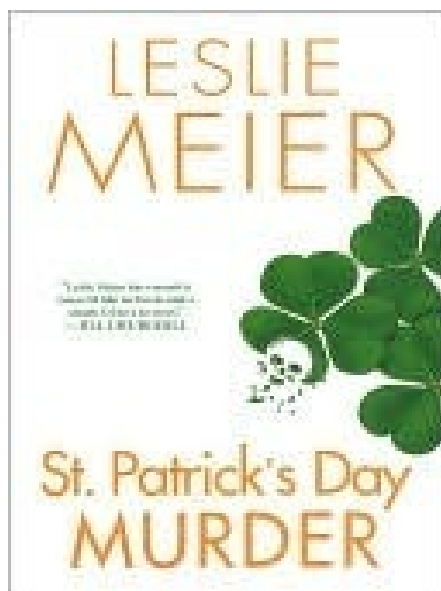




St. Patrick's Day Murder

Leslie Meier

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Not many people in Tinker's Cove, Maine, knew Old Dan Malone. The grizzled barkeep's social circle was limited to the rough-hewn lobstermen and other assorted toughs that frequented his bar, a derelict main street dive called, appropriately, the Bilge. But when his body is found bobbing in the town's icy harbor, Lucy Stone, ace reporter for the Pennysaver newspaper, makes getting to know more about Old Dan a priority. And apparently, there's lots to learn.

Like the fact that local musician Dave Reilly insists Old Dan conned a winning lottery ticket worth five grand from him. And that handyman Brian Donohue claims that Old Dan stiffed him for repair work he'd done at the bar. There are even whispers about some connection to the Irish Republican Army. The confusion surrounding the death is only compounded by the arrival of actor Dylan Malone, Old Dan's brother and a prominent, if fading, attraction of the Dublin stage. Dylan has come to direct the production of "Finian's Rainbow," the featured event at Our Lady of Hope's annual St. Patrick's Day extravaganza. He's also come to help his brother renovate the Bilge, turning the dingy tavern into an authentic--if decidedly upscale--Irish pub.

Was Old Dan killed by someone he'd cheated, someone he'd loved, or someone who just couldn't stand the idea of losing their favorite watering hole? While Lucy can't be sure, one thing is abundantly clear--the stage is set for a murder mystery with a killer ending!

St. Patrick's Day Murder Details

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From Reader Review St. Patrick's Day Murder for online ebook

Nicole says

Another great Lucy Stone cozy mystery - loved it!

Kathleen Dixon says

I borrowed this from the library in order to do a Book Challenge for St Patrick's Day. One of the other group members (thanks, Sharlene) had found and listed it, and it looked like it could be quite fun.

Quite fun is an adequate description. Meier gives us what could be a fairly gory murder, some colourful characters, and a nice little plot twist. Lucy Stone's life is filled out for us quite nicely (and I daresay that comes out bit by bit if one starts the series from the beginning), and the town life and environment is described well.

It all felt, however, at a distance. I wasn't drawn into the story and no emotions were evoked. It's a little bit like that TV series "Murder, She Wrote" with its caricatured personalities, or "Monk", which I enjoyed enormously for Monk's quirkiness, but which both were too stereotyped and quite bland when it came down to it. So, I have to say that I won't be following the series any further.

Zuleima Salazar says

I was hesitant to read this mystery one, because honestly it just sounded kind of boring. It also took me longer than anticipated to finish this book, which is surprising because they are short fast reads. There were also many parts in the book that really bugged me. A few of the scenes were when Lucy mentioned that Toby should be married before having children, I know Meier seems to be an older author with certain views but that right there was just nonsense that should have been omitted from the book. "What kind of parents will they be if they don't decide to get married?" "Your grandchild is going to be illegitimate? What the h. That was no, just no. Makes me want to chuck the book and not even finish it. And the part of Sue weighing 110 pounds which is her ideal weight, is absurd. Sue is an older woman who shouldn't be weighing 110. And when she starts yelling at Ted, which let us remind everyone is her boss, and accuses him of not covering a story because she's a woman is ridiculous. If my boss were to say no, it's a no. She should have been fired and stop making accusations like that! And when her daughter asks why there's no string cheese and that all her friends eat it, and Lucy responds with that's disgusting...wtf. It's cheese! I'm losing alot of respect for some of these characters in this book. Also young Deirdre, daughter of the main victim characters was a lot too handle with all her fairy talk and her Mother Moira was as well, with her melodramatic scenes which were hard to read through. However, it was different of Meier but interesting to include all the Irish traditions in it. At times, the traditions made it kind of hard to get into, because not everyone reading is going to automatically know about the Irish Culture but that was a fresh of new air. I really really hope that the other books I decide to read from this series are a lot better than this. If anyone were to read this book first from the rest, I don't doubt that they wouldn't pick another again. I high recommend her editor to read certain passages and omit them like a few I listed.

