



## Sour Puss

*Rita Mae Brown , Sneaky Pie Brown*

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### **Sour Puss** Rita Mae Brown , Sneaky Pie Brown

In this latest whodunit, Rita Mae Brown and her feline partner-in-crime-detection, Sneaky Pie Brown, return to the scene of their bestselling crimesâ€™ picturesque Crozet, Virginia. Love is in the air as spring comes to the small town, but no sooner has Mary Minor â€™Harryâ€™ Haristeen remarried than she is rudely interruptedâ€™ by murder. And no sooner does the trouble start than curious cats Mrs. Murphy and Pewter, along with corgi Tee Tucker, sink their claws into the case.â€™

After an unexpected rekindling of their romance, Harry and her veterinarian ex-husband, Fair Haristeen, have happily remarried. But the excitement of their nuptials is quickly overshadowed by the murder of Professor Vincent Forland, a world-famous grape and fungal expert who was in town visiting the local vineyards.

Within days of giving a lecture on how distilled fungus and cattle diseases are the current basis of chemical warfare, Forlandâ€™s decapitated body is discovered. After their initial fright, the residents of Crozet believe that this was a political murder and settle back into their routinesâ€™ until a local is also found dead, killed in the same gruesome manner as Professor Forland. Now residents canâ€™t help wondering, is this really the work of an outsiderâ€™ or one of their own?

No longer working in the post office, Harry had just planted a quarter acre of grapes, which fuels her natural curiosity over just what the two murder victims knew and had in common. Once the warmth of spring arrives, the grapevines blossom and Harryâ€™s furry entourage discovers the first critical clue. But how can they show the humans what theyâ€™ve learned? And how can theyâ€™ or anyoneâ€™ stop the killing?

### **Sour Puss Details**

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## From Reader Review Sour Puss for online ebook

### Barbara says

I kept waiting for something to happen. Nothing did. Cute concept with critters chatting away. Very likeable cats and dogs. Likeable human characters too but not very well defined. Lots of interesting factoids on wine making and chemical warfare but this does not make a mystery book. Actually all the info was distracting from the 'story' which I admit I gave up on because I simply couldn't find it. First and last Rita Mae Brown book I have attempted. Very disappointing.

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### Jane Owel says

#### Fun and engaging

I have read several of Rita Mae Brown's mysteries - both the cat "co-authored" and the hunt themed. I always find them interesting, as her characters are both believable and larger than life. Living as I do in Virginia, I also enjoy the descriptions of nearby areas. Clearly, Ms. Brown is a huge fan of the Charlottesville area.

The talking animals are fun, and I enjoyed the range of animal characters in this book. It's fun to imagine them carrying on their conversations as the humans do theirs.

This book also involved grapes, wine and the pests that afflict them, which I found interesting. I would recommend this book to anyone who likes cozy mysteries and animals.

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### Marji Laine says

Ms. Brown weaves clever mysteries - no doubt about it. I enjoyed her Mrs. Murphy series from the beginning, even though I'm not much of a cat-lover. But at this point, I have to wade through whole sections of political and social agendas to get to the meat of the story. She's not just developing characters, it's almost like she's preaching her political and social beliefs, even from the animal's points of view.

I thought it was just my imagination, but I noted that the Library Review spoke the same dissatisfaction. I rarely dislike books, so I felt I needed to explain why this series went downhill for me so fast.

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### Randee says

Spoiler ahead....be forewarned.

I have been reading this series in chronological order. I read it because I am entertained by the interaction and conversations of the animals. I will continue to read this series but #14 here has really disappointed me. Big time. The human heroine of this series, Harry, is a very independent, late 30-ish woman who divorced her husband, Fair (that's his name, believe it or not) because he cheated on her. She is portrayed as an intelligent, no nonsense type of female who is well liked, has many friends, loves animals and supports herself financially. I identify with her. I, too, was married and betrayed by my husband. Imagine my surprise

and horror that Harry remarries Fair in this story. it is so out of character, so weak, so lame. It is so disappointing that the author would do this to her character. As one who has personally experienced the same.....you can forgive your betrayer but how can you ever trust them again? Even if you love the person, it is never the same. It will never be the same no matter how hard you try because you can't forget a stab in the back and a shot to the heart. I have seldom been so negatively affected by a story line and I hate to say it, but I am hoping that in a future story, Harry and Fair break up, Fair dies...anything that will bring Harry back to being unattached from the man who betrayed her. In the words of Bette Davis, "Weak as water."

