



# Mew Is for Murder

*Clea Simon*

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) ➔

# Mew Is for Murder

*Clea Simon*

## **Mew Is for Murder** Clea Simon

Theda Krakow is in a funk. Her sometime boyfriend's gone for good. The death of her beloved cat opened a bigger void. And the career leap she's made from copy editor to freelance writer has left her finances and her spirit flat. She desperately needs a headline to get her life back on track.

One day, out for a stroll in her Cambridge neighborhood, Theda spies an adorable stray kitten. This charmer leads Theda to an old woman holed up in a decrepit house full of cats. Is this one of those "crazy cat ladies," a classic hoarder, or is the old woman a neighborhood do-gooder?

More important, is this the story to catapult Theda out of the dumps?

But when she returns to interview Lillian Helmhold, Theda finds her fascinating subject dead of an apparent accident. The neighbors are celebrating, the police aren't interested, and the cats are removed to a shelter. End of story.

Not for Theda--one or two things don't compute. So Theda marshals her investigative journalism skills to turn gumshoe.

## **Mew Is for Murder Details**

Date : Published July 1st 2005 by Poisoned Pen Press

ISBN : 9781590581650

Author : Clea Simon

Format : Hardcover 224 pages

Genre : Mystery, Cozy Mystery, Fiction

 [Download Mew Is for Murder ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Mew Is for Murder ...pdf](#)

**Download and Read Free Online Mew Is for Murder Clea Simon**

---

## From Reader Review Mew Is for Murder for online ebook

### Kathy says

As a mystery lover, as well as a cat lover, I was interested in this free offering. I was pleasantly surprised at how much I liked this book. In addition to a light, clever mystery, the author gives the reader an insight into a unique world - freelance writers. Most people do not realize that a significant number of the reporters they read, see and hear are not full-time employees of the media outlets they work for.

In "Mew Is for Murder," a freelance writer's love of writing and cats seem destined to write an insightful story about a woman in the neighborhood who takes care of a number of cats. But before the first interview could take place, the woman is dead. The police say it was a terrible accident but a friend of the woman is convinced she was murdered.

As the death is investigated, the reader gains insight into various topics ranging from mental illness to the independent music scene.

I recommend this book for an enjoyable mystery read.

---

### Kirsti says

Another fantastic cat based mystery series, however this one isn't really focused on the cats giving the clues. I honestly didn't mind that, so long as the cats were there, lurking in the background and ready to swoop in and save the day. Theda is a fantastic character too, and investigates the crime with zeal and sometimes a little bumbling humor. I liked her, despite her awful taste in men haha. Definitely need to read more in this series, highly recommended! Five stars!

---

### C. says

I enjoyed "**Mew Is For Murder**". We learn hoarding isn't about numbers but having a mission and providing care. *Lillian's* disdaining neighbour misjudged her and cats, at first. People must be aware: all animal centres aren't 'shelter' in the safe sense. Executions are conducted for being sick or homeless, as if lack of space justifies it. **Clea** warns about this and a time limit lent urgency to her tale. But advocates like *Thea* and *Violet* would have directed *Lillian's* cats to a no-kill group. I'm onboard the education but *Thea* and *Violet* were too accepting of execution as a potential outcome.

Police wouldn't remove animals without seeking a will, since there were caregivers handy and *Lillian* would leave instructions with someone accessible: the director of her son's residence, *Violet*, the abundance of friends at her memorial. Finally, **Clea** put me off with two digs about vegetarianism demonstrating lack of knowledge. The lifestyle is not about depriving but rather replacing live meat. She indicated it's a phase and practitioners are dying for a hamburger. In reality, many adopt the lifestyle because they don't consider animals disposable or edible. I'm disappointed **Clea** endeavoured to enlighten animal issues but fed a cliché.

I delighted in shattering the stereotype that clubs are for teens. The paradox is, they are filled with 18-25 year-olds but I know few with broad tastes. Those over 30, not stuck on one genre, understand what music is. Some might feel we delve considerably into music and freelance writing. It's hard to balance a plot and

expand a character. It also seems hard for a cover to suit a book. To the contrary of being fluffy, the content is dark and should categorize as 'cozy'. But other than the instances I noted, the novel's boldness is what I liked best.

---

### **Kelly Robinson says**

Mew is for Murder: A Theda Krakow Mystery by Clea Simon was recently available free for Kindle, but this is a story I wouldn't have minded paying a few dollars for, and in fact I might buy some of the subsequent books in the Theda Krakow series! I wavered between giving this story 3 and 4 stars, and would more honestly rate it a 3.5. Theda Krakow, a freelance journalist who specializes in the Boston rock scene, stumbles upon a mystery in her Cambridge neighborhood when she discovers local "cat lady" Lillian Helmhold dead. Theda, a cat lover who recently lost her beloved cat James, is sucked into the mysterious death and works with a new friend, punk rocker/barista Violet, to prove that Lillian was murdered. This is Simon's debut novel and the plot is fun but a bit predictable. However, the characterizations and atmosphere Simon's provides more than make up for the weak plot. The reader learns a great deal about the world of freelance journalism through Theda, and although I've only visited Cambridge once, I felt a real affinity towards the city and its music scene. If you are a cat lover, than the story and its wacky cat-filled ending will be an added bonus!

