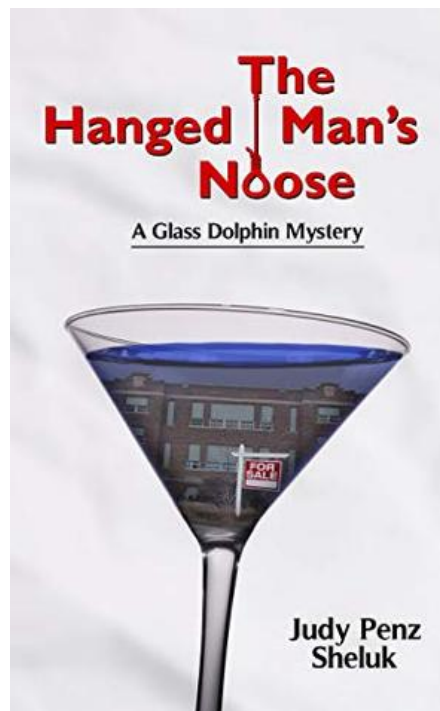




The Hanged Man's Noose: A Glass Dolphin Mystery

Judy Penz Sheluk

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Freelance writer Emily Garland is cash-strapped, newly single, and tired of reporting on the same old condo stats. When she's offered a lucrative assignment in the village of Lount's Landing, she decides to take a chance. All she has to do is relocate and uncover the real story behind a proposed redevelopment plan. What could possibly go wrong?

Plenty, as it turns out. Not everyone is happy with real estate mogul Garrett Stonehaven's plans to convert an old schoolhouse into a mega-box store. At the top of the list is Arabella Carpenter, the outspoken owner of The Glass Dolphin antiques shop, who will do just about anything to preserve the integrity of the town's historic Main Street.

But Arabella is not alone in her opposition. Before long, a vocal dissenter dies. A few days later, another body is discovered. Though both deaths are ruled accidental, Emily's suspicions are aroused.

Putting her interview skills to the ultimate test, Emily teams up with Arabella to discover the truth behind Stonehaven's latest scheme—before the murderer strikes again.

The Hanged Man's Noose: A Glass Dolphin Mystery Details

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From Reader Review The Hanged Man's Noose: A Glass Dolphin Mystery for online ebook

Jan Miller says

Judy Penz Sheluk really impressed me with The Hanged Man's Noose. I did not guess who the killer was. It is a talented author who does not make the killer obvious, and stumps the readers/listeners. I found myself pulled into the story from the very beginning. The imagery and details in the book are wonderful, the characters are well developed and the plot is complex. This book is both a standalone listen and part of a series. Suzanne T Fortin did a good performance with this book. Some of the characters had distinguishable voices, which I love. I will definitely listen to more books by this author and narrator.

Gail Baugniet says

A tweet about an interview with editor Lourdes Venard led me to freelance reporter and author Judy Penz Sheluk's blog site and the discovery of her debut mystery novel, THE HANGED MAN'S NOOSE.

These opening lines of the book's synopsis hooked me:

Journalist Emily Garland lands a plum assignment as the editor of a niche magazine based in Lount's Landing, a small town named after a colorful 19th century Canadian traitor.

As the novel unfolded, I quickly developed a liking for the protagonist, freelance writer Emily Garland, and felt the tension in her emotional and tentative decision to relocate for a new job assignment. The history of Lount's Landing is presented with an intrigue that supports the mystery behind events occurring in the small town.

Emily's assignment to expose a real estate developer's intentions soon serves to introduce several well-developed characters with a kaleidoscope of conflicting personalities. As the vibrant colors of splintered-glass events swirl around the town, in and out of a cozy tavern with its own infamous history, the wounds cut deep.

And then, as the expression goes, murder happens.

I admit to thinking, more than once while reading The Hanged Man's Noose, "I didn't see that coming." Sheluk holds the reader captive with hints of secrets and promises of revelations that, when finally unveiled, do not disappoint.

Suzan says

I was gifted this book with the understanding that I would leave an honest review.

I enjoyed this book. Judy Penz Sheluk is new to me but I found her book very interesting with many twists so I didn't quickly figure out what was going on. I did have a hard time at first keeping track of everyone. There are a lot of characters but about 1/4 of the way into the book I was doing fine. I really enjoyed

Suzanne T. Fortin's narration of this story. She does a nice job of keeping you listening. The lead character is a journalist Emily Garland and you quickly get to like her. I really enjoyed the addition of descriptions of food and drinks. The lovely shortbread cookies that Arabella Carpenter, Glass Dolphin Antiques shop owner loves is one example and Judy Penz Sheluk has the recipe on her website so cool. She also has the signature drink The Treasontini, a blueberry martini, the drink on the cover and then the nacho's " Full Noose Nachos: are also included. So much fun.

