



Armed and Outrageous

Madison Johns

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Armed and Outrageous is a USA Today Bestseller, October 17, 2013.

Also check out the Agnes Barton Paranormal series, same characters, different spin.

Hilarious Senior sleuths — Grandma Mazur meets Murder She Wrote — cozy mystery.

Agnes Barton is not your typical senior citizen living in Tadium, MI, on the shores of Lake Huron. She drives a red hot Mustang, shops at Victoria's Secret, rankles local police officials, and has a knack for sticking her nose where it doesn't belong.

What does a murder that happened forty-three years ago have to do with missing tourist Jennifer Martin? Agnes makes it her personal mission to find out, and she's not letting the fact she's seventy-two get in the way. Butting heads with Sheriff Clem Peterson is something she's accustomed to, but lately Clem seems to be acting even more strange, making Agnes wonder what he may be hiding ala the Martin disappearance.

Agnes' partner in crime, Eleanor Mason tags along, Watson to her Holmes.

Together, they unearth clues. If only Eleanor would behave, as although lovable, she has a knack for getting into trouble by tangling with her rival, Dorothy Alton, or flirting with anyone—male or female—and gossiping! She's incorrigible, but she does carry a Pink Lady revolver in her purse, one that has proved useful at times.

Life for Agnes and Eleanor is shaken up when Agnes' former boss and secret crush comes to Tadium. Before long, the lady sleuths have more on their hands to contend with as goons roll into town and bullets begin to fly.

Adult content.

Also by Madison Johns

Agnes Barton Senior Sleuths Mystery Series in order:

Armed and Outrageous (Book one)

Grannies, Guns and Ghosts (Book two)

Senior Snoops (Book three)

Trouble in Tawas (Book four)

Treasure in Tawas (Book five)

Agnes Barton/Kimberly Steele Cozy Mystery Series

Pretty, Hip & Dead (Book one)

A Cajun Cooking Mystery series

Target of Death (Book one)

Romance

Pretty and Pregnant (Kimberly Steele novella)

Redneck Romance (Kelly Gray, standalone)

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Armed and Outrageous Details

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Author : Madison Johns

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From Reader Review Armed and Outrageous for online ebook

RO G'ma says

The plot is ridiculous, the characters are totally unrealistic, the book is offensive and poorly written.

What really disappointed me is the completely unnecessary insertion of sex, sex toys, sexy lingerie, cursing, physical violence between senior women, drinking and driving and illegal drug use. This book certainly doesn't promote proper behavior or send the right message to readers. This book borders on senior porn. When I think of a "cozy" mystery, I think of a squeaky clean book with no bad language and no sexual references that I will enjoy and can share with my grandchildren. You'll get both of these with this book so if you are not interested in that type of writing, stay away from this book. I have deleted it from my device.

It should NOT be classified as a Cozy Mystery. I'd give it zero stars, if I could.

Colleen Maclennan says

Some funny lines but for the most part just ridiculous . These seniors were engaging in activities that were bizarre . Fighting in KFC , pulling hair and wigs, and their sexual encounters were often gross. Seniors are certainly valued members of society but this lot were the goons .

Cheryl Landmark says

Nope. Just a little too "outrageous" for me.

The book did have its moments of humour, but, mostly, it was about seniors behaving badly...smoking pot, getting into fights and altercations in public places, being rude, insulting and obnoxious, having sex in a washroom at a card party, but, worst of all, drinking and driving. There is nothing even remotely funny about such a dangerous, careless, thoughtless action.

I like and respect strong, independent, feisty female characters, but I found it difficult at times to even tolerate Agnes and her buddy, Eleanor. Their behaviour was just too outlandish, eyebrow-raising and, at times, downright reckless and stupid. I found myself shaking my head in disbelief and disgust more than I did laughing at their antics. As for the mystery itself, I almost didn't care about it because it seemed like such an insignificant part of the whole story.

And the sex...well, let's just say I couldn't quite wrap my head around seventy-some year olds getting it on like raunchy, hormone-crazed teenagers! I'm not saying it's not possible or credible, but it was definitely not something I wanted to read about in what I thought was a "cozy" mystery.

There were also numerous editing errors and inconsistencies.

I really wanted to like this book and the characters, but it was just too disappointing. This not a series that I will be pursuing further.

Terry Crawford Palardy says

It was my privilege to be invited to proofread this book before publication.

Armed and Outrageous is a funny, warm, charming story of two mature women who have experienced life's losses but have come out stronger and wiser. Madison Johns has captured their enthusiasm, their confidence, their courage and their friendship, telling a good story while bringing the reader into the world of today's 'spunky seniors.'

