

madness in maggody an arly hanks mystery

[#madness in maggody](#) [#arly hanks mystery](#) [#cozy mystery novel](#) [#maggody series](#) [#small town mystery](#)

Dive into the quirky world of Maggody, Arkansas, with 'Madness in Maggody,' the inaugural novel in the delightful Arly Hanks mystery series. When Arly returns home as the town's new sheriff, she quickly finds herself entangled in a web of peculiar events and eccentric characters, making this cozy mystery a charming and engaging read for any fan of mystery novels and small-town intrigue.

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The Arly Hanks Mysteries Volume Two

Three cozy mysteries set in a small, eccentric Arkansas town where a divorcée is getting a fresh start as police chief. With her career and marriage gone bust, Arly Hanks leaves Manhattan behind for her small hometown of Maggody, Arkansas. She thought not much would happen after she became the town's first female police chief, but Maggody is full of surprises . . . Madness in Maggody: The mayor's supermarket opening gala is ruined when tainted tamales give twenty-three people food poisoning—and kill another. Now Arly must discover who messed with the Mexican food before someone else eats their last meal. Mortal Remains in Maggody: Arly's too busy to care about the Hollywood production crew in town—until an actors is found dead. Now Arly must catch the killer while the citizens of Maggody vie for their fifteen minutes of fame—even as the town burns down around them. Maggody in Manhattan: Arly returns to the Big Apple to accompany her mother to a baking contest. But when a man is found dead in her mother's hotel room, Arly is out to solve the case herself, facing down killers, bakers, and most frightening of all: her ex-husband.

Madness in Maggody

Chief of Police Arly Hanks will do whatever it takes to keep Maggody from losing its mind in this charming cozy mystery. In a town as peculiar as Maggody, Arkansas, it doesn't take much to tip the community into chaos. When Mayor Jim Bob Buchanon's SuperSaver Buy 4 Less takes out a full-page ad boasting the new supermarket's authentic tamales, gourmet deli counter, and various other bells and whistles, every restaurateur in town fears that Jim Bob is going to put him out of business. So when it comes time for the Buy 4 Less's gala opening, one citizen decides to play dirty, slipping something into Jim Bob's famous tamale sauce that leaves twenty-three unsuspecting attendees sick with food poisoning—and one dead. Was this a prank that got out of hand, or is there a maniac on the loose in Maggody? Finding out the truth will mean digging into the dangerous underbelly of Maggody's cutthroat restaurant community, and quick-witted police chief Arly Hanks is the only woman for the job. Joan Hess is one of the funniest mystery writers in the business, and this outlandish look into the greedy schemes of small-town business owners shows her at the top of her form. Cozy mystery fans know that once

you visit Maggody, you'll never want to leave. Madness in Maggody is the 4th book in the Arly Hanks Mysteries, but you may enjoy reading the series in any order.

Murder@maggody.com

When a beautiful, beguiling newcomer to Maggody turns up murdered, police chief Arly Hanks traces her e-mails and begins to suspect that someone in town may have killed her--perhaps one of the many women she made jealous.

Martians in Maggody

Police chief Arly Hanks tries to keep her head when the people of Maggody get UFO fever in this uproarious cozy mystery. Life is so boring in Maggody, Arkansas, population 755, the locals have resorted to reading supermarket tabloids, gobbling up every rumor of wolf men, zombies, and creatures from outer space they can get their hands on. And as the only sane woman in town, Chief of Police Arly Hanks just smiles and nods whenever her neighbors rave about the latest conspiracy theories. But to Arly's eternal horror, it looks like Maggody is about to become ground zero for an extraterrestrial invasion. The aliens will never know what hit 'em. It starts when strange circles appear in Raz Buchanon's cornfields, drawing reporters, newscasters, and every nut west of the Mississippi. But as supernatural fever hits Maggody, Arly is confronted with a very terrestrial murder. There may be aliens on Main Street, but in a town this strange, how could anybody tell the difference? Life has always been nutty in Maggody, but the madness is about to go paranormal. Master of cozies Joan Hess knows better than anyone how to push a mystery to the brink of madness—and then push it a whole lot farther. Martians in Maggody is the 8th book in the Arly Hanks Mysteries, but you may enjoy reading the series in any order.

