



Passport to Murder

Mary Angela

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Start with an unlucky number. Throw in a romantic location. Include a dashing Frenchman and an uncompromising professor. And you have all the ingredients for a passport to murder.

This semester, it seems that Professor Prather's dreams are about to come true. Ever since she was a young girl, she's imagined going to France, and her French colleague, André Duman, has finally made that trip possible. Over spring break, she and André are to lead a group of students and faculty to Paris to explore the City of Light. But before she can utter her first bonjour, a professor dies, and they are stuck in Minneapolis. She returns to Copper Bluff with an unstamped passport and a mystery to solve.

When André becomes the prime suspect, Emmeline puts her research skills to good use, determined to find out who really killed the professor and spoiled their spring break plans. With thirteen travelers assembled, the possibilities are varied and villainous. Luckily, her dear friend and sidekick, Lenny Jenkins, is close by. Together, they will sort through the conflicting clues even if it costs them time, trouble, or tenure.

Book 2 in the Professor Prather Mystery series.

Passport to Murder Details

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Author : Mary Angela

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From Reader Review Passport to Murder for online ebook

Mary Angela says

I've always been intrigued by superstition and myths, and I thought it would be thrilling to plot a book around a group of thirteen travelers. I'm disappointed when mysteries give me one or two suspects, so Passport to Murder was a way for me to entertain and challenge readers (and myself!) while sorting through myriad possibilities. Happy reading!

WHPL Reference says

Find it at the West Hempstead Public Library <http://encore.alisweb.org/iii/encore/...>

Danielle The Book Huntress (Back to the Books) says

A murder mystery set in and around academia. Working for tenure can be murder, literally. I enjoyed it. I liked the bookish heroine and her way of investigating that depends on her emotional intelligence.

Reviewed for Affaire de Coeur Magazine. <http://affairedecoeur.com>.

Jessica Robbins says

This book was even better than the last one since the characters are firmly established at this point. Em is all set to travel to Paris (where she has dreamed of going her whole life) as part of a University trip. Things get heated as the group gathers to set off since half of them seem to not get along. After a long bus ride to the airport they need they board the flight and things go smoothly until one of the Professor's traveling with them starts acting strange and collapses. She is quickly pronounced dead and the entire group is held for questioning as the plane is turned back to where they started. With her trip ruined Em finds herself investigating again even when she knows she should leave it alone. Again the ending surprised me as I did not expect the killer to be the one revealed. This is a great mystery novel that has a strong female lead, good supporting characters that offer some funny interactions, and enough action to keep the reader turning the page while guessing what will happen next. I highly recommend it to fans of the genre and give it 4/5 stars.

Joan says

I thoroughly enjoyed this book. The story and characters are well-developed, the descriptions make you feel you are there, whether on an airplane, in Minneapolis, or in Copper Bluff.

The author writes with intelligence, and the plot leads to a very logical and breathtaking (pun intended) conclusion.

Patricia says

when's the next book coming out??

Priscilla Paton says

Mary Angela has written a "text-book" cozy with young academic Emmie Prather more ready to fly to Paris and to solve murders than delve into her research. The setting includes familiar spots in Minneapolis. This is as sweet as murder can be.

LORI CASWELL says

Dollycas's Thoughts

A trip to Paris sounds delightful. Professor Emmeline Prather is chaperoning the trip with her French colleague, André Duman, for students and other faculty members to the City of Light over Spring Break. After the 13 travelers bus trip to Minnesota, they board the plane for Paris. But they don't get far before one of the other professors dies and the plane turns around. They have to stay in Minneapolis until the police can rule on the cause of death. Soon, it is declared murder and André Duman is on the top of the suspect list. Emmeline returns to Copper Bluff determined to do everything she can to find the real killer. She may never get to Paris but she can save her friend.

This mystery starts out at a good clip and doesn't let up. I read the whole thing in one evening. The mystery is like a closed room mystery à la Agatha Christie. Someone on that plane is the killer. Some of the suspects can be eliminated quickly, but others are hiding things and were sitting close enough to do the deed. The police and FBI zeroed in on one person and tried to make the evidence fit. Emmeline took the correct approach of following the evidence. When a second person dies the case really gets interesting.

