



# Murder in Miniature

*Margaret Grace*

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**Murder in Miniature** Margaret Grace

**A MINIATURE MYSTERY. First in a big new series.**

Geraldine Porter thought that being the chairwoman of the local Dollhouse and Miniatures Fair would give her leisure time to spend on her favorite craft. That was before a fellow miniatures aficionado is suspected of murder, leaving Gerry to prove the woman's innocence-or die trying.

## Murder in Miniature Details

Date : Published February 5th 2008 by Berkley

ISBN : 9780425219805

Author : Margaret Grace

Format : Mass Market Paperback 245 pages

Genre : Mystery, Cozy Mystery, Fiction

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## **From Reader Review Murder in Miniature for online ebook**

### **Cindy says**

This was a bit too cheesy for me. I learned more about the Grandmother/grand-daughter dynamic than the characters in the murder.

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### **Leslie says**

Making miniatures is what Geraldine Porter loves to do, but being in charge of a miniatures and dollhouse fair is more than she bargained for. Her granddaughter Maddie keeps her on her toes, altercations between local political candidates, and her friend Linda disappears just before the public is allowed into the fair. While she is curious Gerri might not have become involved in a murder mystery if Linda hadn't vanished and then called for help in the middle of the night. The creation of miniature items was interesting and the nosy solving of the murder mysteries was almost secondary. A pretty good start to the series.

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### **Anastasia says**

murder on Miniature by Margaret Grace is the first book in A Miniature Mystery series. retired English teacher and miniaturist, Geraldine Porter, is phoned in the middle of the night by a friend to be picked up at an abandoned gas station. Shortly after this the police find a woman shot dead at the same place. I found this book very slow and confusing. I have loved the other series by the same author but this one seemed to drag. Geraldines involvement in trying to solve the murder was tenuous and the clues were flimsy. The author tried too hard to involve the miniatures but they really played very little part, even though a lot of the book was about this hobby.

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### **Diane says**

3 - Good

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### **Wisconsin says**

Margaret Grace writes well, however, I had a little trouble getting interested in her characters, the mystery was acceptable. While I would not rush out to buy a second in the series, I would probably buy it in paperback form if I was searching for something to read.

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### **Shannon says**

I love the author's style--I've read her other series as well. Love, love, love her!

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### **JoLynn says**

This mystery series is new to me. The writing is very good, which is always a big plus. Also, I like the main character. A perfect book for reading on the bus.

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### **Michelle Randall says**

Murder in Miniature is the first book in the A Miniature Mystery Series, and although it was a good book, i can't say that I am climbing the walls looking for book two. The story was fine, and I enjoyed the details of the miniatures world, but something about it made it difficult for me to read.

Maybe it was having grandma as the heroine, but I don't think it was that, but no matter how I tried i just could not relate to this book.

Geraldine is a grandma who lost her husband two years ago, and gets caught up in the only two murders in her small town in forever, while her granddaughter is here for a visit. She reasons through the questions and makes wonderful conclusions, not far fetched jumps, but yet at the same time I couldn't get into it and I find I am even having a hard time writing about it! Wow, that almost never happens with a book.

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### **Rlis82 says**

I'm not sure what piqued my anticipation for a novel called "Murder in Miniature." It might have been my seemingly endless fascination with the cozy mystery genre, which, unfortunately, has far too many hits than misses. It might have been the fact that the book takes place adjacent to my hometown San Jose, California. It might have been the fact that the author, under her real name Camille Minichino and her pseudonym Ada Madison, has written a variety of mysteries about professional scientists. Those are rarities among the countless domestic professionals that are anything but dispensable in the cozy mystery genre. Whatever the reason, I approached "Murder in Miniature" with hopes that were continually dashed to pieces as I slogged my way through all of the book's 237 pages. I can't tell you how relieved I felt to discover that the remaining four were just tips for aspiring miniaturists.

The warning signs for the book's badness were pretty obvious in the first chapter. For one thing, the book is set in the fictional Lincoln Point, California, which is described as a small town founded by President Abraham Lincoln himself in the Bay Area between or near Stanford University in Palo Alto and San Jose. Geraldine Porter, retired English teacher, widow, and enthusiast, for miniatures describes the town as being very fun for all of its annual activities inspired by the President, like a parade that takes place on his birthday regardless of whether February 12 is a weekday or weekend. I know my hometown has made me too cynical, but the description was ridiculous since, even in 2008 when the novel was published, all traces of small town America have been eliminated from San Jose and the surrounding communities and I know that none of them would halt weekday traffic or close schools for a parade even if it was in honor of a great President whose Wikipedia page makes no reference of him spending enough time in California to found a town. The

references to Lincoln are just fluffy filler written either to pad pages or under the pretenses of being cute and clever, a great bugbear throughout the cozy mystery genre.

