



To Kill A Labrador

Kassandra Lamb

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Marcia (pronounced Mar-see-a, not Marsha) likes to think of herself as a normal person, even though she has a rather abnormal vocation. She trains service dogs for combat veterans with PTSD. Then the ex-Marine owner of her first trainee is accused of murdering his wife, and Marcia gets sucked into an even more abnormal avocation—amateur sleuth.

Called in to dog-sit the Labrador service dog, Buddy, she's outraged that his veteran owner is being presumed guilty until proven innocent. With Buddy's help, she tries to uncover the real killer. Even after the hunky local sheriff politely tells her to butt out, Marcia keeps poking around. Until the killer finally pokes back.

To Kill A Labrador Details

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From Reader Review To Kill A Labrador for online ebook

Dolores Sistrunk says

Easy Read; Kept My Attention

This generally is not the genre I usually read. However, I'm an animal lover -- especially Labs -- so it was the title that first brands my interest. I do enjoy mysteries/crime novels so once I was into the book, about a chapter or so, I was compelled to keep going.

The book didn't have multiple sub-plots like I find in many of the books I enjoy; however, I found it to be a quick, enjoyable read. Actually, it was a nice departure from some of the more intense now I normally dive into!

Candy Kennedy says

Dog gone good read.

I found this book very interesting. It was a picture of small town America with prejudices and families in and out of trouble. I particularly liked the dog and the trading of service animals. It brought awareness of the cost of such animals. The mystery was well planned and woven in with the other elements. I found this a good read and plan to get more books in the series. There was a nice romantic element also.

Carol says

Great new series featuring Marcia Banks who trains service dogs for veterans suffering from Post Trauma Stress Syndrome.

The first dog, Buddy, that Marcia trained is being returned to her when the veteran owner is arrested for murder.

Marcia does not believe that he is guilty and set out with Buddy to prove the veteran innocent.

This is a fast paced, action packed story with many twists and turns which keep you guessing. All the characters are vivid, colorful and well defined. Captivating writing, vivid description, murder, mystery, mayhem, an engaging plot, thrills, chills with unexpected twists makes this a good book to read.

Learning about training service dogs is an added feature.

Thank you to the author for this eBook. My opinion is my own.

Carol Kean says

Love the premise! Marcia Banks trains service dogs for veterans suffering from Post Trauma Stress

Syndrome. When her first placement is with a young man veteran who's in jail on charges of murder, she has no intention of playing amateur detective to clear his good name, but nobody else believes he's innocent, so Marcia goes around asking questions. Sometimes incognito. Always ignoring threats to back off and mind her own business. We know from the title (Marcia Banks and Buddy Mysteries #1) that Mar-SEE-uh (not "MARSH-uh") will go on to crack more cases in future books.

I love the dogs, I like Marcia, I like the book, but as co-Admin of Iowa Cold Cases, and as the sister of a murder victim, I feel as if this author hasn't really "been there, done that." She's read a lot of whodunnits and watched a lot of them on TV, no doubt.

The dialogue is snappy, but over-use of the epithet "Crapola" just irked me. So did the familiar trope of the cell phone that isn't charged, and when it is, it gets left behind while the amateur runs off to confront a kidnapper.

The story is engaging. It kept me turning pages. The premise is awesome.

I'd totally raise this to four or five stars except for my irritation over the cell phone, Mar-SEE-uh, and "crapola, along with other tropes of the genre. Yes, I'm being a little harsh. I'm sorry.

I downloaded this via a "Free Today" promotion at Amazon. For fans of the genre, this is a fun read. I'm an old curmudgeon who's waded through far too many real-life cold cases. For years I've avoided reading police procedurals unless an author or publisher asked me to review the book, and even then I often decline, but if there's a dog on the cover, I can't say no.

I have never emailed Cassandra Lamb or followed her on social media, so there can be no charges of this review "violating" some Guideline about promoting friends and family. I have discovered many talented Indie Authors via the Kindle Daily Deals, and after reading and loving their books, I've struck up a correspondence with some of them. Authors need people to "Like" their pages and follow them on Twitter to build a social media platform, but then the friend-bots "out" book reviewers as "friends" and reviews get yanked down. A pity. The best reviews tend to be written by fellow authors.

Dwayne Keller says

Marcia Banks, a dog trainer for veterans with PTSD, gets involved with the death of the wife of a veteran who has the first dog she trained. Against better judgment she tackles the case of who murdered her. There are issues along the way, and other things to take care of, like the current training of new dogs. This is a good solid mystery that wraps the reader up in the story, trying to figure out who did it, and why. This is the first in a new series. Pick it up and watch for the next release.

