



City of Whispers

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Private eye Sharon McCone receives an e-mail asking for help from her emotionally disturbed half brother Darcy Blackhawk. She replies . . . but gets no response. As Sharon digs deeper, she discovers that Darcy sent his message from an Internet café in San Francisco, a city he's never been to before. Sensing that her brother is in terrible danger, Sharon begins a search for him throughout the city. The investigation leads her to the body of a woman at the Palace of Fine Arts, where a witness had told her that Darcy was headed. Then, as she digs deeper, Sharon uncovers a connection to the unsolved murder of a young heiress to a multimillion-dollar banking fortune. Now Sharon must race to solve both murders and ensure her brother's safety, despite the imminent danger that lurks within her own family.

City of Whispers Details

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From Reader Review City of Whispers for online ebook

Lynda says

Sharon McCone is back at work and tracking down her half brother Darcy who left her a cryptic message. As with her last few books, Mueller alternates between various characters involved in the search for Darcy. There is a connection to the mysterious death of a young heiress and several homeless people including Darcy. McCone's nephew Mick figures prominently in this book. It almost seems like the author is winding down the series as Sharon McCone appears to be tiring of the rat race her profession entails and wanting more time with Hy and also her various family members. I would hate to see the series end but perhaps there is nowhere for the characters to go but off into the sunset.

Glenda says

A long running series, right up there with Sue Grafton's. Set in and around San Fran. Not the strongest in the series, but good.

Sarah Harvey says

I've read and enjoyed quite a few Sharon McCone mysteries, but Muller ran out of steam with this one. Phoning it in. She should let this series go if this is the best she can do. Limp.

Glennie says

Not one of her best. Only 261 pages and chapter titles took a whole page each. I always wonder if that's a way to stretch the length out. Writing was choppy than her usual. Her earlier books are much better.

carol. says

Using rough draft as final copy. Telegram style beginning. Author tired. Tweets as chapters?

I enjoyed the early Sharon McCone mysteries, but it appears that our relationship may be heading toward the end. This latest installment--number 29--reads more like the draft of a manuscript than the highly polished page-turner she is capable of writing.

Shifting narrative between Mick, her nephew/computer genius operative; Darcy, her drug-addled half-brother; and McCone is used in a listless attempt to develop tension. Unfortunately, only Darcy develops any distinctive voice and the changes do little to build mystery. Sharon's motives for involvement in the search for her half-brother are spurious, and the mystery surrounding him mundane. While that had potential in an era of serial killers and assorted psychopaths, the writing fails to develop any sense of menace or danger,

except perhaps, one scene mid-book. Once the solution becomes clear, the over-reaction of all main characters is a challenge to belief. I found myself thinking I can't believe anyone cares. Really? (view spoiler)

An integral part of many mystery series is the setting. Landscape lends itself to identity, plotting and atmosphere and can become a cornerstone of a great series. Think Spenser and Boston, Scudder and New York, Warshawski and Chicago, Robicheaux and New Orleans. San Francisco, one of my favorite cities, should shine in a mystery series, but Muller seems content to drop landmarks into the plot without regard to describing atmosphere, almost if she was writing a shorthand draft.

I found her desultory description disappointing, especially in a book spent tracking a homeless man--the ideal opportunity to let setting shine.

Muller is a good author, honestly. It's not for nothing that she's a Grand Master of the Mystery Writers of America, and that four of her books have been nominated for Shamus awards and one a winner. Just not this one. Unfortunately, both McCone and Muller seem to be suffering from ennui, making this a time-waster. Take a pass on this one and try her earlier books.

Two. Stars.

Cross posted at <http://clsiewert.wordpress.com/2013/0...>

Deb says

I have enjoyed the Sharon McCone books in the past and I was looking forward to reading this new installment. I think perhaps it's been too long since I read the last one because I had a hard time getting back into her world. Darcy, her half-brother, is missing and appears to be involved in a murder. Although physically recovered from her injuries in the last book, Sharon is having a hard time dealing with "getting back to normal." Mick Savage gets more deeply involved in the agency, getting out into the field and running into danger. The book moved quickly, almost too quickly, and the very short chapters were annoying.

