad I nearly didn't read the last few pages. It completely soured the whole series for me.

Overall, I really hated how this series ended. I will most likely not be reading anything else by this author because there really are not strong messages, and apparent her idea of a good ending and mine differ a lot.

I would recommend this to anyone looking for a clean mystery series.

Caitlyn Santi says

I have loved this series since I read book one, needless to say I was super excited for this one! I had exceedingly high expectations for this book, and it met and surpassed every single one! I loved that so many of the loose ends that have trailed throughout the series were perfectly tied up, I also loved that there were two big developments that I had predicted since book one that I was actually right about!

I enjoyed this book so much, I hated to set it down and even when I had to my mind still kept spinning trying to figure everything out! I love Serena as a character so much, she is just so fun and such a great main character!

Eep, I just loved this book so much! Especially that ending, ahh pure bliss!

I truly loved everything about this book, it will definitely have a spot on my favorite books of 2017 list and I foresee rereading Over Maya Dead Body as well as the first two books many times in the future!

I highly recommend this book, though I would recommend starting with A Fool and His Monet, I think the awesomeness of this series is best read in order! I can't wait to see what Sandra Orchard writes next!

I received an ebook copy of this book from Netgalley. No review required. All thoughts and opinions are one hundred percent my own.

Wendy Sparkes says

#3 Serena Jones Mysteries

I'm struggling with this review - how do I review it without giving away spoilers?

Well, let's start with Aunt Martha. She's as delightful as ever...and of course is always right there to help solve the mystery and help Serena out.

Now on to Tanner and Nate. Honestly, there were a few times I wanted to bang their heads together as they tried to one-up each other! The other problem? Well, only one of them was going to win Serena. I seriously do not like love triangles, especially when I happen to like both of them and you know one is going to be disappointed. In both my previous reviews I said I really hoped the author was going to have another girl ready for the one who loses Serena, and was a little apprehensive that it wasn't going to be the case. Fortunately, there is a girl, and also I liked her, so thank you for that, Sandra Orchard!

Then there's the setting. What a great place to set this story, and was definitely the right move so that Serena could see the guys outside of the "normal" day-to-day routine. I happen to like beach/coastal settings anyway, and it was also the perfect place for this murder mystery to unfold.

While I can't completely say I'm overjoyed with how it ended, it's definitely an ending I can live with and was sweet in its own way.

Favourite Quotes:

“Whenever Ben used to complain about not being cute enough to get the girls to notice him or Ashley used to complain about being mediocre in everything she tried, Jack would show us a piece of sea glass. He would remind us how it had once been ugly and unwanted—useless—but in being pushed around by the waves and roughed up by the rocks and sand, it was transformed into a beautiful, sought-after treasure.” ~ Serena Jones

After my grandfather's death, Jack had been the one person who'd noticed that God and I were no longer on speaking terms. Only, Jack hadn't given me the usual pat answer about the price of free will. Instead, he'd shared the story of a family he'd met in Africa who'd lost two children to malnutrition and struggled to meet their daily needs. Then he said something to me I'd never forgotten: Not one person in that family ever asked me how God could be so loving and still let them suffer. Jack figured it was because they'd always clung to God. And for them, God hadn't changed, only their circumstances had. Whereas I'd never really needed

God, so I hadn't turned away from Him so much as I'd come to realize I'd never been all that close to Him in the first place. ~ Serena Jones

Finally, this series has been one I've enjoyed and will want to revisit at some point. A big "Thank You" to Staci for recommending this series to me! I've enjoyed spending time with the intrepid Serena, the delightful Aunt Martha, the intriguing Carmen, the mysterious Nate and the teasing *"Which movie star do I remind you of?"* Tanner!

#1 #2 #3

Alicia says

This series was entertaining, suspenseful and so hard to put down! I liked pretty much all of the (good) main characters, and Serena Jones was a fun, regular person with the intense job of an FBI agent. I also really enjoyed the first person point-of-view take on a mystery, and the mysteries had me guessing the whole time. I have to mention Aunt Martha, Serena's eccentric and adventurous aunt who had a few tricks up her sleeve—she was awesome!

The one thing I did not like was the love triangle. I get nervous reading books with them, and I was seriously worried in certain parts throughout the third book that she was going to end up with the wrong guy. BUT THE ENDING. ? Phew! That last chapter and the epilogue were so worth it and wonderful!! Bumping up from 4 to 5 stars just for that ending :)

Cara Putman says

Ever looking for a book that will keep you guessing, and do so with a bit of humor? Over Maya Dead Body is just that kind of book...and I love that it wraps up the question of which romance Serena will choose. Serena's latest mystery is told in the perfect first person voice. There's humor, emotion, and just enough lack of self-awareness to keep her truly lovable as a heroine. She's overwhelmed trying to solve a murder that is personal and the hits keep coming. Add in two hunky friends who both want to more and a gal who's not sure she trusts herself to read either guy right, and it's a sweet romance. This book has it all. A great twisting mystery, building promise of romance, and sweet time with characters I've come to love in the series.

