



Death by the Book

Julianna Deering

Download now

Read Online →

Death by the Book

Julianna Deering

Death by the Book Julianna Deering

WHEN THE VILLAGE OF FARTHERING ST. JOHN IS Stunned BY A SERIES OF MURDERS, DREW FARTHERING IS DRAWN again INTO THE SLEUTHING GAME.

Drew Farthering wanted nothing more than to end the summer of 1932 with the announcement of his engagement. Instead, he finds himself caught up in another mysterious case when the family solicitor is found murdered, an antique hatpin with a cryptic message, *Advice to Jack*, piercing his chest.

Evidence of secret meetings and a young girl's tearful confession point to the victim's double life, but what does the solicitor's murder have to do with the murder of a physician on the local golf course? Nothing, it would seem--except for another puzzling note, affixed with a similar-looking bloodied hatpin.

Soon the police make an arrest in connection with the murders, but Drew isn't at all certain they have the right suspect in custody. And why does his investigation seem to be drawing him closer and closer to home?

PRAISE for *RULES OF MURDER*

"Readers will want to carve out uninterrupted time to read this mystery in one sitting. Red herrings at every turn will have them guessing and flipping pages until the shocking end."

--**Chandra McNeil, *RT Book Reviews***

Death by the Book Details

Date : Published March 4th 2014 by Bethany House Publishers (first published March 1st 2014)

ISBN :

Author : Julianna Deering

Format : Kindle Edition 320 pages

Genre : Mystery, Christian Fiction, Historical, Historical Fiction, Historical Mystery, Christian, Romance

 [Download Death by the Book ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Death by the Book ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Death by the Book Julianna Deering

From Reader Review *Death by the Book* for online ebook

Joleen says

Death by the Book by **Julianna Deering**

Year: 1932

Location: Farthering St. John/Hampshire, England

Main Characters:

Drew Farthering: Not a detective, but is apparently known for solving mysteries

Madeline Parker: American woman Drew wants to marry

Aunt Ruth: Madeline's aunt, came to take her back to America

Nick Dennison: The butler's son and Drew's best friend

Chief Inspector Birdsong: In charge of murder investigations Drew can't seem to avoid

This is my second Julianna Deering book, and I've loved both.

Synopsis and spoiler (This is greatly for my benefit so I can remember the books in the future)

(view spoiler)

.

From the two Julianna Deering murder mysteries I've read so far, I've learned that whoever you think did it, didn't. It's been someone off the wall no one would expect. I'm quite sure now that I won't know who did it until the end of each book. And, I WILL be reading more!

Loved grumpy Aunt Ruth and Drew's best friend Nick. Their banter made me laugh out loud at times. They are so funny together.

Barbara Early says

Drew Farthering is a hero well suited to his time. Suave. Sophisticated. And godly? (It is an inspirational, after all!) He lives in a lavish estate with a full serving staff, and has a unexpected penchant for murder, although he prefers it between the covers of one of his books in his extensive library.

I adore the banter between him and Madeline (they met in *Rules of Murder*), as throughout the book he sets to convince her to marry him. The quick repartee--bright, crisp, and funny--reminds me so much of Nick and Nora Charles, which makes me smile. I can't get enough.

Add to that mix Madeline's Aunt Ruth, blunt and a bit of a curmudgeon, who doesn't know quite what to make of this upstart young Brit who seeks to woo her naïve American niece. I'd just love to sit at one of those elaborate dinners and watch the sparks fly.

There's something inherently charming in the British cozy, especially set in the 1930s in this Golden Age of Mystery. It's a little bit *Downton Abbey*, a little bit Agatha Christie, and a whole lot of fun. The neighboring village is filled with a quirky cast, just like any village should be.

Or course, we interrupt the dinner party for a series of murders of a variety of seemingly unrelated victims, linked by delightfully cryptic messages attached to the victims with antique hatpins. At first, any connection between the victims eludes the authorities--and Drew. But as the body count rises, the killer strikes closer and closer to Farthering St. John.

