



MacDeath

Cindy Brown

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Like every actor, Ivy Meadows knows that Macbeth is cursed. But she's finally scored her big break, cast as an acrobatic witch in a circus-themed production of Macbeth in Phoenix, Arizona. And though it may not be Broadway, nothing can dampen her enthusiasm—not her flying cauldron, too-tight leotard, or carrot-wielding dictator of a director.

But when one of the cast dies on opening night, Ivy is sure the seeming accident is “murder most foul” and that she's the perfect person to solve the crime (after all, she does work part-time in her uncle's detective agency). Undeterred by a poisoned Big Gulp, the threat of being blackballed, and the suddenly too-real curse, Ivy pursues the truth at the risk of her hard-won career — and her life.

MacDeath Details

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Author : Cindy Brown

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From Reader Review MacDeath for online ebook

Tory Michaels says

Book provided by NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

This was a cute little mystery. I didn't get who did it, nor many of the twists and turns it would take until everything was revealed. The problem, for me, was I didn't feel compelled to keep reading (at least not until the last 15% or so, approximately). It wasn't bad writing, it just didn't have quite enough suspense for my tastes. Still, good book and others may well fully enjoy it.

Sally Schmidt says

I received a free ebook of this title through NetGalley.

This was a cute mystery. Nothing life-changing, but a quick read that fits squarely in the "cozy" genre. It's clear that this is the beginning of a series, and I'm sure many people will enjoy Ivy's quirky, irreverent narration.

While I love theater, acting isn't something that I really identify with, and I already read a ton of different cozy series, so I probably won't go looking for any of the later books. However, if I see them at the library (or if I get any other books through NetGalley) I'll certainly give them a read!

Gary Sundell says

What a fun read. A great start to this series. As a theater geek, I loved the setting and the whole curse on the play thing. Looking forward to reading the next adventure of Ivy, her P.I. uncle and a musical mashup of Cabaret and The Sound of Music.

*** Jennifer says**

3.5 stars. I'm a huge fan of Henery Press mysteries, but not a huge fan of drama, acting, drama...so take my lukewarm rating in context. It's well written and if you find the stage interesting, you might like this one.

Wordier review: <http://jenn.booklikes.com/post/125867...>

Margaret says

This is a review of an ARC from NetGalley.

A cute, cozy mystery, set in the theater world. Ivy Meadows (real name, Olive Ziegwart) has been cast as a

witch in a Phoenix, Arizona local theater production of *Macbeth*. This is Ivy's big break, but before she can relax and enjoy it, an old friend in the cast turns up dead. While everyone thinks the actor drank himself to death Ivy suspects murder, and her suspicions get more intense after her private investigator uncle also runs into trouble. Complicating matters is her on-and-off again relationship with the play's lead, who may or may not be involved.

The story was cute, and the theater setting was fun to read about. The plot doesn't entirely hold up - Ivy keeps suspecting people for no obvious reason, and the eventual murderer seems to have been drawn out of a hat. A subplot about Ivy's mentally disabled younger brother is interesting, but it comes too late, into the story, so it feels dragged in out of nowhere.

This could settle down to be a nice, light, diverting series, so we'll see how the second one goes!

Daniel says

This review originally published in Looking For a Good Book. Rated 3.25 of 5

We know, pretty early on, that something bad is going to happen because actress Ivy Meadows (real name: Olive Ziegwart) has been cast in William Shakespeare's *Macbeth* and almost immediately in to the rehearsal period, somewhere says "Macbeth" (and not in the context of rehearsing the lines). For anyone with even the smallest bit of theatre knowledge, this is known as the Curse of the Scottish Play. (If you aren't familiar with it, you should google it.)

This is a delightful little diversionary mystery. Ivy/Olive is a plucky young woman who is still a bit green when it comes to acting roles. She is cast as one of the witches in a production of *Macbeth* that will be staged as if it were part of circus (that's actually not one of the stranger concepts I've encountered for a Shakespeare play).

The plot isn't too terribly strong, but the character of Ivy makes the story interesting. Following her with her budding romance and with her work for her uncle's detective agency was a lot of fun. Following her with her role in the circus-themed *Macbeth* was ... well ... there wasn't enough of it to experience, which was a missed opportunity. A dark, brutal play set in a circus? What a tremendous playground for a murder mystery! But author Cindy Brown's forte here is her characters, and they are a fun lot to follow.

Ivy has a lot of work to do to elevate her to the ranks of some of the best detectives in literature, but I liked her spunk and I like the idea of the theatrical setting (I've liked it since reading *The Hamlet Trap* by Kate Wilhelm, back in the late 1980's) and I look forward to another mystery adventure in the theatre.

Looking for a good book? *MacDeath* is a light, easy-to-read mystery with a number of fun characters.

