



The Homicide Hustle: A Ballroom Dance Mystery

Ella Barrick

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One of them has been eliminated...permanently. The traveling TV dance show, *Ballroom with the B-Listers*, is coming to Washington, D.C., and ballroom dancer Stacy Graysin is first in line to participate. Not only will the publicity propel Graysin Motion, Stacy's dance studio, into the limelight, but the prize money could help offset her looming debt. Plus, Stacy's teen idol, heartthrob Zane Savage, specifically requested to be her partner. But the whirlwind reality contest stumbles when the show's coproducer, Tessa King, is found dead in the Potomac River. All the clues point to Tessa being murdered—and the suspects are the contestants and crew of *B-Listers*. Now Zane and the rest of the B-Listers must promenade back to fame, and Stacy will need to hustle to maintain her reputation, win the competition, and catch a killer.

The Homicide Hustle: A Ballroom Dance Mystery Details

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From Reader Review The Homicide Hustle: A Ballroom Dance Mystery for online ebook

Mark Baker says

The reality TV competition Ballroom with the B-Listers has hit DC, and Graysin Motion is one of the featured studios. But when one of the show's producers dies, Stacy begins digging around to find the killer. The characters and plot are a little light even for a cozy, but the story comes together well at the end. Anyone with an interest in ballroom dance will certainly enjoy it.

My full review at Carstairs Considers.

Kathy says

For any readers who love ballroom dancing, "Dancing With the Stars", etc - you will love the action in this mystery! Interesting characters and plot to keep you from putting this book down before the end!

I purchased this book on Amazon -- but found it here on Goodreads --- am looking forward to reading more that I have discovered on this wonderful site!

* Jennifer says

I'm not really sure exactly how I feel about this book - I really enjoyed it right up until the dreaded words "you have to figure out who did this" (implying that Stacy is better equipped than the police). After that, the book just became 'meh'. I found myself skipping entire pages of internal dialogue/repetition of suspects/inner angst. I really liked that the romance angle has been sorted, and I loved the scene where that happens. It was a good one. The murder plot was excellent - nothing obvious to me about who did it and an ending that felt sincere (if somewhat implausible).

I'm not sure I'll continue with this series, but I think it's just a reflection of my personal tastes and not the quality of the book itself.

Jeannie and Louis Rigod says

This book is the third in the amusing 'A Ballroom Dance Mystery' series. The characters are fresh and contemporary. The plot is topical to today's fascination with dancing television programs. The writing is tight and keeps you turning the pages to see just who did do it...

Stacy Graysin of Graysin Motion dance studio has had her studio selected to be part of a reality dancing television show. Stacy's studio needs the publicity and also desperately needs the cash influx that would come with a win.

As the stress levels increase with re-scheduling regular dance clients, and learning the ropes of taping a

'reality' series, tension soars off the ropes when the show's co-producer is found murdered.

There is also a romantic thread running through the tale. Stacy is partnered with her teenage crush who is re-entering the entertainment world. While he is tempting, there is still her business partner...you will have to read the book for more details.

This was a fast-paced, entertaining, and solid mystery. You do not quickly recognize the murderer. I look forward to the next book in the series.

Susan says

Dancing with B-Listers--what an opportunity for Stacy to promote her ballroom dancing studio! But the hit tv show comes with some drawbacks, including the competing studios, the sleazy producer who wants to put Stacy in a breakaway costume to boost ratings, and a murder. Stacy is afraid her studio is getting a bad reputation, so maybe it would be a good idea for her to nose around a little? But she's soon to be sorry she started.

Sylvia McIvers says

Oh, the glamorous life of ballroom dancing . Barely there costumes, handsome partners, and the opportunity to be on TV. Oh, the slightly less glamorous life of teaching ballroom dancing – sensible costumes, clumsy partners, and the opportunity to be on TV.

For Stacy Grasin, a dance-based reality TV show is the opportunity to generate free publicity for her dance studio while earning enough to pay off the back taxes that she suddenly found out she owes. How hard could it be?

The dancing is easy enough. It's getting along with the has-been stars that's hard. Each of the contestants is eager to jumpstart their own careers, and trashing each other - and their dance teacher –is par for the course. How much of the fighting and backstabbing is real, and how much is as choreographed as the dances? It's nearly an even mix – and tempers are running high.

Dealing with the beautiful, temperamental men and women on and off camera is hard enough for Stacey Graysin. When the co-producer Tessa is killed, everyone in the show, from stars to crew, is suspected.

Since she isn't the suspect this time, Stacy thinks she doesn't have to brave the dangers of amateur detecting. She can hustle her dance clients into rearranging their scheduled classes, coach her TV dance partners, and keep the competing dance studio from poaching her clients instead.

