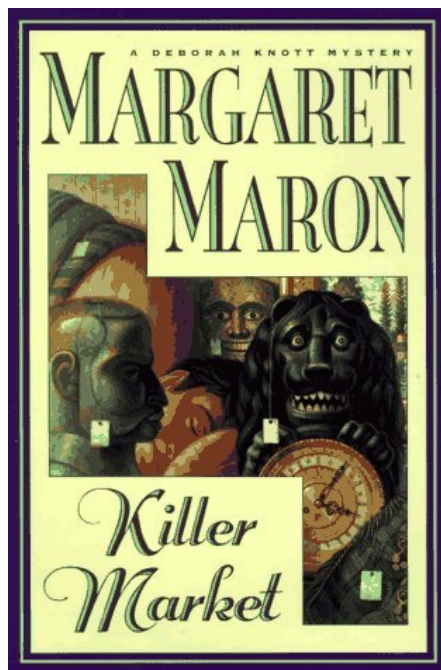




Killer Market

Margaret Maron

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A chilling misadventure begins when Deborah, hunting high and lowboy for lodging, is befriended by an eccentric old lady calling herself Mrs. Jernigan. Deborah follows the chiffon-clad Good Samaritan through rooms of French provincial and high-tech modern when the lady suddenly vanishes, leaving a sexy hunk of manhood dead and motionless on a pricey piece of "motion" furniture. Who is the mysterious Mrs. Jernigan and why is Deborah herself suspected of killing a furniture executive who specialized in making after-hours bedroom arrangements and cutthroat deals? To clear her name, Deborah has to table all other plans and investigate. But the knotty heart of this case is a secret well hidden behind a wall of silence about a woman's past. It will take all Deborah's courtroom experience and intuitive skills to strip through layers of deception to solve a whodunit that is strictly top-shelf...

Killer Market Details

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From Reader Review Killer Market for online ebook

Jean says

This is book five in the Knott series and we have Judge Deborah Knott substituting for a vacationing colleague in High Point, North Carolina. The author places the murder in the middle of the Furniture Market Show. There are lots of suspects including Knott. Knott runs into an old law school friend as well as lots of unusual characters.

The plot is full of twists and turns to keep the reader turning pages. There is southern hospitality, lots of furniture lore, industry jargon and realistic dialogue. C. J. Critt does a good job narrating the story. It is great they have kept the same narrator so far in the series.

Erin says

I don't know if it was the book or just me this time around, but I just really didn't enjoy this one. The only thing I could think was it was the market setting just not being that interesting. I was thinking that it was maybe that Deborah is away from home for this one, subbing in for another judge in another county, except that she's done this before and I didn't dislike that book. So I guess it has to come down to the characters in this one maybe didn't pop off the page as well as in previous books. Plus I was seriously rolling my eyes at all the coincidental meetups that started the whole story.

I was really glad to have Deborah back to her family and all it's quirks in the next book.

Barbara says

What can I say? I like Deborah Knott. This is my third mystery. This is earlier in the series than the other two books I read, but I still find Deborah to be an intelligent and prudent "detective". She is not intrusive or impulsive; just haring off to question anyone she thinks may be involved in the murder, whether she know them or not. She almost seems to get involved despite herself; but this is probably a misconception on my part; since I've only read three books. After all, her childhood friend and a police officer, Dwight Bryant, does warn the police detective in this book that Deborah likes to conduct her own investigations and get involved.

Well, at least so far, she is not a TSTL cozy mystery heroine. I'm looking forward to more in the series.

Bryn says

Again, recommended by mom. She, of course, loved that it took place at the biggest annual furniture market in the country; unfortunately, I did not share her enthusiasm.

I did enjoy the character of schizophrenic former designer, and it did make me laugh more than once. The

series character didn't do much for me, however, and I didn't think the plot was all that interesting. In the end it was just a bit to "fluffy" for me.