Young women are disappearing from this small town in Michigan. The residents don't want to believe that anything serious links these disappearances ... just as they didn't want to pursue finding the killer responsible for a crime decades old. But Agnes and Eleanor have a personal interest in finding out what is going on, as Agnes' granddaughter is one of the missing girls.

With humor and bravado they persist in asking pesky questions. They learn to fire pistols after an unintended shot wounds one of the newcomers in town. Their exchanges with the local sheriff and the state police vary widely, ranging from scorn to hilarious scenes.

Madison Johns weaves romance sensitively into the story, allowing her senior characters to express their romantic interests realistically. The younger generation of local teenagers in entry level jobs is portrayed as being uninformed and disrespectful of the human side of elders. And the vulnerabilities of the families of those missing are gently exposed.

If you want a chuckle, a mystery, a beautiful, serene setting with a vicious criminal being pursued by incompetent local police and these ladies, you will love this book, and no doubt look for more from these characters and their creator, Madison Johns.

L.S. Fayne says

This is a wonderful, fun read! I've never read a book from the perspective of a seventy-two year old woman. The book is written in first person. A style that only a very good writer can make believable, and Madison Johns does a very good job of it.

Agnes is a spunky gal that's for sure. Her best friend Eleanor is just as bad at eighty-two. These two ladies shouldn't be allowed out in public, but whose supposed to stop them. The local and state police sure can't. Agnes's tenacity to solve the towns missing person epidemic borders on fanatical. Nothing is going to get in her way. Especially when the newest disappearance might help her to find her own granddaughter, missing for a year now. The similarities in the cases between the two women are too uncanny for it to be a mere coincidence.

This book has a lot going on with the solving of its mysteries, but also a flair for the local mentality of a small, tightly knit town. Some of the instances border on hilarious. I will definitely read another book from this author. Especially, if it's a continuation with these two senior citizens. I really liked this book!

To those who would like to know, I found the lead to this book on Twitter.

Kat Lebo says

Armed and Dangerous by Madison Johns

I had high hopes for this book (the first in a series). I've always liked Miss Marple, even when I was very young, and I enjoyed the Henrie O series -- both being over-50 aged women "detectives." So something called the "Senior Sleuths" mysteries should have been right up my alley.

Alas, I wasn't thrilled with the book.

Some of the reviews I'd read when I got the book (free on Amazon for my Kindle -- and I'm glad of that, at least) indicated problems with grammar, etc., but I didn't really notice much of that. And those of you who know me, know that's something I usually complain of in books. So that wasn't why I didn't like it.

Some of the reviews complained of the acerbic nature of the characters -- I didn't find the characters' personalities a problem, so much (well, I did -- but that's later), but did find that the fact that almost every character in the book was someone I would duck into a dark alley to avoid, to be a bit over the top.

It wasn't the mystery itself that bothered me. In fact, the mystery was a darn good one and it and it alone kept me reading to the end. The author not only chose a very scary subject for her mystery, but she wrote that part of the book very well, with nice pacing, lots of action and danger, and one hell of a climatic ending. In fact, that's what got her the 3 stars instead of the 1 star I was planning earlier in the book.

So why did I dislike this book so much? It was downright insulting to anyone of AARP card-carrying age. Not only were most of the characters of that age, there were all the most degrading stereotypes of senior citizens one can imagine. Womanizing men, preening, gossipy women, all acting worse than you can imagine. Pot parties attended by the entire population of the small town where this takes place, knock-down drag-out cat-fights between 60+ aged women seemingly just for the fun of it, an eccentric to the point of mental instability "cat lady" (and I very very much resent that, being a veritable cat lady myself), a pot-growing, pot brownie baking senior... the list was endless. Not only that, but the author would have you believe that all this could take place before 8 or 9 p.m., as she states more than once in the book that all of these seniors would want to be in bed asleep by that time. I can tell you, not only from being in the same age bracket as the main character (I'm 67; the main character is 72) that this is not only not true, it's ridiculously not true. In fact, it is not true of even one person I know in the 60-80+ year bracket.

I will give the author a bit of a kudo on making the seniors have lots of passion and desire to be involved in sexual relationships. However, again, she doesn't do it in a way that is realistic. She has the characters swinging between hooking up in the back bedroom at a monthly card party, or salacious May-Dec relationships, or waking up after a night of heavy drinking to find a naked man in your bed. Hmm, let's just ignore the purely physical issues that many seniors find themselves dealing with in order to stay sexually active in later years -- and if we don't ignore them, let's make a joke of them.

Some of the action was rather outlandish, as well. So, we have a 72 year old woman, who is a pretty good shot. She's attempting to save someone from being raped, the man has his pants down, the woman down on a table and he is attempting to enter her and the main character, who has been hit and knocked to the floor, is able to grab her gun from her pocket, roll and shoot him in the crotch and somehow, manage to miss the woman altogether? How big was this guy's member, that there was that much distance between him and his victim that someone lying on the floor a bit of a distance away at who knows what angle could make that

shot? Now, that might be exciting and something we'd all love to happen, but it is pretty unrealistic.

