

"DEAD OVER HEELS: AN AURORA TEAGARDEN MYSTERY" SYNOPSIS

Even when Aurora "Roe" Teagarden is just minding her own business, murder mysteries land at her feet.

"Dead Over Heels" begins by nearly killing our not-so-mild mannered librarian. Roe and her best friend, reporter Sally Allison, are planting pansies in Roe's garden. While Roe tries convincing Sally to date a new fellow in town, the handsome Tim, a two-seater plane buzzes them (think Cary Grant in "North by Northwest"). Moments later – BAM! – a body drops from the sky right into Roe's flowerbed.

No one could accuse Roe of looking for a mystery when people are dropping corpses in front of her – literally. Roe, as always, is ready to unravel the puzzle and take on all comers. Naturally many await.

Just why everyone hasn't caught on that this petite librarian is a brilliant sleuth is beyond us but it is great fun to go along for the ride and see who's silly enough to get in Roe's way.

That body turns out to be that of none other than Lawrenceton Police Captain Frederick Burns. Pretty much as soon as he hits the ground, suspects start turning up.

Could his loving widow Bess be the killer? She seems to be grieving about as much as a kid eating cotton candy on a merry-go-round.

"Fred was in a dangerous line of work," Bess acknowledges, shrugging off Roe and Sally's condolences. Still, there's one thing that bothers the widow. "I do want to apologize for the flowerbed," Bess says. "I hope you weren't inconvenienced."

Could frail Bess be the killer? Her coldness, eagerness to sell her longtime home with her husband, and just move on with life make Roe suspicious. But Roe's mom, Aida, has known Bess since high school and doesn't buy her as the killer for a nanosecond.

Bess' sister, the perpetually prickly Lillian -- who also happens to be Roe's boss at the library -- isn't thrilled to have Roe poking around. Then again, Lillian is rarely thrilled with Roe or anyone else.

The captain's murder – he was dead before he was shoved from the plane – leaves an important vacancy in the police department. It looks as if Lt. Lynn Smith will fill the post temporarily but as soon as Mayor Lemaster Cane names her, another detective, Pete Lambert, starts agitating for the job.

Pete clearly has problems with the calmly capable Lynn being a woman, and possibly the boss of him. He seems to have problems with a lot of other people, too. There's the sense his anger goes beyond rude sexism. Could Pete have killed Burns to pave the way for his own advancement? And if he did, is he likely to stop there?

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While Roe investigates, cajoling Sally into covering the captain's murder for the paper, strange things begin to happen. Granted, nothing is life threatening – among the uneasy surprises are a mysterious intruder, and an abandoned kitten – but the point is someone is breaking into Roe's house.

Then another break-in, with more serious consequences happens. This time the culprit goes to the library and leaves Lillian unconscious. And the perpetrator gets even more brazen when Lynn's husband, another detective, is attacked.

Roe's boyfriend, former CIA agent Martin, is none too thrilled with her investigations but Roe will listen to him as much as she will listen to anyone – which is not very much.

Roe, of course, is the first among equals at the Real Murders Club, and when they gather – ostensibly to discuss Bonnie and Clyde Syndrome, which was on their agenda – the talk naturally segues to the slain police captain. Some members seem a bit too interested in the police captain's murder.

Could the annoying Perry, from the club, be a suspect? He is creepy and a little too interested in Roe. But is he as dangerous as the detective with a checkered past? Just who dared go after the good and quiet Martin, leaving him in a pool of blood? Is there just one killer lurking around town? And will Roe figure out the mystery before the killer gets to her?

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