Nell says

I finally received this book on Nov 22nd - 2 1/2 months after I was notified that I had won it.

It's been more than two months since I won this on GR giveaway and I'm sorry to say that I NEVER RECEIVED THIS BOOK. At least one other winner had the same experience. I notified GR and contacted the publisher directly, but still no book.

Won this as a goodreads giveaway. I haven't read anything by this author in more than 10 years, so I hope her books don't have to be read in order. I had a few of hers picked up at a UBS a while ago. Maybe I'll read them and fill in some of the gap while I wait for this one to come.

Carrie says

I'm always excited to read a new Marcia Muller mystery! These are such a great example of the "tough chick detective" genre.

This book in particular didn't seem to do much to move the series along, but it was still entertaining and well written as always.

Sharon says

I was very disappointed with this book, and a little sad because I was hoping it wouldn't signal a downward spiral for this long-running series. This was a very slim book – physically and story-wise. I didn't care about Darcy; no one in the book did either (even Sharon) so it was hard to get into the little action there was. And although I really liked the alternating points of view in "Locked In", I felt it did not work in this book and it made the book seem like a "dial-in" effort. Before reading this I read a (non goodreads) review that called this book "exciting." I must disagree.

Since reading this book, I read #30 of the series. I liked that book much better than this one.

Jan C says

I like Sharon McCone and her troupe.

Here, she got a garbled e-mail from a brother (half-brother?) that he needs help. Unfortunately, this is one of those brothers who always needs help.

But they always seem to be using the latest technology and they track down where he e-mailed from. Of course, he isn't there anymore. But they are going all over San Francisco looking for this kid.

It is another story for how much do you do for the losers in your family? Is there where they can be written off? Or, do you have to just keep trying, no matter how much they push you away?

Muller shows us both viewpoints. Both what is going on with the young man and Sharon & Co.'s attempts to find him.

Timna says

I think I only enjoyed this because I've been with the series for SO LONG. I thought it felt really forced.

Sue says

Not one of my favorite offerings from one of my favorite authors. In the end, the story did perk up and the pieces fit together, but initially the novel lacked Muller's usual momentum. The McCone mysteries are so consistent that it's strange to find one inconsistent. My fear is that this was rushed to meet a publisher's deadline. The bones of the story are there as always but the fleshing out is not as usual.

I don't believe that this can be laid at the feet of the storyline of her locked in head wound of two episodes ago either. That novel was excellent and the following was also good. Self doubts and recovery are fine in a protagonist. The issue here was the basic story development.

Will I read the next Sharon McCone novel? Definitely! In fact I look forward to it. I'm looking at this as a slight aberration in a wonderful record. Rating 3.5 if I could.

Ellen Wylie says

Twenty plus years ago I read a lot of Marcia Muller's mysteries featuring PI Sharon McCone. Sharon was one of the earliest hard-boiled female mystery heroines -- tough, gun-toting, willing to take a beating, relentless. This latest addition to the series feels dated. Sharon is still in her early 40s, but author Muller is considerably older and her stage of life is reflected in the thoughts and actions of her creation. That in itself isn't a problem, but the disconnect between what once was and what is today was disconcerting to me as a reader.

The plot was satisfactory, although I recognized the villains the first time they were introduced in the story. Sharon's mentally ill, drug-addled brother is missing and she must solve a two-year old murder in order to find him. Predictable outcome. Eh.

Hapzydeco says

Marcia Muller uses an interesting technique to differentiate her chapters. Each one bears the name of the person who is most prominent in that chapter. Storyline is edgy but short, choppy chapters and one-liners take their toll. Muller has done better.

Paulette says

I agree with Timna. Not her best.
