



## Board Stiff

*Annelise Ryan*

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## **Board Stiff** Annelise Ryan

"The funniest deputy coroner to cut up a corpse since, well, ever." —Laura Levine

Sorenson, Wisconsin's deputy coroner Mattie Winston is back on the job. . .in a nursing home examining the body of Bernie Chase—the now former president of the Twilight Home's board of directors—who is covered in a powder used to turn liquids to solids. The home's residents are certain Bernie was offing the patients who cost him too much. . .and the patient that found him can't remember a thing.

Between her ongoing tug of war with Detective Hurley, fulfilling her new job requirement of seeing a shrink, and wrangling with the Twilight Home's board of directors, Mattie's got her scrubbed hands full. She'll need all of her outside-the-box forensic skills to crack a case that's turning out to be stranger—and more dangerous—than anything she's seen before!

## Praise for Annelise Ryan and her Mattie Winston series

"A puzzler of a mystery. What a thrill ride!" —Jenn McKinlay

"Has it all: suspense, laughter, a spicy dash of romance..." —Tess Gerritsen

"Another winning mystery!" —Leann Sweeney

## Board Stiff Details

Date : Published March 4th 2014 by Kensington Books (first published January 1st 2014)

ISBN :

Author : Annelise Ryan

Format : Kindle Edition 368 pages

Genre : Mystery, Cozy Mystery, Romance, Fiction

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## From Reader Review Board Stiff for online ebook

### Nancy Narma says

Mayhem, Murder, Romance & Reunions are Captured in Sorenson”

Mattie Winston is in a muddle. Since she lost her job as Deputy Coroner two months ago, she has been re-hired and is seeing Psychiatrist Maggie Baldwin on the insistence of her friend, landlord and once-again boss, Izzy, who has been extremely worried about her. Mattie has been through quite a bit of emotional trauma, with the discovery of her now-ex-husband David’s philandering plus lots of financial problems to solve—and then there’s Hurley. That’s hunky Detective Steve Hurley to be exact—who makes Mattie’s heart sing and her mind turn to mush. Izzy has a non-fraternization rule and asks her to choose between her job and her romance. Mattie, before Izzy re-hired her, thought she was being hired as an ER Nurse, so she chose, you guessed it, R-O-M-A-N-C-E, with someone near but, oh so not dear, squashing the opportunity. If nothing else, Mattie is resilient—until Hurley’s supposed-to-be ex shows up with his teenage daughter! Mattie takes refuge at a nearby casino, drowning her sorrows in chips and faded memories. She avoids contact with Hurley, even as she’s commandeered at the grocery store parking lot by frantic local Mortician, Irene Keller, who is afraid her beloved, but quite befuddled due to dementia, Husband Bjorn has killed someone at the Twilight Nursing Home where he resides. When the lifeless body of CEO and Nursing Home owner, Bernard Chase is discovered in the men’s room, all fingers point in poor Bjorn’s direction, especially with the more than possible murder weapon in sight! Did Bjorn really murder this unpopular soul? If poor, muddled Bjorn didn’t do the deed, than who did? The evening charge nurse/Bernie’s Girlfriend, Regan Simmons? His cold-as-ice Wife, Vonda? The Author has woven a wildly tangled web which encompasses mayhem, chuckles and more than a few surprises. If you have not become acquainted with Mattie and the gang, I strongly suggest that you do—lots of intrigue and laughs are always the order of the day. I can’t wait for the next volume—I’m betting you will agree.

Nancy Narma

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### Doris says

Hope Annalise Ryan is working on the next Mattie Winston book! A good cozy mystery and story. Several cliff hangers at the end. This series is fun to read, so need the next installment!

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### Rachelle Snyder says

#### **Love the different murder scenarios.**

Ryan keeps the characters growing and developing at the same time mixes up the crazy types of situations Mattie gets herself into.

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## **Anastasia says**

Board Stiff by Annelise Ryan is the 5th book in the Mattie Winston Mystery series. After her break-up with detective Steve Hurley when his wife and daughter turned up on his doorstep, Mattie Winston returns to her old job as investigator with the coroners office. She is called to the death of Bernie Chase, owner of the Twilight Home and believed by many of the residents to be killing them off when their care became more expensive and costly. A fun book with Mattie juggling the investigation with rekindling her romance with detective Steve Hurley. I love that she is smart and willing to help others despite her own problems. An enjoyable, engrossing mystery.

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## **Courtnie says**

2.5 stars

I have no hissy fits to throw after reading this, which is a relief.

I wasn't a huge fan of the murder at the nursing facility, and I pegged the killer early on, but that was pure guessing on my part and it was still fun to see all the clues come together.

The best news is that Mattie sees a psychiatrist and starts to journal. All the self-examination puts a huge halt on that gambling lunacy. We're still wrapped up in the Hurley/Mattie will-they/won't they/can't these two just figure it out already drama, but at least it didn't make me twitch this book. And the newest potential wedge that could come between them was...removed.