Clues are well-buried. Red-herrings are numerous. And most readers will be kept guessing right until the end. I can't wait for the next one!

Ruth says

Just a few short months have passed since murder and mayhem ripped through Drew Farthering's life, earning him a certain measure of local notoriety and allowing him to put into practice his aptitude for investigation and analysis. But when murder leaps from the pages of one's beloved mystery novels to leave its indelible thumbprint on one's life, the murderous and macabre lose their fictional allure -- and now Drew craves nothing more than a quiet life, and an affirmative answer to his proposal of marriage to Madeline Parker, his late stepfather's American niece. Just as he begins to hope that normalcy is returning to the sleepy hamlet of Farthering St. John, Drew discovers the body of his solicitor, a cryptic message pinned to his body with a jeweled hatpin. The death strikes uncomfortably close to home, as its shadow casts a pall over Drew's efforts to court Madeline when they are interrupted by the arrival of her formidable Aunt Ruth, the latter determined to whisk her niece back to America, far away from the wiles of wealthy Englishmen such as himself who can't seem to escape association with murder.

When an unexpected scandal erupts surrounding his late solicitor's personal life, Drew is drawn into the investigation at the request of the widow. As Drew struggles to balance his amateur investigative efforts with his ongoing romantic suit, the latter becomes further complicated by the arrival of a brash young American that Aunt Ruth seems determined to pair with her niece. When a second murder strikes the country club, the victim also marked by a cryptic message pinned through the chest, tensions run high as fear of the "Hatpin Murderer" ripples through Farthering St. John. As the death toll continues to mount, drawing ever closer to Drew's home, he begins to wonder -- is he the intended target, or the recipient of a vicious game played by a ruthless killer? Murder used to be a game ensconced safely within the pages of a riveting novel -- but if Drew's to survive this twist, he must master the rules to a game that's become all too real...and deadly.

Julianna Deering's first Drew Farthering mystery, *Rules of Murder*, was one of my favorite reads of the 2013, the first of two times to date that I've lost myself within the charm of its pages. For any mystery set during the "golden age" of detective fiction -- the era that gave birth to authors such as Agatha Christie and Dorothy L. Sayers -- I want lightening-fast pacing, sparkling dialogue, and pitch-perfect historical detail. Deering's debut proved to be an unexpected delight, delivering the rapid-fire dialogue and smartly-paced plotting that I so adore in everything from Christie's novels to the Thin Man films, the latter becoming a gold standard template for smart and sassy romantic detectives.

What sets Deering's novels apart is the subtle thread of faith she weaves throughout the storyline, culminating in Drew's declaration of faith at the conclusion of *Rules of Murder*. As *Death by the Book* picks up shortly after that life-changing experience, Drew is still very new to examining life -- and crime -- through the lens of faith. Given the high bar set by the authors of the classic mysteries to which Deering both aspires and pays homage, in lesser hands the introduction of an explicit faith element could easily disrupt the narrative flow and atmosphere of the story. But Deering exhibits a refreshingly delicate touch, as any

mention of Drew's newfound faith is organically incorporated into the storyline, if anything enhancing his charm and good humor rather than becoming the sole focal point. In Drew's world, murder mysteries just happen to be solved by Christians, allowing the exercise of one's faith in arguably the most worldly of contexts -- a crime scene.

Deering's characters are an absolute joy -- crisply realized, they leap from the page with pitch-perfect dialogue and mannerisms. Drew in particular is a delight. Rarely have I ever found a characterization that does such justice to the speech patterns and manner of those found in the likes of Christie novels or the detective films of the 1930s. Aunt Ruth is a fabulous addition to the cast of players, a formidable force to be reckoned with, bringing to mind the persona of screen giants such as Edith Barrymore, or for a more recent comparison, the incomparable Maggie Smith. My only disappointment -- and it's a slight one -- is how Madeline's character developed, or to be more precise, didn't, over the course of the novel. Given her introduction I'd hope for more of a Myrna Loy-as-Nora Charles spark. Instead, she's more angst-ridden than Drew -- she won't say yes to his proposal (yet), but she won't 1) stop kissing him or 2) leave in order to consider it with the benefit of distance and perspective, until the end of the novel forces her hand. However, I have high hopes that she'll play an even more active role in future investigations as a result.