Kelly Bridgewater says

Romantic suspense is a great genre filled with a little bit of romance between the hero and the heroine and a non-stop action story usually filled with a hunt for a murder or justice. With Sandra Orchard's story Over Maya Dead Body, she brings in repeatable characters like Serena Jones and her two sidekicks Nate and Tanner who both choose to like Serena. The romance picks up as the story moves along, bringing me along for the ride as Serena has to choose between two men who make her heart thump. One more than the other.

As for the plot, it is different by the type of mystery it is. It is predictable in the romance and the mystery solving aspect. I knew there would be a point where Serena's life would be in danger about ninety-five

percent into the novel. The man she choose would be the one that she would be excited that saved her. The plot is very formulaic for this type of novel, which is fine because a lot of readers like their story to fit a certain formula when reading a novel. The plot read like a mystery with Serena hunting for clues and interviewing different people to try to solve the mystery, but the art aspect didn't seem to be all the important to the story, at least in my humble opinion.

The spiritual element really isn't there either, even though it is published under the Christian genre, so if a reader is scared away by the title of Christian fiction, this isn't one of those books that the reader can shy away from.

Overall, with an original mystery and a predictable romance, the repeatable characters of Serena Jones will capture the hearts of Orchard's story with an ending begging to go forward with a fourth installment. I believe fans of cozy mysteries and romantic suspense would enjoy this novel. If you are a fan of Irene Hannon or Terri Blackstock, I believe you would enjoy this novel too.

I received a complimentary copy of *Over Maya Dead Body* by Sandra Orchard from Revell Publishing, but the opinions stated are all my own.

Lindsey (Books for Christian Girls) says

About this book:

“FBI Special Agent Serena Jones arrives on Martha’s Vineyard with her family, ready for a little bit of R&R and a whole lot of reminiscing as they celebrate the engagement of an old family friend. But crime doesn’t take a vacation, and she’s soon entangled in an investigation of a suspicious death tied to an antiquities smuggling ring.

When her investigation propels her into danger, Serena must stay the course and solve this case before anyone else dies. But just how is she supposed to do that when the two men in her life arrive on the scene, bringing with them plenty of romantic complications--and even a secret or two?”

Series: Book #3 in the “*Serena Jones Mystery*” series. Review of Book #1 [Here!](#) and #2 [Here!](#)

Spiritual Content- Prayers; Talks about God; ‘H’s are capital when referring to God; Mentions of God; Mentions of talks about God & witnessing; Mentions of prayers, praying, thanking God, & blessings over food; Mentions of churches, clergymen, & religious artifacts; A few mentions of a time when Serena & God weren’t on speaking terms (an uncle noticed and talked to her about it); A few mentions of faiths; A couple mentions of a hymn; A mention of a youth group; A mention of Precious Moments figurines;
*Note: A few mentions of statues of Maya gods; A couple mentions of luck (which Serena really doesn’t believe in); A mention of a fertility-goddess pendant.

Negative Content- Minor cussing including: a ‘dimwit’, a ‘shoot’, two ‘idiot’s, three forms of ‘dumb’, and four ‘stupid’; Mentions of curses (said, not written); Eye rolling & a bit of sarcasm; Being tasered, being

kidnapped/stuffed in a trunk, being choked, fighting, gunfire, pain, & passing out (semi-detailed); Gunfire, screaming, pain, blood/bleeding, & injuries (up to semi-detailed); A fire, smoke, flames, bombs, & gunfire (up to semi-detailed); Cut brakes & a car crash (up to semi-detailed); Guns are aimed; Tackling someone; Throwing up; All about mentions of antiquities smugglers, looters, a smuggling ring, stolen antiquities, thieves/criminals, & crimes; Many mentions of murders, deaths, dead bodies, how they happened, & the killers/attackers (up to semi-detailed); Many mentions of drugs, dealers, smuggling, a drug lord, & drug rings; Mentions of a car hitting someone, a hit-and-run, gunfire, injuries, pain, blood/bleeding, bloodstains, needles, & passing out (up to semi-detailed); Mentions of being attacked/hit, injuries, a fire, bombs, gunfire, shooters, bullets, & nearly being shot (up to semi-detailed); Mentions of the mafia, mobsters, mobs, & ties to a mob; Mentions of foul play, enemies, bruises/marks, blackmail, & threats; Mentions of a plane that was shot down & pain; Mentions of terrorists; Mentions of robberies & break-ins; Mentions of jail & arrests; Mentions of dirty cops; Mentions of bars/pubs, drinking, & drunks; Mentions of lies, lying, & liars; Mentions of throwing up; A few mentions of a fire that took a set of parent's lives; A few mentions of possible kidnappings; A few mentions of setups & stings; A few mentions of a car hitting a deer; A couple mentions of a car accident & deaths; A couple mentions of World War II; A couple mentions of being hit (Book #2); A couple mentions of carbon monoxide poisoning; A mention of children dying from malnutrition; A mention of poison; A mention of poker; A mention of bird pooing on someone's head; *Notes: Mentions of singers, songs, actors, actresses, characters, movies, & TV shows; Mentions of a brand name (Land Rover).