Norma says

(Format : Audiobook)

"Dark, deep and dangerous."

Toronto based freelance journalist Emily Garland is offered an assignment in a small town called Loundt's Landing, editing and revamping in local, failing monthly publication. The town had been in decline but there was a scheme that might help kick start it's recovery. Or not. Because the real reason Emily was being sent there by her boss was to investigate a certain charismatic developer and, if possible, expose him for the 'lieing, cheating bastard we both know he is."

After a somewhat conventional beginning, this enjoyable murder mystery introduces us to a cast of colourful characters, disturbing deaths, silent secrets and a fresh take on fakes and reproductions. Not the most believable of stories but great fun and well written (although the ending felt rather rushed). Suzanne T. Fortin, the narrator, did an excellent job, her pleasant, clearly enunciated voice well intoned, her reading well paced and delivered with understanding and gentle emotion. Not a great differentiation between characters voices, but the speaker was always obvious.

The Hanged Man's Noose is a pleasant mystery, fun to read and to try to guess at the answers. My thanks to the rights holder for freely gifting me a complimentary copy, at my request, via Audiobook Boom. This could turn out to be an enjoyable series.

Jennifer says

Loved this debut novel! I couldn't put it down - read it in 2 days. One murder was enough, but when people start getting bumped off left and right, well it starts to read like a Clue game. Everybody is a suspect! And of course, the murderer is never the one you would expect... The characters are very well developed - I liked Emily a lot. She was fresh-faced and ambitious without being too naïve. Sheluk demonstrates great use of voice, not an easy feat when switching character POVs. The chapters are very short - which I liked. Kept the pace moving quickly. My only complaint is that it ended! Can't wait for the next one! (hint, hint Judy!)

Victoria Haugen says

GREAT Emily Garland mystery, it was awesome, loved it!

I really enjoyed the character Emily, and the struggles she faced. Great plot, lots of action, suspense & drama, the narration was amazing, I'm really happy with this one, and would welcome the opportunity to listen to more of Judy's books :) Great job! Definitely recommend it!

I was given this free review copy audiobook at my request and have voluntarily left this review.

3 no 7 says

"The Hangman's Noose" by Judy Penz Sheluk is set in the small, picturesque, Canadian town of Lount's Landing. Emily Garland lands a prestigious assignment as the editor of the town's upscale magazine, but she soon finds out that when a job offer seems too good to be true it probably is.

Along with its charming setting, Lount's Landing has a notorious history, hence the business named "The Hangman's Noose." The first hurdle for Garland is that she is both an outsider and the editor of a magazine that promotes a small town that might not want to be promoted. The otherwise delightful town is in turmoil due to encroaching real estate development and the hint of a "big box" store opening; two circumstances that might devastate the old-fashioned downtown and send the quaint bed and breakfast economy into a death spiral.

Many diverse and complex characters drive this story. The town's infamous past is matched only by the hidden secrets of its residents. The discovery of a dead body ignites accusations and infighting; tensions intensify as the body count rises. Everyone has something to gain by the deaths; everyone has a hidden secret, and everyone is a suspect.

The plot realistically reflects the redevelopment and economic problems that many small towns face. In this story, economic uncertainty is complicated by the deaths; nothing hurts a small-town tourist economy like a few dead bodies.

The plot has drama, trauma, and a little fun as well. It is enjoyable, creative, well written, and easy to read. The twists and turns do not end until the book does. The ending opens the door for future adventures with the quirky characters who live in Lount's Landing.

Judy Penz Sheluk sent me the audio version of "The Hangman's Noose," narrated by Suzanne Fortin. The audio was a pleasant and clearly articulated. Fortin was able to deliver the diverse personalities of both female and male characters. I listen to audio books as I go for a morning run because the suspense motivates me to get out. I did a lot of running during this book because I was compelled to listen to find out what happened next.

Faouzia says

Thank you very much Judy Penz Sheluk for this free copy in exchange of an honest review.

4.5 Stars.

The title was the first thing to attract me to this book, it sounded intriguing and i knew i wanted to read the story behind it.

Emily Garland, a free lancer journalist, was sent to a small town "Lount's Landing" to investigate the new project of Garret Stonehaven, a real estate developer with a lot of enemies. The atmosphere of this small Canadian town was simply intoxicating. I really loved it. The Main Street holding all the important commerce of the town, the one pub where everybody met, the diner where all the town had breakfast, the people who knew each other and each other's dark secrets, the gossip and all...

For a small calm town, 2 accidental deaths happening in the same week is strange enough, but when they are followed by another, which might or might not be accidental, everybody becomes suspicious. And this is when the talent of Emily comes in handy, and as she sets to discover the murderer she stumbles upon a big number of secrets, connecting a lot of people and going back in time.

