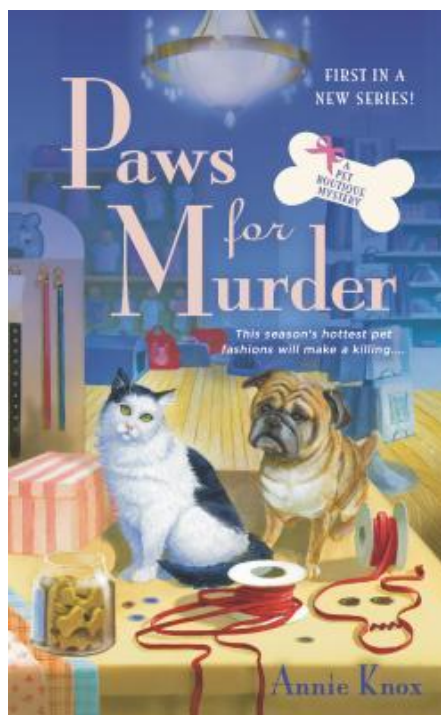




Paws for Murder

Annie Knox

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Paws for Murder Annie Knox

Izzy McHale wants her new Trendy Tails Pet Boutique in Merryville, Minnesota, to be the height of canine couture and feline fashions. But at the store's opening, it turns out it's a human who's dressed to kill...

Izzy's own beloved pets are dressed to the nines for the grand opening of Trendy Tails. Feisty feline Jinx is large and in charge, and happy mutt Packer is lapping up the attention. Izzy and her best friend Rena have their hands full meeting Merryville's menagerie and serving tasty pupcakes and kitty canapes from their "barkery." The last thing they need is the town's local activist, Sherry Harper, scaring off customers and getting tongues wagging by picketing the event.

The two manage to stop Sherry's protest in its tracks, but the trouble for Trendy Tails is just beginning. Sherry is found murdered in back of the shop, and Rena is immediately named as the lead suspect. Now Izzy and her furry friends have a new pet project—collaring a killer.

FIRST IN A NEW SERIES!

Paws for Murder Details

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Author : Annie Knox

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From Reader Review Paws for Murder for online ebook

Melissapalmer404 says

Book #30 Read in 2014

Paws for Murder by Annie Knox

This is the first book in a relatively new cozy mystery series; it is set in a pet boutique. Izzy returns to her hometown and opens the pet boutique, making all sorts of costumes and clothing for pets. Her childhood friend Rena partners up with her to create yummy pet treats to sell at Trendy Tails. Their grand opening is going well until the body of a local rich girl/political activist is found in their alleyway. Rena is considered a suspect. Izzy teams up with Sean, her old friend who had a crush on her, who is now Rena's lawyer to try to find the real murderer. Will they do so before Rena is arrested?

This was a good cozy mystery read. I enjoyed the setting and the animal characters throughout the book. The mystery was decent as I was kept guessing about the true identity of the murderer. The romantic history between Izzy and Sean was another interesting element. There was also humor in the book. I loved Aunt Dolly trying to seduce Izzy's cranky business neighbor. I will read the second book in this series.

<http://melissasbookpicks.blogspot.com>

Kirsti says

Another interesting cozy series, this one involving pets and costumes. I admit when my little Austin was alive I would dress him in a denim coat. He also had a reflective tradie coat, a dracula costume, bow ties...you get the idea. So the theme behind this one wasn't new to me, haha. Maybe when my Paddy Pupper grows up I'll even buy him his own few accessories.

The murder mystery was especially good for a first mystery, and the romance was sizzling. If this was the beginning, then I can't wait to read the rest. It should be an awesome ride!

Can't wait to read more, five stars!

LORI CASWELL says

Dollycas's Thoughts

This story was a fun start to the Pet Boutique Mystery series. We have tried costumes on our pets over the years. None of them were ever too happy about it but it is a very cute idea and practical for those pets that venture outdoors in the cold winter months.

I enjoyed the way the author tied the story to my home state of Wisconsin too, with a dog named Packer, and characters that went to college or moved from Madison.

All the characters both two legged and four legged were introduced to us quite well in this first installment. I have a soft spot for Aunt Dolly, of course, and Dolly's need to stick together. I love the way she supports Izzy both with helping her open Trendy Tails and in any other way she can. She even dons 4 inch platform sandals and "dresses up" to catch the eye of a crotchety store owner trying to make trouble for Izzy. Aunt Dolly is a hoot!!