MJ says

Enjoyed learning a little bit about the furniture trade :)

Kellie says

My opinion of this author has not changed after reading this one. I think Maron has a very unique style of writing. I love the education a reader gets on a specific industry of North Carolina. In this one it was the furniture/decorating business. She takes an actual real life industry and weaves a mystery in it. Not only is a reader getting a fun mystery, but they are learning something about North Carolina. This is great, especially if you live in the state. The problem I have with her writing is, I find it difficult to follow her characters. I think Maron could add a few more pages to her books to give a recap of Deborah Knott and her character, as well as, more memorable information on the characters particular to the story. I find myself having to go back to figure out who is who and what part do they play in the story line quite a few times. The rating would go from a 3 to a 5 in no time.

Sandy Weir says

Another southern adventure with Deborah Knott, again traveling to a different location in North Carolina to cover for another judge's absence. Maron introduces us to the Home Furnishings Market, which is quite a surprise. I liked the insightful treatment of various characters with handicaps, such as Savannah. While her court room is definitely not filling the book, Judge Knott's reflections about the two cases presented are solid and offer a nice diversion.

Caitlin says

Deborah finds herself away to judge exactly at the time of the biggest to-do in a small town that is usually deserted. And for the first time, Deborah's unfortunate proximity to so much murder brings her in as a suspect. Despite repeated warnings to stay out of things, Deborah can't help but look for clues to get herself out of the hot seat.

In the meantime, Deborah meets an eclectic set of characters from a little girl to some middle-aged crazies of the furniture market. I quite enjoyed reading this novel; it had everything I enjoy about Judge Knott plus some.

Cindy says

Set in High Point, NC, the furniture capital of the US, District Judge Deborah Knott investigates and is a suspect in the death of Chan. This was my first encounter with a book by Margaret Maron and while it was

an okay read, similar in tone and complexity to books by Sue Grafton, it didn't measure up to Grafton's expertise in creating the sassy Kinsey Milhone. Probably my one and only dip into her series.

Patty says

I'm still really enjoying this series. This episode was fascinating because it was set in a North Carolina town where during "market week" nothing much is done except selling furniture, and thousands of people flood the small town to buy and sell furniture. Judge Deborah Knott is in town to substitute for a vacationing judge and, of course, ends up involved in a murder (or two or three). As usual there is a bunch of interesting characters and complicated family ties. I did miss Deborah's family, none made an appearance in this book.

Looking forward to the next in the series.

Barbara Mitchell says

After reading a serious history of World War I, I needed something light and fun and who better to turn to than Margaret Maron. I love her books and have been saving a couple I found at a book sale.

Judge Deborah Knott not only has a huge family, she has many friends throughout the South, and occasionally is sent to fill in for a vacationing judge in some interesting little town. This time she's been sent to High Point, North Carolina and doesn't realize until she arrives and finds every motel filled that it is Market Week. That's the week when everyone who is anyone in the furniture business arrives in High Point to sell, steal ideas, entertain, and oh yes, there's a murder.

Thankfully Deborah runs into an old friend from law school who had to drop out when her daughter was severely injured in an accident. Dixie then wound up in the furniture design business. Her best friend and neighbor Pell Austin, has a spare bedroom Deborah can occupy. That good news is clouded by Deborah finding the murder victim who happens to be Dixie's son-in-law.

The story is convoluted but easy to follow with the fun mix of characters that we've come to expect in a Maron mystery. One of them is a woman who was a brilliant designer until she fell victim to bipolar disease; she won't stay on her medications and so is believed to be a crazy bag lady.

Through the story we learn a lot about the ins and outs of furniture design and marketing. It appears to be a more cut-throat business than I would have thought. This is a good story, a fun read, and one I recommend.

Liz says

Having been to the High Point Market during sales/design week as a design student, this fed into my memories of how overpowering this bi-yearly meetup is. Incredible mashups of textile, accessory & furniture eras, styles, finishes, proportions, crammed cheek by jowl into huge cavernous areas, lots of corridors where it's very easy to get lost & totally creeped out. A friend & I scared each other to death a couple of times, getting lost & popping out at each other.

And since it squashes all the players into a limited space in a limited amount of time, things can happen. It's actually a relatively small industry in the US, just as with several other groups I've worked with, pretty

ingrown & you could imagine lots of secrets & feuds, infighting, nasty little meannesses, etc.

