



Murder on Trinity Place

Victoria Thompson

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The devil's in the details when a man is found murdered near Trinity Church in the latest installment of the national bestselling Gaslight Mystery series...

The year of 1899 is drawing to a close. Frank and Sarah Malloy are getting ready to celebrate the New Year at Trinity Church when they notice Mr. Pritchard, a relative of their neighbor's behaving oddly and annoying the other revelers. Frank tries to convince Pritchard to return home with them, but the man refuses and Frank loses him in the crowd. The next morning Sarah and Frank are horrified to learn Pritchard was murdered sometime in the night, his body left on Trinity Place, the side street near the church.

The police aren't too interested in the murder, and the family are concerned that the circumstances of the death will reflect badly on Pritchard's reputation. To protect the family from scandal, Nelson asks Frank to investigate. Frank and Sarah delve into Pritchard's past and realize there may have been a deadly side to the dawning of the new century.

Murder on Trinity Place Details

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From Reader Review Murder on Trinity Place for online ebook

Laura Hill says

I received a complimentary copy of this book from Berkeley Publishing Group through NetGalley. Opinions expressed in this review are completely my own. The book will be published on April 30, 2019.

Number 22 in the Gaslight series, this installment has Frank and Sarah Malloy investigating the murder of the ultra-honest, but somewhat fanatical owner of the Pure Milk Dairy on New Year's Eve in 1899.

Thompson always sets her mysteries within an interesting early 20th century New York City setting. This episode includes a fascinating description of the factions in the "Milk Wars" — with recent legislation requiring pasteurization pitted against the prevalent corruption of enforcement agencies. Startling (to me) statistics claimed that 1/2 of the children of New York City in the mid 1800s died before the age of 5, with contaminated milk (or secondary infections from contaminated milk) as the leading cause.

Another fun period detail — the "Checkered Game of Life" — the 1860 Milton Bradley (the man, not the company) original on which the 1960s reissue was based — introduced the "teetotem." We know this as the spinner — a feature introduced because dice were seen as unsavory reminders of gambling paraphernalia.

While this was a pleasant read, I felt like it was mostly filler — there was very little plot advancement and consisted mainly of different characters repeating what they had learned to other characters and lots of visiting and the pouring of tea. The most interesting plot tangent to me was a special kind of arranged marriage which had very little to do with the mystery but proceeded at an appropriate pace and highlighted more of the New York social scene at the time.

Patricia Ann says

What a curious and unique theme of using a milk delivery company as a plot for a murder mystery. This led to my farther conception of what life was like during the Victorian age. Added to my enjoyment of another Gaslight murder mystery was the reappearance of Mrs. Ellsworth and Black Jack Robinson in major roles. Looking forward to the next Gaslight murder mystery.

Bebe (Sarah) Brechner says

It's hard to believe this is the 22nd Gaslight Mystery featuring the fascinating Malloys, Sarah and Frank. Thompson remains at the top of her game here, with another intriguing glimpse at the era in NYC, with Sarah's background as a midwife bringing a sharp perspective on unwanted pregnancies at the time, and Frank's background as a former policeman providing a cynical and yet accurate view on police corruption and crime. In this story, the Malloys are caught up in a puzzling murder affecting their neighbor. Not only is this a very satisfying mystery, Thompson also rewards readers with a special treat - a side story that brings two unlikely people together.

Amp says

Updated 12/13/18

Sigh. It seems I was mistaken. RTC.

I'm excited about this one! It sounds like it will be back to what I love about this series: Frank and Sarah doing the investigating, not Gino and Maeve.

Shoshana Frank says

Set in the shadow of the magnificent Trinity Church in NYC on the eve of the 20th century a man is mysteriously murdered. Having enjoyed a dinner party with the late Mr. Pritchard, his wife, daughter and son the day before his murder, Frank and Sarah Malloy feel compelled to help discover the reason for his murder. Solving any crime in New York City is a challenge, since much of the police force is crooked and easily bribed to look the other way. Frank must tread carefully between the powerful gangsters and the corrupt police who do their bidding, in a twisted plot of confusing allies and unknown assailants. This fast-paced, historical mystery is a compelling story, especially written for fans of Anne Perry and Jude Deveraux, as they will be sure to enjoy the 22nd addition to the Gaslight Mysteries.

Madeleine says

This series is just consistently satisfying. So glad I got an ARC!

Linda says

As a fan of the Gaslight mysteries I have to say that this latest offering (read before publication as an eARC) was entrancing. Since Sarah had married Frank Malloy and he became rich — due to a somewhat suspect plot device — the books were fun but didn't flow quite as well as earlier offerings. In this book it seems as if the characters have become accustomed to their circumstances and the mystery once again becomes the main plot device.