Joy Gerbode says

This is a really fun, rather intense mystery, though it still sticks to the edges of the cozies. I was really excited about reading the book ... but just a bit disappointed with the end, as it didn't seem to really resolve for me. But it is lots of fun ... and Irish, so how can you go wrong.

Linda says

"The dead don't give up anything, but the living do."

St. Patrick's Day Murder by Leslie Meier is another intriguing installment in the author's Lucy Stone cozy mystery series set in a small coastal town in Maine. Lucy is a reporter for the Pennysaver, the town's newspaper. As the story opens, there's a spooky murder...

"And what do you think you're doing?" he demanded, feeling a large hollowness growing inside him.

"You know quite well, don't you?" replied the crow, hopping up onto the bar with a neat flap of his wings. The bird cocked his head and looked him in the eye. "Don't tell me an Irishman like you, born and bred in the old country, has forgotten the tale of Cú Chulainn?"

"'Tisn't the sort of thing you can forget," he told the crow. "Especially that statue in the Dublin General Post Office. A handsome piece of work that is, illustrating how Cú Chulainn knew death was near and tied himself to a post so he could die standing upright, like the hero he was."

"Cú Chulainn was a hero indeed," admitted the crow. "And his enemies couldn't kill him until the Morrighan lit on his shoulder, stealing his strength, weakening him..."

"Right you are. The Morrighan," he said. The very thought of that fearsome warrior goddess, with her crimson cloak and chariot, set his heart to pounding in his bony old chest.

"And what form did the Morrighan take, might I ask?" inquired the bird.

"A crow," he said, feeling a great trembling overtake him. "So is that it? Are you the Morrighan come for me?"

"What do you think Daniel Malone?"

When the body is found days later, it's headless... This story is set against a backdrop of an out-of-control church play with the Irish director and his wife, both claiming to be related to Old Dan, providing a myriad of theatrical moments. Will Lucy be able to solve the mystery of who murdered Old Dan before the murderer claims another victim?

The books in this series can be fully enjoyed as stand alone reads if that is your preference. St. Patrick's Day Murder is only the second book I've listened to in this series. The first was Father's Day Murder which I have previously reviewed. Father's Day Murder was such a solid read that I didn't hesitate to pick up this one when I saw it available. I'd like to catch up with the series at some point. The series already consists of over twenty episodes so it will take me a bit. ?

Following please find a few of my favorite quotes from St. Patrick's Day Murder:

"You know what I think? I think you need some chocolate," said Lucy. "I know I could sure use some. "It's not every day that a headless body turns up and I have to cover it."

"I've never been to a real Irish wake," said Lucy. "Just visiting hours at the funeral home."

"You think this'll be different?"

"I'm no expert, but from what I've heard, they're pretty lively affairs. Sometimes they even sit the dead person's body up and put a drink in its hand."

"That'd be a problem for Old Dan," said Brian, thoughtfully. "I mean, he could hold the drink, but you sort of need a head to complete the image. Not that he could actually drink it, of course, being dead and all, but you know what I mean."

Lucy did. How could you have a wake with a body that had no head?

"I'm a mother. You name it, I've seen it and probably had to mop it up," said Lucy.

LOL! One of the interesting dialogues herein which I've continued to think about involved a conversation regarding beheadings and what those who behead do with the heads. It was obviously a well-researched piece. Not that I see very many, but I'll never look at another body-less head the same.

Karen White returns as the narrator of St. Patrick's Day Murder and nails it. As with every title I've listened to that she's narrated, each character is performed uniquely and distinctly, allowing listeners to easily distinguish who is speaking at any one time. Her voice is pleasant, clear and easy-to-follow. Her pace and timing are en pointe. The end product is polished and professional. When I listen to one of Karen's performances, I don't think about her narration; her delivery is so natural that it never fails to let me just escape into the story. Karen White is one of my favorite narrators for all the reasons above.

St. Patrick's Day Murder is a pure cozy mystery. There's no romantic element so, if you are looking for a romance, look elsewhere. I like the way that the author always tastefully addresses various social issues working them into the story. If you enjoy captivating, light cozy mysteries with a colorful array of characters, suspense, guffaws-galore and eerie entertainment, you should add St. Patrick's Day Murder to your to-be-enjoyed-soon list!