The characters were an interesting mix. As it turned out that all of them can gain something or has a motive for any of these accidents, soon all the town is full of suspects.

I loved the story, it was fun with a bit of drama and i enjoyed myself a lot while reading it.

Surely i will be looking forward to reading more of the "Glass Dolphin Mystery" books. I don't think i've had enough of Lount's Landing yet!

Karly says

A great mystery to follow along and try to solve. Did not see the ending coming! I also love the setting of Loundt's Landing :)

Bikram says

I had requested and received audiobook version of this book for free from the author, in exchange for an unbiased review.

I had read Judy Penz Sheluk's book Live Free or Tri a month or so ago and had loved the writing style in that book. I had wished for a longer book of similar quality from her and that's where "The Hanged Man's Noose" comes in. This one has a run time of ~7 hours and was quite satisfactory.

The writing style is same as the previous book I had read - easy going with simple sentence structure. I didn't have to pay close attention to every line, lest I lose track of what's happening. The story moved at a comfortable pace and was easy to follow. And it was entertaining. The mystery element was juuuust right for a "cozy mystery" genre; nothing too brutal or dark. There are twist n turns to keep you excited. The characters are relatable, which is always good in this genre where readers need someone to root for.

The narration was done good. Pronunciations were fine, audio quality was good too.

FangirlNation says

In Hanged Man's Noose by Judy Penz Sheluk, Emily Garland has spent several years working as a freelance journalist focusing on real estate issues when she gets a special job offer from Michelle Ellis, her boss. She ends up leaving her home of Toronto to a small town 90 minutes northeast of Toronto named Lount's Landing and taking on editorship of the local paper, Inside the Landing. However, her real assignment is to secretly investigate developer Garrett Stonehaven, whom Emily secretly hates for what she is certain is unproven corruption. Now, in Lount's Landing, Stonehaven seems to be up to no good for another time. He has bought the old elementary school and plans to turn it into a big box store, but is he up to something else?

Read the rest of this review and other fun, geeky articles at Fangirl Nation

Christine says

Investigative freelance writer Emily Garland is thrilled to be given a regular assignment to edit a new magazine called Inside the Landing. It requires her to move to a place called Lount's Landing a small town outside of Toronto. The sweet deal includes a renovated Victorian home and a real paycheck. The one caveat is she has to dig into what mega-developer Garrett Stonehaven is up to in the town.

It's a great plan because she has long hated Garrett Stonehaven and believed he was responsible for her mother's untimely death. Off she goes to Lount's Landing and lands in the middle of some long-dead secrets and lies.

An intriguing game of cross and double cross takes place and Emily weaves her way through the intrigue. The Hanged Man's Noose is an interesting first book in the series.

Kathy says

Another fun read from Judy Penz Sheluk. This is such an enjoyable cozy. It has all the basics...a neat town, a few neat stores and as usual and as in all small towns, a lot of nice folks and a few nosy ones. This town, called Lounts Landing, is named after a traitor. While there is no actual treason against one's country in this book, there are definitely a few traitors. Another thing this neat little town has is an antique store called surprisingly enough, The Glass Dolphin. Antiques are something I like and even though this is not a story about antiques, I really like the mention of them and occasional descriptions. While I have called this a cozy and a fun, easy read, it is definitely not lightweight. There are plenty of twists and turns and dead bodies in this story:)

I read Book 2 first and liked it so much I was fortunate to get Book 1 to read. Both books can totally stand alone and have very different storylines even though they involve some of the same characters. Characters I really liked. I think Sheluk is very good at giving her characters a lot of personality. When an author is good at describing characters, not their physical characteristics but their personalities, it makes them very enjoyable and the story even more readable.

That's what happens in both of the books in the series. I hate to be so pushy here Judy Penz Sheluk, but please hurry up and write Book 3.

***This book was provided to me free of charge in exchange for an honest review. All opinions are definitely my own.

Kelley says

Novel received courtesy of Goodread.com giveaway

I enjoyed this novel as a quirky mystery that turned out to be really enjoyable. The book was complicated by too many characters with too much background information to keep straight in such a short book. It would

have been better, in my opinion, to have fewer characters. The author worked so diligently to give her characters rich backgrounds and I appreciate that.

The story takes place in Lount's Landing, a small town north of Toronto that is in the process of trying to revitalize the downtown. Garrett Stonehaven, a rich man from Toronto, wants to buy the unused elementary school and turn it into a mega-box store. Of course, this starts all sorts of trouble in town. There are connections in this community that go back to childhood and those connections play a part in the mystery.

Lucia Davis says

This was an absolutely delightful read. I really enjoyed reading about all the characters in this small town. This mystery was well set up, with enough twists to keep me guessing. 4.5 stars. Looking forward to reading Glass Dolphin Mystery #2!