Mischief in Maggody

When a woman is shot in a cannabis patch, Arly Hanks must restore order to her Ozarks community, in this sharp-witted mystery by an Agatha Award-winning author. When small-town police chief Arly Hanks returns to Maggody, Arkansas, after vacation, she finds the population has risen to a booming 802. Among the newbies: Madame Celeste, the psychic who's holding locals in thrall with her predictions of doom; a handsome new high school guidance counselor; and a gaggle of mantra-chanting hippies who have turned the old general store into the source for cosmic harmony. Unfortunately, life in Maggody is anything but harmonious. Robin Buchanon—a member of Maggody's most abundant family—has been murdered. The moonshiner, prostitute, and mother of four foul-mouthed little bad seeds was found shot to death in a booby-trapped marijuana field. Assuming the weed harvesters are sending a message to trespassers, Arly decides to hold vigil and set her own trap. But when another, seemingly unrelated, murder catches Arly off-guard, even Madame Celeste can't predict where this case is headed. An Agatha Award finalist, Mischief in Maggody is just the kind of "bawdy, cheerful entertainment" that has brought countless fans to Joan Hess's quirky, long-running Maggody series (Kirkus Reviews). Mischief in Maggody is the 2nd book in the Arly Hanks Mysteries, but you may enjoy reading the series in any order.

Miracles in Maggody

Another outrageous Maggody mystery, starring police chief Arly Hanks alongside a smooth-talking televangelist and a whole town full of sinners. Some days, police chief Arly Hanks can't help but see Maggody, Arkansas, as little more than a cesspool of poverty, ignorance, and incest—the kind of glorified trailer park that gives the South a bad name. But hey, it's home. So when silver-tongued televangelist Malachi Hope swoops into town, with a revivalist laser light show and plans to build a Christian theme park, Arly worries her beloved, if crazy, neighbors are about to be swindled. But it's Malachi who should be terrified. As the town whips itself into revival fever, it's all Arly can do to keep Maggody from coming apart at the seams. And when the girls' basketball coach is found dead, Arly can't help but suspect that the murder is related to Malachi's tent meetings. To save Maggody from itself, Arly will risk everything—in this world and the hereafter. What Carl Hiaasen did for Florida, Joan Hess has done for the Ozarks. This is a hilarious look at small-town greed and the irresistible madness of Maggody, Arkansas. Miracles in Maggody is the 9th book in the Arly Hanks Mysteries, but you may enjoy reading the series in any order.

Much Ado in Maggody

A hilarious police procedural set in the strangest town in the Ozarks, where whip-smart sheriff Arly Hanks does everything she can to keep the peace. Nothing ever happens in Maggody, Arkansas, population 755. Aside from handling the occasional barroom brawl or exploding still, Chief of Police Arly Hanks spends her days sipping coffee and squashing flies. She returned to Maggody two years ago, licking her wounds after a bad Manhattan divorce, and she fell backward into the role of sheriff. From Hizzoner the Moron—also known as Jim Bob Buchanon, the pettily corrupt mayor—to Ruby Bee Hanks—Arly's mother and the town's foremost gossip—the people of Maggody are all crazy in their own ways, and that craziness is about to turn deadly. When Joanna Mae Nookim returns to work after giving birth, the bank manager bumps her down to minimum wage as punishment for taking time off. It's outrageous, but there's nothing Arly can do. But when the bank burns to the ground and the head teller is found dead, Maggody threatens to burst into an all-out revolution for the sake of women's rights. Fans of comic mysteries have known for years that no small town is quite like Maggody. With its wild cast of characters and its no-nonsense female detective, *Much Ado in Maggody* is evidence of master of cozy mysteries Joan Hess at her best. *Much Ado in Maggody* is the 3rd book in the Arly Hanks Mysteries, but you may enjoy reading the series in any order.

