



Parrots Prove Deadly

Clea Simon

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With the only other possible witnesses being an evasive aide, the blind neighbor, and a single-minded service dog, Pru is stuck with what may be a feather-brained theory. Even her crotchety tabby Wallis doesn't buy it, although she's more than willing to "interrogate" the big bird, as Pru deals with drugs, jealousy, and a potential rabies outbreak....

Parrots Prove Deadly Details

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Author : Clea Simon

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From Reader Review Parrots Prove Deadly for online ebook

Malia says

Takes awhile to learn cast of characters, Hilarious animals. Thats one of the reasons I love this writer.

Nancy Rogan says

This is the third book in this series and a big disappointment. Every character, both animal and human, is grumpy, dysfunctional and unhappy. Pru is not very good at her job (she is supposed to be retraining a parrot's use of foul language and never did the first meaningful thing toward that end); she is irresponsible (running around for days after possible exposure to rabies); she has no grasp of her "gift" (she communicates with animals but doesn't understand one thing they tell her); and she is totally under the control of a cat at home - even worse than those protagonists who are under the control of their mothers. She also doesn't have any skill at solving murders (didn't pick up on clues right in front of her). I have attended a class led by a person who makes a living communicating with animals for their owners. It was impressive and this series could be phenomenal. Instead it is boring and the biggest mystery of all is how Pru can be so dense. Probably my last for this series.

Renaë says

I received this book as a first reads goodreads giveaway.

I've not read any other book by Clea Simon but after being as impressed as I was with this novel, I most certainly will. This book, while being suspenseful and full of twists, was really cute. I enjoyed the dialogue between Pru and her cat, Wallis. Even if you haven't read the first two books in the series, you can read this one and not be at a loss. All in all, a good book.

KyBunnies says

Review to come

Imjussayin says

b>Parrots Prove Deadly: Pru Marlowe 3
Chronological order, not necessary but recommended.

In A Nutshell: Pru Marlowe, a pet behaviourist with a psychic touch, is tasked to retrain a ribald African grey. His owner has died. So, without retraining, the parrot might have to rejoin his owner. But among the vulgarity, the parrot also sounds like he is repeating a murder scene. A novel approach to murder mysteries

with biting sarcasm from the animals. Entertaining and hard-boiled.

The Protagonists: Pru prefers animals to people and not just because she can 'talk' to them. Pru is working on accepting her psychic gift. It nearly sent her insane. She has a chequered past, unapologetically falls in lust, drives a big bad classic and can handle being in her own space. What's not to like?

The Plot: Randolph Jones says that Polly Larkin was murdered. Pru believes him but who else will believe a parrot?

Another entertaining read with Pru and her fascinating supporting cast. Wallis the cat, Frank the Ferret and Growler the gay Bichon Frise are joined by a teenage racoon, a support dog and two interesting humans. Not to mention the very colourful Randolph.

The story is particularly dark and sad because the plots are a frightening reflection of reality. However, elements of the racoon's tale border on irresponsible and there are no repercussions. I find that stretches the plot too far. It's also disappointing that Pru is not more on point with her gift. I am minded to say she is becoming regressive! Too much pizza? And a little more light relief is needed.

A page-turning hard-boiled pet noir that stretches belief.

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Book Rating

Sexual Content: U

Language: U

Violent: U

Would I read the next one ~~or reread~~?: Yes

My rating system (* = star)

0* Could not finish this book (waste of time)

1* Finished the book but didn't like it.

2* Finished the book it was okay.

3* A good read worth your time.

4* An excellent read often with a novel concept or unusual plot.

5* A magnificent read. A prominent example of the genre.

Amy Shojai says

I received a free ARC of the book prior to publication to read and review. I'm sorry that I delayed reading for so long--this was a delightful mystery adding to Simon's previous successes. In **PARROTS PROVE DEADLY** nothing is clear, not even to the pet-mind-reading heroine. While at first the "human" voices of dogs, ferrets, cats and other critters takes some getting used to (at least it did me!), pretty quickly the reader buys into the situation.