Mark Baker says

Ivy is hoping that landing the part of one of the witches in a local production of *Macbeth* will kick start her acting career. Instead, it lands her in danger when one of her costars dies on opening night. The police are

quick to rule it an accidental case of alcohol poisoning, but Ivy is certain that Simon had stopped drinking. Can she find out what really happened to him?

This is a wonderful start to a series. Ivy is a great character, and there are enough quirks in the rest of the cast to make it fun. The plot is strong with great twists. The humor kept me smiling throughout as well. I can't wait for more of Ivy's adventures.

Read my full review at Carstairs Considers.

Debbie says

Thanks Henery Press and Net Galley for providing me with a free e-galley in exchange for an honest review.

This was a fun, cute little mystery set in the theatre world. The play is MacBeth and apparently it's bad luck to say the name of the play in the theatre. When things start happening, Ivy Matthews decides she is going to investigate. She does work part time for her uncles's detective agency. Ha!

The characters are quirky, the pace fast and I read it all in one sitting, which happens a lot with me and cozy mysteries.

I definitely recommend this book!

Meghan says

If I could give it more than 5, I would. (It's books like this that make me question other 5s I have given.)

It's not very often that I sit down with a book and, when done, can't find a single thing wrong with it. There always seems to be something that bugs me, at least a little bit. Either there was a character that I didn't care for, something happened that I couldn't quite understand, there are more boring points than I would have liked, the ending falls flat or *cough cough* there's editing issues *cough cough*.

The ones that I love are the hardest ones to review, harder than the ones that are full of issues. Why? Because I want to immediately start running-off-at-the-mouth about every thing that I loved, which would ruin the story for the next person. And I am the last person that would want to do that.

This is one of those books that falls into the category of perfect for me. It's a mystery, which puts it above the rest anyways (I am addicted to mysteries and horror novels). It's interesting, it's fun, it's creative - it blew me away. Each page kept me reading more and it was hard for me to put down. The characters were fantastic and I loved them all, especially Ivy and her uncle.

This is a series that I definitely want to finish and the author has joined the handful (or two) of authors that I wait in breathless anticipation for their releases, who I will put down what I'm reading to pick up their book. HIGHLY recommended.

Thank you, Ms. Brown. Thank you.

Note: I received a copy in exchange for an honest and unbiased review. Please remember that this review is

my opinion based on my own personal impression of the book.

Darren says

It was a good book. I liked it a lot. I look forward to the next book by this author.

Ivonne Rovira says

“My name is Ivy Meadows, and I am an actress!” With this affirmation begins *MacDeath*, the debut of an incredibly sweet and offbeat cozy mystery series.

Perky Ivy Meadows (the stage name for a young woman with the more prosaic name of Olive Ziegwart) gets cast as one of the three witches in a production of *Macbeth* in Phoenix, Arizona. Fortunately for the production, Simon Black, a legendary British film and stage star, has landed the role of King Duncan; unfortunately for the production, he dies after opening night. Everyone thinks that Black, 38 days sober, has relapsed and died of alcohol poisoning — except Ivy. She convinces her kind-hearted private-detective Uncle Bob Duda to assist her, and the pair of them seek to find out what’s behind Black’s death and a series of other unfortunate accidents occurring during the run of that Scottish play.

Humorous and cleverly plotted, with an interesting subplot about Ivy’s kid brother, *MacDeath* will delight readers with a passion for light cozies with a twist.

QNPoohBear says

The heroine is Ivy Meadows and she's an actress. At least that's what Olive Zwigart keeps telling herself. She accidentally aces an audition for a production of The Scottish Play set in a 1930s burlesque circus. Um OK... at least it's a professional gig, right? They're still using Shakespeare's words and Ivy is lucky enough to count famous English actor Simon Black as a friend. Simon, known for his notorious drunken temperament, chooses Ivy to be his witness for sobriety. He's determined to get sober and win the role of the king Duncan. When Ivy finds Simon dead in his own vomit reeking of booze, she is shocked. How could he fall off the wagon so fast? Ivy is more shocked to discover that the rest of the cast, her flirty "friend" (with benefits) Jason included, think Simon drank himself to death. Ivy isn't so sure. Fortunately her beloved Uncle Bob is a private detective. She begs him to take the case, though he believes there isn't one. Ivy is determined to get justice for her friend, but it seems someone doesn't want her digging too deeply into Simon's death.

As far as mysteries goes, the mystery plot was great. I stayed up WAY too late reading to find out who the murderer was. I was certain I knew, but I was wrong. I never ever guessed who or anything revealed at the end. It wasn't wrapped up as neatly as I would have liked but I was surprised at what happened.

As far as romance, I give this a D. Jason is a sleaze plain and simple and Ivy is too stupid to see it. Even when they are together I just didn't like him. If you like sexy men who hit on women they barely know and are eager to seduce her, then you'll love this book. I would have served him with a sexual harassment lawsuit instead of hooking up with him. There is one intense makeout scene and some off-page lovemaking. This isn't your typically sweet, cozy mystery.