And it's not just the elderly the author treats with disdain. Up to the climatic ending scenes, literally every young adult/teen mentioned in the book is rude and insulting.

So, loved the mystery; hated the way the author chose to portray the characters.

I picked up both this book and the second in the series for my Kindle as free books. I'm glad I didn't pay for them because both are being offloaded ASAP.

Diane Burton says

Loved this book. The 2 main characters (Agnes & her buddy Eleanor) are such characters! The tag is "Grandma Mazur meets Murder She Wrote." Definitely as outrageous as Grandma Mazur. I loved the locale because I'd just driven up US-23 along the Lake Huron coast. It's a fun mystery, and I'll be back for more in this delightful series.

Patricia Gligor says

The title for this novel by Madison Johns is perfect! The main character, Agnes Barton, and her sidekick, Eleanor, two senior citizens, are both "Armed" and truly "Outrageous." Determined to solve the mystery of two missing young women (one is Agnes' granddaughter), the partners in crime become involved in some dangerous, but hilarious, adventures.

Sandra Baši? says

Three stars for happy end... I hope the other books are better

Darlene says

Though I am reading the three-book boxed set, I think it is fair to give a review of each individual book. Since I did buy both, and as I want to encourage writing for seniors, the reals ones not the ones in twelfth grade in high school. Besides, it doesn't hurt my reading goals to review individually. ;-)

It is so exciting to actually read something that includes people, womyn, who are not teens. Was it as well-written as I would like? Not so much. I would give this three and a half stars. This needed more editing. And did we have to fall into the trap of the romance? I like when womyn can think for themselves and stand without a man coming to their rescue. Agnes did that for the most part, but she got all weak kneed and girlie when the man of her dreams comes into view. I loved Eleanor, the ninety-something sex crazed side-kick better than the main character. She pulled no punches and got what she needed from the world.

That world is Tawas, Michigan. I've never been there so it seemed like another country, to me. The author did make it sound like the kind of place I'd like to visit sometime.

I love how Madison Johns, the author, captures all kinds of senior citizens within this book. She laughs at some who seem like they would enjoy the joke while holding respect and sympathy for those not so blessed or able. And I love how Ms. Johns addresses fem issues. You wouldn't think that the issues would be so strong once womyn were no longer in the work force, but it seems to affects us all a lot more. Ms. Johns doesn't draw attention to these issues, but rather, states them as is and moves on, leaving the reader to draw their own conclusions.

The tags 'mystery, thriller, suspense' are the most accurate. Chic-lit or cozy mystery seem too light for the contents. Rape, murder, and sex-trafficking are some topics involved which are dealt with in a serious manner. I found that fact a little too much to deal with. I don't like reading stories that are too realistic. I get that on the news. Give me a good sci-fi or fantasy to get lost in, any day. But all in all this was a good read and I will continue the series with delight. Go, Seniors!

NVTony says

Completely different set of characters which makes for an interesting read. Mind pictures were a tad unsettling but after awhile not so scary. Enjoyable mystery with some different twists you will find funny. More I thought about this one I had to update with five stars. Looking forward to more stories of these unusual seniors.

Debra says

72-year-old Aggie Barton is an inquisitive person with an aptitude for investigating. She is also strong-willed, stubborn, and opinionated. These traits land her in a lot of hot water when she decides to investigate the disappearance of a young woman named Jennifer Martin. When Jennifer's wealthy father comes to Aggie's hometown of Tadium, Michigan, Aggie is shocked to find that her former boss Andrew, a man she lusted after for years, is accompanying him. Old feelings flare up as does her determination to find Jennifer, given that Aggie's granddaughter, Sophie, also disappeared a year ago. Naturally, there are people who don't want Aggie to learn the truth and will go to any lengths to stop her.

There are things I liked and disliked about the book, so let's start with the good stuff. Aggie and her sidekick Eleanor are a hoot, although not always likeable. I'm not sure whether the novel's title refers to the crime or the crime solvers (maybe both), but some of Aggie's and Eleanor's actions were clearly outrageous. Still, I sympathized with Aggie as she has a strong, believable motive in wanting to search for Jennifer. The setting is described well enough that I can picture this town and the eccentric residents who live there. Andrew is also well portrayed.