Check out more reviews on my blog, Not Just a Librarian!

---

### **Sara says**

Smart, amusing and has cats! This is a mystery series expressly executed for me!

---

### **LJ says**

MEW IS FOR MURDER (Amateur Sleuth-Boston-Cont) – G+

Simon, Clea – 1st in series

Poisoned Pen Press, 2005- Hardcover

Theda Krakow is a freelance journalist and cat lover. Passing a house in her neighborhood with a multitude of cats, she is concerned the elderly woman, Lillian, may be a cat hoarder. On a return visit, Lillian has fallen and died. Thea, concerned about the cats and unconvinced Lillian's fall was accidental, becomes involved with a young musician/waitress who had been helping Lillian.

\*\*\* More a traditional mystery than a cozy, this is a delightful debut. The characters and dialogue are convincing, including, for those of us who love our pets, Thea's conversations with the cats—no, the cat's aren't verbal. Simon clearly loves Boston and knows the music scene. The plot is tight and believable. The book is lighter than I normally read, but enjoyable.

---

### **Kristen says**

In Clea Simon's Mew is for Murder, the first installment in the Theda Krakow cozy mystery series, you'll be

charmed by Theda and her love for cats. Poor Theda. Her boyfriend was gone for good, while she mourned the loss of her cat, and she just made a big career leap that left her finances flat. During a stroll in Cambridge, she spotted an adorable stray kitten. It had led her to a decrepit old home of Lillian Helmhold, who was a classic cat hoarder in her home. This story intrigued her enough to help get her out of the dumps. But when she interviewed her, she found Lillian's dead body of an apparent accident. But when the cops weren't interested on solving the case, it lead Theda to do some investigating of her own with a cast of wild suspects. As she'd gotten closer to the truth, this had shaken her to the core.

---

## **L.T. Fawkes says**

FREE on Kindle.

At one time we had a dog and several cats. The smallest cat, and she was a tiny little thing, had never particularly distinguished herself, except that she was a great hunter.

The dog loved to ride in the car and we usually let him. But one day just after a rainstorm (during which time the dog entertained himself by frolicking pretty energetically in the mud) we needed to go to the store. No way was he tracking all that mud into the car.

At such times, our usual method of preventing him from getting in the car was to run around the car in circles until he got bored and to then suddenly jump in before he knew what was what.

(There are numerous other methods of getting in a car while managing to leave a dog behind, but none of the other ones we had thought of were anywhere near as funny.)

Until that day, this method had always worked. But that day the dog was determined not to be left behind. We ran in circles and he chased us until all our tongues were hanging out. Then we tried chasing him away and yelling at him and opening the doors on the side of the car where he wasn't and various combinations of the above. Nothing worked. We were getting pretty steamed.

Meanwhile, this little cat was sitting on the rock wall by the driveway watching the action. Apparently our tussle began to cut into her nap time, or something, because all of a sudden, she let go with a blood curdling yowl, jumped down from her perch on the wall, charged the dog, stopped inches from his nose, arched her back, and hissed like no cat of any size had ever hissed before.

The dog made a sound like, "Oops," the cat took a swipe at his nose and came away with pieces of it clinging to her claws, he turned around and ran down the sidewalk and up the porch steps, and she chased him there.

I yelled, "Get in the car," everybody did, and when we drove away the dog was standing at the top of the stairs looking completely baffled and the cat was sitting at the bottom of the stairs idly licking chunks of his nose from her claws.

I only tell this story because some cats do some things in this mystery that, if I hadn't lived through the above tale, I would have thought were far-fetched. I would have thought they were so far-fetched that I would have gotten mad and quit reading. But because of that little cat's actions that day, I read the things

Clea Simon's cat characters did and thought, "It could happen."

I liked the main character, a free-lance writer/cat lover who's into the contemporary music scene in Cambridge, Mass. The plot moved along nicely and, even though I've been in a mood lately where I'm clicking a lot of partially-read "free" books over into archive purgatory, I read this one to the end.

---

### **Anne says**

Another free Kindle download that will not lead to me buying the rest of the books. The writing was awkward, the story was predictable, and again, it wasn't BAD, but it just wasn't really good, either. I will even admit to having enjoyed most of the "The Cat Who" series- I'm a kitty mystery liker. But this? Meh for Mew is for Murder.

