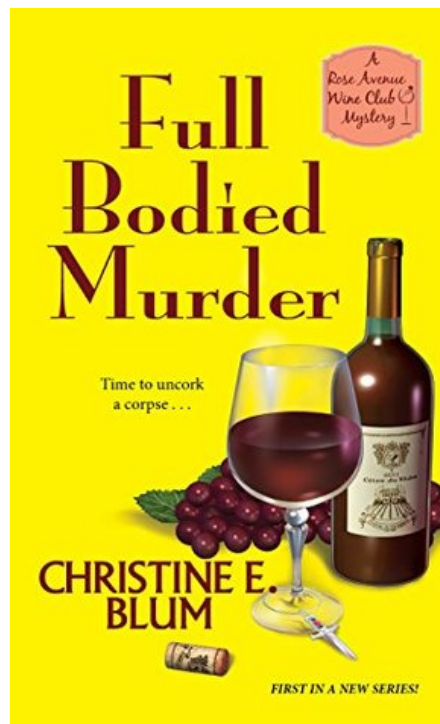




Full Bodied Murder

Christine E. Blum

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As the newest member of the Rose Avenue Wine Club, Halsey wants to expand her palate—not solve murders. But when a neighbor is found dead, it's up to her to pair the culprit with a deadly crime . . .

Leaving behind a failed marriage, New Yorker Annie “Halsey” Hall is ready to begin the next phase of her life in coastal Southern California. From the moment she arrives at her new digs on cozy Rose Avenue, she looks forward to joining the neighborhood ladies for their weekly Wine Club gathering. With only a rambunctious yellow lab puppy to keep her company, Halsey could really use a confidant—and a glass or two of her favorite white wine . . .

Unfortunately, she finds nothing but red at the Wine Club meeting—and judging by the dead woman lying face down in the backyard, it's not spilled merlot. Halsey accidentally stumbled into the wrong address at the wrong time, and with suspicions about her past on the rise, she must prove that she isn't a killer. Enlisting the eclectic talents of the Wine Club ladies, Halsey searches for the true criminal at large. But separating friends from foes isn't easy on Rose Avenue, and as she racks up a suspect list, Halsey can't shake the feeling that someone in her inner circle has a taste for murder . . .

Full Bodied Murder Details

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Author : Christine E. Blum

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From Reader Review Full Bodied Murder for online ebook

Ann says

This is a good start to a new cozy mystery series. (Rose Avenue Wine Club Mystery). Halsey moves to California from NY after a divorce and ending a partnership in a business. She arrives on Rose Avenue in time to walk into her first meeting of the Rose Avenue Wine Club and finds the hostess dead in the kitchen. Meeting a new man, finding fellow dog lovers, and helping solve the murder certainly keeps Halsey busy. There's something mysterious going on in her new neighborhood and she's wondering if she should pack up and move back to the east coast. Looking forward to book 2.

Eileen says

Fun to read a book written by a friend. Good job, Chris. Looking forward to the next installment with this wacky crew...and Bardot!

Joel says

I received an advance uncorrected proof of the novel via a Goodreads giveaway. This is my review of that copy.

Fleeing to Southern California from a broken marriage in New York, Halsey (painfully named Annie Hall by her clueless parents) wastes no time joining a wine club with her new neighbors on Rose Avenue. Unfortunately, she has woefully bad timing and finds herself (and her dog, Bardot) at a murder scene instead of a club meeting.

As the first in a series, this fell short in a lot of ways. Secondary characters (aside from the enigmatic next-door snoop, Marisol) weren't fully developed. There was a LOT of description of wine. So much so that I felt at times the author was an obtrusive sommelier, pointing at the wine menu, taking great care to pronounce the things you probably wouldn't be able to with your peasant tongue, and going into great details of the subtle hints of flavor each contained, and which entree it would best accompany.

If you've ever read Janet Evanovich and thought to yourself, "Gee, I could really like Stephanie Plum if she were only a closeted alcoholic," you will probably enjoy this book.