Izzy is a strong protagonist too. Her life was turned upside down by a man. They had their whole future planned but just when they were supposed to be making the move to New York, he changed his plans and left her behind and took another woman with him! She had to pick herself up, dust herself off and get on with her life. She does that with Trendy Tails. At least she was in her hometown surrounded by friends and family. Going into business with her best friend Rena was the perfect choice. Hopefully she can patch things up with her old friend Sean too. Their friendship had added rather abruptly but now that they are both back in Merryville she are going to constantly bumping into each other.

There are many more interesting characters who reside in Merryville. It is one of those small towns where everyone knows everyone or they have heard gossip about each other. A perfect setting for this cozy mystery series.

I did see the writing on the wall a bit before the guilty party was revealed, but this still a wonderful mystery. I enjoyed the story so much I have already started reading Groomed For Murder. It hits store shelves next week!

Fred says

Paws For Murder is the first book in the A Pet Boutique Mystery series.

I love pet related mysteries and this a great beginning for a new series.

Izzy McHale is putting the final touches for the opening of her pet boutique, Trendy Tails. Izzy designs and makes clothes for pets and her best friend Rena bakes wonderful treats for pet crowd. As they get ready to open the doors for a grand opening party, Sherry Harper, begins to picket in front of the store. Sherry has many causes for which she pickets, but the picketing in the last thing Izzy needs as she starts her new business. As the party is wrapping up and things being cleaned up, Izzy takes the trash to dumpster in back and discovers the lifeless body of Sherry. When it is learned that Rena had left the store about the time Sherry was killed, she becomes a prime suspect. Izzy then contacts Sean, who was sweet on her during high school and who is now a lawyer, to help her gather information that clear Rena.

There are many in Merryville who are sad to learn of Sherry's passing, her activist stand has riled many.

The book has many enjoyable characters who provide a few chuckles to go along with the mystery. Aunt Dolly and Ingrid Whitfield, Izzy's landlord, are a lot of fun. Particularly enjoyable is Aunt Dolly who is using her feminine wiles to distract Izzy's neighbor, Richard Greene, from pursuing his desire to have Trendy Tails shut down for being a nuisance.

Looking forward to the next book in this enjoyable series.

OpenBookSociety.com says

<http://openbooksociety.com/article/pa...>

Brought to you by OSB reviewer Jeanie

The opening novel of the Pet Boutique Mystery series, *Paws for Murder* introduces the delightful Trendy Tails Pet Boutique, owned by Izzy and her four-legged partners Packer (pug-bulldog mix) and Jinx (Norwegian Forest Cat). Rena, Izzy's best friend and two-legged partner, makes organic pet treats for sale in the Boutique and helps make the pet-safe pet clothing designed by Izzy. Ingrid is her landlord and owner of the 3-story home that had formerly housed Ingrid's Gift Haus and included Ingrid's 2nd story home.

Izzy, who had studied fashion design in college, lived in the third-floor apartment with her ex-boyfriend Casey until he moved on to a Park Avenue practice after his residency was complete. When Ingrid closed her business, the Gift Haus two years after their breakup, she encouraged Izzy to sell the pet clothing she designed, and thus began the idea for Trendy Tails.

Merryville, Minnesota has an eclectic mix of residents and tourists that would sufficiently provide clientele for a variety of shops. Personally, I like any shop that caters to pets – even though my cats would never allow themselves to be dressed up, a clothing boutique for pets sounds like a fun venture! Getting healthy pet treats would definitely be a plus in a setting where one could sample or purchase a very small quantity should one have a finicky pet.

The night of the catered grand opening party of the Boutique brought many visitors to Pet Tails. One person who they wish had stayed home, however, was Sherry Harper. Sherry was the local activist, a trust-fund baby who would protest almost anything for any reason. She protested the Pet Tails because, to her, it wasn't natural for animals to wear clothes. Sherry's boyfriend, Nick, had a loud disagreement with her outside that evening, as did Rena. In spite of the sidewalk squabbles, it seemed the grand opening was an overall success.