Most of the characters, including Ivy, are so unlikable I didn't care what happened to them. Ivy is young and immature. She makes bad decisions and tries to overcompensate. The childhood trauma she experienced and her parents' subsequent treatment of her are supposed to make her more sympathetic, but I didn't care for her personality. She's so ditzy and silly that it's almost cringeworthy. She does start to mature a bit at the end but for me, it's not enough to want to read more about her. I really liked her friend Candy at first but then I wondered about her. I don't think she was a true friend but for sure the nicest person on set. Also in the nice column is Uncle Bob. He was easily my favorite character. Perhaps I am biased because I also have a beloved, overweight and scratchy stubble Uncle Bob! Ivy's Uncle Bob is kind and sympathetic without being too kind. He has his feet planted firmly in the real world and understands that the world is a dangerous place. I was just surprised he didn't run a background check on Ivy's boyfriend. I would have if I were him. Finally, we have Cody, the nicest and most sympathetic character in the book. He's easy to love and I doubt anyone could not love him.

None of the other people were remotely enjoyable to read about. The tyrannical, carrot-chomping director who may or may not be gay is a total stereotype (aside from the carrots). His circus idea is crazy and really bizarre. No wonder he attracts two-bit actors like Ivy. Stage Manager Linda is an odd duck. She seems meek at first but then she also gets tough and mean. Bob, the TV news reporter is so dumb it's unbelievable. Why would anyone cast him in a Shakespeare play he knew nothing about? I think he is too dumb to be a killer but I could be wrong. Ivy's wannabe boyfriend Riley is weird and immature and Genevieve is the stereotypical mean girl.

I'm glad this book was at the library but I won't be checking back to see if they have more.

Verity W says

Another book in my quest for more cozy crime authors - and this one is not too bad. I found the heroine a little annoying (she's lacking in awareness of other people's feelings) but the actual mystery was quite good - even if Ivy's methods and handling the case are not!

On here it seems to be cueing it up as the start of a series, and I think with a little work to make Olive/Ivy a little more likeable, it could be really quite readable. There was a slight lack of back story explanation at the start - I think to make a reveal later in the book work, but it made me feel like I'd missed something - like there was a previous book/novella that I'd missed.

This has potential, but it isn't quite there yet.

Mary Brown says

Synopsis:

Like every actor, Ivy Meadows knows that Macbeth is cursed. But she's finally scored her big break, cast as an acrobatic witch in a circus-themed production of Macbeth in Phoenix, Arizona. And though it may not be Broadway, nothing can dampen her enthusiasm—not her flying caldron, too-tight leotard, or carrot-wielding dictator of a director.

But when one of the cast dies on opening night, Ivy is sure the seeming accident is “murder most foul” and that she’s the perfect person to solve the crime (after all, she does work part-time in her uncle’s detective agency). Undeterred by a poisoned Big Gulp, the threat of being blackballed, and the suddenly too-real curse, Ivy pursues the truth at the risk of her hard-won career—and her life. (Goodreads)

Review:

Ivy Meadows is a wanna-be actress who is looking for her big break. The role she lands in Macbeth is not going to get her on the red carpet, but it is an acting job and everyone has to start somewhere. But when the leading man ends up dead, things are not looking so good. Everyone thinks that the actor drank himself to death but Ivy is not convinced. Since she works part time at her uncle’s detective agency she thinks she is qualified to solve the mystery. Will she be able to follow the clues and find the murderer or will her snooping be her final curtain call?

The characters are well developed and well rounded. I loved the quirky personalities of Ivy and her friends. What they lacked in crime solving abilities they more than made up for with lots of dedication and enthusiasm. Ivy tries very hard to follow instructions but she is not always successful.

The writing style flows smoothly and the book is an easy read. I enjoyed the mixture of humor with suspense, which kept me turning the pages eagerly. There were many things that happened that had me smiling with an occasional laugh out loud moment.

I would recommend this book to anyone who enjoys a well written cozy mystery. This is the first book in the series and I think the author has a winning series on her hands, which I plan to continue reading.

I received a free copy of this book from NetGalley in exchange for a honest review. I would like to thank NetGalley and Henery Press for the opportunity to read and review this book.

Lynx says

Ivy Meadows, like every other theatre actor, has heard the rumours about Macbeth being cursed. But when she finally gets her big break being cast as one of the witches in a new circus themed production of the classic Shakespearian play, Ivy shakes off her apprehensions and dives into the cauldron. Things are going great until someone mutters the “M” word and cast mate ends up dead. Could it be the curse is real or is the cause a little less supernatural? Ivy, with the help of her P.I. Uncle set out to find the truth.

I went into this hoping for a fun, light, easy read and that is exactly what I got. There is certainly nothing groundbreaking here but it’s a very enjoyable ride and I’ll certainly check out the next book in the series.