The plot felt contrived, was unfocused, and didn't end in a satisfying way (except the induction to the wine club of the newest neighbor selected to experience liver failure in the not-too-distant future).

I was hoping for a little more humor, a little less insta-love, and a more complete read. The first chapter of the second book in the series appears in the back of this book, but to be honest, I wasn't interested enough to read it.

I think it will likely appeal to some readers, but I am not one of them. 2 out of 5 stars.

Darinda says

I received an ARC ebook from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Halsey moves to Southern California from New York City. Her new neighborhood takes some getting used to, but some friendly neighbors invite her to join their Rose Avenue Wine Club. Halsey enjoys wine and wants to meet her new neighbors, so she happily accepts the invitation. Unfortunately, Halsey goes to the wrong house for her first wine club meeting... and stumbles upon a dead body. The police see Halsey as a suspect, so she and the other wine club members take on a little sleuthing to prove her innocence. It turns out, there are quite a few suspects on Rose Avenue.

I always enjoy a cozy mystery, and I like to read with while enjoying a glass of wine, so this book seemed right up my alley. This was a solid mystery, though there did seem to be a lot of other things going on with the neighbors. Mostly likable characters, but not enough character development to truly care about anyone. The dog, Bardot, was pretty great though. I saw that this is set to be a series, and it was a good introduction to the characters.

I thought the list of wines in the back of the book was a nice touch. Also, the glossary for wine-related lingo could be helpful for non-wine drinkers.

Full Bodied Murder was a light read and good for fans of cozy mysteries.

Lisa B. says

Halsey has moved into her new home. To get to know her neighbors better, she joins their Rose Avenue Wine club. Not long after that, she finds one of her neighbors dead. Sadly, this makes her the main suspect. Now Halsey must work to discover who is the real murderer.

This is book #1 in what a fun cozy mystery series. In knew I was going to like this story when they author made my chuckle a few times in the first chapter. Halsey is smart and has a wry sense of humor. Her neighbors and wine club members are a mixed bag of eclectic characters. There is a small bit of romance. I'm glad I got in on this series at the ground floor and look forward to seeing what happens with this group in future installments.

Thanks to Kensington books for providing this ARC via Netgalley.

Lisa Morin says

As a first in a new series, *Full Bodied Murder* is a solid hit.

Annie "Halsey" Hall has left the east coast and a bad marriage behind. Spreading her wings and looking for a change, Halsey heads to California.

A new house and new friends are part of her plan, but walking into a murder scene and not wine club was not in the picture.

As Halsey tries to find some answers, she finds herself with some quirky friends as well.

This is a lighthearted cozy mystery and has the potential to become a popular series.

The main character is easy to relate to and the cast of colorful characters add an exciting twist to this series. I voluntarily read an ARC of this book offered by the publisher and NetGalley.

Lois says

to much time spent on what wine they were drinking and not enough on the story

Carrie says

After her marriage failed Annie "Halsey" Hall decided to get as far from New York as she could by heading out to sunny California. Halsey found herself a lovely new home on Rose Avenue with a swimming pool in back to keep her young lab occupied while she worked. Moving into her new home she wonders about the neighbors seeing her first impression is of the lady next door keeping an eye out on her.

Before long Halsey finds herself making new friends in her new town when she meets a group of ladies that invite her to come to their wine club meeting. As Halsey heads over to the home for the meeting she arrives to find an open door with no one around. Thinking the club may be out back Halsey heads in only to find a dead body. As police arrive Halsey realizes she mistakenly went to the wrong home and now finds herself a suspect in murder. Halsey then enlists the help of the ladies in the wine club to clear her name and solve the crime.

Full Bodied Murder by Christine E. Blum is the first book in the cozy Rose Avenue Wine Club Mystery series. As with most cozy mysteries this series comes with it's own unique hook to center the story around and that is the group's love of wine and there are plenty of mentions throughout the book of different varieties. The main character is a new comer to the neighborhood and finding her way into the group and out of a murder charge with the local police.