So, we reached a more even keel story line in terms of character drama, which made it more enjoyable. In truth, it probably deserves another half star, but I'm still bitter about that last book.

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## **Betty says**

### **Mattie's Life Changes Again.**

In the 5th book of this series again grows and her life changes directions. The murder occurs in an Assisted Living Home. Rumors explode easily and one going around the the murder victim was killing off patients. Emily is staying the night at Mattie's cottage and see a "Peeking Tom". The result Mattie and Steve rush to her aid. Steve tells Mattie his frustration with being a Father he never expected to be one. Mattie doesn't tell Steve she is carrying her child. Mattie needs to find answers to these questions while running the investigation at the nursing home. I highly recommend this series.

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**Melissa says**

I continue to find this series entertaing. There's always something going on in Mattie's life besides the murder. There are always dialogue and events that make me laugh out loud. I won't be forgetting "furniture disease" anyme soon.

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**Malia says**

Witty, and Funny, but it turns into a tense murder mystery in an elderly care facility.

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**Maureen DeLuca says**

Book #5 - and it was a nice, fun , story! 4 stars for a cozy mystery- I suggest if you read this series to start from book #1- all the characters and story line are on going... If you enjoy a fun, cozy- with a roll of an eye a few times (hey- it's a cozy) pick up this series- Not all were as good as book 1 or this one- but a quick, fast , fun read-

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**Gwen says****Mayhem**

Good but overly wordy at times with repetition and lack of professionalism and discretion of characters. Too predictable. Hurley seemed a little out of character in this one.

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**Corryn says**

3.5

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**Lisa Morin says****Exciting Story**

I enjoy this series quite a bit. The characters are strong and down to earth. I love Mattie, she is such a fun character and most readers will be able to relate to her.

This story involves the death of a nursing home owner. It seems the residents are suspicious of him and are fast to feed the rumor mill. It's up to Mattie to ask the right questions and working with Hurley again is not as easy as she hoped.

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## Marie says

In *Board Stiff*, the body of Bernie Chase, CEO and owner of the Twilight Nursing Home, is discovered in the bathroom of the facility. Back at work as the deputy coroner, Mattie Winston soon discovers that the suspects are plentiful, including the elderly residents, who have their own reason for wanting Chase dead. Working with Hurley again isn't going to be easy for Mattie, but she must use her skills to uncover the clues and figure out who killed Chase.

I really enjoyed this book. I love learning about Mattie's job as a deputy coroner. It's so fascinating. Ryan, the author, provides just enough detail to make it interesting, but not so much so that it's over my head, dry, dull or gory. I loved how the book picks up the story a few months after the last one ended. Luckily, Ryan summarizes the events of the last book in a way that it immediately jogged my memory.

Mattie Winston is an excellent main character. She's a funny, woman-of-size, who has a knack for solving puzzles. I just wish she'd have a little self control when it came to her love interest, Hurley. She keeps saying that she shouldn't be with him, yet that resolve doesn't last long when he's around. I wish that she'd make up her mind with regards to him and stick to it. She's too smart and self-confident to lose control so easily. I believe I had similar thoughts with regards to her gambling addiction in the last book.

This is the fifth book in the series. While I did read and enjoy #4, *Lucky Stiff*, I haven't read the first three. Because Ryan does an excellent job of introducing characters and relating earlier events, I believe the book can be read as a standalone book. It's so good, though, that you'll want to read the others as well. So, if you can you might as well start at the beginning.

Highly recommended. This is such a fun series, I'm definitely looking forward to the next one. At some point in the future, I hope to read the first three books in the series.

Annelise Ryan is the pseudonym of Beth Amos.

For more information about this book or to browse inside, please visit the Kensington Books website.

For more information about the author and her other books, please visit Beth Amos's (Annelise Ryan's) website.

Thanks to those nice people from Kensington Books for this review copy.

*Board Stiff* by Annelise Ryan, Kensington Books, ©2014. ISBN 9780758272768(Mass Market), 360p.

This review is also available on my blog, Daisy's Book Journal.

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## Teresa says

3.5 stars

The story was good, continued the series. My only complaint is the font/size used for the diary entries. I read the book (not the kindle) and the font used for the diary entries is extremely difficult to read AND the font was very small. Annoying, but didn't detract from the story.

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### **Chana says**

I thought maybe it was going to be funny, but it was not. It was OK. I did learn about isolyser powder, very interesting. And I guess I was a little amused by the old folks who hang out in the yard smoking what they think is pot. Probably the same group who was doing that in high school.... If I ever have to go to an old age home I want to hang out with my friends smoking pot in the yard, heh heh.

The owner of this old age home is found dead in a bathroom with isolyser powder around his mouth. Enter Mattie, who works in the ME's office, and Hurley, who is a cop. Besides the murder mystery, Mattie and Hurley are a clandestine couple, and recently Hurley's wife (I thought she had divorced me, I swear!) and daughter (I have a daughter?!?!?) have entered the picture.

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