The Maggody Militia

In this hilarious cozy mystery, small-town police chief Arly Hanks tries to stop a right-wing militia from turning Maggody into a battlefield. The sign welcoming travelers to Maggody, Arkansas, reads "Pop. 755," and don't expect Hizzoner Jim Bob to repaint it just because there's someone new in town. The mayor won't go out of his way for anyone, especially someone wicked—and a woman who would open a pawnshop in Maggody must be very wicked indeed. Kayleen Smeltner decided to open the shop after her husband was killed during a burglary. She came to Maggody expecting peace and quiet, but she'll find this quaint little patch of nowhere isn't as peaceful as it seems. When a right-wing militia takes up residence in the pasture behind the pawnshop, police chief Arly Hanks knows it's only a matter of time before the bullets start to fly. The strange citizens of Maggody are on the verge of civil war, and it will only take one spark to set the town ablaze. There's no politics like small-town politics, and there's no town on earth like Maggody. This madcap take on right-wing militias is one of Joan Hess's most topical—and outrageous—mysteries yet. *The Maggody Militia* is the 10th book in the Arly Hanks Mysteries, but you may enjoy reading the series in any order.

The Merry Wives of Maggody

The return, after a three-year absence, of Sheriff Arly Hanks and the strange, misbegotten town of Maggody, Arkansas. Arly is facing a complicated murder investigation for which darned near everyone in town is a suspect.

O Little Town of Maggody

Country music, greed, and the unique madness of Maggody, Arkansas, collide in this delightful cozy mystery starring unflappable police chief Arly Hanks. Matt Montana is the favorite son of sleepy Maggody, Arkansas. With the voice of an angel and a smile as charming as that of the devil, he's made a name for himself under the bright lights of Nashville and become one of the most famous faces in country music. Meanwhile, Maggody has sunk into the worst recession in years. So when Matt announces that he's returning home to play a benefit concert, the locals do everything they can to cash in on Montana fever. The oddballs of Maggody smell a payday, and not even murder can stop them from cashing in. As every shop in town stocks up on Matt Montana memorabilia, police chief Arly Hanks—the only sane woman in town—tries to keep her head down. But when one of Matt's entourage turns up dead in a store window, it's up to Arly to make sure this isn't country music's last act. The Arly Hanks Mysteries have skewered topics from Hollywood filmmakers to right-wing militias to the greedy schemes of televangelists, and this take on country music superstars shows the town of Maggody at its best. Fans of cozy mysteries know that nobody does it better than Joan Hess. *O Little Town of Maggody* is the 7th book in the Arly Hanks Mysteries, but you may enjoy reading the series in any order.

Malice in Maggody

After a crossbow killing at a cheap roadside motel, Ozarks police chief Arly Hanks finds herself investigating her first murder case. Her marriage over and career gone bust, Arly Hanks flees Manhattan for her hometown: Maggody, Arkansas. In a town this size, nothing much ever happens, so Arly figures

she's safe as the town's first female chief of police—until the husband of one of the local barmaids escapes from state prison and heads for town. And that's not all. An EPA official with ties to polluting the local fishing hole has suddenly vanished off the face of the earth. As if two manhunts aren't enough to contend with, a body has been discovered at the pay-by-the-hour Flamingo Motel, shot clean through the neck with an arrow. For some reason, Maggody's residents—all 755 of them—have gone tight-lipped, stonewalling Arly's investigations, and Arly hasn't a soul to trust but her half-wit deputy. Now, as Maggody's finest, she'll have to show a little muscle and a lot of cunning to curtail the inhospitable mountain malice that's overtaken her town. And she'll have to watch her own back every step of the way. From Agatha Award-winning author Joan Hess, *Malice in Maggody* is the novel that introduced police chief Arly Hanks—the indomitable sleuth of the popular and long-running Maggody series. *Malice in Maggody* is the 1st book in the Arly Hanks Mysteries, but you may enjoy reading the series in any order.

Misery Loves Maggody

The madcap citizens of Maggody, Arkansas, descend on Graceland, and a bizarre murder mystery forces police chief Arly Hanks to pay homage to the King. When Chief of Police Arly Hanks came home to Maggody, Arkansas, after a bad divorce, she thought life here would be simpler than it was in New York City. But it's been one insane episode after another, and the latest eruption of chaos may just drive poor Arly around the bend. After all, Maggody is more than a town; it's a state of mind—and that mind is a bit deranged. When Arly's mother, Ruby Bee Hanks, and a few fanatics leave town on a pilgrimage to Graceland, Arly hopes for a few days of peace and quiet. But before you can say, "Blue Suede Shoes," one of the Elvis enthusiasts has been found dead, and the Memphis police are flummoxed by the tourists' unique brand of crazy. Arly will have to solve the murder herself because, as she knows all too well, it's not insane—it's Maggody. The people of Maggody love having a tacky good time, and Elvis-lovers know that there's nowhere tackier, or more fun, than Graceland, Tennessee. The madmen of Maggody should fit right in. *Misery Loves Maggody* is the 11th book in the Arly Hanks Mysteries, but you may enjoy reading the series in any order.