It is New Years Eve 1899 and the year 1900 will soon be starting. Is it the start of the 20th century or will 1901 actually be the beginning? At a dinner party hosted by Mrs. Ellsworth, their devoted neighbor, her son's father in law (Clarence Pritchard) is convinced that those who believe 1901 is the start of the new century (as championed and explained by the newspapers) are very wrong and need to be set straight. Sarah and Frank go to Trinity Church to see in the new year and there they see Mr. Pritchard accosting strangers in his quest to make them believe his truth. New Year's Day finds Mr. Pritchard's body on the grounds of the church and the police uninterested in finding who killed him. As Frank Malloy is hired to solve the mystery he finds out that Mr. Pritchard's beliefs about the new century may have nothing to do with his death but perhaps his being the owner of a very prosperous dairy will provide the answer.

Diane Waldo says

It's New Year's Eve 1899. Sarah and Frank are celebrating with their neighbors and their in-laws. The next day, the father-in-law is found murdered. A scrupulously honest man, the apparent cause of his murder was his insistence that the new century would begin in 1900, not 1901. As Frank and Sarah learn more about him, though, other motives appear, including a violent argument with his son. When the son is also murdered two weeks later, it is obvious that something is going on. Frank and Sarah, with the help of Gino and Maeve, finally track down the killer and earn the gratitude of the family.

Along with solving the murders, Sarah takes time to do some match making and improve the lives of two people.

I enjoyed this book, especially the descriptions of riding in a car and careening along at an outrageous speed of 20 mph!

I received a free copy of this book from Netgalley in exchange for my review.

Brenda Freeman says

Sarah, Frank, Maeve and Gino are back in a new murder investigation. Love the series and the story of their blended family.

Betty says

The 22nd book of this historical series find Frank and Sarah Mallory involved in finding out who killed Mr. Pritchard who owns a milk farm. He is the father of Thea, a neighbor. The police are not interested in solving this case. While searching for the answer, there is another death, the son of Mr. Pritchard. There are several clues to what happened. The ending is a surprise.

There is information on milk delivery at the turn of century and the cause of many deaths. There is a side story involving Sarah's Clinic that added to the book.

I HIGHLY RECOMMEND THIS BOOK AND SERIES.

Disclosure: Many thanks to NetGalley and Berkley Publishing Group for a review copy. The opinions expressed are my own.

Tammie says

The year of 1899 is drawing to a close. Frank and Sarah Malloy are getting ready to celebrate the New Year at Trinity Church when they notice Mr. Pritchard, a relative of their neighbor's behaving oddly and annoying the other revelers. The next morning Sarah and Frank are horrified to learn Pritchard was murdered sometime in the night. Frank and Sarah delve into Pritchard's past and realize there may have been a deadly side to the dawning of the new century.

This was a very enjoyable installment in the gaslight mysteries series. I liked it better than the last book. The book begins with Frank and Sarah attending a dinner party at their neighbor Mrs. Ellsworth's house. Her recently married son Nelson and his wife Theda have also invited Theda's family to the dinner and it's a little tense as Theda's father is very opinionated and doesn't hesitate to let his opinions known when certain subjects come up. Ultimately the dinner ends in disaster and poor Theda is left in tears. One thing I noticed about this book is that the character of Mrs. Ellsworth is much more serious here. There are no silly superstitions mentioned this time around, but it made sense considering what was happening in the book.

As usual I figured out who the murderer was pretty easily, but this book actually did throw a couple of good red herrings in there. I actually attached a bit more to the murderer's motivations than what was concluded in the book though. (view spoiler) One thing that does bother me about the murders in this series is that too many people are murdered that are somehow acquainted with Sarah and Frank. This is actually something that happens a lot in mystery series that can make them seem implausible. In this case though, with Frank being a private investigator there should be ample opportunity for the author to capitalize on that and have him investigate cases that have nothing to do with anyone he or Sarah knows. It would be so much more believable.

One thing I do really like about this series is that the author always adds in some real historical facts from the time period. I learned a few interesting things as I read this book that I didn't previously know. One is how Wall Street got its name. It was not at all what I expected. I also learned about the "milk wars" and what swill milk was. Another thing I learned about was the origins of the board game Life. It also seemed that there was some debate over whether the turn of the century should be celebrated in 1900 or 1901.

Like the last book in the series, this one included characters that we met in a previous book. I'm really liking that this seems to be a thing now in each book. This time around we revisit the character of Jack Robinson from *Murder in the Bowery*. Sarah plays matchmaker for Jack and one of the ladies staying in the clinic, and I liked that part of the story a lot. I would love to see more of them in future books.

I also have to mention one other thing that I loved about this book. Frank finally gets a motorcar!

Thanks to NetGalley and Berkley Publishing Group for providing me with a copy of this book.

Review also posted at Writings of a Reader