Izzy and her friends were nearly done cleaning up afterwards when she took the trash out. Unfortunately she also found the body of Sherry, who had died from something that wasn't evident at the time. And by the end of the night, Izzy's best friend Rena was the prime suspect, particularly when it was learned that Sherry had been poisoned by water hemlock root. It was a plant native to the area that police theorized she had prepared in the cereal mix.

It was an interesting sight to see Izzy then we met her old friend, Sean, now an attorney who would represent Rena – and a blast to watch two of them pair up to find the killer. Even more fun was seeing the good-looking attorney's well-heeled ladyfriend, also an attorney, meet Rena and Izzy, who were clearly below the social circles she liked to be seen in. Several people were considered suspects throughout the book for various reasons, and sometimes the process of eliminating them as suspects caused a few raised eyebrows from their family or friends. Finally, Izzy 'got it' on the night of the Halloween Howl. She was reminded, by Packer's actions, of something mentioned by one of their neighbors. Merryville's pets would parade their Halloween attire to win fun prizes, but would have to wait until the suspect could be questioned by – of course – Izzy. It was clear that Rena wouldn't have to worry about a murder charge any longer – and the person that this armchair detective would have least expected was taken away in handcuffs.

I very much enjoyed Annie Knox's first book in the Pet Boutique Mystery series. Izzy was likeable in many ways, most especially for being a pet-lover. I had empathy with her when she thought about the years she had been away at college – how even though she stayed in touch with Rena and others, she realized that she had not known much about Rena's life during those years yet returned to Merryville thinking that they were picking up where they left off. How she felt when realizing that Rena had challenges and changes that she

knew nothing about, but Rena knew all about hers. How she felt when realizing that Sean had been right about Casey all those years ago. And how life was for her sisters and parents. Izzy's work to get Rena off of the suspect list was amazing, and her thought processes interesting.

For me, it was a challenge to remember all the people, their family members and friendships, and other details noted about their lives. There were more than I could easily recall while reading this novel. Sometimes I appreciate seeing short lists of the "players" in the front of a book, especially as I get a bit older! Perhaps a well-done map of the main street with the storefronts in relation to each other, or any other creative way to help remind us of each other.

I would recommend this new series to pet lovers who enjoy small-town life, creative businesses that cater to pets, and an interesting assortment of passionate, eccentric people. And, of course, to everyone who enjoys a small-town whodunit! I, for one, am looking forward to Groomed for Murder, the second book in the series.

Donna says

Great book. Very entertaining. Izzy decides to open up her own pet boutique shop since she loves making clothes for animals with her friend Rena who makes animal treats in the small town of Merryville, Minn. Except for the protest outside their shop by Sherry Harper, local activist everything seems to be going okay. That is until Sherry is found dead behind their shop and Rena becomes the main suspect. Rena ask her friend Brad to represent her in case she needs a lawyer and the three of them start asking a lot of questions. They find out more about Sherry and her family and friends then they want to but to clear Rena they have no choice. This is a town full of creative characters. A small town atmosphere with just the right amount of mystery.

Abby Fabian says

The story didn't flow at all, and the pace was very slow. I liked how th pet theme was incorporated. I think the book wanted to be too many things. It wanted to be about a pet botique, then a romance, then a mystery, but it all got jumbled.

Melodie says

I won a copy of this in a giveaway the author did on Facebook, in exchange for an honest review. This author had another series out a couple of years ago written under another name that I absolutely loved, so was anxious to dive into this one. The premise of a trendy pet clothing boutique sounded interesting since I'm a huge animal lover (I mostly like them WAY better than most people!). Izzy's on the rebound from a long-term love affair gone bad and decides to go into business for herself, with her best friend, Rena, as a "mostly" partner. When the towns crackpot activist shows up at the grand opening party to protest the business and then turns up dead in the alley behind the store later that night things get interesting. Especially when Rena becomes suspect #1. Izzy goes into detective mode to clear her friend's name and ends up working with Rena's lawyer, another old friend who she has an uncomfortable past with. There's no shortage of viable suspects in this one and though I figured out the bad guy about half way into the book that didn't

detract from my enjoyment. The only thing I didn't like was the "feel" to Izzy's relationship with Sean. I hope that gets worked out a little better in the next one. It just seemed a bit off in this one. Great 1st outing for this new series! If the rest are half as good as your previous series, Ms. Knox, you've got a real winner! RECOMMEND!

