



McNally's Gamble

Lawrence Sanders

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While investigating a wealthy widow's possible purchase of an Imperial Faberge egg, the strange behavior of family advisors, her children, and an aged antiques dealer plunges Archy McNally into a mess of greed, passion, and murder. 200,000 first printing. \$200,000 ad/promo.

McNally's Gamble Details

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Author : Lawrence Sanders

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From Reader Review McNally's Gamble for online ebook

Jerry B says

Sanders' McNally series was favorite reading years ago – even the continuations by author Vincent Pardo were fun entries in this set about a foppish private eye to mostly a wealthy clientele. What McNally was wearing or what parties he was attending got as much ink as the mystery in some cases, so these were all fairly lighthearted novels, of which “Gamble” was the seventh and last of the originals.

The plot as such was about a seemingly shady investment advisor who is trying to convince a wealthy patron of the McNally law firm to invest half a million dollars on a Faberge egg (sight unseen). Our hero is asked to discreetly determine the advisor's bonafides, and it soon becomes apparent he's a scam artist. Proving that is another matter, although the murder of an antiques dealer that seems to be in cahoots with the man helped moved things along. Naturally, all works out well in the end.

We don't know how we missed this book first time around having completed the entire 16-book set, but it was great fun revisiting McNally's light adventures, despite the sometimes tiring descriptions of his lunch choices, or his attire of the day. But predictable entertainment is always a welcome diversion.

Ed says

#7 in the Archie McNally series. Final effort by author Sanders; the series was continued after his death by Vincent Lardo.

Archie McNally mystery - Playboy sleuth Archy McNally, finds yet more greed, envy, and murder among Florida's rich and famous-and all because of the Faberge Imperial egg that, much to her children's consternation, the widowed Edythe Westmore would like to buy.

Linda Munro says

Archy McNally is enlisted by his father to enter into a discreet investigation regarding a new financial advisor for one of McNally & son's wealthy client. Normally this type of investigation would be made on the behest of a family member; so, this becomes a doubly discreet investigation, that is until the Westmore children come to McNally & Son hoping to stop what they fear is a one half million dollar scam, especially when the Westmore son could use those funds to continue his research.

Archy believes that the Faberge Egg that Edythe Westmore is to purchase is a fake, but can he prove his theory?

This is one of those books that I call a relief book; you don't really have to think about what you're reading (what a relief!)

Brian O'Leary says

All of the books in this series are quick easy reads that are enjoyable.

Chuck says

Enjoyable little mystery. Reminded me of a Janet Evonovich mystery except that when I list the genre on her books I put fiction, mystery, crime and romance. On Sanders books I list fiction, mystery, crime and humor. Since I have read all the Connelly, Sandford, Grisham, Baldacci, DeMille, Child, Flynn, McDonald and others I have been looking for a new source of mystery entertainment and so far Sanders or Agatha Christie will be on the list. Cute, clever little novel.

Joy says

A rich widow has chosen a charming financial advisor, who tells her she can make a huge profit by buying and selling a Faberge egg. The set-up stinks to McNally & Son, but even more to the widow's daughter and son, who want the money for their own use. Archy McNally scrabbles around looking for a chink in the façade of the smooth financial advisor, while the loose-cannon son and daughter set out to block the transaction in their own way.

Mark Birchall says

Another wonderfully descriptive crime caper involving the rich and infamous of Palm beach brought to a hugely successful conclusion by A McNally Esq.

Timothy says

This book, novel, started painfully slowly at first, unlike the only other book I've read from Sanders, Caper (not to be confused with McNally's Caper), I found this book to be a joyful achievement in my collection.

I found a flawed hero better than a true hero.

How Archy, our hero is flawed? He loves coitus, and not just with hours current fling. It makes him feel like a true human.

Lukasz Pruski says

"I won't tell you where she held the mistletoe."

McNally's Gamble (1997) is the fourth installment of Lawrence Sanders' Archy McNally series that I am reviewing here on *Goodreads* and the least successful of the four. While the novel is quite strong on humor and the pleasantly flowery language is a joy to read the plot is not engrossing at all and the strange twists at the end seem artificial and lame.

After an awkward "criminal anecdote" only loosely connected with the plot the novel begins with Archy buying Courvoisier for his father's birthday. Of course Mr. Sanders' readers know that the father is the boss of a legal firm in Palm Beach, Florida, where Archy is the only employee of the Discreet Inquiries Department. One of the firm's wealthy clients, Mrs. Westmore, is planning to buy a Fabergé egg from a seller in Paris on recommendation of an investment advisor. Archy's discreet inquiries are focused on the advisor's bona fides and the soundness of the transaction. Later in the plot we meet Mrs. Westmore's adult children and we learn that the money she is planning to spend for the egg could be more productively used to finance her son's paleontology research on the origins of bipedalism. The plot becomes more serious when one of the characters marginally involved in the planned transaction is murdered.

