



## **Pride v. Prejudice**

*Joan Hess*

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Claire Malloy, for as long as she can remember, has been the local bookseller and owner of the Book Depot and the widowed mother of teenage Caron, who frequently speaks in ALL CAPS. But her life has changed dramatically in recent years. Claire has married her longtime beau, Deputy Police Chief Peter Rosen. Still the owner of the Book Depot, Claire has passed the day-to-day running of it on to her very efficient employees. With Caron inching ever closer to college, there's but one thing that remains steadfastly unchanged—Claire's astonishing ability to attract, find, or even just randomly stumble across trouble.

Summoned for jury duty, the prosecutor on a murder case, harboring a grudge against her husband, decides to humiliate Claire and dismiss her. Having done so in spectacular enough fashion to make the local news, Claire decides that revenge will be the next dish she serves. She hunts down the defendant in the case, a woman accused of murdering her husband, and offers to help prove her innocence. And not *just* because Claire wants to humiliate the prosecutor. There are only two problems. One—the defendant is looking guiltier by the minute. And two—the worst day imaginable has finally come: Claire's dreaded new mother-in-law is coming to visit and life in prison is starting to look good.

## **Pride v. Prejudice Details**

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Author : Joan Hess

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## **From Reader Review *Pride v. Prejudice* for online ebook**

### **Diane (Books and Tequila Blog) says**

*Pride v. Prejudice* is book 20 in the Claire Malloy series but can be read as a standalone. It has been a while since I had read a Joan Hess book, but I was looking for a fun change of pace and this book definitely fit the bill!

*P v. P* was humorous and very entertaining. I loved reading and trying to keep up with Claire Malloy as she gets enmeshed in a bit of murder and mayhem while stressing out about the upcoming visit from her mother-in-law!

"I could hear Peter's voice telling me to back away and call for help. His lovely brown eyes were squinting with intensity and his jaw was tight. What would his mother say if she was told that I'd been kidnapped by surly hirsute brutes in camouflage jackets? Her nostrils might flair with distain at the vulgar nature of the criminals and the brashness of their hostage. If I'd underestimated my opponents, would she lower herself to attend my funeral? Could I trust Caron to handle the role of hostess after the internment? Will the mourners be appalled by chips and pizza?

It was time to find out, I told myself as I walked toward the house."

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### **SueEllen says**

I have always enjoyed the Claire Malloy series by Joan Hess, but not her Maggody series. The characters and situations of the Maggody series were just a little too far-fetched and crazy for me. Unfortunately, I found *Pride v. Prejudice* seems to be leading the Claire Malloy series in the same direction. The story does have a fresh idea for beginning the murder mystery and held my attention for the first few chapters. But then things started to go wacky and I found myself just wanting it to be over.

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### **Karen says**

Nice and complicated, lots of possible suspects, plenty of goofy Southern settings and characters.

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### **Nancy Haddock says**

I've been a Joan Hess fan for years, and had to get this newest from the library because I couldn't wait. If you haven't read the Claire Malloy mysteries, get with it! *Pride v. Prejudice* is another winner in the series. (Loved the mentions of/ references to Maggody, too. I miss that series!)

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## **Julie says**

Overall this was an entertaining enough read, especially if you are in need of a lighter toned read and just want a little escape from hard core violence, sexual content, and harsh language. Sometimes, reading a cozy mystery with familiar, comfortable, well known characters is just what the doctor ordered

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## **Sandy says**

I'm not a big mystery fan but I really enjoyed *Pride v. Prejudice* although at the end I will admit it was getting hard to follow all the story lines. It's a fun read, the main character is a very smart, cool bookseller whose biggest concern is a sudden visit from her new mother-in-law and getting even with a weasley prosecuting attorney who made her look like a fool by grandstanding to the media when he threw her out of a potential jury pool. In order to get even with the prosecutor she decides to see if she can prove the defendant innocent and the story line launches from there. Definitely a fun read.

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## **Nancy says**

I'd enjoyed some books by Joan Hess years ago so grabbed this one on CD from the library to while away the hours on a Thanksgiving trip from Oregon to Idaho and Wyoming. My husband and I listened to the whole book but were both disappointed. Maybe Joan Hess is just phoning it in now. Maybe it is better if you read rather than listen to it so you can skim though some repetitive language. One depiction of a child particularly annoyed us. Many of the characters were unbelievable. That prevented us from being drawn into the author's fictional world.

