

A Grid for Murder By Casey Mayes

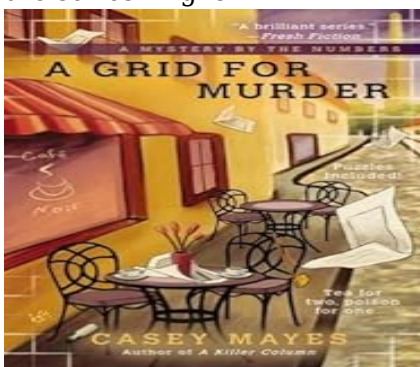
Savannah Stone makes her living creating puzzles for logic lovers. But when a novice puzzle maker's number is up, Savannah has to fill in the blanks to solve a murder. Savannah would almost rather drink poison than have tea with Joanna Clayton. Not only is the unpleasant woman one of the worst gossips in Asheville, North Carolina, over tea she flaunts her new assignment creating logic puzzles for a local newspaper—one that has repeatedly turned down Savannah's work. But when Savannah's retired police chief husband Zach calls her later to tell her Joanna has actually been poisoned, she is then puzzled—she's troubled. Will the police consider puzzle envy a strong enough motive and think she decided to eliminate the competition? It's time for Savannah to sort through Joanna's long list of enemies to find out who was bitter enough to poison the prospective puzzle maker.

A Grid for Murder

Tim Myers. Did not feel outcome provided all the answers. English. It's a shame the series has ended. It's not the first time a Tim Myers series has been dropped like this and it's frustrating every time. English. To start out with I annotated the hell out of this book thinking it would help me figure out the killer and all of their schemes right off the bat. Of course I was wrong and didn't even think of Laura to be the killer. She just seemed too likely for me to think this. I was so SURPRISED to find this out. I didn't have even a little inkling that she ever even was. So many countless times were spent referring back to chapter 1 thinking that it could not be Laura because she needed the money. The killer made it sound like they poisoned Joanne just because they hated her, not for her money. The way Laura becoming welcoming to Savannah also made me think Laura was innocent. I should have known the way though how Laura got so excited once Savannah found all that extra money. Savannah sort of got on my nerves throughout the story with her nosiness and obsseivness for something she should have stayed out of and let the police handle everything even if she was trying to get her name cleared. I adored Savannah's relationship with her husband. It was so cozy and I loved the fact that they had been married for so long and there was never a dull moment between the two of them. They could basically read each other's minds and always had each other's backs. They were honest with each other and told each other everything. From the start I thought that Rob was the killer and probably felt just as bad as Savannah for thinking it. Rob was just very eager to help. It seemed weird and Savannah didn't seem to suspect anything at all. Once Savannah started investigating him though and putting him on her list, I realized it would be too early in the book for the killer to be found. Nothing was a coincidence, he was just framed. Then I started thinking the killer was Captain North. The way she would get so annoyed with Savannah and all her snooping. I thought that maybe she had known Joanne from way back and they had contact with each other over the years and she couldn't handle it any and killed Joanne. Overall, all the book was such a great mystery. It was full of lots of surprises and made me want to read and would definitely recommend to those who like a great mystery and those who are into puzzles. English. I really like this series. The heroine is a puzzle maker and they give examples in the back and her husband is an ex chief of police now semi retired into a consulting job. In this book she was actually a potential suspect so she decided to help solve the crime. Great characters, interesting murder victim. Definitely recommend this series. English. Very much a whodunnit. Savannah is reluctantly drinking a nasty tea with her nemesis Joanne. Later she hears Joanne has died of poisoning. She finds herself among the many suspects and sets out to clear her name. English. Freelance puzzle creator Savannah Stone is happily married to Zach, a retired police chief, and is loving life in Parson's Valley, North Carolina. One afternoon while running an errand to nearby Asheville, Savannah is approached by a not so friendly acquaintance, Joanne Clayton. Savannah and Joanne share a table at an outdoor café where Joanne boasts to Savannah that she is getting into the puzzle creating business. Joanne is later found dead—a victim of poisoning. Joanne had plenty of enemies but nobody seems to have both the motive and the opportunity except for Savannah. Now Savannah must use her skills of deduction to find the real murderer before she is blamed for a crime she didn't commit. Luckily her husband Zach is by her side also trying to find proof that someone else killed Joanne. Savannah's uest to find Joanne's murderer is fun and full of red herrings. Savannah is a thorough investigator and it's interesting.

