



Working Stiff

Tori Carrington

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Sofie Metropolis's PI business is so successful at finding missing spouses and lost pets and at proving insurance fraud that she's hired new staff, including her (formerly) layabout cousin.

There are two men in Sofie's life: sexy Greek baker Dino, who found a place in her heart—and bed—in *Foul Play*, and man-of-mystery Jake Porter, whose Australian accent is guaranteed to turn Sofie's knees to water.

The week before Halloween, a body disappears from Sofie's Aunt's funeral home. It might be a holiday prank, but Sofie's barely begun to investigate when she's handed a truly hot case: prove the innocence of someone already on trial for murder!

Working Stiff Details

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From Reader Review Working Stiff for online ebook

Hannah M. says

I came across Working Stiff when I was browsing at the library the other day. I saw the author's name, recognized it, skimmed the blurb, and said 'what the hell.' Go figure that I find out after I start reading that this is actually the fourth book in the Sofie Metropolis series. Even so, I still read and enjoyed this one.

Sofie Metropolis is a P.I. out of Queens who takes on a case of a missing body - a missing dead body – for her aunt, and a case to try and find the real killer of a teenage girl so that a young man does not end up on trial for a murder he didn't commit. This is something of a change from the cheating spouse and missing pet cases that Sofie is used to, but she is determined to succeed nonetheless.

In addition to following along with the cases there is the sheer insanity of working with a superstitious office manager who is sure that there is a neighborhood vampire around, dealing with a large Greek family and the meddling that comes along with the family, and of course a big Australian bounty hunter.

Working Stiff has a little bit of everything in it, mystery, romance (though not in the traditional, happily ever after sense), family... you get the jist. All in all it was a great read.

Many of the reviews compare the Metro books to My Big Fat Greek Wedding, but personally I find it's not as outrageous as the movie was. However! The authors (Tori Carrington is actually Tony and Lori Karayianni) do a great job of winding a modern P.I. tale around the true Greek stereotypes that have been passed on over the years. I look forward to going back and reading the first three books in the series and then the fifth book which is scheduled for release this week.

Laura says

I really liked listening to this series until they changed narrators. This narrator really annoyed me.

Zinta says

As soon as I opened the covers of my advanced review copy of Working Stiff, fourth in the Sofie Metropolis detective series by husband and wife writing team, Lori and Tony Karayianni as the combo name Tori Carrington, I was reminded of those long ago days of reading Nancy Drew mysteries by Carolyn Keene. I was, fair to say, obsessed with sharp and sassy girl-detective Nancy Drew as a young girl. Gee, that was long ago. I'm not sure why, but I have steered clear of mysteries ever since. Go figure. Why avoid a genre that I liked so much as an avid adolescent reader?

Because I am no longer an adolescent? I'd be hard pressed to explain why there are two genres of writing that I avoid in the bookstore: mysteries and science fiction. If I have read a spotty few in either genre over my adult years, it is usually because there is some overriding personal reason to do so. Perhaps I know the author. Perhaps a fellow reader whose literary opinions I respect has given a particular title a high recommendation. Those few times that I have crossed the line and dipped a reluctant toe into the detective and/or science fiction waters, well, it wasn't too bad a dip. Sometimes even enjoyable. And yet. Next time I am in a bookstore? You got it. I avoid those sections.

I could be very wrong, but I would guess that women, who dominate today's book buying clientele, tend away from the hard-boiled detective tome, and may not be the keenest sci fi fans, either. (That said, I have met some women who would argue that they love these types of books, so consider this my personal observation only, completely unscientific.)

Okay, so what all that means is that when I sat down to read my first Sofie Metropolis book, the decks were stacked against the authors. And it stayed that way through several of the first few chapters. Sofie's voice, in my mind, was too distinctly male. She spoke, moved, behaved, thought, too much like those by now cliché Bogey types, the Mike Hammer PIs, the fedora-wearing, minus the hat, cool dudes who were tough and cool and impossibly (annoyingly) *sauve*. Yeah, now I remember why I bypass the mysteries. The main characters make me cringe. Sofie even has a version of her own girl Friday, the sidekick who is ever faithful and efficient, voluptuously shaped, with seemingly little to no life outside of the PI office. And, Sofie even expressed what smacked of a male perspective of sleeping habits. The nice guy in one bed, the bad cowboy in the other, meenie minie mo. Huh. Not working for me.

But then, page by page, a metamorphosis started to happen. I realized a few hours had gone by and I had yet to put the book down. Each chapter tended to end on a teaser, and it worked to keep me reading. And, I had to admit, Sofie was kind of growing on me. She could be fun. She could have a bit of that wacky Bridget Jones quality that made chic lit big. A little goofy. More than somewhat confused about her bed partners. Vulnerable and a little bruised. Even her cranky pup, Muffy, was winning me over.

Two days later, I had finished the book. I read through it like I used to read through those Nancy Drew mysteries. Couple of big bites and done. Not exactly the literary tomes I love, the type of writing that moves me to tears or shakes up the ground I stand on, but a bit of good, lighthearted fun. I liked her ethnic background (and the Greek recipes at book's end are a nice touch). The dialogue between characters was strong and convincing.

Yeah, so the murder mystery was a bit weak in its construction, and the revelation of what happened to the stolen corpse made me wince aloud. (The adolescent reader me would say, *eeuuww!* gross!) And I had to wonder, with this duo of authors writing, which author set up the scene where Sofie lingers too long to watch her girl Friday getting ready to shower, admiring her perfect nude breasts ... and which author remarked with disdain, "Dogs, I was coming to understand, were a lot like men. In the heat of the moment, they didn't have two brain cells to rub together." Who knows. I might be surprised.