As a certified animal behavior consultant, nothing irks me more than to have animal "characters" act out of character in a story. Having them actually talk often turns these critters into humans-with-fur (or feathers). Simon treads very close to the edge for me in this mystery and yet...and yet...the writing is so well done, the story intriguing, AND she quashes any of my complaints with the clarification that just because Pru can "hear" the thoughts in ways understandable to a human (so duh, of course they sound like people!), that doesn't mean she always understands what they're telling her.

Bravo!

I did want to slap Pru up-side the head for getting herself bitten by the raccoon, however. But every animal professional I know has had those sorts of "oh-crap" experiences where they know better. It makes the characters all the more human. Highly recommended for mystery lovers and pet lovers alike.

--Amy Shojai, CABC, nonfiction pet books & Thrillers With Bite!

Nora-adrienne says

Parrots Prove Deadly

By: Clea Simon

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Publisher: Poisoned Pen Press

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When Pru Marlowe is called in to retrain a foul-mouthed African gray after its owner's death, the bad-girl animal psychic can't help hearing the bird's words as a replay of a murder scene. But the doctor on call scoffs at the idea, and the heirs just want their late mother's pet to quit cursing.

With the only other possible witnesses being an evasive aide, the blind neighbor, and a single-minded service dog, Pru is stuck with what may be a feather-brained theory. Even her crotchety tabby Wallis doesn't buy it, although she's more than willing to "interrogate" the big bird, as Pru deals with drugs, jealousy, and a potential rabies outbreak....

What do you think happens when you take one foul mouthed parrot, a service dog with issues, a neighbor who is a major yenta, and a dead woman's daughter who appears to be slightly OCD? You get Pru's latest adventure in murder.

It all began with an early morning of Sept. 3rd. when Polly Larkin AKA "room 203" was found dead on the floor of her room. Pru checked her messages and found a mail from a woman "I need your help, it's or death". Pru was being asked to retrain a foul mouth parrot into one more kid friendly so that Mrs. Larking's son could bring him home to his house.

I could write a page or so of my thoughts of each chapter, but I won't! I'm not that talented or I'd have my own books on the market. (insert laugh) As the story progresses, Pru meets the aid, the neighbor and her support dog. She also gets to find out how creepy the director of the Nursing home is. As her questions pile up along with the body count... It's a race to find out how Polly died, who done it, and why so many people not involved with the home are interested.

Clea Simon is one hell of a talented writer and never fails to keep my interested in her books. She is the author of three mystery series. The Theda Krakow Mysteries, The Pru Marlowe Pet Noir, and the Dulcie Schwartz Mysteries. Each one a mystery which will entertain you and keep you involved till the last page.

FTC Full Disclosure: I received a copy of this book from the publisher who only requested a fair and impartial review.

John says

I'm not sure I would've stuck with this book in print format. While not (necessarily) Too Stupid to Live (TSTL), by the end I'd tired of Pru completely. Granted, I haven't read the two previous stories, but this one stood alone so well, without reference to past events or characters, that I can give a brief idea of what to expect ...

Pru has a "gift" that enables her to "hear" the thoughts of animals; at first she tells the reader that it's more of an impression (which makes more sense, if you're willing to buy into the idea at all), but becomes actual words throughout most of the book, as though she's hearing the creatures speaking English. There's an exception regarding her cat, Wallis, with whom she has actual telepathic, full-fledged conversations. Wallis dominates her to such an extent that you'd think *she* owned the property, not Pru; decisions are centered around whether Wallis will "accept" them or not. At one point, she cannot bring home a well-behaved dog, while the owner recuperates from a hospital stay, as Wallis has specifically vetoed the idea. However one buys into the conceit, or not, that's pretty damned sad.

