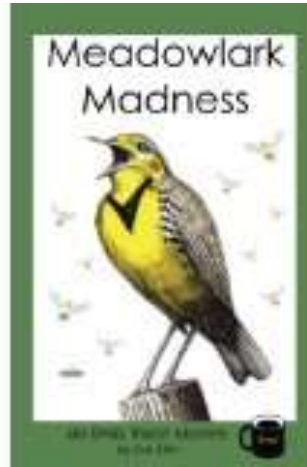


Meadowlark Madness: An Emily Trace Mystery



By Sue Eller

Reviewed by D. Andrew McChesney

Naturally one would assume that E. T. Investigations was formed to look into encounters with UFOs and aliens from beyond this world. In fact, Emily Trace opened this detective agency to find out why her husband had been murdered. To fund her personal investigation she takes on a client who, like us, mistakes the significance of the initials “E. T.” Assigned to look into the apparent disappearance of the region’s meadowlarks, Emily and her friends are drawn into a bigger mystery, one that does involve aliens and other worlds.

This book is very hard to place into a specific genre. It is a mystery, a science-fiction novel, perhaps a police procedural, and may even qualify as a “cozy.” Regardless of where it fits, it is a most entertaining and enjoyable read. Set in and around Spokane, Washington, and told as if by Emily herself, the pages turn at a rapid rate. Uniquely, Emily sometimes stops to admonish the reader or to remind them of bits of popular culture from days gone by, which adds to the direct conversational tone of the story.

Meadowlark Madness is a very enjoyable book, created by a writer with a clever and unusual view of the world. This reviewer looks forward to reading more of the *Emily Trace Mysteries* as they become available.

Meadowlark Madness: an Emily Trace Mystery, ISBN 9781479181711 is available in paperback at a number of Spokane area bookstores, as well as on Amazon in both paperback and Kindle™ formats.

Reviewed by Esther J. Hildahl

Emily Trace's husband, Jared, has been murdered, and the police can't figure out who did it, so Emily opens up her own detective agency to solve the crime herself. However, business is slow--no customers. Without customers she has no money to pay her bills and rent, and soon she'll be forced to close her office and move out. If only she had one paying client...

Then the office door opens and in walks a birdlike little character named Mr. Archibald Wren. He has a case for her to solve. A very strange case, for you see, he wants her to solve

the mystery as to where all the world's meadowlark birds have disappeared to. And thus, the strange, sometimes out-of-this-world adventure begins.

Meadowlark Madness is Eller's first *Emily Trace Mystery*. It's well-written and her characters are well-defined, clever, and interesting. The story is fast-paced and exciting. I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book, and I recommend it to all who love a good mystery.

Available at local Spokane bookstores, as well as on Amazon, and Kindle.

Reviewed by Kate Poitevin

Ms. Eller has woven an interesting tale, full of quirky characters and surprising twists and turns. Her ability to break the fourth wall at regular intervals gives us the feeling that Emily is sitting with us as she tells her story. She keeps it moving right along so that you don't even want to stop to get a fresh cup of coffee. But, you must, because she has subliminally made you **need** one.

I have heard that there is a second book in the works and I will be first in line to get it. I must know if Emily will find Jared's killer. In the meantime, I must put on a fresh pot of coffee and wait.

Reviewed by Beth Camp

This 5-star cozy mystery is sure to delight!

Just when overdue rent threatens to close the doors of Emily Trace's E.T. Investigations, a new client arrives with an unusual concern (and a bundle of cash): The meadowlarks are missing!

Willing to accept nearly any commission to keep the doors of her private eye business open, recently widowed Emily Trace is determined to prove that her husband's death was not accidental.

What ensues is a riotous and eventually overlapping series of events, engaging characters that come to life, and a plot that mixes a cozy mystery with science fiction flair. Within a very few sentences, I was hooked by Sue Eller's witty and entertaining voice and imaginative storytelling. She brings to life the pleasures of living in a city with a small town heart, where people know each other and are willing to help when needed. Bird lovers and Star Trek fans will appreciate the allusions sprinkled throughout, and I thoroughly enjoyed Sue Eller's ability to characters so fully that I felt I knew them – even Mr. Wren and Mr. Finch.

Reviewed by Joyce Caudel

Emily Trace opens her own detective agency after her husband is murdered. While she looks for clues a relative of her late husband turns up, a guy she didn't know existed and is the spitting image of her late husband. Darla, an office temp, becomes a valuable part of E. T. Investigations.

Emily's first client thinks aliens have abducted all the Meadowlarks, a species of bird. Deputy Clyde Burton seems intent on watching over Emily in the hunt for the Meadowlarks.

Strange folks keep popping up in this story to make a fun and enjoyable read. If you're a fan of mysteries and science fiction you will love Meadowlark Madness.

Reviewed by Joyce Seebaum

I have never read anything in this genre before but Meadowlark Madness kept my attention. Way to go Sue Eller.



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