Although I figured out several of the puzzles ahead of the end, and that's ok, the only seriously jarring notes were the references back home, with the frankly, irritating, patronizing & busybody nonsense between Sheriff Bryant & the High Point Detective, seriously attempting to diminish Judge Knott's credibility, both personal & professional. It was so obnoxious that at one point I wondered if the investigating detective was one of the suspects.

Anyway, fun memories & a good summertime read.

Jeff Tonkinson says

At about 3/4 through I would've rated it 4.5 stars. It brought you into the arcane world of furniture making, marketing, and wholesaling. (Not as deep as John Dunning brings you into the world of used books, but enough to get a sense of place.) The protagonist is not a professional sleuth but, like Miss Marple, somehow finds herself in the middle of a murder and to it's solution. The story moved comfortably and interestingly along. However near that 3/4 it seemed to drown in dialog. And I found the big reveal disappointing and unrealistic at the same time. But it was good enough to read another in the series.

Joyce Lagow says

5th in the Judge Deborah Knott series set in North Carolina.[return][return]Deborah is sitting in for a colleague in High Point, North Carolina during Market Week, when buyers from all over the world descend on the small town of High Point to check out the latest offerings in the furniture and furnishings industry. A murder occurs; the victim is a very old acquaintance of Deborah s. She is reluctantly involved in the investigation.[return][return]That s the plot. While Maron s plots always revolve around some central theme, usually social, the theme the North Carolina furniture industry seems the justification for the book; the plot is just a rationalization. As such, it is the weakest of the Deborah Knott series to this point. None of the recurring characters are present, and while the one-timers are adequate, the furniture industry dominates the book. It s interesting, no question, but the plot is a bare thread, and there are weaknesses that usually don t occur in Maron s stories.[return][return]Deborah herself is such a strong character and so well-drawn by this point in this series that she carries the book based on Maron's obvious affection for her. Some of the scenes, portrayed as overheard conversations among sales representatives, are truly funny; Maron has a real flair for dialogue, and the humor spices up the book. In addition, Maron's sure touch with regional idioms and customs adds the usual strength and interest to the book. These save the book from being merely vehicle for promotion of the furniture industry and the international market held in High Point.[return][return]It s a good book, an interesting read, but definitely not her best.

Cam says

Another comforting mystery from the Deborah Knott series, this time as a visiting judge in the host town of a huge furniture industry convention. A man she knew during her troubled youth is killed on site, and even the Judge is a suspect. He's about to leave his current firm for an overseas position, has a poor track record with women before and after his deceased wife, and might be taking his young daughter with him. Of course, the judge gets mixed up with the family and the industry types from his company and slowly learns about all the other potential killers. Was it the wily and loony, manic-depressive designer who loved his daughter? Was it

jealous women from his past? Was it angry grandparents? Was it someone from the firm he was leaving? Plenty asides about the industry, the big show, and another small town pretty much just like hers. Cute banter with the little girl, too.

Kwoomac says

There were definitely things I enjoyed about this book but not more than an okay rating. The protagonist is a 30 something woman who's a judge. She has a spotty history. Her family wasn't in this book but she has 11 overprotective brothers and a bossy father. The setting was kind of interesting, the story takes place in a big furniture town in North Carolina during the international home furnishings market.

What I was less thrilled with was the constant rehashing of who was where, who had a motive at the time of the murder. So I slogged through. The ending was nicely done so I was happy enough with this one. It did serve it's purpose which was to provide a light and distracting read.

Mary Ronan Drew says

This marvelous mystery should be subtitled "Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about Furniture Manufacturing and Merchandising." Margaret Maron's mysteries are all (so far) set in North Carolina and this one takes place in High Point during the semi-annual furniture marketing week.

Killer Market has one of the most unusual murder "weapons" I've encountered: a brownie. A special brownie laced with ground up penicillin, fed to a greedy eater who is allergic to penicillin. (Should anyone want to do me in badly enough they could do worse than use this technique on me as I'm extremely allergic to penicillin and I love brownies.)

Judge Deborah Knott is sent to High Point to substitute for a local judge. She arrives in the small city in the Carolina Piedmont remembering another visit there when it was very quiet, no traffic to speak of, and they rolled up the sidewalks at 5 PM.