Partway through the book, Pru is bitten by a wild raccoon, which had been trapped and held in the animal shelter. She agonizes dreadfully that the creature will be beheaded for rabies testing (like Alzheimers in humans, not possible without brain tissue), convincing herself that the animal didn't *seem* rabid, so that would be murder. So, she proceeds to the end with a nasty, painful poorly-self-treated wound instead. Better rabies should enter her bloodstream than the raccoon should be "murdered"; she delays treatment for quite a while fearing it may lead to the animal's destruction. Her point-of-view is that dogs are quarantined, and released if no signs appear within ten days of a bite, so that should apply to raccoons, but the state has been too "cheap" to fund a study on that, finding execution of innocent animals a cheaper default procedure.

My next question is: does anyone ever have an average-looking boyfriend in these books? In this case, her squeeze Jim is a very hot cop. One whom I feel needs to set some boundaries regarding her behavior.

Finally, I had an issue with Ms. Simon's knowledge of Berkshire County, Massachusetts as a location. Pru refers to I-90 as "the interstate" which just sounds *wrong* to me. A local would call it either "the Masspike" or "the Turnpike" instead. Moreover, at one point she's trying to get away from Jim, who's after her in his cop car with lights flashing, congratulating herself in zooming onto "the interstate" and losing him - ha ha, sucker! Funny, I had thought one needs to stop and wait for a barrier to be raised after either taking a toll entry ticket, or having one's EZPass registered?

In spite of those issues, I can recommend the audiobook for Tavia Gilbert's outstanding job in voicing the animals, although her humans aren't bad either!

Lis Carey says

Pru Marlowe is still adjusting to being back in her little hometown of Beauville in western Massachusetts,

and working to establish her business of walking dogs and working with dogs and other animals as a behaviorist. She doesn't have her degree, yet; she had to cut short her education and get out of New York City for the same reason she has a slight edge over the average animal care professional.

She can communicate with animals mind to mind, sometimes even when she doesn't want to.

Her latest adventure starts when she gets a frantic phone call asking her to come help fix the behavior of a foul-mouthed African Grey Parrot. Randolph's human, the mother of the woman who called Pru, has died, and there is no one willing to take in the bird if his vocabulary doesn't get cleaned up.

Much of what he says seems to indicate that his person, Polly, was getting angry with people she believed were taking her things. Then he livens things further by making the sound of the elderly woman's walker being thrown to the ground.

Pru soon dealing with the dead woman's wishy-washy daughter who has provided most of her care, and her son, who has left the work to his sister but has very decided ideas about How Things Will Be Handled. Meanwhile, she's also handling a small matter of a raccoon trapped near, or in, a new condo development on the edge of town. Albert, the town's animal control officer has trapped it at the request of the condo manager, but has had to do so twice because the first time he didn't move it far enough before releasing it. Now the manager wants the animal destroyed, and Albert is asking Pru for help.

It's not long before Pru realizes there's something very odd going on at the LiveWell assisted living facility where Polly lived, and a little longer before she realizes there's also something odd about the new and not yet inhabited condo development.

It's a bit longer, even with help from her often snide cat Wallis, her grumpy walking client the bichon Growler, the worried and insistent Randolph, and even the raccoon, before she realizes the problems are connected. Being the stubborn, distrustful, ex-bad girl that she is, Pru doesn't really listen to the warnings and indirect information that her boyfriend, Beauville police detective Jim Crichton, is giving her about how dangerous are the things that are going on.

There are times I want to shake Pru and tell her to stop being a pig-headed idiot, but mostly she's an intelligent and resourceful woman, and she is nothing if not devoted to the welfare of her friends, both human and non-human--even if there are more of the non-human kind!

Recommended.

I bought this book.

Mary says

I am not really big on mysteries, however what drew my attention to this book was a commentary that the protagonist could communicate with animals and it had both a cat and a parrot in the plot. So I was pleasantly surprised when Clea Simon pulled me into the story to the point I was hard pressed to put the book down. It was a quick and entertaining read and I may just want to check out more Clea Simon books.