My full review is posted at Reading between the Wines Book Club. Please check it out there:
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Linda says

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Mayda says

Making dinner, doing laundry, taking her kids to school, and writing stories about dead bodies for The Penny Saver - it's just another day in the life of Lucy Stone. But this dead body is a bit different from most: it's headless. Though this book can be enjoyed as a standalone, the real pleasure of the series lies in the character growth and development from story to story. There are some scary moments for Lucy in this installment, and yes, the murder and solution were a bit far-fetched, it was still a good, entertaining read.

Lorraine says

Rating: 3.5

I love the tiny village of Tinker Cove Maine along with its citizens. Old Dan has been around forever and is the gumpy, elderly owner of the local tavern, the Bilge. On a cold wintry day in early February, Lucy Stone (the main character and sleuth), sees something unusual floating in the waters off their coast. The grizzly discovery of Old Dan's body begins a set of weird events that cascade from one to another as the town prepares for the annual St. Patrick's Day festival that this year includes the performance of Finian's Rainbow. When Dan's much younger brother, Dylan, shows up with his wife and daughter from Ireland, things really start to get interesting.

This is a good cozy series, and this is definitely one of my favorites. Meier obviously did her research on Celt and Irish culture and traditions which are sprinkled throughout the storyline. Dylan and Moira were both the characters you loved to hate and managed to drop enough red herrings that kept you guessing at the murderer until near the conclusion. Their young daughter, Deirdre, is obsessed with all things faerie, leprechaun and other Irish myths and refuses to believe they are only make-believe. I did have one problem with the ending as Moira had been so despicable to everyone in Tinker's Cove that I really wanted Rachel to have the lead in the musical. This is not a deep book, but rather a quick, easy, enjoyable read to curl up with on a cold day in front of the fireplace.

Amy "the book-bat" says

I liked the Irish mythology that was brought in on this one. It wasn't a lot, but it did add something to the story for me. Dylan and Moira were rather annoying and unlikable. The ending was good and somewhat exciting. I didn't want to put the book down for the last few chapters because so much was going on. All in all, not a bad book.

Linda Baker says

I enjoyed the 14th book in the Lucy Stone Series even though the motivation for this particular murder is more than a little far-fetched. A visit to Tinker Cove and it's residents is always fun. A quick read.

Denise says

Really a 2.5, not a 3, but since that is not an option... OK cozy murder mystery set in coastal Maine town. Very light weight. Not nearly as well-written or endowed with local color as the Tea Shop cozies of Laura Child. Newspaper production part seems out of date, even for a small town. I did enjoy the bits of Irish folklore and sayings--reminded me of my great grandma and my Grandma Muncey.

Luffy says

Waiting for an excellent Lucy Stone book is like trying to remember that bad boomerang joke. It'll get back to you. Quite a true return to form indeed. Very satisfactory reading. This book shared the unique characteristics that defines every Leslie Meier book plus it had the successful traits that help make a more than good cozy mystery. I enjoyed reading this particular book very much. Can't say that enough. I got the kind of joy and fulfillment that can't be quantified.

If only the villain was half as good as any member of the Malone family. The new addition, the eccentric Irish household was very entertaining. Moira was the best new character in this book. Her theatrics were fun to read. It helped that I do know people who are like her. Her daughter Deidre had her moments. The head (no pun intended) of the Malone family didn't lag far behind as well. But like I said, the villain was weak.

Without giving much away, I'd say that between the teething problems of the rehearsing for the 'Finian's Rainbow' play, and the dramatic upheavals of the Stone family, there was still enough changes in Tinker's Cove to remind us that time is ticking by in the Lucy Stone series. Lucy Stone is a delightful person to meet. She is less wimpish than usual, and she took an unshakable stance with her daughter Zoe when needed. The Zoe arc didn't have the conclusion I was hoping for. On the other end, my least favorite character didn't have much to do. In fact the Grim Reaper might help her in kicking the bucket in the next book or so. My only wish is for the next book to be about as good as this one. I don't understand people who don't enjoy this series but I'm glad that I'm one of the affiliated ones.

Karen B. says

One of the things I really enjoy about the Lucy Stone books is that there are so many centered around holidays, so I had to read this one for St. Patrick's Day and I was not disappointed.

Heidi Burkhart says

I love the audiobook version as it is perfect for multi-tasking. This is perhaps my favorite Lucy Stone book.

Amy says

Very nice mystery to keep me company on a cold day.. The plot was not too complex but just enough to keep me guessing as to how it would end. Comforting to know that in 2018, when so many series are "three and out" that the library will have more of Lucy's mysteries for me.