Maggody in Manhattan

In Manhattan to investigate her friend Ruby Bee's involvement in a murder, Chief of Police Arly Hanks goes behind the scenes at the KoKo-Nut Cooking Contest in order to find a killer. Reprint. NYT. AB.

Malpractice in Maggody

The receptionist for a new psychiatric facility is found murdered on its grounds.

Maggody and the Moonbeams

A youth trip turns deadly, and Chief of Police Arly Hanks must catch the killer while serving as chaperone, in this hilarious small-town mystery. Arly Hanks has caught all sorts of killers since she returned home to Maggody, Arkansas, population 759, but she's never tangled with anyone as devious as the local youth group. While chaperoning a trip to Camp Pearly Gates, Arly watches the kids as closely as she would any hardened criminal, but when teenagers have a mind to get into trouble, there's nothing a police chief can do but limit the damage. She's just about got the situation under control when one of the kids finds a body, and all hell breaks loose in classic Maggody manner. The murdered woman sports a shaved head and a white robe, marking her as a Moonbeam, a member of a particularly kooky local cult. And caught between the sect and the law, Arly may be forced to sacrifice what little sanity she has left. Nobody pokes fun at religion quite as effectively as Joan Hess. This is another laugh-out-loud entry in one of the funniest mystery series of all time. *Maggody and the Moonbeams* is the 13th book in the Arly Hanks Mysteries, but you may enjoy reading the series in any order.

Shoveling Smoke

"A Houston lawyer's attempt to escape the rat race backfires with hilarious results in Davis's thoroughly enjoyable debut crime novel" (Publishers Weekly). Reveling in outrageous shenanigans and hilariously off-kilter characters, *Shoveling Smoke* does for East Texas what Carl Hiaasen's novels do for South Florida. Burned-out corporate lawyer Clay Parker chucks it all and moves from Houston to a tiny firm in a dusty small town, searching for his lost integrity and a simpler life. Instead, he lands in the middle of a bungled fraud case defending the disreputable and downright nasty Bevo Rasmussen, accused

of torching the stables housing his over-insured thoroughbreds. Immediately confronted with corrupt officials, crazed survivalists, an incompetent hit man, an emu, and a naked county clerk, along with an assortment of vengeful wives and great barbecue, Clay discovers that nothing about his case—or in East Texas—is what it seems.

Dating Dead Men

"Dating Dead Men, Harley Jane Kozak's hilarious debut novel, proves that the search for love can be as funny as it is deadly."—Kris Neri, author of the Agatha, Anthony and Macavity Award-nominated Tracy Eaton mysteries Los Angeles greeting-card artist Wollie Shelley is dating forty men in sixty days as research for a radio talk show host's upcoming book, *How to Avoid Getting Dumped All the Time*. Wollie is meeting plenty of eligible bachelors but not falling in love, not until she stumbles over a dead body en route to Rio Pescado--a state-run mental hospital--and is momentarily taken hostage by a charismatic "doctor" who is on the run from the Mob. Wollie fears that her beloved brother, a paranoid schizophrenic living at Rio Pescado, is involved in the murder, so rather than go to the authorities, she decides to solve the crime on her own. As she meets up with an array of small-time crooks and swaggering mobsters only slightly more sinister than the men she's been dating, Wollie realizes that "getting dumped" is the least of her problems. Finding true love, she discovers, sometimes means learning how to avoid getting killed . . . Dating Dead Men will keep readers guessing until the final bullet is shot--and cheering for the irresistible Wollie as she makes her way out of confusion and into the welcoming embrace of Mr. Right.

Muletrain to Maggody

An Arly Hanks mystery.

Merry Wives of Maggody

When the winner of the local golf tournament is found dead in his awarded bass boat, Sheriff Arly Hanks has a host of jealous suspects.