Gerry takes her miniatures seriously. When we first meet her, she is heading a fair in honor of local miniaturists and other enthusiasts. She works alongside her friend Linda, whom I felt oddly sympathetic for. Linda is a nurse down on her professional luck, twice-divorced, living paycheck-to-paycheck, and trying to raise an unruly son who is suspected of stealing a large sapphire. She is against anything that will bring more people to live in her already crowded little area of the Bay Area. She also helped Gerry's husband Ken during the last days of his battle with cancer. Gerry doesn't speak all that highly of Linda and doesn't really need her friendship, which leaves me to wonder what they ever had in common besides a love of miniatures. Linda should have been the protagonist! Her crusty demeanor aside, she has all the qualities of the typical cozy mystery heroine, but instead we have Gerry and her granddaughter Maddie. Maddie is actually quite delightful; it isn't often that I come across a child in a cozy who has that much intelligence and spunk, but it is overshadowed too much by the novel's flaws. For example, the first victim, whom we never meet prior to her death, is of no consequence to Gerry. Gerry's nephew Skip is a police officer who probably shares too many details of the case with her and Maddie, like inviting them to watch a surveillance tape of the area where the first murder took place? Isn't that a violation of professional ethics among law enforcement officers?

There are too many gaps in the pages between the clues and Gerry's need to keep Maddie entertained and the author's need to describe things like food and architecture; she goes into plenty of detail on the pros and cons of living in an Eichler house and goes back and forth about how police station and library really ought to be renovated for modernity and comfort. And to top it all off, the author's prose is terrible. I can't tell you how many times she stopped mid-sentence to insert a trivial afterthought in parentheses: Page 88, ". . . then swept the coins into the pocket of her LA Dodgers (I remembered when they were the Brooklyn Dodgers) sweatshirt."; page 107, "Once or twice I nearly laughed out loud (LOL, in e-mail and text-messaging language, Maddie had taught me) at the image of Linda and Just Eddie on a date; page 112, "Flustered (Ken said I always let her get to me) I came up with . . ."; page 113, "He'd close his door and crank up (I still liked that obsolete phrase) the volume on his stereo." Was the author being paid by the number of words she wrote? Who knows.

This is bad writing that ultimately diminished my anticipation for the book's ending; by the time I got to it, I was so alienated from it that I didn't care about the killer's identity or motives and forgot them altogether within a few hours, but the book's many flaws remain memorable. No more miniatures for me!

And by the way, if readers ever wonder whether high paychecks and high word counts go hand-in-hand, chances are your novel sucks.

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### **Karol says**

Very enjoyable cozy mystery. Loved the main character, Geraldine Porter!

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### **Jamie says**

Could not really get interested in this. I doubt I will read another in this series.

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## **Mark Baker says**

Geraldine "Gerry" Porter is concerned when her friend Linda disappears from a craft show. She's even more concerned when Linda turns up in the middle of the night near the scene of a murder and refuses to talk about what happened to her. I loved the characters, except for Linda. Just could not stand her. The plot was decent if slow at the beginning.

Read my full review at [Carstairs Considers](#).

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## **Sumi says**

Oh, look, Murder She Wrote only instead of being a writer, the retired teacher with deceased husband in a small town works with miniatures.

Actually that's not a good analogy because I like Murder She Wrote.

I never really bonded with the characters and there was nothing else to keep me hooked, the mystery itself was mediocre.

This is probably a book that only fans of contemporary gimmicky mysteries written in the first person would like.

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## **Dolores says**

This was a fun, crafty read. Delightful.

Gerry Porter, retired, loves to make rooms and buildings in miniature scale. Her ten year old granddaughter, Maddie, is visiting. Gerry's friend, Linda, also makes dollhouses and has gotten herself in a pickle. She was at the scene of the crime and around the time of the murder. Gerry and Maddie went to pick her up that night, but Linda won't say what she was doing out there. So that leaves Gerry to figure it out.

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## **Jennifer says**

The book was well written and the story moved along at a quick pace, but I just never really got invested in any of the characters, or the murders. I did not care that the first murder ended up being Jason's biological mom, nor did I care that both his biological father and adopted father were the ones behind the robbery, or that his biological father was the murderer. I did like that the egotistical Jack got his comeuppance when he was found guilty of insurance fraud. Otherwise, this book just did not capture my attention.

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