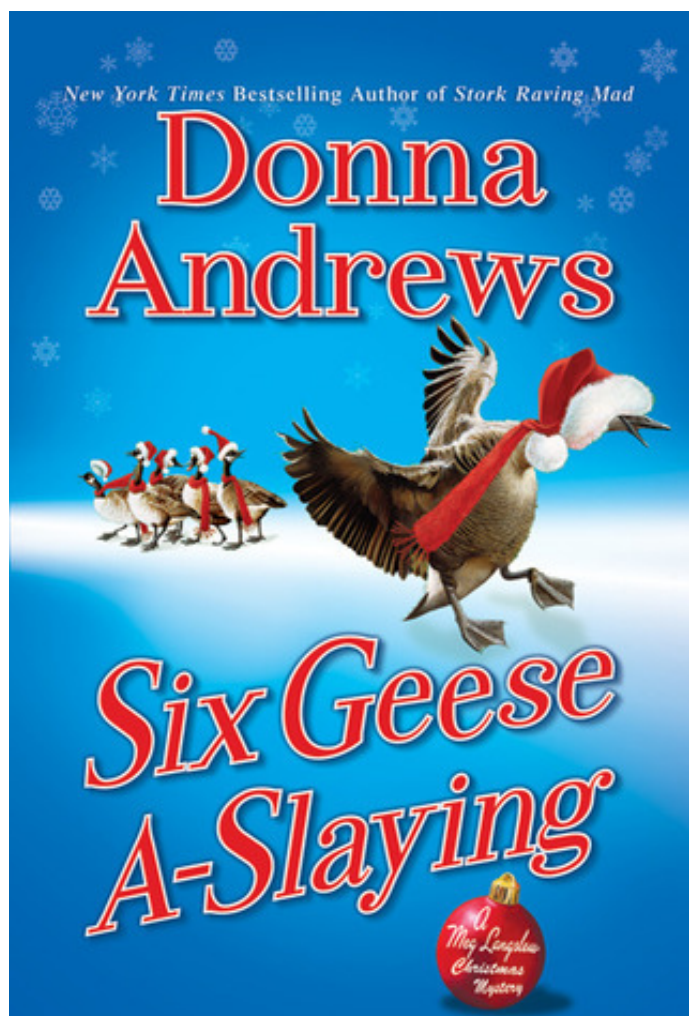

Donna Andrews

Six Geese A-Slaying (Meg Langslow #10)



Title: Six Geese A-Slaying (Meg Langslow #10)

Author: Donna Andrews

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Description

Meg and Michael's house is serving as the marshaling point for the annual Caerphilly holiday parade. The theme is "The Twelve Days of Christmas," and it features twelve drummers from the school marching band, eleven bagpipers, ten leaping lords costumed in medieval finery from the college drama department, and so on. There are also assorted floats a live nativity scene on a flatbed truck, the Three Wise Men on Caerphilly zoo camels, and Santa in bright red horse-drawn sleigh. As organizer, Meg's job is already hard enough. But when her nephew Eric, wide-eyed and ashen-faced, whispers, "Something's wrong with Santa." things take a tragic turn. Turns out the local curmudgeon, whose beard and belly made him a natural for the role, has been murdered. Now it's up to Meg and Chief Burke, who is playing one of the wise men, to tackle a two-fold mission: solving the murder and saving Christmas...

Insightful reviews

Joy: Meg has been roped into organizing Caerphilly's town Christmas parade. If I hadn't been riding the bus at the time Meg's parade started, I would have been flat on my back laughing. OK, Santa is played by a pretty nasty person, but he's eliminated early in the book.

The role of wasp is buzzed by a Washington DC reporter - why has he been sent out here? If left to his own devices, the reporter can and will make homey and eccentric Caerphilly look ridiculous. Meg's job, in addition to keeping the floats in order, trying to limit the number of geese to six, providing a substitute in case the Virgin Mary goes into labor, etc., is to keep the reporter insulated and unable to misuse his camera.

SIX GEESE A-SLAYING is lovably and hysterically funny.

Abbey: #10 Meg Langslow, Caerphilly, VA; gentle - and funny - small-town cosy/amateur sleuth.

Review originally written for, and printed in, Mystery News Reviews, November, 2008:

This fast-moving cosy centers around the big holiday parade through the small town of Caerphilly, VA, and is not only extremely funny but almost entirely believable - very difficult to do in a satirical/humorous cosy series IMO. The setting up of the parade is gorgeously, broadly depicted, with all its bits and pieces of a big production-almost-gone-wrong, wrapped in holiday cheer and excellent pacing that moves along "just right!", even when the parade itself seems moribund. Since the parade theme is "Twelve Days of Christmas" there are lots of costumed odd folks roaming around, and much opportunity for skullduggery and peculiar behaviors.