The main problem with the book is the lack of logic in spots. Like most amateur sleuths, Aggie and Eleanor take unnecessary risks which I accept in cozies. After all, I'm a fan of the genre. Toward the end of the book, Aggie's barely survived two murder attempts when she goes traipsing after the bad guys alone while the police are nearby. This over-the-top behavior stretches credibility too far. Secondly, the disappearance of the granddaughter for an entire year doesn't make sense, under the circumstances. To explain why would be a spoiler. As fun as the premise is, the characters' actions made them more irrational and annoying than heroic.

Mike says

I cannot believe that roughly four out of five reviewers in the US think this is worth finishing. What the forty-odd who gave it five stars generally read is a mystery because it suggests there are tens of thousands worse than this. Difficult to imagine.

This is not a question of taste, it is a matter of writing competence. Misuse of words, poor characterisation, unbelievable scenarios and poor story focus are not the only things that mar the product. I can well believe that the author tells a good ditty at the bar/club/hairdressers but writing is another game, with more stringent rules.

I give this two stars rather than one because however badly performed it is, it demonstrates writerly persistence. To complete a book is an achievement and the practice alone might mean the next offering is a shade better. I still won't buy it because the improvement required could never come that quickly.

Jennifer Oberth says

I ended up disliking this book so much I considered not finishing it. The only reason I did finish, was to get it out of my brain. (If I left in the middle, I feared it would haunt me.)

It sounded like a good premise, two old gals solving a mystery, but all they do is complain about how the youth treat old people. The one old lady shoots a bird, the other drives drunk and then gets the sheriff - who is trying to arrest her in the interest of public safety - in trouble. The old people are rude to the younger generation, not to mention each other. They have sex in bathrooms, do pot (not for medicinal purposes), get into physical fights – the one (72 year old) head-butted another. It's ridiculous. The one guy uses his walker to trip a younger man at the local WalMart, and the younger man flies into a potato chip display. Why was the old guy not put into jail for assault?

The author writes scenes with young people saying nasty things to old people – for the sole purpose of having fights. The KFC scene is a good example. A youth spits insults (for no reason) to the old lady behind the counter. He asks for his biscuits and she ends up throwing biscuits at him, and then chicken parts. Are you serious?

The old people in this book are rude, crude, insulting and this whole driving drunk thing ticked me off. I don't care about these people anymore. I was taught to respect my elders but if I lived in this town, I don't think I would. They should be locked up - some in jail, others in the mental ward. Spare the nursing home staff.

It's not fun.

After the main character stumbles into her house after avoiding the drunk driving charge (she drove home, by the way - drunk), she collapses into bed with her shoes and clothes still on, too drunk to care. "I still felt a little drunk, and the room spun. I could deal with a little buzz, but not the spinning or jail fine. I was on a fixed income!"

Really, author? Make a joke out of drunk driving? And this is the main character! Now, I did lose a friend to a drunk driver, but I'd like to think I'd find this just as abhorrent if I didn't. Trying to make light of drunk driving? Pretending like it's funny? I just pray the author didn't intend this to be endearing. It's not funny and it's not endearing.

Then, a few pages later, the main character is describing a friend's sons. "...were what I'd call a menace.

They had spent most of their lives in and out of juvenile hall when young, and jail cells once they were of age. They were repeat offenders, but had thus far eluded any charges that would keep them behind bars.” She then says, “...but her boys made me want to hold my purse closer and keep my doors locked.”

Really? Like maybe people in your community hug their loved ones before they drive because people like you are on the road and not in jail? I’m not even mentioning where, earlier in the book, the mc says she has the right to drive even though her reaction time is a lot slower than in previous years.

That’s a thorny issue in families nowadays. When do you take your parents’ car keys? Do you have the right? Do they have the right to keep driving? There’s no perfect answer – that would be fine for the author to touch on and even make readers uncomfortable by thinking about it and displaying the elderly side of the coin. But this? I’m just so angry! (Can you tell?)

The writing itself is all over the place. One minute, a character is saying and thinking one thing, and the next they’re doing or saying the opposite, with no ready cause as to why. It doesn’t flow and it’s not stylistic/artistic, it’s disjointed. The crazy things that happen to the old gals are over the top and the author keeps telling us everything instead of letting us see it for ourselves.

I don’t usually react so strongly to a book (unless I like it). As an author myself, I give a wide latitude to my fellow authors because I know how opinionated an audience is. This review is my opinion, which I can sum up in four words:

Don’t read this book.

Ashley says

I wanted to love this book, I really did. And while I found a good portion of it to be humorous, there were also situations that left me wishing I could gouge out my mind's eye. I feel like it had a good plot, but that the story could have been told a bit more concisely. The idea of a senior citizen sleuth with a touch of a wild side was intriguing to me, just for the simple fact that it shows your life doesn't end just because you're getting older. However, I felt that the author went overboard in trying to make Agnes' character edgy. Entertaining for what it was, but I don't foresee myself reading more from this series.