Diane Burton says

Excellent Mystery. This story kept me turning the pages from beginning to end. Marcia trains service dogs for veterans with PTSD. I was fascinated by the training. Buddy (a Labrador Retriever) and Jimmy were her first match. She was so proud of them, but then Jimmy is accused of killing his wife. The sheriff sends for Marcia to retrieve Buddy. She's convinced that Jimmy couldn't have murdered anyone.

While Marcia investigates, she riles up the townsfolk and intrigues the sheriff. A budding (no pun intended) romance between them confuses her, and she's not sure she's ready after her divorce. Engaging characters, a plot with many twists, and plenty of tension make this a memorable book. I'll be reading more by this author.

Kelly says

This was my first book by Cassandra Lamb - I chose it because it involves a woman that trains PTSD service dogs. Initially I thought it might not be serious enough for the subject matter, but I underestimated the author. There was nothing light and fluffy about this book - things didn't go as expected starting from very close to the beginning. I was surprised at how the book proceeded, but in a good way. I thought the dogs were very well-written, as were the training scenes. I'm always skeptical of dog training in fiction, because some people write about things that they're not well-informed about. Cassandra didn't fall into that trap - her parts about training were well-written and realistic. I enjoyed the story, even though the storyline was about a sad topic. I'm hoping there are more Marcia (mar-see-a) Banks and Buddy stories to come.

Norma Huss says

While nosing around various sites, I found this offered for free. It passed my first test - a voice I wanted to read. I guess it passed my other tests too, because I read it in two evenings. The main character trains dogs for wounded former soldiers. I learned a bit about that, and read a good mystery as well! Good choice, all around.

Pris says

Good story

Really enjoyed this story. I enjoyed learning about service dogs. Well done with the twists in the story, it is one of the few that took most of the story before I knew (well, 98.9 % sure) who done it. Looking forward to reading the next one.

Rita Jane says

Enjoyed this one!

I love reading stories about dogs, but particularly ones that are mysteries. This one offers a quirky trainer and a handsome sheriff to complete my requirements for a good read.

Vicky says

This is the first book in the series. It is also my first book to read by Kassandra Lamb. The main character, Marcia Banks is a dog trainer. She is feisty, independent, and a dog lover. She gets involved in solving the murder of her client's wife. Her client is arrested and she gets called in to care for the dog, Buddy. There is mystery and at the end intrigue. There is one character you think is a good guy then a bad guy. You don't know who the murderer is til the end. The sad part in the story is her client commits suicide while in jail. I enjoyed this book very much and I'll read the other books in the series.

Ruth says

Eye catching cover, then I read the title!!!!!!

Not to worry, this is a murder mystery and the labrador is a character in the plot, he's well protected and completely unharmed.

Marcia, who trains service dogs, is determined to discover the murderer of her client's wife and subsequently finds herself in danger with her snooping.

The local sheriff wants her to keep out of his case but is this only to stop her inquiries or for some other reason?

In the process of her investigation, Marcia continues to annoy the sheriff and a bad tempered alligator threatens her - still no animals harmed.

An enjoyable and well written murder mystery with 'will they, won't they' from Marcia and the sheriff to fill the romantic element.

Mimi says

I like Marcia Banks and her job of training service dogs for PTSD sufferers. Her training and the psychology behind the dogs' series of actions is fascinating. In this first story, Marcia gets a call from her first client asking that she come get the dog she trained for him, Buddy. He is accused of murdering his wife, is in jail, and can't care for Buddy. Marcia gets involved in a hunt for his killer and has her heart jump started by the local sheriff in the process. Is he what he seems? Will she lose Buddy?

This book is well written, which I appreciate. The dialog is tight and the grammar is good. I will definitely read more of this series. I may not have a dog but I like dogs and Buddy is a good dog.

Linda Fore says

Marcia Banks trains service dogs for military personnel returning from war zones with PTSD. When Buddy's human is arrested for killing his wife, Marcia agrees to pick up the dog and keep him for a while. But Marcia quickly realizes that unless she helps to solve the murder, Jimmy Garrett will be convicted for a murder she does not believe he committed.

Kassandra has done an excellent job with this murder mystery. She educates her readers about service dogs and how they are trained while entertaining us with a great mystery. Good job, Kassandra!

Tisha says

A good, light, fairly predictable mystery with a plucky heroine who does all the dumb, dangerous things you can think of til the bad guys finally catch up with her. Oh, and a bit of flirting with Sheriff Hunky, with a lot of chest muscles. I read it for the dog, Buddy, who is a hero in his own right :)