Professor Emmeline Prather has a good level head on her shoulders. When she teams up with her friend Lenny, they are unstoppable. She follows the clues, does a little research and presents what she finds to Lenny and they talk it through. He is also around to ask questions she can't. I enjoy how they work together and that they seem to be getting closer.

I liked the supporting cast, students, and faculty. They are a diverse group in age and backgrounds. They were believable and relatable.

I have read several cozy series set at a college and the author finds a way to make her setting unique. South Dakota is not a typical locale for a cozy mystery and having to travel to nearby Minneapolis opens up a bunch of new places to discover.

The author has given readers a well plotted and well-written story. She has created engaging characters that we can become invested in. I hope to visit Copper Bluff again soon!

Andrea Guy says

I love discovering new cozy mystery series and this one is definitely going to be on my must follow list. This is the 2nd book in the series, but as is the case with most cozy mystery series, you can jump right in and

I connected with Emmeline instantly and I loved Lenny as well. The college setting was great. It was different, as most cozies that I read tend to be set in quirky shops of some kind or libraries. I definitely felt a connection between these two characters and I really hope that down the line they become a couple.

When one member of their travelling party dies on the plane, the spring break plans of a trip to Paris are crushed and Emmeline and Lenny start to investigate. (OK mostly Emmeline).

All the members of a trip seemed to have a reason to want Molly Jaspers dead, from students to colleagues to erm..her spouse.

Molly's death at first seemed like an accident. The Epipen didn't help her after she had somehow come in contact with a peanut. This is where I knew who did it. I was just really interested in finding out the why.

The other characters secrets also made this story interesting, and when you add in a second death, shortly after Molly's memorial, well that really makes you start thinking.

The Professor Prather series is definitely a must for anyone that loves cozy mysteries, like I do. The characters are wonderful and Mary's writing draws you right into the story.

I adored this book and can't wait for the next installment.

Quintin Honerman says

Yes! I love these Agatha Christie style novels. Mary captures a cozy academic feel with an incredible amount of intrigue. I almost always can guess "who dunnit"--but not with Mary's novels. Thanks for another fantastic read!

Marie McNary says

Looking to take a vacation without leaving your home? Passport to Murder is a great escape into the world of Emmeline Prather and her life as a professor in Copper Bluff, South Dakota. And you don't even have to leave your couch to go on the adventure!

This is the second book in the Professor Prather Mystery Series. Emmeline sets out with a group of faculty and students on a trip to one of her favorite places, Paris. However their plans are derailed when outspoken fellow professor Molly Jaspers is killed mid-flight. The group finds themselves stuck state side and Emmeline finds herself entangled in yet another murder investigation.

This series was new to me and I'm sure glad I found it! Here are my top reasons to read this book:

Easy to Jump In

Even though this was the second book in the series, I had no trouble jumping in and didn't feel left behind with the story. The back story was easy to get caught up on and I had no trouble investing in Emmeline as a protagonist.

Enjoyable Main Character

Although Emmeline and many of the characters in the book are professors, they do not come off as stuffy or unrelatable. In fact, I found seeing the human side of the professors and faculty was an entertaining element of the book. They all had unique personalities and it was fun to see them shine outside of the classroom setting.

I'm Ready for More

I love when I finish a book and am already checking to see when the next installment comes out. This book was one where I found myself checking when Emmeline and her adventures would be back – because I can't wait to see where these characters go next!

Complete post here: <https://cozyexperience.com/take-journ...>

Ryan says

Passport to Murder is the second book in the Professor Prather Mystery Series. The book and series is good and written like an Agatha Christie style whodunit, the basis of Cozy and Traditional mysteries. The main heroine is your typical cozy sleuth. She is a college professor at a college in a sleepy college town. In this book, Emmeline Prather and Colleagues are heading to Paris, but when a colleague is murdered on the plane ride. The rest of it is a great mystery and a well done whodunit plot.

Jennifer S. Alderson says

Passport to Murder is an enjoyable mystery set in the academic world. I like Emmeline and sympathized greatly with her disappointment at not being able to travel to France on account of Professor Jaspers dying en route. The character studies are well done. There are plenty of reasons for this seemingly friendly bunch to want Jaspers dead. Emmeline, with the help of her friend Lenny, puzzles through all their motives until only one is left.