---

### **Diane Morasco says**

Mew is for Murder is the first book in a terrific series featuring freelance writer & cat lover Theda Krakow. Following a precious stray kitten, Theda stumbles upon an old woman holed up in a decrepit house full of cats. Thea goes to interview "cat" lady Lillian and finds her dead. Everything points to her death being an accident except for the fact that someone keeps breaking into Lillian's house. It is rumored there is hidden treasure in the house. Theda is determined to get to the bottom of things and prove Lillian was murdered and why. The neighbors are celebrating her demise. The local police aren't listening to Thea's claims it wasn't an accident. Thea skilled with her investigative journalism savvy jumps in to find Lillian's killer & save the lovable kitties left behind.

---

### **Betty says**

#### **Cats and Music**

A well written mystery and the cats behave like your cat. The first book in this series Theda is a freelance journalist and a rock music lover. She is looking for stories when hears about a Cat Lady in the neighborhood. She decides a story about hoarders might be a good story. Theda goes to check it out and finds the woman dead in the kitchen. Hearing that cats were being taken to animal control she rescue a kitten that she sees there. The police feel it is an accidental death. Rumors begin to circulate that she was murder. Her friend punk rocker, Violet keeps searching in the house for something. Theda becomes more in especially when she hears most of the cats would be destroy unless adopt. A portion of the story is about music that Theda likes. Theda has several questions to find answers. will find the answers in time to save the cats. I am ready to read the next book.

---

### **Betty says**

A well-written mystery and the cats behave like your cat. The first book in this series Theda is a freelance journalist and a rock music lover. She is looking for stories when hears about a Cat Lady in the

neighborhood. She decides a story about hoarders might be a good story. Theda goes to check it out and finds the woman dead in the kitchen. Hearing that cats were being taken to animal control, she rescue a kitten that she sees there. The police think it is an accidental death. Rumors begin to circulate that the Cat Lady was murder. Her friend punk rocker, Violet keeps searching the house for something. Theda becomes more involved especially when she heard most of the cats would be destroyed unless adopting. A portion of the story is about music that Theda likes. Theda has several questions to find answers Will she find the answers in time to save the cats? I am ready to read the next book.

---

### **Darcysmom says**

I enjoyed Mew is for Murder tremendously! Theda Krakow is an engaging, sympathetic, and fun protagonist. I especially enjoyed how her work as a free lance journalist was woven throughout the story.

In Mew is for Murder, Theda, a cat lover, stumbles upon Lillian - the local crazy cat lady. Theda thinks Lillian would be a good subject for a story about cat hoarding. Theda runs into a major problem - when she goes to Lillian's house to try to speak with her, she discovers Lillian laying in a pool of her own blood.

Lillian's death introduces Theda to a motley cast of characters who add vibrancy and bright slashes of color to the story.

Will Theda be able to figure out who killed Lillian? Will she be able to save Lillian's cats?

This is a quick read that kept me entertained and up late to see what would happen next!

---

### **Erin says**

This is the first in this series about a freelance writer who wants to write about a woman who she believes may be a crazy cat lady...when that woman is found unexpectedly dead, she must get to the bottom of who would want her dead and why. This ended better than expected and I will read more in the series!

---

### **Larraine says**

I only just discovered Clea Simon's books two years ago. I'm getting over a case of sinusitis and can't seem to sit up for any length of time right now. So today was spent in my easy chair reading. Having finished up "Every Secret Thing" by Laura Lippman (see previous post), I was in the mood for something a little lighter.

This is the first in Ms. Simon's "Theda Krakow" series which she finished up recently. (She has two new characters, Dulcie Schwartz, struggling grad student and cat lover, and Pru Marlowe, pet psychic. Both are fun characters. I started reading the Theda series in the middle, so I got a copy of the first book. Unlike some people, I'm not obsessed with starting a series at the beginning!

Anyway, this first book introduces Theda, formerly a copy editor at a Boston newspaper, who has decided to chuck it all and go freelance. She's 33, just broke up with her boyfriend, plus her cat, James, had to be put down. (She misses James a LOT more than the old BF!)

She learns about an older woman who may be a cat hoarder and persuades her editor to let her write a story about her. Unfortunately, when she gets there to meet the woman, she finds her dead. The police are convinced that she fell and died as a result of the fall, but Theda is not convinced. She is bolstered in that conviction by her friend, Violet, a purple-haired barrista and musician. This was one of those fun mysteries where everything turns out ok in the end.

If I have one gripe, it's a minor one. One of the characters is referred to as a realtor. PLEASE! Realtor is not another name for real estate agent. Not every real estate agent is a Realtor. The word Realtor should always be capitalized and should probably not be used in a work of fiction.

---