Nutcase

Readers will go nuts for the new Kate Holly novel. Psychologist Kate Holly is about to get evicted from her office, and her best option may be to share space with her jacuzzi-loving ex-boyfriend, Dr. Thad Glazer. That's not going to help her patch things up with her firefighter ex-husband. With her oddball patients, meddling mother, and eccentric secretary thrown into the mix?not to mention a spree of suspicious fires?will Kate put her life back together or wind up in a padded cell?

Reading Stephen King

This collection of essays grew out of the "Reading Stephen King Conference" held at the University of Maine in 1996. Stephen King's books have become a lightning rod for the tensions around issues of including "mass market" popular literature in middle and high school English classes and of who chooses what students read. King's fiction is among the most popular of "pop" literature, and among the most controversial. These essays spotlight the ways in which King's work intersects with the themes of the literary canon and its construction and maintenance, censorship in public schools, and the need for adolescent readers to be able to choose books in school reading programs. The essays and their authors are: (1) "Reading Stephen King: An Ethnography of an Event" (Brenda Miller Power); (2) "I Want to Be Typhoid Stevie" (Stephen King); (3) "King and Controversy in Classrooms: A Conversation between Teachers and Students" (Kelly Chandler and others); (4) "Of Cornflakes, Hot Dogs, Cabbages, and King" (Jeffrey D. Wilhelm); (5) "The 'Wanna Read' Workshop: Reading for Love" (Kimberly Hill Campbell); (6) "When 'IT' Comes to the Classroom" (Ruth Shagoury Hubbard); (7) "If Students Own Their Learning, What Do Teachers Do?" (Curt Dudley-Marling); (8) "Disrupting Stephen King: Engaging in Alternative Reading Practices" (James Albright and Roberta F. Hammett); (9) "Because Stories Matter: Authorial Reading and the Threat of Censorship" (Michael W. Smith); (10) "Canon Construction Ahead" (Kelly Chandler); (11) "King in the Classroom" (Michael R. Collings); (12) "King's Works and the At-Risk Student: The Broad-Based Appeal of a Canon Basher" (John Skretta); (13) "Reading the Cool Stuff: Students Respond to 'Pet Sematary'" (Mark A. Fabrizi); (14) "When Reading Horror Subliterature Isn't So Horrible" (Janice V. Kristo and Rosemary A. Bamford); (15) "One Book Can Hurt You...But a Thousand Never Will" (Janet S. Allen); (16) "In the Case of King: What May Follow" (Anne E. Pooler and Constance M. Perry); and (17) "Be Prepared: Developing a Censorship Policy for the Electronic

Age" (Abigail C. Garthwait). Appended are a joint manifesto by National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) and International Reading Association (IRA) concerning intellectual freedom; an excerpt from a teacher's guide to selected horror short stories of Stephen King; and the conference program. Contains a 152-item reference list of literary works.(NKA)

Ten Thousand I Love Yous

At sixteen, Kimberly Kirby thought the only thing she needed to be perfectly happy was to spend the rest of her life with Jay Braxton. Twenty years later, newly divorced from Jay, and on the hunt for love, she moves to San Francisco and starts writing a dating blog for divorced women. Just as she falls hard for a talented young chef, Jay fights to win her back. Torn between her bold new life and the comfort of Jay's strong arms, the ten thousand I love yous that have passed Jay's lips can't be dismissed. But is there is too much to forgive?

The Diviners

During one month in the autumn of election year 2000, scores of movie-business strivers are focused on one goal: getting a piece of an elusive, but surely huge, television saga, the one that opens with Huns sweeping through Mongolia and closes with a Mormon diviner in the Las Vegas desert; the sure-to-please-everyone multigenerational TV miniseries about diviners, those miracle workers who bring water to perpetually thirsty (and hungry and love-starved) humankind. Among the wannabes: Vanessa Meandro, hot-tempered head of Means of Production, an indie film company; her harried and varied staff; a Sikh cab driver, promoted to the office of -theory and practice of TV; a bipolar bicycle messenger, who makes a fateful mis-delivery; two celebrity publicists, the Vanderbilt girls; a thriller writer who gives Botox parties; the daughter of an L.A. big-shot, who is hired to fetch Vanessa's Krispy Kremes and more; a word man who coined the phrase -- inspired by a true story; and a supreme court justice who wants to write the script. A few true artists surface in the course of Moody's rollicking but intricately woven novel, and real emotion eventually blossoms for most of Vanessa's staff at Means of Production, even herself. The Diviners is a cautionary tale about pointless ambition; a richly detailed look at the interlocking worlds of money, politics, addiction, sex, work, and family in modern America; and a masterpiece of comedy that will bring Rick Moody to a still higher level of appreciation.