Of course, this being an Archy McNally novel we cannot get away without some tactfully and delightfully told sex passages. Not only does Archy have a good time with his steady partner Connie, but we also are shown a glimpse of *The Paroxysm of the Collapsing Cot* that occurs during Archy's coupling with yet another fan of his manly charms. The reader will also learn about a rather imbalanced marriage between two of the characters in the plot, where an **uxorious** husband is **juxtaposed** with a **concupiscent** wife. Hey, three long words in one simple sentence! I am expanding my English vocabulary...

Unfortunately Binky Watrous also participates in the events: this slows the plot down and the meager comedic payout does not justify the many, many pages of text, dedicated to this least interesting of all Archy McNally regulars. Another weakness is the character of Natalie Westmore - totally implausible to me. On the positive side I love the reference to *The Rule of Seventy-Two* (I often mention it when teaching calculus) which is used for testing the legitimacy of a financial advisor.

The novel is worth reading only for the florid prose. To use the author's own phrasing the inanity of the plot **gasts my flabber**.

Two stars.

Christa McNally says

You know that RELEASE of laughing outloud when you read? Regardless of where you are when you read this long joke, you are in Miami Florida, sweating, imagining everyone around you is in a conspiracy. Pull out the white linen suit, SKYY90 martini, and a comfy couch: by the end you will want to become a member of this silver-spooned private investigation team.

Ridwan Anam says

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Dr T says

This was my first exposure to the Archy McNally series by Lawrence Sanders, and it certainly won't be the last. The 'hero', Archy McNally is an investigator in his father's law firm, and here he gets involved with what looks to be a major swindle, centered around one of the Faberge eggs. Of course the story becomes much more involved as it develops, and Archy seems to bumble his way through to the conclusion. Archy perhaps most closely resembles Bertie Wooster (P.G.Woodhouse), with a bit of Lord Peter Wimsey thrown in. The writing is bright and often humorous, but always heading straight ahead toward resolution. I am looking forward to more in this series, especially after I have plowed through a more serious book. Greatly enjoyable.

John Lyman says

Another very fun Archy McNally tale. Unfortunately the last "real" McNally book. Since I've already read one of the others, I know they are a huge step down and aren't worthy of reading. I may have enjoyed this one more because I knew it was the last and it was very refreshing to return to the characters as Sanders wrote them. I can't help but wonder if he approved the books written by the other guy who distorted and twisted his characters unabashedly. Shame. These books did get a little formulaic, so I guess I see why Sanders gave them up.

Darcy says

I liked the charming main character, but it was funny how this 1997 novel had certain features which dated it terribly--like how everyone marvelled about a hotel that had caller I.D. that helped catch some kidnapers--Wow!

Samir Krishnamurti says

Lawrence Sanders rates as one of my all-time favourite detective story writers. The entire McNally canon just oozes with all the things that makes a good crime pot-boiler - dastardly and clever crime, beautiful women, and a wonderfully authentic urban setting. Glamour, glitz, girls and gore, in other words. What makes the McNally books special though, is the fact that they are narrated in the first person through perhaps the most lovable (male) idiosyncratic detective of all time, the one and only Archy McNally. Unlike other great first person detective stories, it's not told through the amanuensis (Captain Hastings and Archie

Goodwin being the prime examples of that particular style) but through the detective, and it's part of what makes the entire McNally canon such a uniquely terrific read, along with his truly wicked sense of humour. You cannot help but falling for Archy, after beguiling you with his charm he'll astound you with his cleverness. And make you chuckle, grin, occasionally hoot and raise an eyebrow or two along the way.

The McNally series is set in Palm Beach, Florida, where Archy McNally, bon vivant, charming cassanova, and general gadfly-about-town resides. He's similar to Dorothy Sayers's Lord Peter Wimsey, in that he conceals a clever and if need be ruthless deductive intelligence behind a facade of affable facetiousness. Unlike Wimsey, however, Archy is far more susceptible to the charms of the more beguiling sex, despite having a terrific paramour in one Consuela Garcia, (whom I would describe as the sort of woman string bikinis were designed for) to whom he is repeatedly unfaithful, which he admits quite candidly and blames on having seen Jane Seymour in a certain role at an impressionable age. He has a few other amusing excuses for his infidelity, but I can't remember them off-hand, unfortunately. Anyway, he works for McNally and Son, his father's somewhat unimaginatively titled law firm. Archy isn't a lawyer himself, having been expelled from Yale for streaking naked across the stage wearing a Richard Nixon mask during a concert performance, so instead bears the official title of paralegal. His real job, however, is heading a division named 'Discreet Inquiries', of which he is the sole member, and investigating those cases which his father deems worthy of special tact and discretion in their handling. This review will now get into the specifics of McNally's Gamble. Feel free to click on read more if you like, but the quicker you start on the series, the happier you'll be.

The full review can be found here.

<http://bookweyr.blogspot.in/search/la...>