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## **Cheryl says**

This is book 21 in the Claire Malloy series. Claire is the owner of a book store, married to the police chef and her daughter is getting close to graduation. there isn't much about her daughter in this book which was disappointing. Claire is humiliated by the prosecutor when she shows up for jury duty so she decides to solve the case and humiliate the prosecutor. She has a hard time proving the ladys innocent when she finds out a 40 year secret. Trying to solve this and prepare to meet her new mother-in-law keeps it lively.

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## **Tobinsfavorite says**

I did like this enough to consider going back and reading earlier books in the series. I don't know if I will, but I might.

Reader did not agree with me, mostly due to presenting the smug, officious policeman, whom I already wanted to punch in the face, with a voice that made me want even more to punch him in the face. Too much wanting to punch characters in the face detracts from self-righteous feelings of not being the character everyone wants to punch in the face.

I think the author lost me when the protagonist managed to spend some time sitting in a field unexpectedly topless, having used her bra to tie her shirt to her bare feet (?? I cannot imagine the rough ground that would make me do this.) and not realize she was still topless when the smug, officious policeman showed up. Are there not mosquitoes in this area? Or other insects? Perhaps she is habitually topless outdoors and so forgot? I guess I just don't know many women who would forget they were not wearing a bra when approached by a man they do not like and whom they know does not like them.

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### **Sharon says**

I've read all the Claire Malloy mysteries and I think with this one, I'll be saying goodbye to Claire, Caron, Inez, Peter, Luanne and Jorgenson. Claire has jury duty and the prosecutor proceeds to humiliate her before dismissing her from the jury pool. Claire makes eye contact with the defendant and decides there is more to her story. She then decides to prove the woman's innocence as well as get even with the prosecutor. Peter is okay with Claire's sleuthing as the prosecutor is not one of his favorite people either. On top of the murder case, Claire's mother-in-law is coming to visit to finally meet Claire and Caron. The subplot involves the intrepid duo of Caron and Inez on the hunt for the missing wedding gift sent from the mother-in-law. These are always written with lots of humor and this one is no exception but Claire and Caron's schtick seemed a little tiresome to me. The plot was convoluted and complicated but didn't hold my interest. I figured out who the killer was fairly early on but never would have guessed the motive behind it. I nearly gave up reading once the FBI got involved. A disappointing read.

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### **Kaitlyn Dunnett says**

I've always found Claire's prickly personality appealing and in this case she has plenty to be prickly about. She's just trying to be a good citizen and serve on a jury when she comes in for a personal attack by a D.A. with political ambitions and a grudge against her husband, detective Peter Rosen. That she decides to help prove the accused innocent out of a desire for revenge seems perfectly reasonable to me. As a fan of Hess's Arly Hanks series, I also got a kick out of several tie ins to those books. I would love it if Arly and Claire could meet in a future book. Watch out bad guys!

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### **Julie says**

My review for *Pride V Prejudice: A Claire Malloy Mystery* by Joan Hess will be linked back here in the near future. Stay tuned!!

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### **Dorothy says**

My first --and likely last -- foray into the Claire Malloy series.

Not even halfway through this book and have already run across typos/spelling errors. And, the murder suspect Sarah is referred to as Sara at one point. Hello copy editors?

Dialogue not witty; plot devices predictable (Claire just keeps showing up on various doorsteps, hoping the occupant(s) will talk to her.

There are numerous cozy mystery series where mystery/crime-solver (eventually) weds a (recurring) law enforcement official central to the investigations. How predictable.

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### **Nancy H says**

Another entry in the Claire Malloy series, this one deals with a woman who is accused of murdering her husband and about to go on trial for his murder. The evidence is overwhelmingly against her, but Claire is sure there is more to the story. As she tries to ferret out the truth, she runs across many people who are trying to stop her, including the real murderer. While she is on the trail, another murder occurs, and Claire and her cohort who is trying to help have to go undercover themselves to avoid being picked up by the FBI. After a slow start, this story picks up and the reader is turning pages quickly by the end.

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### **Ellen says**

I read this one slowly and had trouble keeping some of the characters straight, but as usual the author's voice is delightful and the ending was fun

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