But the place is jumpin'. Traffic jams everywhere, no parking places anywhere, and no rooms available in a hotel within 60 miles. It's the week of the International Home Furnishings Market. Some 70,000 people are in town for the week. Deborah meets an eccentric old lady who gives her an exhibitor's badge so that she can get into the show and into the many parties sponsored by furniture companies.

Fortunately, she runs into a friend from law school who agrees to put her up for the week and she meets a handful of people from high end manufacturers to low end retailers. She and the old lady (who uses a new pseudonym with each person she encounters) get tote bags and she watches as the woman pulls out plastic baggies and proceeds to fill them with food from the party buffet tables. Unfortunately, when she later reaches into her tote for her checkbook (or her car keys) she pulls out a baggie of fried chicken. Her tote bag has gotten mixed up with the old lady's.

The next morning when she recesses her court she finds a detective waiting to talk to her. "Did you find my purse? Did you bring it with you?" The detective says yes, they did find her purse, but it is part of "the crime scene evidence." One of the people she had been talking with the previous evening has died of anaphylactic shock and her tote bag with her purse in it was found next to the body. The bottle that contained the penicillin tablets she had been taking for a sore throat is empty. She is a murder suspect.

Maron interweaves information about furniture through the story and the reader learns the difference between RTA and RTO (ready to assemble vs rent to own), the specialized meaning of "heavy dating" (allowing a retailer to take as long as 36 months to pay off his bill), MSRP and "no,no,no" (manufacturer's suggested retail price and no down payment, no interest, no payment for a year.) She visits a company that builds the sets in which the manufacturers display their furniture.

And being Deborah, she gets herself involved in solving the murder, figuring out who had opportunity, who had the means, and who had a motive. There are plenty of suspects who might meet these criteria, including herself. As she learns more about the people who knew the victim she slowly begins to figure out who the murderer is and why the victim died.

Richard Brand says

I think this story was a little better than some of the others I read. Like so many of these mystery series they spend a lot of time educating you about different things. This one spent a lot of time in educating you about a furniture market in High Point, N.C. There were a couple of filler chapters where the Judge did Judge work on a soiled rug or a child custody case. There seemed to be a consistent theme of illegitimate children in this story. Lots of babies who did not know who daddy was and did not have daddies. The hunt for Savannah was a long theme that did not conclude until the end of the book. Another feature of so many of these mystery series is that the star of the series has to be either the target of the evil or accused of doing the evil. Deborah is a suspect in this death. It was interesting to hear that Dwight Bryant got a little more play than the game warden, so perhaps we are moving more to a courtship with him.

Judy says

This would be 2.5 stars if I could. Maron's books featuring Deborah Knott are very inconsistent. I like the character, Judge Knott, and her humor, but the setting of this one was difficult to wade through. Knott becomes involved with a death and a mysterious woman who keeps appearing and disappearing in a furniture convention where manufacturers and designers have space to display and entertain potential customers. I listened to the audio, but I don't think it would have been any less confusing trying to follow people as they moved from space to space, building to building. I did understand how Knott works out the solution to who committed the murder; so not all was lost!

Sandra says

An interesting journey into the background of marketing furniture and other decor items, with a murder/accident thrown in as well as a secret of youth. Love the characters in Maron's novels and how Judge Deborah Knott gets thrown into the mix. Another good read in her series of mysteries.

From Amazon:

Since the first Deborah Knott mystery, *Bootlegger's Daughter*, swept the top mystery awards in 1993, the feisty judge has proven herself an investigator ranking with today's best—dedicated to justice, driven by private demons, and prone to decide with her heart. From the first, Deborah Knott's co-star has been an insider's North Carolina from the back woods to the Crystal Coast. Now in the series' fifth book, author Margaret Maron slightly alters the landscape, giving Deborah a chance to investigate the interior geography

of human folly in an exquisite plot created with polish and élan...

Arriving in High Point, North Carolina, to substitute for a vacationing colleague, Judge Deborah Knott finds there is no room at the inn, the Radisson, or anywhere else. The International Home Furnishings Market, with the largest assortment of furniture and home decorations in the world, has taken over the town and left the judge hanging. All Deborah wants is a bed for the night, not thousands of living room suites and dining room ensembles. And the last thing she needs is murder.