Amanda A says

3½★

Amanda says

This was great book to read. Very fast paced, the mystery was well developed. There was a great list of suspects that had really good reasons, why they might want to kill the victim. You well be guessing all the way up towards the end of the book.

Loved the animal theme, the animals were so adorable. I could just picture them running around in Trendy Tails and through the whole of Merryville. Izzy, and the rest of the cast of human characters are great as well. Each character has really interesting side stories. That can continue in the next book in the series.

For anyone whom is interested in cozy mysteries or books based around animals. I think you well really enjoy reading, Paws for Murder.

Diane ~Firefly~ says

[It was kind of sad that "borrowing" mon

Lisa Kay says

★★★★½

Rane says

Breaking up with her long time boyfriend, Izzy McHale finally goes home to Merryville, Minnesota. With a flare for design. Izzy decides with the help of her old friend Rena to open a pet boutique. Things are going wonderful on opening night, until the body of Sherry Harper local town activist is found in the alley behind the store and the number one suspect in Rena. Now it's up to Izzy and her old friend and (maybe more)lawyer Sean to prove their friend's innocence!

I adore when a cozy just drives right into the action. Paws for Murder just takes a running leap from page one and leads the reader through a whole lotta suspects who wanted Sherry out and many secrets in what the town's major players been hiding. There was many people who didn't care for Sherry a trust-fund baby and a pain in the butt to many. I was really surprised in the whodunit when the clues lead to the murderer.

Izzy was a great lead, after her break-up, her rose colored glasses got ripped off her eyes and this lead to growth as a character to the people around her and even owning up to her actions. The rest of the characters were just as strong and multi-dimensional from the BF Rena to the love-interest Sean, which I can't wait to see how it develops overtime, given their past history with one another.

This was an great start to this new series and I'm truly looking forward to more from this author and series!

Trish says

Well, I liked the characters and the setting, but a) would someone who runs a pet boutique really forget a murdered customer's pet? and b) it didn't really have a satisfying ending. Yes, they found out whodunnit, but in the end, the victim's attempts to stop the developer utterly failed.

Yvonne says

After breaking up with her boyfriend, Izzy McHale goes home to Merryville, Minnesota where she opens a new store, Trendy Tails Pet Boutique. Along with her best friend, Rena, Izzy hopes her shop will be a huge success. Rena will make the tasty treats like pupcakes and kitty canapés, while Izzy designs canine and feline outfits. All is well until a local activist, Sherry Harper, shows up to protest.

Sherry is a trust-fund baby carrying a guinea pig in a sling like a baby. Sherry is very much opposed to dressing animals in clothes. Izzy's argument is that most people buy animal clothes from big market places that get their shipments overseas. Izzy creates the outfits herself and offers a local non-toxic alternative. Sherry isn't buying it.

As everyone celebrates the grand opening of Trendy Tails Pet Boutique, Sherry protests and eventually is found dead in the alley outside. The prime suspect is Rena. Izzy doesn't intend to let her best friend go down for this murder. Rena hires a local attorney who happens to be a guy who loved Izzy when they were teens. Izzy blew him off then, but now she teams up with him to get Rena cleared of all charges. Of course, Sean and Izzy grow closer and old sparks start to rekindle, but their main concern is Rena and finding out who really killed Sherry. Much to their surprise, there is quite a long list of potential suspects.

The "A Pet Boutique Mystery" series gets off to a great start with this one. Dogs, cats, ferrets and even guinea pigs take center stage in this one. I was taken in on the first page as they discussed dressing animals in clothes. Not something I do, but it made for an interesting start to the story.

Izzy is a great character and I'm looking forward to getting to know her better. Sean, Rena...they are all fun characters, not to mention that Izzy has an entire family of fun characters.

I enjoyed the mix of mystery with romance in this one and can't wait to see what happens with Izzy and

Sean's potential relationship. I didn't guess who the killer was until the last chapter, so that's a good thing. The mystery weaved through the entire book to keep readers guessing until the end. Annie Knox did a great job of creating a fun mystery with great character. The next book isn't out until September, but I'll be looking for it. Great start to a fun series!

FTC Disclosure: The publisher provided me with a copy of this book to review for this blog tour. This did not influence my thoughts and opinions in any way. All opinions expressed are my own.