The Arly Hanks Mysteries Volume One

Police chief Arly Hanks investigates murder in her Ozark hometown in three books of a beloved series by an Agatha Award-winning author. Her marriage and career over, Arly Hanks heads home to Maggody, Arkansas, for a fresh start. Not much ever happens in a village this size, so Arly figures her new job as chief of police will be pretty quiet. But the seemingly peaceful Maggody residents have a few secrets of their own . . . Malice in Maggody: Something stinks, and it's not the polluted fishing hole. An escaped convict is coming home to roost, an infamous EPA agent has disappeared, and there's a corpse with an arrow in its neck at a nearby seedy motel. Now it's up to Arly and her half-witted deputy, Paulie, to discover the source of the rot. Mischief in Maggody: Maggody's population is suddenly booming, and among its new residents are a doom-obsessed psychic and a handsome high school guidance counselor. But after a local moonshiner and prostitute are found dead in a booby-trapped field of cannabis, Arly must root out the killer before they make another deadly deduction. Much Ado in Maggody: The bank president's playboy son, Brandon Bernswallow, is now the head teller, and his sexist behavior has women ready to tell him off. When the bank burns down with Bernswallow inside, Arly must quickly uncover what really happened if she hopes to cool the town's tensions.

The Case of the Abandoned Warehouse

Over three hundred bodies were lost in Tulsa in 1921... When Ellen and her two best friends travel to Tulsa for Sue's daughter's wedding, they get the crazy idea of flipping another historical home--only this time, it's an abandoned warehouse. When they hear from the locals that the place is haunted, Ellen and Sue convince Tanya to investigate, and what they uncover is one of Tulsa's and the nation's most horrifying secrets. "This is a must-read and I must say, even better than book one! It was full of suspense, thrills, frightening scenarios; not to mention, compassion for those who needlessly lost their lives. Eva wrote a mystery masterpiece! 5 stars!"--Book Lover Reviews "If you enjoy a ghost, possible ghost, and bit of history and a really good story, you will enjoy reading this book."--Marilyn A. Seago "Captivating! Eva Pohler provides the perfect mix. Mystery and hauntings. I was hooked at the beginning and on the edge of my seat by the end."--Goodreads Reviewer "Women are powerful!!!The series is well written.

I was not always comfortable with the content, but that makes it worthwhile. Wish I had friends like those women!!"--Goodreads Reviewer "The story unfolds at a brisk pace maintained throughout the book's entirety as the protagonists face challenges, threats, setbacks, and self-doubt. It is a paranormal mystery with all the expected trappings of such a story (spirits, seances, sage cleansing rituals, Ouija board messaging, etc.) but it is also much more. The author offers a wonderful group of likeable characters, a riveting mystery, a history lesson showcasing an authentic but truly dismal chapter in U.S. history, and a gratifying resolution that rekindles one's faith in the possibility of goodness and justice prevailing over the seemingly pervasive evil and inhumanity perpetuated by mankind."--txdoc, Goodreads Reviewer Grab your copy to begin this ghostly adventure today! ÿRelated Authors: Angie Fox, Joanne Fluke, Christine Pope, ReGina Welling, Heather Graham, Yasmine Galenorn, Karen White, James Hunt, Shea MacLeod, Lily Webb, Alexandria Clark, Bobbi Holmes, Darcy Coates, Skylar Finn, Nyx Halliwell, Darynda Jones, Roger Hayden, Kelly Martin, Trixie Silvertale, L.A. Boruff, Angela M. Sanders, Lee Mountford, E.E. Holmes, Connor Donnelly, R.A. Muth, A.N. Willis, Wendy Wang, H.P. Bayne, and Lisa Bouchard. Search Terms: paranormal mysteries, supernatural mysteries, supernatural suspense, paranormal women's fiction, ghost fiction, cozy paranormal mysteries, women's fiction mystery, haunted house books, horror fiction, occult fiction, ghost mysteries, mystery books, women sleuths, amateur sleuths, and paranormal investigators.