Meg Langslow is the parade director this year, and in that role is wonderfully human - exasperated, funny, organized and distracted all together, in varying proportions, a wonderful creation. But as the parade finally resolves into what is likely to be a huge success, Santa Claus is discovered to be missing. How the Scrooge-i-est man in town got to be the Town Santa, she doesn't know, but Meg (and pretty nearly everyone else in town) isn't sorry when she finds him dead, a stake of holly through his heart. She does wish, however, that the killer had not chosen

her property as the place, and the beginning of the parade as the time. Although it does help things a bit that the Chief of Police is on hand, albeit in costume as one of The Three Wise Men, mounted upon an extremely unhappy (and recalcitrant) camel. Her sleuthing isn't at all believable, but it's very enjoyable.

There are lots of Dickensian references (Meg's husband Michael is an actor who is giving a one-man show of A Christmas Carol in a day or so) that fit in perfectly, and the last third of the novel segues into one of those "all the suspects snowed in a deserted town" plots, with the killer on the loose. There's a pretty good - and funny - climax involving most of the parade menagerie, but there's a bit too much of the "had I but known..." flavor about it, and the resolution is almost entirely unbelievable in the real world, but in this cosy, unpredictable, happily peculiar small town it fits beautifully.

Ms. Andrews is an excellent writer, and this fast-moving tale would be an excellent addition to any cosy-lover's stocking at Christmastime. This is an almost perfect example of the "small town cosy series" - sweet but not sticky, holiday themes that are very funny (and real), acerbic characters by the score, a fast pace and a very strong plot. It was a happy surprise for me - previous to this I'd only read her first, which was very good but rather frantic; she's learned her craft very well IMO, for this is a delight, a well-balanced holiday treat to savour, filled with smiles. And, importantly, it's not necessary that you have read all or many of the entries in this series, for even if this is your first you'll quickly get accustomed to beautiful little Caerphilly and its odd denizens, including the wonderful Meg Langslow.

Very highly recommended for cosy-lovers.

Jmlwallis: I don't usually read Christmas books but this one was cute. I still can't believe she decided to kill Santa. I was surprised by who did it.

Xinh: learn as a part of a examining problem to learn a publication set in the course of Christmas.

Laura Brown: one other fun, effortless and speedy vacation story. i admire the vacation parade because the backdrop for the homicide and loved the twist that an surprisingly heavy and early snowstorm added.

Richard Reviles Censorship Always in All Ways: Rating: 4* of five This scrumptious romp is a part of a daffy secret sequence that includes the Rubenesque Meg Langslow, daughter of a chic, slim, trendy and frightening Virginia aristocrat mom and a simple, single-minded health care provider father who by no means grew up (thank goodness). She's married to an ex-soap hunk and cult television fable villain actor-turned-drama-professor at a small, specific liberal arts university situated a number of miles from her fatherland of Yorktown, Virginia. Her large contains a cousin who lives his existence as a forensic technician from inside of a gorilla suit; a cousin whose wool-headed New Age philosophical maunderings reason many of the kinfolk acute embarrassment; a more youthful brother who, like her father, by no means grew up yet controlled to make himself wealthy by means of beginning a MMO-RPG company. Getting the

picture? it is a screwball comedy-cum-mystery, with a number of befuddled normals at its whirling center. imagine "Bringing Up Baby"--you know, the Cary Grant-Katharine Hepburn motion picture with the leopard and the madcap heiress?--and you have the gist. And it is operating for Andrews! this can be the 9th of ten, to date, books within the series. I commented once, on an LT thread now lengthy buried, that I learn mysteries to fulfill my orderly side. (The Divine leave out contends I *have* no orderly side, frequently with a wrinkled nostril and a wince as she seems into my bedroom.) This sequence of mysteries, regardless of the winsome chaos of the plot, scratches that bump with simply definitely the right touch. i like the characters, I willingly think that (fictional) Caerphilly County, Virginia, is administered via the lunatics rather than the asylum attendants, simply because *things pass right* there. the appropriate everyone is rewarded and punished. the best strategies are came upon to problems, and are carried out with a nudge and a wink on the law. It's the best way I want Nassau County, New York, used to be run. It ain't, for the record, even close. So whilst the opportunity got here to affix the vacation (not Christmas!) parade and festivities in Caerphilly, Virginia, it should have taken a more robust guy than i'm to withstand the siren call. I learn the ebook in approximately 4 hours of snorting, giggling, howling fun. and that is the draw back of Andrews's simple, direct prose: It flows like water over the eyeballs, not anything to abate the tale being told, no snaggle within the current, simply fast-flowing water from the Holy good of Humor. The humorless don't need to even hassle the book. The po-faced classics snobs should still go by way of the shelf, wincing disdainfully. The pseudo-erudite high-culture vultures stand warned off. the remainder of us can be over here, within the corner, guffawing healthy to bust.

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