



## The Alpine Recluse

*Mary Daheim*

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## **The Alpine Recluse** Mary Daheim

In the middle of a hot midsummer night, Emma is awakened by fire trucks rushing to a blaze at the nearby home of newlyweds Tim and Tiffany Rafferty. At daybreak, Tiffany and her unborn child are safe, but Tim, never blessed with good luck in all his thirty-plus years, has perished in the fierce conflagration. Sheriff Milo Dodge suspects murder and arson, and rumors fly from the Burger Barn and Mugs Ahoy to the Grocery Basket and the Venison Inn. Some swear the Rafferty marriage was crumbling. Others hint at stock fraud. A few mention momentary sightings of a possibly mad recluse known as Old Nick.

Sacrificing the heady enticements of a budding romance to nail down a great story, Emma shifts into high investigative gear while her fearless House & Home editor, Vida Runkel, rushes in where angels fear to tread: straight into the private lives of some of Alpine's most respectable—and now terminally edgy—citizens. But neither Emma nor Vida suspects the unbelievable truth.

## **The Alpine Recluse Details**

Date : Published March 27th 2007 by Ballantine Books (first published 2006)

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Author : Mary Daheim

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## From Reader Review The Alpine Recluse for online ebook

### ?Emily says

The descriptions of the unbearably hot weather in Washington is realistic, but I thought the ending was improbable and forced. Certainly not the best in the series, but still an enjoyable and fast read.

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### Kathy Rogers says

I began reading this series when the first book was released, then stopped after the first two or three. I decided to give the series another try and found it just isn't to my taste any more. Pretty light, likable characters, but I just couldn't get into it.

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### Andrea Jackson says

I thought I should vary my reading from my usual romance, so I picked up a few Mary Daheim mysteries when I was last at the library. It was fine from a technical way, but it didn't engage me at all.

I suppose it would be called a 'cozy mystery' since the mystery solvers aren't professionals. All the characters were quite modern though, which I never associate with cozies. The setting was cozy too but didn't appeal to me. A small remote town with a population that is solidly white and middle class. A little diversity seems more realistic to me.

Since I didn't really like the main characters, the mystery itself seemed to move very slowly to me. After the first 75 pages, approximately, I skipped to the end and read the last 20 pages. I like to know the solution even if I'm going to finish the book. This one, I didn't. At that point, I closed it up to return to the library. I'll also be taking back the other three books in the series that I check out at the same time.

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### Betty says

Sirens, flashing lights awoke Emma one night. A nearby house is wholly inflame. After the fire is out Tim Rafferty is found. There are reports that a hermit was living in a vacant house. The general feeling is, the hermit started the fire. Vida has Roger organizing his friends, to find the hermit. Another visit with all our friends in ALPINE.

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### Belinda says

This is a good, solid book. Well written and interesting, with a great main character that I feel I know really well already.

Why then only a 3 you ask? Well, I'd readily give it a 3.5 if that was possible...why isn't that possible? I usually reserve a 4 for something completely unique, something that takes me to a place I've never been

before. (a five star is all that and a story that possibly will stick with me forever)

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### **Lynn says**

Light reading - a little draggy - seemed to take a long time to get to the plot, but the characters were interesting - a nice safe cozy.

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### **Lynn says**

It was an interesting mystery, and the ending was quite surprising. The sub-plot mystery was easy to figure out, and really didn't work as well as a red herring as I think the author had intended, but it was a fun read. Not the best of the series, and definitely skippable if need be.

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### **Mary Kovarik says**

Alpine Recluse has several very interesting characters. Vida is an interesting woman because she has her nose into everything and she is a foil to Emma Lord, Mary Daheim's main character. I enjoyed reading this story.

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### **Candace Davidson says**

I read 40 pages and I just couldn't get into the book. No offense to the author but it is just not my type of book that I enjoy. I also checked out an additional book by this author but I will not be reading it as I will be returning that book along with this book that I didn't finish reading to the library.

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### **Judee says**

The usual characters are back and Emma gets overly involved in another murder. The ending is another surprise which the author does so well. I am glad she has Emma thinking about what she is doing to her personal life. I like the idea of Rolf but I read an article on the author's website that had a spoiler. For their reason I am disappointed in Emma. Vida remains my hero.

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### **George says**

#18 in the Emma Lord newspaper publisher in the fictional small town of Alpine in the foothills of the Cascade Mountains mystery series. It is August and a very hot summer and an uncomfortable Emma when a late night fire burns down the house of a young couple who have been married about a year. The husband turns up dead in the rubble and it is determined he was murdered. This starts Emma into investigating why it

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happened and determine who is responsible.

There is a light tone to the story which is filled with interesting characters.

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### **Glenn Harris says**

Another Alpine resident bites the dust and editor/publisher Emma Lord again goes after the killer with the help of her sidekick Vida. Always entertaining.

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### **Fredell Boston says**

Interesting and intriguing. Daheim's Emma Lord Mystery series is a unique blend of character study and interplay of the unusual residents of small town of Alpine, WA. This time a young newlywed is murdered in his home and the home is set on fire. Emma, local newspaper publisher, tries not to involve herself in the investigation, but can't help becoming obsessed with it.

I am definitely going to read more of Emma's adventures in Alpine.

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### **Loretta says**

This is one book of Mary Daheim's Alpine series and the first one I have read. I can't say it really impressed me all that much. I have to say I like her Bread and Breakfast series much better. But, this story had an interesting twist and that is the murder victim is eventually found not to be a cad who deserved to die but actually an innocent victim of an abusive family. So, for that I gave it the three stars because Mary has the guts to portray how many families are and how they affect others.

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### **Claudia Cheyne says**

A heat wave has made the month of August unbearable to the residents of Alpine who normally enjoy pleasant temperatures and rarely need air conditioning. Add to that a lack of rain which has turned the forests into tinder boxes - people who are used to frequent showers have become irritable and short tempered.

Emma hears sirens late one evening. A house near hers is on fire. After the blaze is put out a body is discovered. Milo determines that it was murder. Residents reported seeing a local hermit known as "Old Nick" hanging around town before the fire started. Lots of people are searching for him. Emma finds out some interesting background about the recluse as she works to solve her neighbor's murder.

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