Murder@maggody.com

E-mail provides the clue to murder in the newest entry in the madcap Maggody series--starring mystery fans' favorite offbeat sleuth, Arly Hanks. "Bawdy, cheerful entertainment."--"Kirkus Reviews."

Strangled Prose

Is killing a romance novelist considered a crime of passion? She would have killed for a bestseller--but someone beat her to it... Professor of Passion, the smutty new romance from Mildred Twiller--a.k.a. Azalea Twilight--isn't the kind of book Claire Malloy likes to hock at her bookstore, but Claire agrees to host a book party for her friend's trashy tale. As torrid as the novel is, it's nothing compared to the evening. After the party, poor Mildred is found dead in her home--strangled with a tightly knotted silk scarf. Now it's up to Clair to find Mildred's killer, and it won't be easy--the two-bit author had offended nearly every faculty member she worked with at nearby Faber College. But who could have hated Mildred with such smouldering passion? Find out in Joan Hess' first Claire Malloy mystery novel Strangled Prose.

Mischief in Maggody

Smalltown police chief Arly Hanks is beset by an influx of new neighbors, one of whom, she is sure, has something to do with the death of the town prostitute and a booby-trapped marijuana field

Dead Easy

A shocking thriller from an author who has received 40 commendations for his work at the FBI, where he served as a special agent. Two FBI investigators must use every bit of their professional savvy and up-to-the-minute technology in a race against time to save a woman from a cunning killer with nothing to lose.

The Murder at the Murder at the Mimosa Inn

When you make a game of murder, be careful who the players are... Who could resist the mock-murder weekend at the charming Mimosa Inn-- certainly not bookstore owner and amateur sleuth Claire Malloy, who decides to bring her petulant daughter Caron along for some detecting. As the guests settle in for a weekend of sleuthing, dressed as their favourite literary detectives, many a Miss Marple and Hercule Poirot stand poised to solve a murder. But fiction becomes alarmingly real, as the mock-murder victim isn't just playing dead-- he's really been bashed to death. More determined than even to find the killer, Claire combs the grounds of the lovely inn for this most uninvited guest.

Mortal Remains in Maggody

Maggody Police Chief Arly Hanks is up to her neck in steamy sex and murder when a film crew begins shooting what looks like a pornographic movie in the tiny hamlet

The Case of the Careless Kitten

"Helen Kendal's woes begin when she receives a phone call from her vanished uncle Franklin, long presumed dead, who urges her to make contact with criminal defense attorney Perry Mason; soon after, she finds herself the main suspect in the murder of an unfamiliar man. Her kitten has just survived a poisoning attempt, as has her aunt Matilda, the woman who always maintained that Franklin was alive in spite of his disappearance. Lucky that Helen took her uncle's advice and contacted Perry Mason--he immediately takes her as a client. But while it's clear that all the occurrences are connected, and that their connection will prove her innocence, the links in the case are too obscure to be recognized even by the attorney's brilliantly deductive mind. Risking disbarment for his unorthodox methods, he endeavors to outwit the police and solve the puzzle himself, enlisting the help of his secretary Della Street, his private eye Paul Drake, and the unlikely but invaluable aid of a careless but very clever kitten in the process. Reprinted for the first time in over twenty years, *The Case of the Careless Kitten* is one of the most highly praised cases in the iconic Perry Mason series, which need not be read in any particular order"--

Mortal Remains in Maggody

Another "great" cozy mystery set in outrageous Maggody, Arkansas, a town so strange that even Hollywood filmmakers can't believe it's real (*Library Journal*). From the Kwik-Stoppe-Shoppe to the Pot O' Gold Mobile Home Park, there isn't much glamour in Maggody . . . but this flyspeck Arkansas town is about to become famous. When a Hollywood production company chooses Maggody as a backdrop for an X-rated Ozarks "Romeo and Juliet," the locals are starstruck. And as Maggody is flooded with washed-up actors, ruthless producers, and a cynical crew, the townsfolk will do anything for a close-up—even if it means resorting to murder. Chief of Police Arly Hanks has no time for Hollywood—she's got her hands full with a local arsonist—but when one of the actors is found dead in a bathtub, she's forced to intervene. As the film spins out of control, Arly realizes that the citizens of Maggody will stop at nothing to get their fifteen minutes of fame—even as the town burns down around them. In the spirit of David Mamet's *State and Main*, this delightful novel shows that when Hollywood collides with small-town values, the movie industry doesn't stand a chance. *Mortal Remains in Maggody* is the 5th book in the Arly Hanks Mysteries, but you may enjoy reading the series in any order.