Leslie says

Pru is an animal behaviorist. She has a special gift when it comes to animals. She understands them, she can talk to them and she can hear their answers. She doesn't always know exactly what they are trying to tell her but give her some time and she will figure it out.

Pru owns a classic muscle car and knows how to drive it, likes to put away a drink or two and in her younger days hung around with a fast crowd. She says she's reformed now, but not everyone believes her. She hasn't entirely given up living on the edge and doesn't mind breaking a few laws if she feels it's necessary to get to the truth.

This was a fun book to listen to and an easy read. No complex mystery, just an entertaining cozy. I had a very good idea who the 'bad guy' was but that didn't take away from the enjoyment of the story. The conversations between Pru and the animals were a hit with me. Pru's cat and the parrot were instrumental in solving the mystery but there were other helpful animals too... a guide dog and a raccoon that she rescued, illegally, from animal control.

The novel's pace was fast and at only nine hours the story moved along quickly. Tavia Gilbert's narration was delightful. She did a great job on the many characters plus created unique voices for each of the animals. Especially memorable was Wallis, Pru's snarky cat, and Randolph, the foul-mouthed African Gray Parrot.

This is the third novel in the Pet Noir series but the first one I've read. It has no trouble as a stand alone so feel free to jump in here with number three for a fun break from the heavy books and a good summer read.

Tamara says

I love cozies. Really. This is my first book by Clea Simon so perhaps it's me- but I didn't just love it. It had cute parts- and the cat really did grow on me- but at times it was just a bit further out there than I care for. However, the mystery is not bad- the interactions with the cop boyfriend cute at times- and some of the talking with the animals is funny.

Will I read another Clea Simon book? Possibly.

Traveling With T

Betty says

Pru Marlowe is called LiveWell to retrain a foul mouth African Grey parrot after its owner died Pru is helping Albert with a raccoon problem. Featured are Wallis her cat, Randolph, the parrot and Buster a service dog. Other animals from earlier books are mention throughout the story. The subplots are skillfully brought together for satisfying end.

Lorraine says

The third in Clea Simon's Pru Marlowe Pet Noir series introduces us to a parrot that swears like a sailor. Pru is an animal behaviorist although not fully certified. She also does dog walking and other pet care as needed. She's not your standard cozy heroine. There's no sweater with contrasting skirt here, thank goodness as well as no bobbing pony tails or cuteness.

Pru drives a muscle car, has a checkered past involving sex, drugs and, probably, rock and roll and can "hear" animals' thoughts. So when someone has a troublesome pet, they call her. She's also seeing a cop which makes for some conflict now and again.

Pru is called in to see if she can "fix" the parrot which was living with Polly, an elderly woman in a retirement home. The woman passed away. Now her daughter is trying to deal with her apartment while her money-grubbing brother has no interest in anything other than what's in it for him.

This was a fun book although it dragged a little in spots. I would have liked to know more about the dead woman. Did the parrot learned his salty language from her? When Pru meets Rose, Polly's neighbor and friend, she also meets another animal: Buster, a mixed breed mostly German Shepherd who is also a female despite the name. It soon becomes obvious that there is something "off" about the retirement home. There's also something "off" about an upscale condo development that isn't selling.

This is definitely a cozy series although with an edge. However, it doesn't surprise me because Ms. Simon's previous character, Theda Krakow, definitely was edgy. This is not a book for someone who is expecting nothing but reality. Pru communicates with animals especially with her cat, Wallis. So you definitely have to stretch, but it's a fun stretch. I wouldn't mind figuring out what my cats are thinking although I'm betting that there would be times I wouldn't want to know!

J. Ewbank says

This book by Clea Simon is well worth the time it takes to read. It is a good mystery by my standards because you are not able to figure out the plot. The plot keeps evolving and keeping your interest. You will enjoy how the parrot tries to tell who the murderer is.

J. Robert Ewbank author "John Wesley, Natural Man, and the Isms" and "Wesley's Wars"
