



Courting Murder

Bill Hopkins

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When Judge Rosswell Carew makes the gruesome discovery of two corpses on a river bank in the Missouri Ozarks, he's plunged into a storm of deadly secrets that threaten both him and his fiancée, Tina Parkmore. Unsatisfied with the way the authorities are conducting the investigation, Rosswell, who's always nurtured a secret desire to be a detective, teams up with an ex-con, Ollie Groton, to solve the case before the killer can murder again. Rosswell uncovers a maze of crimes so tangled that he must fight his way to a solution or die trying.

Courting Murder Details

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Author : Bill Hopkins

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Jeff says

not bad but I had trouble keeping some of the characters straight. it seemed that some people were introduced very briefly and then became major parts of the story. had me fooled so at least I didn't figure it out before the end.

Patricia says

Huh?

I'm sorry but I couldn't make heads or tails of this story. Author's humor just didn't click for me so it zinged by.

Rebecca says

Ending is a bit of a cliffhanger or hook, but honestly don't care enough about any of it to care what I don't know. Early killer POV scene ruined a lot of mystery. Logic missing in several places in "investigation."

Jeannie and Louis Rigod says

This debut novel is one that is almost impossible to review without spoiling the story so...If you enjoy laughing, scary scenarios, quirky characters, and interesting locations, this book is for you.

It is not a cozy but a police procedural with blurred boundaries. Judge Rosswell Carew is on vacation and is exploring a new hobby of photography. Instead of mushrooms growing in the wild, Rosswell discovers bodies by a swollen stream.

Rosswell is also exploring his own mortality and life. A lovely police deputy, Tina is aiding Rosswell in this journey.

Sometimes the book reminded me a bit of Mayberry, RFD television series, and sometimes, it was even more like big city crimes. What is going on in Missouri? Buy this book and find out.

Carol says

Too much to follow

Small town in Missouri where 2 bodies are found in the park, then immediately washed away in a flood. Convoluted path of many characters as Judge solves the crime. I still don't understand the motivation nor the plot - everything in this story but a rational thought.

Annie says

I knew from the first words "Grumpy was too happy a word"... that this would be an interesting fun, quirky and chuckle worthy book.

Judge Rosswell Carew is having a bad day. On a sweltering summer day he decides to get some much needed quiet time, just him and his Nikon and head to the Ozarks. What he finds instead are two very dead bodies on the waters edge.

Together with his fiance Tina and his sometimes friend and ex con Ollie they try to track down the killers. What ensues is a hilarious and dangerous journey. Will they all make it out of alive? This is a great read for the first book in this series, Hopefully the Judge can survive cancer as well as the bad guys.

Linda Jeffries says

Working within the court system, I found this to be an exciting change of pace. A fast moving who-dun-it with home town type characters.

Maris Soule says

When Judge Rosswell Carew, while photographing mushrooms at a state park, discovers two bodies—that are soon swept away by flooding waters, leaving the bodies unidentified—he doesn't realize his interest in the case will threaten his life and the life of his girlfriend. Rosswell is not your typical hero who steps in and solves a case, but somehow he manages to "get the bad guy" by the end. I often found his internal thoughts and things he said and did foolish, but he was persistent. The book has a convoluted plot with an almost slapstick view of life in this small town. I'm not wild about slapstick humor, so I didn't enjoy the book as much as others might.

Bill Hopkins says

weak. weird characters that are neither serious or funny. plot doesn't make sense. kept thinking, please just stop. Let it be over.

Lady Mockingbird says

Difficult to read and follow.

The narrative is stylistically choppy, the dialogue nearly impossible to follow. The author clearly did this purposefully, but instead of adding humorous color it overwhelms the reader. This is not a murder mystery that unfolds. Instead it rambles nonsensically. I slogged through to the end, but I won't read another by this author.

Ted Tayler says

"A different approach"

There are some famous authors who have become very successful writing stories that are almost formulaic. Over the past decade, the way books are written has had alter to suit the changing habits of the reader. Everyone is in a mad rush these days; and whether it's food or entertainment, gratification has to be instant. Many books are shorter than those of yesteryear; or incomplete - where the reader needs to buy two or three 'instalments' to get the full story. Bill Hopkins, is 'old school'. He can certainly write! His descriptive passages show a high level of detail, and in many ways these 'word pictures' are well-observed and charming.

With 'Courting Murder' I found it hard to find the characters and the plot hidden away in the undergrowth. Sometimes, 'less is more' and a leaner, sharper approach might be preferable. I may differ from a lot of readers; but I enjoy creating my own pictures. This one was like buying a colouring book, and finding that someone had already finished it. They were nice pictures though.

Rhonda says

Courting Murder is a fast-paced novel with interesting characters. Each of them is fully developed including the secondary characters. Interwoven among the mystery is a lot of small town charm as well as those things about small towns which aren't always so charming - such as everyone always knowing everyone else's business. But that's one of the things that makes this such a great read. Add to that the humorous thoughts from Judge Roswell Carew as he tries to solve the murders with less than reliable, but always entertaining side-kicks and you have a fun action-packed book. I thoroughly enjoyed this one and hope it's the beginning of a series. I wouldn't mind spending more time with these characters.

Cindy says

Good read, plot and cast. Recommended.

Black Butterfly says

THIS BOOK HAS SOME OF THE MOST INTERESTING, WEIRD, CRAZY, QUIRKY CHARACTERS I'VE EVER READ. I MEAN ALL OF THEM ARE KOOKY! I REALLY HAD NO IDEA WHO THE KILLER WAS, IT COULD HAVE BEEN EVERYONE AND MAYBE ONLY ONE. SOME OF MY FAVORITE SHOWS ARE ON THE ID CHANNEL SO I'M FASINATED BY FORENSIC'S. THIS BOOK HAD SO MUCH EVIDENCE TO FIGURE OUT, LIKE THE REAL KILLERS ON TV I STARTED WONDERING IF THEY WERE GOING TO EVER SOLVE THIS. THE CRIMINALS SEEMED TO BE MULTIPLYING BY THE MINUTE, THE INSANE ZANY KOOKS WERE GETTING EVEN CRAZIER. I'LL BE READING MORE OF THIS SERIES, THIS KEPT ME GUESSING NEARLY UP TO THE END, I LOVED THAT. ;D

Roma says

Courting Murder

I found this book to be to be a bit too mixed up and hard to follow. The plot was just too screwed up and hard to follow. I finished the book, only because that's what I do. Would not recommend it. Sorry....