However, this is the third book in the series, and the local detectives know that Stacey is pretty good at ferreting out the true killer. He wants her insights – and the killer wants safely off stage.

“Homicide Hustle” has plenty of the witty repartee I expect from Ella Barrick's characters. The suspects are waltzed in and out of the spotlight with great finesse, and there are enough suspects to keep Stacey on her toes as she pokes her nose where it doesn't belong. A clever reader might pick out the clues between all the red herrings, but I must admit that I only noticed them on my second read of the book. The recurring characters and the new faces were entertaining enough to make the reread enjoyable.

Dharia Scarab says

Since I don't normally write reviews unless I have something specific to say, here's the break down of how I rate my books...

1 star... This book was bad, so bad I may have given up and skipped to the end. I will avoid this author like the plague in the future.

2 stars... This book was not very good, and I won't be reading any more from the author.

3 stars... This book was ok, but I won't go out of my way to read more, But if I find another book by the author for under a dollar I'd pick it up.

4 stars... I really enjoyed this book and will definitely be on the look out to pick up more from the series/author.

5 stars... I loved this book! It has earned a permanent home in my collection and I'll be picking up the rest of the series and other books from the author ASAP.

Carol says

The Homicide Hustle: A Ballroom Dance Mystery is the third in a cozy mystery series by Ella Barrick. Just like the first book, Quickstep to Murder, it is full of witty dialogue, complexity and an inside peek into the world of ballroom dancing. It gives you an idea of the amount of practice needed each day and the devotion and determination to succeed in this career.

Tav and Stacy are co-owners of the the Graysin Motion Dance Studio and although Tav stays in the background for most of this story, he finds out that the property taxes on the studio building haven't been paid for years in the past by Stacy's great aunt. A bundle of money is owed so Stacy decides to participate with other Graysin Motion dancers in a reality ballroom dance contest series. The co-producer is found dead in the Potomac. Stacy realizes that is the third murder connected with Graysin Motion so she volunteers in to find the killer as soon as possible.

She is so worried about the studio getting a bad name that she takes some unusual risks. I love that the author uses asides to the reader to add to our information and that not all the bad characters are totally evil. There is also an underlying theme about some not so good aspects of reality shows.

I highly recommend this cozy mystery.

Jennifer Oberth says

I loved the book! I loved the main character (Stacy) and her sister. Actually, I really liked all the characters, to tell you the truth.

I adore the ballroom dancing and the reality TV backdrop. I highly, highly recommend this book as it's quite enjoyable and solid and fun.

Cheryl says

This is the 3rd book in the ballroom dancer Stacy Graysin series. In this book she is going to compete on a traveling TV dance show. The shows coproducer is found dead and the clues point to one of the dancers or the crew. Stacy has to try to maintain her reputation , win the dance show and catch the killer. The book had some interesting facts about TV dance contests and the amount of work the dancers put into it.

Kay says

Fun and quick mystery! Ballroom dance instructor investigating a homicide makes for a good read!

Erica says

I didn't see the murderer coming, i kept thinking it was different people and in the end it was nobody i thought it was. I especially liked how the author finished the series off just the way i wanted. It made me smile.

Phyllis O. Treyes says

The hassle and hustle...

the hassle of tessa's death case was really hustled by a good detective... It's the life of ballroom people outside the screen.... the hustling gathering of a and b ballroom people... friendship and love for Stacy... find out the killer and I can say "it's amazing" !!!! And just funny....

Laurie says

Another fun read from Ella Barrick A.K.A. Lila Dare A.K.A. Laura DiSilverio. I'm not even a fan of ballroom or dancing reality shows, but I enjoyed this anyway, thanks to the author's skill at creating memorable characters and a credible mystery. I'm definitely looking forward to the next book she writes, whichever series it's a part of!

Debbie says

"The Homicide Hustle" is a cozy mystery. It's the third book in the series, but you don't need to read the previous books in order to understand this one.

The mystery was a clue-based puzzle and whodunit was guessable, but not quickly guessable. The details about the filming for the reality ballroom show were interesting and funny. The characters were varied and interesting. I liked the realistic, complex motives behind the various characters' actions--even for those with smaller parts.

Yet I didn't really like Tessa, though I didn't strongly dislike her, either. She sometimes put others in danger in her quest to solve the mystery, and she generally dismissed her illegal or thoughtless actions as acceptable because she was trying to solve the mystery. While I usually understood her motives for her actions, I didn't understand why she didn't trust a perfectly capable detective to make even obvious deductions about who to question. I saw no reason (in this book at least) as to why she couldn't trust him.

There were no sex scenes. There was a fair amount of explicit bad language.

I received this book as a review copy from the publisher.