It's an enjoyable, gentle mystery that fans of captivating puzzles and Agatha Christie will enjoy.

Maria says

When the professor Emmeline Prather was preparing her first travel to Paris she couldn't ever imagined that it would end with murder... but being 13 on the trip was never a good sign, don't you think?

Working at the university is never easy, but I was surprised that in this book almost all the professors had a good relation, there were only some minimal problems. At the same time it was quite interesting because almost all the possible murders were professors or students, so... who had really a good motive to kill? In the university they are lucky that Em loves mysteries and let me tell you a secret, if there's not a mystery,

she will create one, she loves stories and love to investigate, if she feels that something is not right, she will investigate, so, don't hide any dirty secret to Em, she will always discover it!

I loved the relation between Em and Lenny, I don't know if they will have a relationship or simply friends, but they have chemistry and they understand each other, their scenes together were my favourite in all the book, Lenny makes Em brighter, funnier and sharper, I hope he will stay for good.

This is the second book of the series "Professor Prather Mystery" but you can read it as standalone.

This is a quick read, with a curious mystery, a quite variety of suspects and a mystery peanut.

Ready for a trip to Paris?

J says

When I started reading this book, I had all the same reactions as I did to the first book... I could copy and paste my first review. Same issues, same responses to them. Beautiful environment, annoying main character - as well as lots of other little things.

I'm not sure if the writing was a bit more refined or if I was just able to adjust my expectations (or a bit of both) but I ended up enjoying this book more. It was what a cozy should be - pleasant. The mystery unraveled at the end was particularly interesting and well done. (The actual mystery - not how she exposes everyone secrets publically like Poirot again. That made me cringe! Especially when she exposes personal student information.)

While I enjoyed the environment and would read another book in this series, I no longer has the desire to return to teaching myself. Too many undersides revealed in this book.

I liked the introduction of an FBI character, although he didn't ultimately contribute to the mystery.

Around page 110, the author stated that this was the main character's second year teaching. The timing seemed a bit fuzy because that would make the first book occured during her first year teaching. There was no indication given during the first book that she was a brand new teacher. In fact, there seemed to be indications she had been teaching for a while at that point (references to past students, previous semesters, ect). There were also references that made it seem like she did her undergrad studies at the same college. This explains A LOT!!! Her grad student like behaviors and routines. Her limited financial means. Her emotional immaturity and kinship with students. But why wasn't this mentioned earlier?! And why don't we see this impacting her relationships with faculty and students as she transitioned from student to faculty? A lot was swept under the rug there and dealt with in vague references.

Again, many of her observations just felt off to me. Her understanding of criminal justice but also just the way she approached life. The day before her much anticipated Paris trip she is wondering what to pack and if she needs an electrical adaptor. I'm very detail oriented and enjoy planning, but it strains credibility that anyone (even a flighty English teacher) wouldn't be packed a day before such a huge trip. And that she wouldn't have used her "fabulous research skills" already to know about currency converters.

It also bothered me that she "researched" things like medicine usages by trying to subtly interview various people - basically taking in second hand knowledge that she tricked out of people. This does not seem like valid research. Pick up an actual medical book! Go directly to a valid source! Also, she invites Lenny to the French dinner, so that the faculty could have a free 5-minute car ride? Call a taxi if you want a ride! It is easier and cheaper then paying for an additional dinner. Little things like that just made no sense to me. Obviously the English professor's wave length operates in a totally different way than mine.

Initially - during the first half of the book or so - I was bummed that there were no references to the first book or personal developments since then. But this came in spades during the second half of the book. Several references to the dead student from book one as well as progression in her romantic relationship with Lenny. Side note, I did appreciate how slow and subtle she was with their relationship development.

There was also an interesting comment (made by a student) thrown into the last few pages about how books don't have heroes anymore. Books like *Gone Girl* just kill people. I agree! But then the professor chimes in that women have historically been oppressed and it is valid for them to express themselves through violence, ect... Basically telling all the other authors that they are okay, even if this book was a cozy. This series tends to be that way - overall pleasant and innocent but throwing in little side comments (about premarital sex, drinking, ect) to validate other lifestyles. Very PC & disappointing.

And no, cozy books are not automatically romance novels. Stop trying to assert that!