But here's the thing. I had a lot of fun spending a couple days with Sofie Metro. Not a bad break between my more serious reading. I realized I'd kind of missed ol' Nancy Drew and the fun of watching her solve another light mystery. I could even be convinced to read the previous three Sofie books ...

Four stars for fun.

~ Zinta Aistars for The Smoking Poet, summer 2008 issue

Susan says

I have mixed feeling about this book. I think some editing might have made it much better. I would have given it 2 stars but liked it a bit more than that. 2.5.

I agree with others that this is a bit too close to the Stephanie Plum books with the Greek vs Italian family,

the two hot boyfriends, and the wacky relatives. I can get past that. My problem is with some of the excruciating internal monologues about every feeling. And the endless flashbacks. I haven't read the prior 3 books but she referred to them enough that I feel I've read them.

I didn't read this one, I listened to it. That prevents me from skimming. So I may try reading the 1st in the series and see if it helps to be able to skim my the parts I think should be edited out.

Quenta says

I gave up after a few chapters. Tori Carrington is one of those authors who can't make it through a situation or conversation without 10 or twelve side line introverted monologues of the main character. Like, "I saw the cat. I remembered when I was 12 and a cat lived next door. . ." Who cares!! It drives me crazy. And then there was the language. I was so hopeful for a fun new series.

Jim son of Jim (formerly PhotoJim) says

Sofie is back for book four. This time she has sex. As Sofie is becoming more of a real PI, she has been taking on bigger cases and actually hiring a staff. Kidnappings, murders, body stealing, and more are all in this one. Not only is the book more serious, but so are the consequences. Sofie and Dino? Sofie and Jake? Where will she finally end up? She has a serious problem with her choices in my opinion which makes it hard for me to really like her. Still better than the last. (6.5/10)

Fullfaun says

a twist at the end.

Susan says

Sofie Metropolis is still on the private investigation beat in Astoria, Queens when her aunt asks her to find out why a body is missing from the family funeral home. Then she's hired to clear a man on trial for killing his girlfriend. Both of these are considerably more complicated than Sofie's usual lost pet cases, but she finds a way to crack them all the same.

Sunny says

Halloween is coming up, and it's giving Sofie Metropolis the creeps. But there's no such thing as ghosts and zombies, right?

... At least, that's what she thought before the dead body of Nick Papadakis went missing.

Now her Aunt Sotoria has hired her to find it, and she doesn't exactly have time to spare. Her real (paying)

case has her trying to find evidence in favor of a man who has been accused of killing his girlfriend.

And everyone, including her, is already pretty much convinced of his guilt.

The main story in this book wasn't too predictable, like last time (but one of the side-story mysteries was painfully obvious). Otherwise, it was pretty much the same.

Anyone who follows my profile probably notices that I'm always reading at least two books. In case you're curious as to why, I like to read on the treadmill, so I set aside "humorous" books like these to read while exercising, and I keep a "serious" book to read in my downtime.

Jerry King says

2008

Kat says

this is one of the greek 'stephanine plum' type books. she is a greek detective, she got the dog from teh neighbor when she died, but the dog doesnt like her. she caught her 'groom' in bed with her bridesmaid right before the wedding on the wedding day. her parents got her a apt bldg for the wedding present, she lives there. teh old lady across teh hall collects teh rent for her. she is having a affair with the cute greek baker but for some reason is also going to bed with the australian detective. lots of greek references and dead people, she is trying to figure out if some man killed his girlfriend and get him out of jail if he didnt. her cousin that owns the detective agency is gone in this book. i cant exactly remember if i read this one, but im enjoying it anyway.

i dont think i read this one after all. it was good, but she didnt get back with dino or the austrian one either. i think there is another book after this, it said something about vampires which i dont like and hope its not about. i hope she gets back with dino tho i dont know what she is going to tell him about the other guy. i dont think hes going to like that

the dog saved her in the end attacking the guy trying to kill her. the black cat left.

i enjoyed it!

Melissa says

This series to me is kind of like the poor man's version of the Stephanie Plum books. Instead of Stephanie Plum, we have Sophie Metropolis, private investigator who happens into this job after her wedding gets called off. Anyway, this is the fourth book in the series and Sophie has a few cases to solve, a missing dead body case and trying to prove another guy innocent of killing his girlfriend. Of course, there is the Greek guy that she is secretly seeing as well as the mysterious Australian PI (Ranger type) whom she is extremely

attracted to that causes her confusion. This book did have its humorous moments but I didn't find it as entertaining as the previous ones in the series.

A series that I like better are The Spellman Files by Lisa Lutz if one is looking for something similar to Janet Evanovich.

Sara says

Another winner from this husband and wife writing team. Lots of laughs, but fun to see Sofie developing a bit more as a character in the series. This time she's hot on the trail of a missing corpse and the real murderer of a society girl who's boyfriend is on trial for the crime. Of course, she solves the mysteries, but also gets to deal with the touchy personal issues.

Stacy says

Sophie Metropolis is turning into quite the successful private investigator. She has a few big cases under her belt, but is far from esteemed in her Astoria, Queens community. Now she is asked to find a dead body that has disappeared from her Aunt Sotiria's funeral home and hired to prove an alleged murderer innocent. Her assistant is as sassy as ever and her pseudo reformed cousin is proving helpful.

While business is booming, her personal life is getting complicated. Her dog, Muffy, is acting weird and when a stray black cat takes up residence in her apartment the high-jinks ensue. Sexy Greek, Dino, is warming Sophie's bed until a chance encounter leaves her questioning their relationship. And when hot Aussie, Jake Porter, rolls back into town he knows just how to make Sophie forget about Dino.

there's more on my blog <http://stacybuckeye.wordpress.com/200...>

Kathryn says

Great main mystery with lots of little subplots to keep you entertained along the way. Definitely my favorite Sophie Metropolis book so far.