Sexual Content- three hand/wrist kisses, two finger-to-lips touches, a hair kiss, an almost kiss, a barely-above-not-detailed kiss, and an semi-detailed kiss; A few talks about kissing, a kiss, & staring at lips (barely-above-not-detailed); Touches, Embraces, Warmth, & Butterflies/Shivers (up to semi-detailed); Some Noticing & Smelling; a 'hot'; Many mentions of dating, dates, boyfriends, girlfriends, fiancés, exes, lovers, & being interested in someone; Mentions of remembering a kiss (barely-above-not-detailed); Mentions of staring at another's lips; Mentions of kissing & kisses; Mentions of public displays of affection; Mentions of honeymoons; Mentions of winks & flirting; Mentions of jealousy; A couple mentions of other couples kissing; A couple mentions of having a type; A mention of hooking up with someone; A mention of an illicit rendezvous (that didn't happen); Thinking about love, falling/being in love, & romance; Some love, falling/being in love, & the emotions:

*Note: A mention of hormones; A mention of testosterone; A mention of a man noticing a woman's tight pants; A mention of someone trying to cover their butt (not with clothes, but with an alibi)

-Serena Jones, age 29

1st person P.O.V. of Serena

349 pages

Pre Teens- One Star

New Teens- One Star (and a half)

Early High School Teens- Three Stars

Older High School Teens- Four Stars

My personal Rating- Four Stars

I'm an emotional mess right now. I really don't want to say much for spoilers—if you've read this book, feel free to message me—but I did really, really enjoy this trilogy. I'm also having a hard time being very vague in these final thoughts were nobody can guess (based my reactions) to who Serena picked. I don't want to spoil that for anyone.

There were many parts I loved and parts I was so excited about being right on prior guesses. The action and

plot kept me guessing on who did the crime and why. I so enjoyed this novel along with the previous two in the series and plan on reading whatever this talented author puts out next. :)

Link to review:

<https://booksforchristiangirls.blogspot.com/2018/07/review-over-maya-dead-body.html>

*BFCG may (Read the review to see) recommend this book by this author. It does not mean I recommend all the books by this author.

*I received this book for free from the Publisher (Revell) for this honest review.

Laura says

OVER MAYA DEAD BODY was just as fun and quirky as I thought it would be. Serena is an FBI agent who seems to be about as clueless as they come, especially about the love stuff. I started to try to figure out who-dun-it, made my initial guesses, and then got caught up in the story and forgot to try and make my final guesses. I was admittedly more interested in who would win Serena's heart. Nate, the good ole boy who manages her apartment and has oh, so many secrets, or Tanner, her FBI co-worker who trained her for her job.

And while the romance was hot, the mystery was just as intriguing, but not terribly scary. In themes with the other books, this is an art mystery, this time with smuggled artifacts and people are turning up dead. I am pleased to say my initial guesses as to who-dun-it were spot on despite the numerous red herrings planted in the story.

The faith message is rather weak, but slightly present. There was one untied string which may or may not mean another book in the series--since it was alluded as to who the killer might be.

I enjoyed reading this book. I received a free copy of OVER MAYA DEAD BODY. All opinions are my own.

Kav says

Campy and quirky and sooooooo much fun. The author's devious plotting leads Serena and company on a merry chase around Martha's Vineyard as they work on solving a very personal murder mystery. Madcap mayhem guaranteed! Aunt Martha is in her element and even Harold the Cat gets to pack his bag and come holidaying.

The mystery is brilliant. I think I suspected nearly every secondary character at some point in my read. And I was all too gullible in places, willing to be reeled in by multiple red herrings. I might just have to turn in my armchair sleuth credentials after finishing this novel!

This is the third and final book in the Serena Jones Mystery series and, honestly, I think it is best to read these books in order. That's because of the developing romantic entanglements that carry over from one book to the next. And, hallelujah, we finally find out who Serena will spend her happily ever after with!

In fact the author did something rather outrageous and totally intriguing -- she let readers vote for who Serena would choose as her Mr. Right. Fans quickly divided into teams -- Nate vs Tanner -- and all bets were off. Even Sandra Orchard didn't know what the romance outcome would be as she was writing this third book. Talk about gutsy. But she pulls it off brilliantly.

I have to admit to falling hard for both heroes -- wisecracking FBI agent Tanner and there's-more-than-meets-the-eye neighbour Nate. My heart feels rather pummeled now that I've watched it all play out to a stunning conclusion. And I loved every minute even though I'm not a fan of love triangles as a rule.

Clever from the unique cover art to the tongue-in-cheek title to the compelling story within. I loved this book so much that I savored it over a period of three days! (I usually read a book in a day or day and a half.) But I didn't want this one to end even though I wanted to know how everything turned out. So I doled out my reading time in short installments and then giddily created my own spin offs scene by scene before picking up with the story once again. Reading Over Maya Dead Body was such a blast! I'll admit to feeling a bit melancholy now that it's all over.

Book provided courtesy of the author and Revell Publishing

Sarah Grace Grzy says

[Serena and Tanner all the way! <3 (hide spoiler)]