This updated review marks my second time to read *Death by the Book*, and while I enjoyed it just as much this time around, this time I was struck by the resolution to the central "Hatpin Murderer" mystery, even though upon review I didn't address that in my initial post. Deering masterfully peppers her plot with red herrings, constructing a serial killer case that grows ever more ominous with each successive killing, each more seemingly random than the last. While I appreciate the suspense and Deering's deft plot construction, I can't help but wish that the perpetrator played a larger role in this and the previous novel prior to being revealed as the murderer. There's a bit of a disconnect between the effervescent period tone of the novel and the shocking reveal of the murderer...one I wish had been given more time to develop.

Drew's second outing as aristocratic amateur sleuth is a rare treat for mystery lovers. Smartly plotted, peopled with engaging characters, and peppered with enough red herrings to make Dame Christie's head spin, *Death by the Book* secures Deering's place as a shining star in the realm of period mystery fiction. While the "conflict" introduced by Aunt Ruth (exacerbated by Madeline's indecisiveness) in an attempt to keep Drew and Madeline apart feels forced, that issue aside this second installment of Drew's sleuthing adventures is a delightful way in which to while away a few hours. Smartly plotted, with sparkling, rapid-fire dialogue and delicious period detail, *Death by the Book* was well worth the wait, refreshing the tropes of the classic mystery with a carefully spun cord of faith and humor. I can't wait to see where Deering takes Drew & Co. next!

Note: This is an edited and expanded version of my original review, first published in April 2014.

Alysha (For The Love of Christian Fiction) says

Our Miss Deering sure knows how to write a murderer! She keeps you in the dark the entire time. I can normally pick up on clues with relative ease...but for both books I've read by her I've been shocked by who the murderer was.

I seriously cannot explain enough how much I ADORE the relationship between Drew and Nick. They are both charming by themselves, but put them in a room together and you've got trouble for days. They are probably my new favorite duo!

And thank God Madeline finally came to her senses and agreed to marry the poor chap! I was about to marry him for her. ?

I cannot wait to read book 3 in the series and see what wondrous murders and plot twists are in store.

I rate this book a 4.5/5 stars, and would recommend this series!

Christian Fiction Addiction says

If I may dare say so, I loved "Death by the Book" even more than the first book in the series! Deering has written a smashingly good murder mystery, with witty and clever dialogue, and a plot that kept me guessing from beginning to end, I greatly enjoyed the continuation of the relationship between Drew Farthering and the lovely Madeline, making for many moments of hilarity and providing for a touching ending. The addition of Aunt Ruth to the mix had me laughing out loud as she blustered her way into the family, intent on protecting Madeline's virtue.

The characterization is wonderful, with a likable and original cast that makes for addictive reading. And, as the body count kept building, I must admit that I followed the author's rabbit trail to perfection, finding myself completely suspecting the wrong person! I do hope that Deering has another book in the works so I can try out my sleuthing once again and see if I can pinpoint the murderer with greater accuracy.

Although the book is thoroughly entertaining, what most sticks with me from this book is the moment where Drew chooses to grant forgiveness - and I dare not say more for spoiling the plot. But that scene and the resulting blessing that it leads to was a powerful one for me. I closed the book wondering how I myself would act in that situation. Drew really is an inspiring character!

If you are looking for a solid murder mystery set in a charming English village, then "Death by the Book" is just what you have been waiting for. 5 out of 5 stars.

Book has been provided courtesy of Baker Publishing Group and Graf-Martin Communications, Inc. Available at your favourite bookseller from Bethany House, a division of Baker Publishing Group.

Rebecca says

"Advice to Jack".

A rather cryptic note; embedded into the chest of a well respected solicitor, who was found murdered in his hotel room before he could keep an appointment with Drew Farthering about an adaptation to Drew's will. And thus begins a string of unsolved murders, seemingly unconnected except for the mysterious notes embedded into the heart of each victim with beautiful antique hat pins?

