



Grab Bag

Charlotte MacLeod

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They're all ready to pop out of this potpourri of perilous predicaments from the Queen of the Whimsical Whodunit. Featuring all her favorite sleuths - Max Bittersohn and Sarah Kelling, Professor Peter Shandy, August Fox - and the eccentric enclaves of New England's cities and countryside, these short stories are packed with wacky, wonderful humor and good old-fashioned suspense.

There's murder in a massage parlor, dreadful doings at a British dinner party, larceny for sale at a general store, sinister schemes at Balaclava College, and merry mayhem from Boston to Maine - in this grab bag of fun-filled mysteries, which includes five never-before-published tales of murder most foul.

Grab Bag Details

Date : Published January 1st 1987 by Avon Books

ISBN : 9780380750993

Author : Charlotte MacLeod

Format : Paperback 224 pages

Genre : Mystery, Short Stories, Cozy Mystery, Fiction

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From Reader Review Grab Bag for online ebook

Karen says

This collection of short stories includes a Peter Shandy story (the original version of his introduction) and a couple stories featuring Sarah Kelling and Max Bittersohn. While most are mysteries, there are aspects of science fiction (time travel) and creepy thriller elements along with MacLeod's trademark humor. Very enjoyable.

Mark says

I've decided not to rate short story collections, because inevitable it is a mixed bag. If you like MacLeod's mildly humorous mysteries you'll probably enjoy the collection. I laughed at the first tale but none of the rest really stood out.

Maria says

Most of these stories are somewhat frivolous as are her books, but somehow these seemed even more so. I particularly liked More Like Martine, Journey for Lady G, Better a Cat, and Clean Slate, but some of the others like The Mysterious Affair . . ., Homecoming, and Monique were a little too much over the top for me.

Pat Beard says

Very uneven collection of stories by one of my favorite writers. I generally enjoy Macleod's offbeat whimsy, particularly when I'm in that kind of mood, but some of these stories were just too absurd.

Karen says

I love her stories and this collection of short stories has, so far, been a fun read.

Susan says

This is a collection of short stories published in various magazines, mostly in the mid-to-late 1960s. They include two Max Bittersohn ones, a Peter Shandy one (the story from which the novel Rest You Merry came), a couple Augustus Fox stories, and several others unrelated to her various series. All interesting, some hilarious, some just fun, truly a "grab bag"!

Tam May says

3.5 Stars

I'd heard quite a bit about Charlotte MacLeod so I wanted to try out one of her books. Her style is definitely much quirkier than most of the classic mystery writers I've read so far and I did appreciate her humor. However, this is where my problem was. I like my mysteries to be primarily focused on solving the mystery. Many of these stories seemed more like humor pieces with some mystery thrown in rather than mysteries with some humor thrown in. I also almost didn't go on reading the book past the first story in the collection because that story was so over-the-top pulp fictionish (you know the kind - stereotyped evil Asian villain trapping the hero with some ingenuous death trap, the hero getting out of it, the villain yelling, "curses! I'll get you yet!") But I did make it past that first story and the others I enjoyed much more. I liked MacLeod's little writerly intro at the beginning of each story but again, it seemed like she was more concerned with sounding witty than she was about giving readers some background to the story other than to say what magazine it had been published in and what year.

I'm hoping that her full-length mystery novels are going to be much more to my taste. I would still recommend this book for it's high entertainment value.

Cindy says

This is a nice collection of short stories, some detective stories, some not, some murders, and various other crimes. I like Max Bittersohn and Sarah Kelling, so stories featuring them are always great. I also like Peter Shandy, and he's here too. But there are several other short stories, some light-hearted and some a little more serious. This is a great collection.

S Dizzy says

I couldn't finish this, too uninteresting. I'll stick with her full-length stories.

Robyn says

Early Bird Book Deal | A mixed bag. | Title fits, some are ok while others are pretty boring. Short story collections always run that risk.

Maggie says

My Library offered this re-collecting of her lively, cozy, funny stories for my enjoyment and boy oh boy - I sure did enjoy them.

You may have forgotten the Charlotte MacLeod charm. Try her again! Cute as all get-out! Will buck you up!!!!

Selah Pike says

Usually short story collections, even those written by a single author, are uneven, with a few great stories, and a few clunkers. Not so with this collection. There wasn't a single bad story in the lot!

Scott Drake says

Barf Bag might be a better collection title. I read a handful of stories and each was worse than the last. One of those books that sounds interesting at first, but not only doesn't deliver, but doesn't even try to.

Pass!

Susan says

MacLeod includes some short stories featuring her series characters, but there are also some parodies, some short-shorts, and some stories ("Monique," for example) that are atypical of her style. There are also some with a supernatural touch. The stories are fairly slight, but charming for all that.

Amelia-Irene says

It's a shame that she died without really completing any of her series...

This gives you an idea of some of her writing in each series,=.
