



Sacred Cows

Karen E. Olson

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Pulled from her bed by an early morning phone call from her boss, local police reporter Annie Seymour finds herself at a crime scene staring at the naked body of a Yale student. Just the thing her bosses and readers don't want to know about - especially when Annie learns the girl was a student by day and a high priced escort by night. Stonewalled by her cop boyfriend and tailed by overeager but incompetent cub report Dick Whitfield, Annie stumbles onto a network of corruption that even her own mother seems to be involved in. But Annie isn't the only one investigating - a Frank Sinatra look-alike who used to be the biggest geek in Annie's high school is hot on the trail as well. And to top it all off, New Haven, Connecticut is being infiltrated by a parade of ceramic cows. Pulled off the story by her boss, Annie must discover the truth - before she becomes the next big headline.

Sacred Cows Details

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Author : Karen E. Olson

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From Reader Review Sacred Cows for online ebook

Lisa says

While trying to manage her personal life, news reporter Annie Seymour tries to solve the murders of two female Yale students who moonlight as professional escorts. This is the first book in this series, and my first book by this author. Initially, I had a hard time getting into it, but I think that was due to distractions on my part. Once I got into it, I had a hard time putting it down. I like that the author gives you enough clues to figure some stuff out on your own. Other than a bit too much profanity for my taste, I liked this book. The second one is in my to-be-read pile.

Joanna says

Easy read, fun but not complicated mystery.

Amanda says

This was a fantastic first book! I cannot wait to read the next novel in this series!

Annie is definitely not what you expect from a heroine, but that is what makes her such a great protagonist!

I really hope that she and Vinny find a way to be together eventually, they seem so right for one another in this novel...

Deane says

Not a bad story but for awhile, I was getting mixed up with Janet Evanovich's characters....the female sleuths in each story have an on-going affair with a policeman or detective while also having some kind of affair with a sexy, hard-to-resist scoundrel of a private investigator who miraculously is always there to rescue her. Even the name 'Vinnie' was disconcerting...it appears in both series; one as a private eye; the other is Stephanie Plum's rather sleazy boss.

It was fun reading about the 'cows' since I have seen some of those 'decorated' animals on display in the US. Fast-moving book with an easy-to-follow plot....will search out #2 in the series.

Mike says

A fun read with a new character. This time it is a female news reporter, Annie Seymore, who can hold her own in a sailor's bar, who can go toe-to-toe with the roughest characters, gets caught up in investigating a murder, but still has a gentle enough side to think about romance. Karen E. Olson first novel is a funny, entertaining and engaging murder mystery that should prove to be the start of a good series for her. Well worth the time to read it.

Huihan says

This book should be categorized as a thriller instead of a mystery. Exciting, but lacks the meat to be a decent detective novel. You would think that it'd do better with the main characters being a cop reporter, a cop, and a private detective... (Another minor minus - it's punctuated with racy bits that doesn't add to the story.)

Kae Cheatham says

I borrowed the book from my PL

This book was the winner of the Sara Ann Freed Memorial Award for first best Mystery. I'm not sure how the title really fits the story, but it was interesting and well done: protagonist Annie Seymour, a cop-beat journalist, gets sent to a crime scene of a murdered Yale co-ed, and her investigation leads her into a complicated intrigue; even her cop-boyfriend can't protect her from the dangers. Annie harangues constantly with everyone while overcoming the odds. That her obnoxious personality didn't have me closing the book is a tribute to good writing.

There seemed to be a trend of brash, late-thirties, women in 2005 mystery lines. They usually have family issues--esp. with their moms or in-laws--and a really high libido. It's almost like a formula. I wonder if MWA handed out a list "This is what mysteries should look like in 2005." (*Cover your Assets*, *Resurrection Road*, *Fear on Friday*, and *Hidden Depths* were a few others I read back then).

Marla says

I really liked the main character Annie. She is a no-nonsense reporter who gets caught up in a story, to the point where she could potentially become the next victim. She said what she thought and if she wanted to tell someone to go "f" off...she did. There is the potential for a love triangle in the sequel with a private investigator and his fiance.

My only problem with the book is that Annie dresses crappy and never does her laundry. Why do so many of these female mystery characters (Stephanie Plum and Kinsey) have issues with doing laundry and not dressing like a slob.

Krystal says

I checked out 4 books in the library....I know shock, I actually went for a free book instead of massively hemorrhaging money in the book store. I went armed with my list from goodreads, all the books I wanna read, and they either don't have the titles, or authors, or they were already checked out. I grabbed on the go, from genres, and this is the only book worth mentioning.

It was actually pretty good, with the main character being some bitchy type journalist after a big story. I didn't get the title until like 3/4 of the way through, as it was an incidental thing throughout the book. That

was the biggest complaint. Other than that, it was an okay book, and I'll definitely read more by this author.

Chris Wolak says

Fun read, set in New Haven.

Celia says

Female students keep turning up dead, and crime reporter Annie uncovers a conspiracy as she tried to identify their killer. It's a kind of unnecessarily complicated conspiracy, though, and I became bored with Annie's attempt to solve it.

An attractive private investigator is also involved (who used to be the geeky guy at Annie's high school, of course), and Annie falls for him. But she already has a boyfriend! What is a girl to do? Never mind, the boyfriend quickly and conveniently dumps her, with no hard feelings or broken hearts on either side (which makes you wonder why have the relationship there in the first place? I know she needs an inside source, but why not make that source her brother or something?). It was a patently false relationship, and it put me off the character.

I just didn't like Annie that much as a crime solver - her methods irritated me, the way she kept going off and meeting people when they obviously were plotting to kidnap her or kill her - I just wanted her to get a grip and get on with things. It was a pretty run-of-the-mill crime novel, and I wasn't really enthused by it.

Joanne says

Thought this was a good book, not a great book. While it started off good – a murdered Yalie, an escort service, lawyers, cops, city corruption and investment scandal it ended quickly and flat. So many books tie in the murders and romance between the characters to make it light reading. What I did enjoy if you are local to New Haven, CT are references to real businesses, streets, locations and of course NH's specialty – pizza! The Wooster Street area is well known for its Italian banquet.

Side note:

While the idea of a cow parade is fictitious to New Haven – Catskill, NY boasts Catting Around Catskill and Cairo, NY has the Bears and Butterfly themes. Both fun to enjoy!

Gerry says

I enjoyed this new author.

I have a friend who went to Yale, so I thought of her as I read this mystery. Though I don't think she would have been involved in the work of these particular Yale students!

I enjoyed the cranky personality of the journalist and will read more in the series if it continues (I haven't checked yet)

Joelle Anthony says

Normally I only add books to GR if I can give them 4 or 5 stars, but this one probably could've had 4 except for one glaring error. Right at the end, she goes into the and gets something out of her safe deposit box and she doesn't have her purse...or her keys...or her ID. Last time I checked, they kind wanted you to have your key and ID. No mention of either or a problem though. Super annoying. Overall, a fun and fast read though. Not sure if I'd read the next one, but I like her new series.

Lee says

I found Karen Olson to be a "not so good" Janet Evanovich clone. The book was okay. The character mouthy and brash, ready to take chances no one else would consider (and getting herself in trouble because of it). I found the frequent use of the "f" word somewhat disconcerting and out of place. It often didn't fit the context in which it was used, giving me the impression that she was trying too hard to be with-it.