Accepted into the inner circle of the local Chief Inspector's investigations, due to his superior sleuthing skills, English socialite Drew Farthering begins a chase that may tragically lead him a little too close to home. Without a doubt, Farthering Place is where Drew's heart lies, for the beautiful American woman whom Drew is fairly hopeful will one day become his wife, (unless her rather annoying aunt finds a way to whisk Madeline back to the States) remains in a cottage on the property.

Enjoy this delightful, but terribly intriguing murder mystery, with its series of twists and turns set amidst just enough sweet romantic banter to smooth over the rough edges of a serial killer who has managed to commit "death by the book".

Pamela says

Drew Farthering Mystery Series - no qualms about it - absolutely fabulous!!! This second installment was even better than Rules of Murder. And that's saying something, because I was gobsmacked by it

Cleanly written, witty, humorously cheeky in the best of ways, captivating characters, intriguing setting and era, cleverly plotted mystery.... I could rave on and on with accolades. It's so refreshingly awesome to read a good old fashioned whodunit with contemporary appeal of high caliber quality.

Infusing the story with popular and classic books of the period as both clue elements and character/story enrichments was ever so delightful. I mean, what reader doesn't enjoy books about books? Characters/Protagonists who read books and frequent bookshops and libraries are uber-appealing to me.

Drew and his cohorts (Madeline and Nick) are avid readers of mysteries and penny dreadfuls, as well as classic fiction and many other genres. All frequent the local bookshop, and are quite fond of the old gal who runs it. But all is not what it seems with the penned word, of late, when bodies begin turning up about town with clues of a literary nature pinned on each body, with a hat pin, of all things. But the victims seemingly have no connection. Other than, each murder is getting closer and closer to home, for Drew Farthering.

So but of course, Drew is on the case, to the consternation of local police and a dear old auntie from across the pond.....

FIVE ***** Whodunit Delightful, No Qualms About It ***** STARS

Carissa says

It is 1932 and only a few months have passed since the events that turned Drew Farthering's peaceful existence on its head. All he wants now is to convince Madeline, the love of his life, to marry him. Unfortunately for Drew, life throws another wrench in his plans, both by dropping off Madeline's aged, incredibly stubborn aunt on his doorstep as well as a new string of murders that connect to people Drew either knows personally, or knows of through a friend. Drew struggles with Aunt Ruth's disdain and mistrust of his intentions towards her niece, just as he is also dragged back into solving mysteries with the local constabulary. The last thing he anticipated was that the murders, people left slaughtered with a hat pin stuck into their chest bearing a note in Shakespearean script, would slowly creep ever closer to his home. Just as life was returning to normal, mayhem erupts again and Drew must find a solution before people close to him start dying.

There are very few authors I love enough to mentally note their name in anticipation of their next book. Julianna Deering happens to be one of my recent favorites so when the chance came to review her latest release via Netgalley, I jumped on it. And, exactly as I anticipated, she didn't disappoint! Death by the Book is a little bit of a slow starter, which is strange because it begins with a murder, slam-bang right on the first

page. But it didn't really snag me fully until I was 50% in, but I blame that more on my distractions and less on Ms. Deering because her entertaining style remains exactly the same as her first book, *Rules of Murder*. In other words, she's a genius. And once I was able to dedicate lengthy periods of time to finishing the book, I literally didn't want to put it down.

One of the best things that happened at the end of *Rules of Murder* was Drew's salvation experience. Not that he wasn't a darling to begin with, but it's delightful seeing him run a God filter through his thoughts and actions before saying or doing something in *Death by the Book*. His salvation experience was genuine, and he did it for himself, not just for Madeline. The attraction between Madeline and Drew grows stronger with each book, which is probably why Aunt Ruth put in an appearance. Although I did find her fears amusing since Americans usually have worse reputations than Brits, but oh well. So, Drew and Madeline have to put barriers in place because the closer they get, the more temptation raises its ugly head. And I love that because it's a representation of real life, of genuine physical attraction. And Drew's resistance to physicality reveals that he loves her for more than just her physical self. It's fantastic.