following along with Savannah as she does the necessary research and questioning of suspects in order to find the guilty party I admire Savannah for her persistence but I sometimes cringe at how blunt she is when questioning witnesses who are supposed to be her friends She definitely uses the "accuse first ask questions later" approach to investigation which understandably angers some of the people of Parson's Valley I wish I could have taken her aside and told her to tone it down a bit However combined with information she learns from her husband Zach Savannah's assertive technique works and she is able to find out things the local police can't Savannah and Zach make a good team both in their marriage and in solving crimes Savannah is smart logical inquisitive and deeply in love with her husband Zach is also intelligent and hard working loves Savannah and is supportive of her To solve this murder Savannah and Zach work separately and share the information they find but don't do a lot of questioning of possible suspects together Seeing them work side by side would have made the book even enjoyable However it's still nice to have main characters who are a happily married couple who are so devoted and loyal to each other similar to the relationship between Carolyn Hart's Max and Annie Darling The mystery is even interesting because of the victim Joanne is hard to get along with and not above a little blackmail to get her way so there is a wide field of possible suspects in her murder I liked that she is not portrayed as a totally evil person and it's her good qualities make the reader sad Joanne's life was cut short by a murderer Casey Mayes is a pseudonym of Tim Myers so readers of his other cozy series will want to give this one a try Fans of Ada Madison and Carolyn Hart will also find this mystery appealing As a bonus there are a few puzzles in the back of the book The math puzzles were okay but I found the instructions on how to solve them to be confusing However the mystery related puzzles at the back perfectly complement the book and were fun to work This review was originally written for The Season Ezine The book was provided to me in exchange for an honest review English This third book in the 'A Mystery by the Numbers' series has to be my favorite one yet Our sleuth Savannah Stone only went into Asheville NC to fax her latest math puzzle to her syndicate office thought she would have a nice bite to eat outside and enjoy the fall weather at a cute cafe The Cafe Noir What happened is that she had a cup of tea with a woman who would shortly be a murder victim Savannah married to the former Charlotte NC Police Chief Zach Stone finds herself among several other persons that are heading the likely suspects list While Zach volunteers to help the Asheville police Savannah not one to sit at home and await the chips falling where they might decides to take a proactive stance and heads off to begin her own investigation as to who wanted the unlikable Joanne Clayton dead The cozy murder follows a comfortable path of deduction so why do I especially like this novel? I like this book because it explores a good marriage the resilience of friendships new and old and the triumph of good over bad The dialog is so readable that you feel you are in the conversations The situations Savannah finds herself in may at times seem foolish but never non credible As the saying goes to paraphrase 'Fools rush in where Angels fear to tread' I enjoy the ease and honesty between Savannah and Zach Stone Finally the book reminds you that secrets should be kept honest and not for hurting others Yes I did like this book English Savannah Stone makes her living creating puzzles for logic lovers but her life hardly follows a logical course Who could have dreamed that Joanne Clayton would get a job for a local newspaper creating puzzles? A newspaper that has repeatedly turned down Savannah's work Joanna Clayton knows nothing about making puzzles all she knows how to do is spread gossip There is no way this makes any sense but Savannah heard it directly from Joanne herself Right there at the Cafe Noir Savannah just wanted to have a little lunch alone by herself but Joanne barreled right up and sat right down at her table and took complete joy in telling Savannah her news Thankfully a phone call from her husband Zach allowed her to make a hasty but graceful exit The real bad news arrived later when Zach calls Savannah to tell her Joanne is dead She had been poisoned Retired police chief Zach has been asked to assist in the investigation Will the police think puzzle envy is a strong enough motive for murder? Savannah decides to do a little assisting in the investigation herself to find out which of Joanne's many enemies may have wanted to get rid of the prospective puzzle maker permanently Dollycas's Thoughts I love the dynamic duo of Zach and Savannah Think cozy mystery with a bit of police procedural added to the mix While

Zach follows the clues with Captain North Savannah tries to logically sort through the facts and rumor Together they seem to come to the correct solution albeit just not at the time Savannah is a woman who will follow the lead put herself in danger and scare her husband to death These two even add to my gray hair and I love it This third Mystery By The Numbers has the twists and the turns a little southern charm and humor fantastic characters in a beautiful setting but it may have you rethinking that tea you love to drink English A Grid For Murder is the third book in the A Mystery By The Numbers series by Casey Mayes Savannah Stone needs to go to Asheville to do some shopping and afterwards decides to stop be Cafe Noir for some refreshment before heading back to her home in Parson's Valley that she shares with her retired police chief husband Zach Just as she finds a table Joanna Clayton waves and invites Savannah to share her table Then Laura and Sandra also from Parson's Valley are invited to the table None of the ladies really want to be there but don't want to be the next bit of gossip out of Joanne's mouth either Just as Susannah is getting ready to leave Joanne thrusts a piece of paper at Susannah with a puzzle similar to those that Susannah does Joanna proudly announces that she will be also making puzzles for a paper that Susannah had been trying to get to take hers Upon returning home a little later Zach tells her that Joanna has died and it it later learned the she was poisoned Knowing that once the information gets out about the puzzle Joanna was going to start that Susannah will certainly be a person of interest to provide police with her information and an offer to help discover the murderer A lot of residents of Parson's Valley would have liked to see Joanna dead Parson's Valley being a small town of course means there is a chance that you will alienate some of your friends so Susannah has to proceed with caution A few do get upset but she is is able to get through the mystery without loosing any friendships A very fun read and I will be definitely looking for the next book in the series English My bad I'm usually so careful about starting off a series with the first book but for some reason I missed the fact that this was the third book in the A Mystery by the Numbers series Oh well Anyway this was an enjoyable read for the most part despite the fact that I came into the storyline a little later than usual There was enough back story references to give me the general gist of the history of Savannah and Zach For the most part I liked the characters and the mystery Savannah sometimes had a tendency to rub people the wrong way with her method of sleuthing I admired her tenacity and determination but her heavy handed dealings with the potential suspects sometimes left me shaking my head The relationship between her and Zach was heartwarming and sweet This is the type of cozy small town mystery I enjoy and at some point I will probably go back and read the first two books in the series English



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