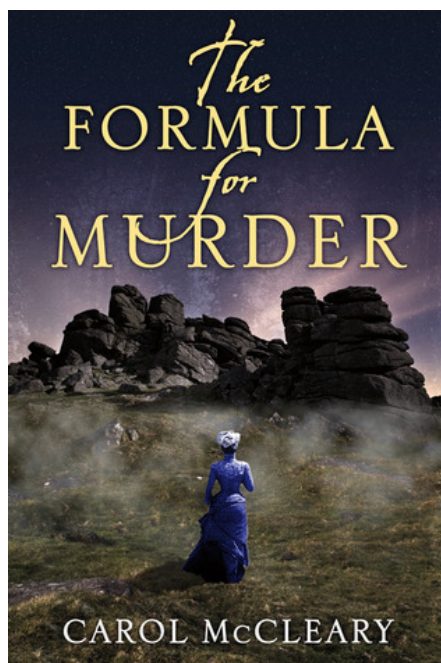




The Formula for Murder

Carol McCleary

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The world's most famous reporter, the intrepid Nellie Bly, hunts down a murderer in Carol McCleary's *The Formula for Murder*.

History, mystery, murder, and mad science accompany plucky Victorian newspaper reporter Nellie Bly when she travels to the haunted moors of England to investigate the mysterious death of another journalist.

Refusing to believe the young writer committed suicide, Nellie's search for the truth takes her from foggy Londontown to the ancient Roman ruins at Bath and the eerie landscape of Dartmoor. Stalked by a killer as she unravels the mystery behind a series of deaths, Nellie encounters a handsome young biology teacher named H. G. Wells, whose knowledge leads Nellie into the realm of science gone mad.

Joined by Oscar Wilde, fleeing a sex scandal, and Arthur Conan Doyle, pursuing a legendary beast of the moors, Nellie struggles to stay alive as she hunts down a scientist who is trying to recreate in a test tube the work of God. Join Nellie Bly again in this third installment to Carol McCleary's hit mystery series.

The Formula for Murder Details

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Author : Carol McCleary

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From Reader Review The Formula for Murder for online ebook

Peggy says

Loved that Oscar Wilde was back, and the addition of Arthur Conan Doyle and H. G. Wells as new compatriots for the intrepid Nellie B! Could have done without (or at least much less) inner monologue from Nellie about sex, should she, shouldn't she, blah blah blah.

Margaret1358 Joyce says

The novelty of 1st-person narrative related by 19th century newspaperwoman Nellie Bly is captivating, as is the setting (London, Bath and the Dartmoor Moors), the interwoven history, and the well-plotted unfolding of 'murder most foul.' In all, an entertaining read, however emotionally cool as a consequence of the victorian language.

Beth says

This is a murder mystery set in the late nineteenth century and the heroine is Nellie Bly, a famous American newspaper reporter who is looking into the death of her friend and fellow reporter in London. Along the way, Nellie teams up with various historical figures (Oscar Wilde, HG Wells, Arthur Conan Doyle) who help her solve the mystery. I liked this for the most part, but found the dialogue a little far fetched for the times, while the actions of most of the supporting characters seemed about right for that time. Of course, all of the main characters are so involved in chasing after the clues and murderer that they must be held to a different standard (who doesn't want the main story to be an unbelievable series of events - it's so much better that way!!), so their adventures get a pass. It was a bit odd, though to have photographs of the historical figures inserted, as they popped up in the story, with Nellie also being one of those real people; there was also the strange "Editor notes" that turned up to explain things from time to time. Overall, enjoyable but I'm not sure if I will read anymore of these.

Neil Campbell says

This has been my first series that I have to read as soon as possible. Nellie's adventures rank up there with many of my favorite action/adventure heroes. Add to the mix the mystery and historical references and I have my favorite genre now headed by a heroine. The only problem I have is that these stories essentially take place out of the states, yet Nellie is a New York reporter. But the books mention that Nellie actually wrote books concerning her time undercover as a prostitute in the States for different exposes, so I will have to read those. It is a good book that makes one want to read other, older, historical books and this is one such book.

I thoroughly enjoyed this 3rd book in the Nellie Bly series by Carol McCleary. Another fun read. I could not put it down. I did not find it as enveloping as The Alchemy of Murder (book 1), but that is due to my initiation to Nellie coming as such a surprise. I did not know what to expect then, and was rewarded for taking a chance on a new series. While this entry did not seem as full of character development as the first, I feel this is due to the expected intimacy the reader should already have for Nellie and some of the other

characters. Riding with HG Wells was a fun addition to the team, and I enjoyed learning of his character through this adventure. I also enjoyed being transported to the countryside outside of London. I felt like a gaslight detective in the mist and fog chasing the Hound of Bakersville with them. The mood and local descriptions of superstition and culture mixed with geographical and science references made this more than a mere adventure novel. I may soon investigate Nellie's own writings thanks to Carol's wonderful series.