The mystery itself was a tad confusing for me, mostly because I could only snatch snippets of time here and there to get a chapter read. Once I sat down and dedicated a few hours of time to the book, it clicked into place. I will say that some of the scenes read a little bit like *Tommy and Tuppence* by Agatha Christie, but that's not really such a bad thing. After all, Christie is one of the greats, and the Beresfords are amazing literary inventions. So, I can't complain. At the beginning I was a little dumbfounded that Drew would find himself embroiled in another mystery especially since he's a gentleman and not a detective or a lawyer or attached to the police force in any way. It made sense at the end of the book but for awhile I just didn't entirely buy Drew's presence at yet more crime scenes when he really didn't need to be involved. I only doubted for about half the book, and was thrilled when Ms. Deering gave her readers a reason behind Drew's involvement.

I think that's what she does best. She makes the reader wonder how something fits, or makes us think something is a cliché, and then she turns it upside down with a brilliant AHA moment. I loved that about *Rules of Murder* and she keeps some of the same surprising twists and turns in *Death by the Book*. Plus, faith is a natural element in Ms. Deering's work. It's never forced, always natural, and I loved the sincerity of Drew's faith when we reach the end of this book. Once I reached that halfway mark, and had time to spend, I literally couldn't stop reading. Now, my one regret, is that yet again I have to wait some period of time for Ms. Deering's next book in the "Drew Farthering Mysteries," already titled *Murder at the Mikado*. Ooh, I hate waiting!

- I received this book from Bethany House publishers via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review, which I have given.

Rissi says

It took me an unusually long time to ultimately read the second book in fabulous and talented mystery novelist Julianna Deering's latest series – luckily, it worked out as I essentially will be able to read books two and three back-to-back. Once I finally did continue on with this follow up (to last year's *Rules of Murder*), the pages seemed to fly by. *Death by the Book* happens to be the sometimes-dreaded middle novel in the terrific 1930's period trilogy about a certain trio of amateur detectives, led by the wealthy Drew Farthering. The death of his mother and stepfather meant Drew stumbled into sleuthing and also brought about the best thing in his life, Madeline Parker. Niece to his stepfather, Drew falls easily for the American

beauty, who remains at Farthering Place following the death of her uncle, and along with Drew's best friend Nick, Madeline joins them in their love of mystery solving. Just when Drew is working hard to convince Madeline to marry him, trouble visits them in two forms. One being a prudish relative and again, murder and mayhem stalks their small village with the appearance of not one but three bodies – all of which have a unique signature.

Entering this had me skeptical since I'd read mixed reviews and wondered if the dreaded "middle-book-slump" would apply to this colorful series. Fortunately no such issues arose in my experience. Was that because I read through the book faster than normal (thanks to the need to finish this book before starting a novel I realized had a review date nearly due) or maybe it found me in the right frame of mind (what can I say, the 30's has a smashing appeal), whatever the case, it was a story that was well told. The mystery is built up to a nice crescendo throwing in some red herrings when appropriate and keeping the detectives clueless (again, Drew pieces the puzzle together), while making sure not to take our attention for granted with some nail-biting suspense to close out its 300 pages. As usual the characters sparkle though, it seemed glaringly obvious that the main protagonist is Drew in this story – he seemed to be nearly the only consistent character "on screen," solving those "hatpin murders" on his own without the benefit of having Nick and Madeline along – I'm not entirely sure what Nick's excuse is, though I'll give Madeline a pass, the girl has her hands full with the arrival of her feisty, bossy and mistaken Aunt Ruth.

If you like the period or are a fan of British mysteries (think *Foyle's War*, *Marple* or even *Downton Abbey* – not a mystery genre, I know), consider reading these books. There are a few character flubs and maybe even a pacing issue or two, however this series is one of the most atmospheric set of books I read. Every situation, every line... everything in general sparkles in its time period, plus it never hurts when a British hero is on the case – particularly one who calls his love, "darling."