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### **Anna says**

"As with the previous books in the series, the authors take time to set the scene, refresh our memories of the old characters, and introduce us to the new characters. The action doesn't happen until the penultimate chapter, but Mrs. Murphy fans have come to expect that. We like spending time with our friends and family for a while before we have to get our paws...er...hands dirty with some icky murder. The back story deals with current events and concerns regarding bioterrorism. H5N1 makes a brief appearance, as well as theories about biological weapons used by Iraq in Desert Storm. Most important to the plot is the Supreme Court decision striking down state laws that prohibit direct sales of wines to out-of-state customers. Wine drinkers rejoice."

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### **Sarah says**

Well..I started reading some of these Sneaky Pie Brown books again since they were so much fun when they first came out. But wow, this one was really bad. Most of the books are quick and easy murder mysteries with cute comments and quips thrown in from the animals..but not this one.

One of the previous reviewers commented on the fact that the author mentions how she spent a lot of time researching grapes and their diseases, and that's something that's painfully obvious when you read the book. It really is an essay on grape-growing and its faults, with a little mystery thrown in. And the mystery doesn't start until page 100 or so (there's only 270 in the book..). I almost gave up on this book a few times, and looking back, I probably should have. With a rambling first half, a so-so mystery, and an abrupt ending, I definitely wouldn't recommend this one.

If you're looking to start reading the Mrs. Murphy series, don't start here!

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### **Jan says**

I read one of these Mrs. Murphy books years ago and for some reason didn't read any more until now. I think I know why. A lot of talking, philosophizing, and politicizing. Not much murder mystery. I listened to the book on a 6 cd set and the first murder didn't take place until disc 4. I like a cozy mystery but there just wasn't enough mystery for me.

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### **Jeannine Stewart says**

### **Left me sour**

Entertaining at times and stuffy at others. Too much time devoted to lectures on bio-chemical warfare, VA wine making and other grape growing hazards.....I assume to throw red herrings in to the plot? Did not work for me. I figured out the culprit early on and don't see how the main characters couldn't do the same. Even the animals didn't get it

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### **Lynn says**

After my disappointment with Cat's Eyewitness, I gave Mrs. Murphy another try. I am glad I did. This book was back to the standards I was used to in the series. It does bog down a bit with talk of grape infestations/diseases and theories on different biological weapons, but the narrative was back to the usual easy reading and there was plenty of action involving Harry's animal friends. The animals are the best parts of the book.

I do have wonder about one scene, just because I can't get the physics to work out in my head, but that was minor issue and of no real consequence.

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### **Chris Wiseman says**

#### **Interested in bugs**

I so enjoy when an author gives the animals voices in the story. This book was no exception. I did really like the book, but I felt a little overwhelmed by all the talk of viruses, bacteria and bugs. Though those parts were necessary to the story, I felt they were just a little more detailed than needed. If you like mysteries that deal with murder and possible terror threats, as well as animals, this is a good read.

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### **Debbie says**

I enjoyed this book, but it did seem to start slower than the others in this series. As always the animals are just great.

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### **Sherry Sharpnack says**

I thought this would be a cute book w/ farm pets narrating The Who-dun-it. The pets were helpful, but the humans aren't like able, unless you are into horse-country Virginia "society"). They are snobby and conservative, w/ 'way too much political discussion for me in a cozy mystery.

The unpardonable "sin" is that the first disappearance doesn't occur until 20-25% into the book; the protagonist's newly-remarried husband isn't framed for a second murder until 56% into the book, and you have figured out the actual murderer by 2/3's of the way. The worst thing of all was an incorrect citation of one of the most famous Bible verses: "I can do all things through Christ, Who strengthens me." It is NOT Philippians 3:10; it is Philippians 4:13!! Easily checked. I couldn't trust any other of the statistics quoted

thereafter. Oh...and you will learn 'WAY more about viticulture and grapevine killers than you ever wanted to know.

This was book #14 in this series, and just don't waste your time.

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### **M Harris says**

I didn't like this as much as the earlier Mrs. Murphy mysteries. It took too long for the murder to actually happen and I don't think the pool of potential suspects was big enough! The animals in action were, as always, the best part. There was too much introductory banter about wine and not enough action.

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### **Bobbrunn says**

This is by far the worst in the series. When the pets sit around and discuss whether they'll be able to get on the bed, or not, because the humans are constantly having sex, it is time to move on to another writer. Like another reviewer, I have not been real happy with the direction the series has taken, because, quite frankly, I feel that the series has gotten lost.

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### **Jeanne Brewer says**

#### **Another win for Sneaky Pie**

As always, love the interactions among all the critters. The human players, while not nearly as intelligent, proved to be, well, human with all the strengths and weaknesses that implies. Instantly recognizable well-defined main characters dealing with changes brought about by growing grapes for wine-making and learning and growing while doing so make this tale hard to put down before its end. Don't miss this one!

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