Erin H. says

I liked the depictions of historical characters and how well they were integrated into this fictional story, but the ending was kind of predictable and tired. The build up was wonderful but the resolve was completely what I expected.

Sharon says

I enjoy this series a lot & have to go back & catch up on the few that I missed at the beginning!!

Karen says

Another rollicking mystery following the fictional sleuthing of girl reporter Nellie Bly. This time Nellie teams up with HG Wells and Arthur Conan Doyle for a dangerous adventure that takes her from London, Bath and finally the murky moors of Dartmoor (the setting for Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's classic "The Hound of the Baskervilles") Fans of Ms. McCleary's two previous Nellie Bly. mysteries will not be disappointed!

AliceinWonderland says

- Quite disappointing, as I thought the premise sounded really good and the book started off seemingly very well-written, but then went downhill after that.
- All of the foils and ploys and "plot twists" just seemed a bit cartoonish and the dialogue was really not well-written and unnatural.
- And although I adore literary figures: Oscar Wilde, Sir Conan Doyle and H.G. Wells, I found it a bit outlandish that Nellie would actually encounter and/or know any one of them! I don't know if this was a historical fact or just some made-up stuff by the author.

One famous man I could understand, maybe two...but the cacophony of three literary men chasing a killer around in the English moors seemed absurd to me.

- One of the reviews on the cover called it a "delightful romp", but sadly, I thought it more of a ridiculous romp. I was glad when it was over.

Kim McGee says

Whoa Nellie! I have always been fascinated by the real Nellie Bly and Carol McCleary's depiction of her and other very famous people like H.G. Wells, Oscar Wilde and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle cannot be touched.

Once again Nellie is off on a journalistic adventure off to London to investigate the murder of her friend who supposedly killed herself while investigating a story about ladies spas. Nellie knows the young woman would not have killed herself and begins to uncover a horrific plot to kidnap young women and children and a mysterious spa treatment designed to help older women look and feel younger. The wild romp through the moors of England offer us much in understanding Nellie's thirst for the truth and her fierce independence from the constraints that women felt during that time. The characters work well together and we feel like we are another friend at the pub leaning in over our pint to hopefully overhear where the group will be searching for clues next. Highly recommend for lovers of Elizabeth Peters, Ariana Franklin and other great female historical mystery series.

Elaine Pease says

Discovered McCleary and now I'm on her third history mystery "The Illusion of Murder," p.217 (and what does it mean if I look at the clock after checking what pg. I'm on and it's 2:17??). The Formula for Murder follows reporter Nellie Bly (and I love this real life character thrust into these murders, without it being a stretch) and other real life characters like Jules Verne (love interest) etc. and a Jack the Ripper type. It's eye candy for the Victorian mystery starved reader.

Cate says

I read the first three of McCleary's Nellie Bly stories one after the other in the space of a few weeks. I like the original premise and setting, though I think they are too long and rely too heavily on extensive historical research which breaks up the flow of the mystery. I had hoped that this third entry would continue the trend of improving slightly over the previous entry, as the second had over the first. I just wasn't as enthralled by this story, though, as I had been by Nellie's mad dash around the world.

I do appreciate the fact that Nellie has a modern, independent view towards romance, but I wasn't as convinced by the chemistry in this entry as I had been in the 2nd.

These books are fun, and a great escape. I'd like to see Nellie in the Wild West or perhaps on safari with Mr. Selous in Africa.

Cindy says

Nellie Bly is at it again and I really enjoy the over table dialogue with Oscar, Conan and HG. This was a great pace, good story line and I liked the characters....cause they are based on real people.

Nicola says

Just didn't work for me. The novel was okay but (aptly) it did feel too formulaic as it managed to cram in historical figures including Oscar Wilde, H.G. Wells, and Arthur Conan Doyle. It also didn't entirely manage to avoid the trap of inserting travelogue/ into character dialogue which always feels unnaturally stiff and a break to narrative flow to me.

Mary says

A great story with a strong supporting cast. Well paced with lots of surprising twists and turns. The only negative is that the end seemed a bit rushed but still provided a satisfying conclusion. Looking forward to the next Nellie Bly mystery. Highly recommended.

Wen Cameron says

I enjoyed The Formula for Murder very much. A great story with a lot of twists and turns. First book I've read of Carol McCleary can't wait to read more.