Kris - My Novelesque Life says

DEATH BY THE BOOK

(Drew Farthering Mysteries: #2)

Written by Julianna Deering

(aka: DeAnna Julie Dodson)

2014, 316 Pages

Genre: mystery, historical, fiction, romance

(I received an ARC from the NETGALLEY in exchange for an honest review.)

★★★★

Drew Farthering, amateur detective, is hoping that Madeline will say yes to his marriage proposal. He is hoping she will stay on at Farthering Place where they can read and solve mysteries. As he tries to woo her, Madeline's Aunt Ruth arrives to bring her back to the United States. She is not impressed with Drew or Britain and tries to keep the two apart when she can. Drew turns on the charm but then his family lawyer is murdered and he finds himself in the middle of another murder case. As more bodies turn up Drew along with Nick, his childhood friend, and Madeline try to catch the killer.

A great follow up to the debut novel, *Rules of Murder*. Drew and Madeline are a cute couple - a less alcohol-induced Nick and Nora. I enjoy their banter and fighting over who will read the latest mystery first. If this

novel had been written in the 1930s I could see it being turned into a movie with Cary Grant and Katharine Hepburn. This novel is also considered to be Christian fiction but it seems to be quite mild in reference.

k (My Novelesque Life)

Jonathan says

Really 4.5 stars, but I rounded up.

Excellent. Simply excellent. This book was an improvement over the last one, and that's saying something, because the last book was solid. A solid mystery, excellent characters, and a beautiful setting all fit together to make a wonderful book. I absolutely love Drew, Madeline, and Nick, all are extremely well-thought out characters who have intricate backgrounds. The mystery in this book was complex and weaving. I absolutely did not guess who the killer was until the end of the book. I'll definitely read the next one. Highly recommend!

Virginia Winfield says

This is a fun mystery with a little romance. Drew Farthering, Nick and Madeline make a fun team of amateur sleuths. Read these stories if you like a little mystery with very little blood and guts. I had a good time reading this and had a hard time putting it down. Quite a few twists and turns. I received this from book fun.com for a fair and honest opinion.

Laura says

I am so glad this is part of a series. I will whole heartedly look forward to reading more of these cozy mysteries placed in an old fashioned time period with such charming characters. May I add, too, that I love the covers:)

Kav says

Downton Abbey meets Miss Marple in this tantalizing mystery. This is the second book in the Drew Farthering Mystery series and it's just as much fun as the first. No worries if you haven't read book one -- the only over arcing plot line is Drew's pursuit of his lady love and can I just say that he portrays the besotted suitor to gentlemanly perfection. But a series of murders draws Drew into the middle of a perplexing puzzle that kept me guessing until the gobsmacking conclusion! Endless banter, witty flirtations and a resigned but exasperated Chief Inspector bring the perfect balance of humour to this historical mystery. Definitely one for the discerning armchair sleuth.

Brittany says

Death by the Book is the second book in the Drew Farthering Mystery series by Julianna Deering. While you could probably read this book as a stand alone, I think your reading experience would be greatly enhanced by having read the first book of the series, Rules of Murder.

Once again, we follow Drew Farthering, amateur sleuth, as he and his friends try to solve a string of murders. And I just have to say that the first page of this book was one of the best I have read all year! It made me laugh out loud and I immediately read it to my husband, who also thought it was a great start to a book.

I love the characters in this series. Drew and Madeline have a sweet romance and Drew is so patient with Madeline as she tries to decide whether to agree to marriage. Nick is a great side kick and a loyal friend. I enjoyed the return of Chief Inspector Birdsong. His witty dialogues with Drew are great. I even grew to love Aunt Ruth by the end (and I really didn't like her in the beginning)! I also love the setting of the early 1930's.

The author kept me guessing till the very end of the book as to who the murderer was. There were so many victims and a very creative killer. Following the clues with Drew is exciting and never dull and I so look forward to reading the third book in this series.

I received a complimentary copy of this book from the author, through The Book Club Network, in exchange for an honest review, which I have given.

You can read this review on my blog at:
<http://brittreadsfiction.wordpress.co...>
