



Death by Inferior Design

Leslie Caine

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It was a great opportunity, a beautiful day, and a perfect setting: home designer Erin Gilbert was headed to a lovely Crestview, Colorado, neighborhood to engage in a friendly little design contest with her nearest and less-than-dearest competitor, the unspeakably handsome Steve Sullivan. Erin would do a room in one home. Across the street, Steve would do another. Between Gilbert and Sullivan, may the best eye win.

Neither designer could suspect that rearranging two spaces on a winter weekend would set off an uproar in the neighborhood—of quirky homeowners, passionate secrets, and marriages in need of extreme makeovers. Looking for a friend in this perilously unhinged environment, Erin wants to think that Steve might turn from competitor to ally...But somewhere between her faux wall finish and her custom window treatments, Erin is in for a shock: It seems that a killer has created this designing job just for *her*!

Death by Inferior Design Details

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From Reader Review Death by Inferior Design for online ebook

Genna says

The book kept my interest to finish it, but it did take a little bit to get to the climax of the plot. If you are into interior design, you will appreciate the high detail of the book. The author does very well with describing every tiny detail with furnitures, floorings, wall papers, etc. however, if that doesn't interest you, you may find it hard to get through the book without skimming over the details. Without the details and slow build up of the plot, this story would be shorter and an even quicker read than it actually is. Didn't take long to read though and it kept me guessing who the murder was until the end. So I gave it three stars!

Crystal Toller says

Gilbert and Sullivan

This is the story of two interior designers who are hired to decorate a bedroom in one house and a den in another house. The editor of a design magazine decides to have the two designers Erin Gilbert and Steve Sullivan compete and the editor, will decide who the winner is. When Randy Axelrod, the editor dies, Erin discovers that she is his daughter. Erin and Steve are hired by Myra, Randy's widow to redecorate her house and Erin discovers who the killer is. This was an interesting book with many twists and turns. Enjoyed this book very much.

Eryn says

I finished this a few days ago, and though it was entertaining enough to hold my interest to the end, I'm having trouble recalling why. I admit that I cruised through the parts where she goes into heavy details about the actual design elements of what Erin is decorating, but the rest of the book was okay in a Lifetime movie sort of way. There were more than a few times I thought, "Really? Okay, I'll roll with it and see where she takes this."

Erika says

Intriguing but a bit confusing

I always enjoy a book where I do not figure out who the killer is (and in this case who the real parents are) and this one did not disappoint. I expected to be bored to tears through the decorating discussions but they were surprisingly interesting. The cast of characters was large and a bit confusing. I had to keep looking back to see who was married to whom. With all the lies every single character told, it was definitely hard to keep straight. But, the plot kept me intrigued til the very end and i eventually got them all straightened out. There were a few editing issues, which I'm sure other readers have noticed as well, but overall this was an enjoyable, interesting book and I just might read the next one too.

Melinda says

I love interior design and mysteries, so I thought this would be a no-brainer. I was wrong. It was poorly written and the plot was so twisted I had trouble figuring out what was really going on. Too many scenes were contrived simply to further the plot along. I give it two stars because I actually finished it.

Kristina Light says

I love cozy mysteries. This one was a very quick read. There were many suspects and a fun story to follow. My main complaint was the overuse of the Gilbert & Sullivan reference (I felt it was a BIG stretch to think that so many people would confuse the two last names and the gag was overplayed). Otherwise, it fell right in line with the cozies I like... interesting characters, a fun setting (interior design for the upper class), several possible motives and suspects with alibis to unveil, and just a hint of romance (very mild flirting). 4/5 for a COZY (rated based on the genre... a mystery you can curl up with at night for a relaxing read without nightmares.)

Doina Condrea says

Was it fun? Yes.

Was it at times confusing due to all the couples and their various issues? Oh Yes.

A teeeeeeeny bit too drawn out.. It was made so obvious who the biological mother was and who the real crazy person was but I felt like I knew and the characters took forever to figure it out.

Jane says

I was disappointed in this. I hate to criticize any author as I know firsthand that the writing process isn't easy. Sadly, this title had too many issues for me to ignore. I felt the writing was reminiscent of 7th grade, with stilted dialog full of 'I said' and 'he said'. There were also way too many characters, introduced too quickly. One almost needed to make a list. Very difficult to keep them straight and why would you want too? As a reader, I didn't really care what happened to any of them. There were inconsistencies, too. One minute the characters are sympathetic to each other the next minute they are snarling at one another again. Really crazy was how quickly we went from a dead body to let's meet back here at 4pm to go over your design! Also zany that the main character continued meeting with these yay-hoos in their homes alone when she knew that one of them was a killer. So, basically, not much of it was believable. Finally, the whole thing was way too long. I kept reading, thinking surely this is going to come together into something cohesive and interesting. Sadly, it did not. I hope the writer can do better. I rather wonder how this one got published at all. This one really needed a sharper editor.

Kathleen says

I didn't expect much of this e-book freebie, though I will say it was ok. But it felt like a long discourse on interior design, with more thought put into the descriptions of furnishings than adding depth and realism to the characters. The main characters were pretty two-dimensional, and the plot twists were convoluted and not very realistic. Kind of fun, though, so I did finish it. Ok for a post-surgery recovery book -- didn't take much brain to read. ;)

William Westmoreland says

Domestic Intrigue

Death by Inferior Design is a rollercoaster ride of murder, mystery, and intrigue. Erin Gilbert finds herself on an unwanted adventure into her past. The twists and turns Caine builds into the narrative makes you wonder at times if Erin will ever figure out the truth or die trying. I give it four stars and she had me fooled until the last five pages when the real killer is discovered. I want to read more of this series.

Anna Kander says

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Kathleen says

If you enjoy a good suspense, you will love this book. Erin, a interior designer finds herself in the middle of murder and lies. After her adoptive mother passes away, she moves to a new town to start her business. She is hired to decorate a room as a surprise for the owner's wife and finds that it is a competition with another designer who was hired to design a room in another neighbor's home. The winner gets a spread in a design magazine. Another neighbor (Randy) is a writer for the magazine and will decide who wins. During the design Erin finds that one of the neighbors are her biological parents. At the end of the design job Randy is murdered. What happens after has you changing your mind constantly on who murdered Randy and who are her biological parents.

Nancy says

Inferior book; don't bother.

I hoped for clever; it delivered trite.

I looked for fun; it was boring.

There are many well-crafted, literate mystery books being written. Don't dismiss the genre as a whole, but don't select this book if you are looking for anything special.

Kimberly says

Good cozy mystery. I liked the MC and her rival/love interest. The mystery was really interesting and I didn't guess the killer until the reveal. I would recommend this book and would like to read more in this series. :)

Darlene says

I love a good cozy mystery, but I must say this was one of the hardest I have ever read. True, it was a book about interior design, but I felt the descriptive adjectives about the furniture, carpets, wallpapers, tea pots got a little out of hand. Additionally, if there were a possible murder, I can assure you I wouldn't be returning to the scene of the crime and agreeing to do even more designs for the possible murderer. The murder mystery aspect of this story seemed to be third in importance, finding out her true identity second and that ever loving interior design number one. I only finished the book to see how it ends. Maybe it needed a little more romantic tension between the two designers instead of immature anger.