The Armchair Detective

Eleven stories of jealousy, lunacy, and murder told in the uproarious style of Joan Hess, the creator of Maggody, Arkansas. As he waits in the checkout line at Consumers Market, Jay Jay Anderson is certain of one thing: His wife, Cookie, deserves to die. In the tabloids, he finds a story about a man whose wife was kidnapped by Big Foot, and Jay Jay can't imagine a luckier fellow. But Cookie is a wino with nicotine-stained fingers, badly bleached hair, and a voice shrill enough to cut glass. . . . Big Foot wouldn't be interested. If Jay Jay wants out of his rotten marriage, he'll have to kill Cookie himself. "Big Foot Stole My Wife!" is classic Joan Hess: diabolical, hilarious, and utterly unpredictable. This sparkling collection of stories, which includes two tales culled from the Maggody police files of beloved small-town sheriff Arly Hanks, shows a master of comic mysteries operating at her very best. Fans of the comic small-town mysteries of Donna Andrews or Liz Lipperman will adore Joan Hess. The creator of the outrageous Ozarks hamlet of Maggody, she's one of the funniest authors in mystery fiction, and these stories show her at her laugh-out-loud best.

Big Foot Stole My Wife

Egypt, 1912. Amelia Peabody and her dashing archaeologist husband, Radcliffe Emerson, are once again in danger as they search for a priceless, stolen bust of legendary Queen Nefertiti... Arriving in Cairo for another thrilling excavation season, Amelia is relaxing in her elegant hotel suite when a man with knife protruding from his back staggers into her chamber and utters a single word - 'Murder' - before collapsing on the floor, dead. It soon becomes apparent that someone has saved Amelia from a would-be assassin-someone who is keeping a careful eye on the intrepid archaeologist. And there can be only one answer: the brilliant master of disguise, Sethos. For Amelia, this excavation season will prove to be unforgettable; one where a brilliant criminal will offer his final challenge . . . and perhaps be unmasked at last. 'Think Miss Marple with early feminist gloss crossed with Indiana Jones' *The Guardian*

The Painted Queen

A guide to series fiction lists popular series, identifies novels by character, and offers guidance on the order in which to read unnumbered series.

Bowker's Guide to Characters in Fiction 2007

Things that go bump in the Bayou... For bookseller and amateur sleuth Claire Malloy getting a root canal beats going to a Malloy family reunion. But it is time her fifteen-year-old daughter Caron visits her deceased father's relatives. Now Claire and Caron have arrived at Malloy Manor, a run-down mansion in Louisiana's bayou country...where the mosquitoes are big enough to barbecue, the swamp is crawling with alligators, the butler looks like he stepped out of a teen slasher movie, and the wheelchair-bound matriarch, Miss Justicia, races around the grounds cackling like a loon. It's the perfect setting-for a murder. Before a night has passed, Miss Justicia is sleeping with the fishes. The police call it a "tragic accident." Caron is all for calling a cab. But Claire wants to have a closer look at her "loving" relatives since she has a hunch leaving Malloy Manor isn't going to be all that easy...and neither is staying alive.

Sequels

Murder is going to the dogs . . . Bookstore owner and amateur sleuth Claire Malloy has donned another hat (or is that a collar?) - as a petsitter extraordinaire. Her furry charges are Miss Emily Parchester's beloved basset hounds, Nick and Nora, and two very good dogs they are. Everything is just ducky...until they vanish. Other neighbours' pets have also disappeared, and no doubt a dognapper is on the prowl. . . Switching to her sleuthing chapeau, Claire quickly locates the shabby abode of Newton Churls, who runs a black market in stolen animals. But instead of a pen filled with purloined pooches, Claire finds one very dead Newton-and it appears his own pit bull terriers did him in. Or did they? Claire smells a human rat behind the brutal murder. And mysteriously, Nick and Nora are still missing. Now Claire is doggedly determined to find them...and run a killer to the ground.

Death by the Light of the Moon

Roll Over and Play Dead