

## The Hat Pin Murders



By Joyce Caudel

Reviewed by Helen Foster

Maggie Coppenguee loves her Red Hat Chapter and the “Hatties,” as she calls her friends. Fun loving and committed to having great times, she can’t believe anyone at a Red Hat luncheon would kill her special friend, Mary Reed, and with a hat pin, of all weapons for a killer to use. Maggie becomes the prime suspect and must find the real murderer in order to clear herself.

The Hat Pin Murders is a fun book to read. Joyce Caudel writes in an easy manner as she leads the reader on a trail of discoveries and clues in her search. Along the way Joyce lets us know why the Red Hat Society has become such a popular group.

The Hat Pin Murders is an enjoyable book and was an award winner in the General Fiction category of the USA “Best Books 2011” Awards. It’s available at several Spokane area bookstores, as well as on Amazon.

Reviewed by Esther J. Hildahl

Maggie Coppenger and Mary Reed live in Sommer, Washington, and have been best friends since kindergarten. Mary, a recent widow, only lives a few blocks away from Maggie, and they often do things together. Both enjoy being members of the Red Hat Society, which is all about dressing up in purple, wearing red hats, having fun, and spending time with their friends.

However, things turn tragic at the Red Hat Society Spring meeting, at the Sommerset Hotel, when Maggie finds Mary murdered with a rhinestone hat pin. Maggie and her friends are shocked that Maggie becomes the prime suspect. Therefore, her fellow Hatties, the Mystery Mamas, set out to find the real killer.

But who would want to kill Mary? Could it be Edith, Mary's neighbor, who pushed her and threatened to do her harm after an incident involving Edith's dog? Darlene, Mary's unfriendly, greedy stepdaughter? The mystery woman at the club? Or, could it be the driver of the black Mercedes who tried to run Maggie and her friend Jess off the road?

When the killer strikes again, this time attacking Marie Reader, a member of the Singing Sisters, and others at the Red Hats fashion show at the mall, Maggie and her friends come closer to having their questions answered.

I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book, the first of Caudel's *Red Hat Mystery* books, and learning about the Red Hat Society. Caudel is a talented writer who spins a great mystery with numerous twists and turns. The reader is never bored. Her characters and settings are well-defined and interesting. I recommend this book to anyone who likes to read a good story that is a page turner and has a very satisfying ending.

Available in several Spokane area bookstores and on Amazon.

Reviewed by Kate Poitevin

*The Hat Pin Murders* is a delightful cozy murder mystery. Ms. Caudel has created a group of interesting characters, ladies “of a certain age” who are members of The Red Hat Society. Excitement abounds as they prepare for an event with all the area groups. Sadly, it wouldn't be a murder mystery without a murder. When one of their own is killed, it rattles her friends to the core. No one would really expect them to sit by and wait for the police to do their jobs, especially the prime suspect. Then the story takes a turn. We find ourselves immersed in mob activities. I've read many books of this genre and am pretty good at guessing where it's going to end. This one artfully twisted and turned until I was totally clueless and I couldn't venture a guess at all. The ending was certainly not on my radar! Well, done!