While in the end I did enjoy this for the most part I also think it did have a few flaws. One that I noticed was there could have been a lot more depth given to the supporting characters to make them stand out a bit more, I would often forget who was who. It seemed the main character's dog, Bardot, was featured more than anyone else but who doesn't love a great animal?? The neighborhood also had a lot of shady dealings for being supposedly a great place to live and the budding relationship had a rough start I didn't quite enjoy. Overall though the story was an OK one that I would probably test out the second book of the series, would hate to miss out on Bardot's latest antics as he stole the show with this one.

I received an advance copy from the publisher via NetGalley.

For more reviews please visit <https://carriesbookreviews.wordpress....>

Angela Gibson says

Thank you to Kensington Publishing for providing an ARC to me in exchange for an honest review.

This is the first in a series. The second book in this series is scheduled April, 2018.

The main character, Halsey Hall, moves to California after a failed marriage. She starts her new life after divorce with a puppy, Bardot, and a change in location from New York. Halsey moves into a neighborhood of characters. Halsey's first social event has Halsey walking into the home of a neighbor who has been murdered.

In spite of the inauspicious start to Halsey's neighborhood socializing, she quickly becomes accepted into the social circle, charms a grouchy neighbor, and investigates the murder so that Halsey can clear her name with the police. There is a lot of wine drinking and appetizer eating. This book made me hungry!

I would get frustrated with the book because the timeline was confusing and the character development was muddy. I think that there can be enjoyable books to read in this series, I will read the next book, and I will hope that more attention is paid to the overall pacing of the next book, *Murder Most Fermented*.

Kristina says

Full Bodied Murder by Christine E. Blum is the first book in *A Rose Avenue Wine Club Mystery* series. Annie "Halsey" Hall is thirty-six years old and starting over. She has divorced her husband, starting a new software apps company, and moved across country from New York to Rose Avenue in California. Halsey was happy to receive an invitation to attend the Rose Avenue Wine Club. She is off to attend her first meeting with her puppy, Bardot. Halsey finds the front door ajar and Bardot runs into the dark house. After some stumbling and knocking into furniture, Halsey finds the homeowner on the floor with a kitchen knife protruding from her body. It turns out that Halsey went to the wrong home for the meeting. The victim is Rosa Sobel and the police have set their sights on Halsey as the killer. To clear her name, Halsey, with the ladies of the Rose Avenue Wine Club, start investigating the residents of Rose Avenue to uncork the culprit. It seems, though, that murder might not be the only criminal activity taking place on their street.

Full Bodied Murder is not what I expected. I thought the characters lacked development (along with the setting---we are told about the street, but what about the town—its name) and Bardot overshadows the secondary characters. There are frequent mentions of wine and wine terminology (with dictionary at back of book for those who need assistance—like me). With the amount of wine the group drank, I am surprised that none of them have problems with their livers. I believe the author tried to cram too much into one story. Every single person on Rose Avenue is quirky and there are numerous activities going on (yogurt shop, nosy neighbor, cars shifting around during the night, drug dealers, theft, illegal cameras, angry neighbors, etc.). The story jumps all over the place with a distinct lack of focus. Of course, let us not forget the police who concentrate their investigation on Halsey who did not even know the dead woman. Halsey contaminates evidence and I am curious how they can get a conviction when she ruins the chain of custody on evidence. Then there is the flirtation, romance and sexual innuendo/tension between Halsey and then men she encounters. *Full Bodied Murder* also contains foul language (fair warning). The various mysteries can be figured out by the readers. The killers' identity will come as no surprise.

RO G'ma says

Full Bodied Murder is the first book in Christine E. Blum's *Rose Avenue Wine Club Mystery* series. This is a lighthearted cozy with a cast of colorful characters, but it seemed to me that there were too many strange

happenings occurring simultaneously and it was hard to follow.

After her divorce, thirty-six year old Annie Elizabeth “Halsey” Hall left her home in New York City and moved to Southern California. Looking forward to a new start, Halsey purchased a lovely home on Rose Avenue with a swimming pool to keep her Labrador Retriever, Bardot, occupied while she works. Her new neighbors invite her to their Wine Club meeting, but she wasn’t paying attention to the address and winds up entering the wrong house, where she discovers a body in the backyard with a knife plunged into her back, and becomes a suspect in the murder of Rosa Sobel. She enlists her new friends and a nosy neighbor to help clear her name and find the true culprit.

I received an Advance Reader Copy of this book from NetGalley and voluntarily reviewed it.

Laura M says

This is the first book in the Rose Avenue Wine Club mystery series. Thanks to NetGalley and Kensington Books, I was able to read an ARC.

Halsey (given name Annie Hall by her hippie parents - don't ask), is a New Yorker fleeing a fresh divorce for a big change. She is immediately invited to join the block wine club. However, heading to her first meeting in the neighborhood, she walks in the house with an open door and stumbles upon a corpse. Nothing like starting off a new life on the right foot. Even though she had never even met the victim, that doesn't stop the police from suspecting her. Follow Halsey as she acquaints herself with her quirky new neighbors and investigates suspicious goings-on.

I really wanted to like this book. I love Kensington Books, and I love starting new cozy series. This book, however, left me looking forward to the end by chapter 9. I loved the dog, Bardot, but the human characters seemed thrown out quickly without much fleshing out. It felt like there were too many mysteries being thrown out - who's the murderer? What's going on at the yogurt shop? What's up with Mussolini (the neighbor, not the dictator). I did like the wine club ladies, but didn't feel the camaraderie with them I had hoped. Give this one a pass.

Jenny Houle says

Eh

I wish there was any one thing I could specifically say I liked or hated...but it was overall. In some places, the characters are well-defined; in others, they are not. The passage of time is hard to follow until it becomes clearer defined toward the end. In some sections, the writing was good but in others it was lacking. I'll try one more book before giving up on the series.

LORI CASWELL says

Dollycas's Thoughts

Annie “Halsey” Hall has moved to California and landed on Rose Avenue. She realizes immediately how different it will be from her life in New York. Here she has neighbors that she wants to get to know, so she is excited to be asked to join the Rose Avenue Wine Club. She sets off with her puppy to attend the first club meeting but when she arrives her dog drags her through the house where she discovers a dead woman. Not the welcome she had expected at all, especially when the police arrive and consider her their prime suspect.

She soon learns she was at the wrong address and meets up with the women of the wine club. They promise to help her clear her name and they start their own investigation. Halsey wants to get to know these ladies better as she fears one of them may actually be the killer.

We meet a lot of characters in this first book of the series. The wine club ladies all live on the same street and all of them seems to have a secret. The one thing they all have in common is their love of wine. They consume a bottle or two or more every time they meet. I am not sure if the helped or hindered their investigation ? They do put themselves in some dangerous situations and more than one of them end up in the hospital.

I did enjoy the introduction of Halsey’s love interest. Jack, dog trainer/dog whisperer has been hired by Halsey to help her train her loveable Labrador puppy. Their relationship had a spark from their first meeting and continues to grow throughout the story.

The plot has a fever pitch as so much happens. In addition to the murder, there are drug dealers, middle of the night car deals, rats invading a business, theft, hidden security cameras, angry and nosy neighbors, illegal aliens, and general shady deals all over the place. It all comes together to make a darn good mystery.

Everyone would enjoy this story but wine lovers will find details about all the wine mentioned in the story and a Glossary of Wine Terms and the end of the story.

I feel as if we have just gotten a good sip into the lives of these characters. The author has left them plenty of room to grow. I am excited to see what she decants about them in the next book. Murder Most Fermented will be ready to pour April 24, 2018.

Elaine says

#FullBodiedMurder #NetGalley
