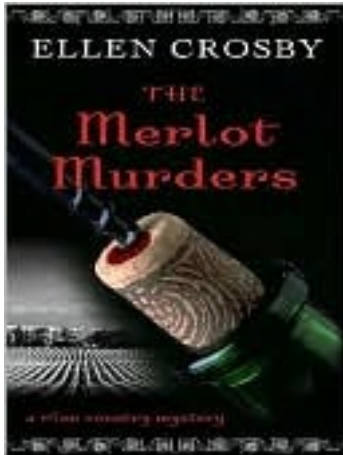

Ellen Crosby

The Merlot Murders (Wine Country Mysteries #1)



Title: The Merlot Murders (Wine Country Mysteries #1)

Author: Ellen Crosby

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Description

A phone call at two thirty in the morning is never good news. Lucie Montgomery's semiestranged brother, Eli, calls her in France to tell her their father, Leland, has been killed in a hunting accident on the family's five-hundred-acre Virginia vineyard just as the fall harvest is about to begin. By the time he calls, Eli has already made funeral arrangements with what Lucie argues is indecent haste. It is an emotional trip home -- the first since an automobile accident two years ago, which left Lucie disabled and dependent on a cane. Her family's once elegant home and winery are now shabby and run-down, thanks to her father's penchant for fringy business deals. Eli, also cash-strapped and desperate to support his new wife's extravagant lifestyle, has already convinced their rebellious younger sister, Mia, to sell the debt-ridden estate and reap the profits from the valuable land it sits on, overruling Lucie's protests.

On the eve of the funeral Lucie's godfather, Fitz, a partner in the family business, tells her Leland's death was no accident. Whoever killed him was motivated by the potential sale of the vineyard. It is the last conversation she will have with Fitz. Now the lone holdout preventing the vineyard sale, Lucie realizes she's next in line for another "accident." With her greedy brother, hell-raising sister, and a seemingly cut-rate vintner hired by Leland just before he died, all the suspects are disturbingly close to home. Unsure whom she can trust, Lucie must uncover the truth about the deaths of her father and godfather -- and oversee a successful harvest to save the vineyard she loves.

Set in the historic heart of Virginia's horse and huntcountry, "The Merlot Murders" is filled with fascinating detail about the science and alchemy of wine making.

Insightful reviews

Lois: The murder and mystery is not all that exciting but the setting is great fun. Virginia, in the Blue Ridge Mountains, in a vineyard, what could be better. Lucie is called home from France suddenly when her father is found dead among the vines. Was it really an accident? Why is brother Eli intent upon selling the vineyard and family home? Where is the diamond necklace her mother supposedly hid before she died? This is the first in the series on Wine Country mysteries and good enough that I will read my way through the series. I enjoyed the inner workings of wine and its production. My main quibble is why women authors seem to need to lead the reader through a discussion of why a particular person was probably guilty when it is apparent that she is trying to lead you astray. The culprit was not difficult to discern despite the misdirecting. Hopefully, she will have worked her way through this in the subsequent books.

Barbara VA: I have to give this one a 5 rating because it combines so many of my favorites in reading - wine, cozy mystery, homes descriptions, France, family relationships, small town, history and best of all, for me, local. I can really visualize every hill and road Lucie is on!

I found this the other day at my local store in a display announcing Ellen Crosby's forthcoming book (\$ in the series) and I plan to be there for the release!

This is not a gory or hardboiled series. Lucie is called back from France, where she has been recovering from a horrible car accident for her father's funeral. What a family mess! Was it murder or an accident? That is what she doesn't know. Her brother tells her one thing, godfather another and a high school friend, a reporter, another.

We deal with "development" here a lot. Civil War battle site preservation vs another Wal Mart is in the news weekly, rural farms vs theme parks, we have it all the time and this also plays a major part of Ms Crosby's story. Se does not just plant her story her, she knows this area. This is not "preachy" at all, just part of the story and the reality of what we see on every drive into the Blue Ridge or out towards Jefferson's Charlottesville.

Joanne: I was going to give this 2 stars, but since I'm planning to read the next book in the series, I guess I must have liked it a little more than that! I listened to this book, and I must say I really enjoyed the descriptive language more than I probably would have had I been reading the book. Plus, I've noticed that the second book in a series is often better than the first, so I'm cautiously optimistic!

Partially crippled in a car accident 2 years ago, Lucie Montgomery has been living in France with her no-account boyfriend when she learns her father, Leland, has been killed in a hunting accident and is summoned home by her brother Eli to the Virginia vineyard where she grew up to attend the funeral. Upon her arrival, she is bombarded with all kinds of news! Her brother and her little sister, Mia, want to sell the vineyard, Mia is sleeping with Lucie's ex-boyfriend, Greg, (who caused the accident that crippled her), and Fitz, her godfather and partner in the vineyard tells her that he thinks that Leland was murdered. Fitz's murder seems to lend credence to his assertion that someone may indeed have killed Leland. The vineyard is in financial trouble, but some mysterious person or group wants to buy it, and Lucie is the next target since she is adamantly opposed to selling the vineyard with all of its rich history and the family home. Several people had motives to kill her, but the murderer came as a surprise to me!

I had a little trouble relating to Lucie even though I liked her determination to continue with the wine-making legacy. She seems to have a bit of a chip on her shoulder due to her bad leg, and she carries her insistence that she's "fine" all the time a little too far. Normal people call the police and go to the hospital when their car has been run off the road and rolled over several times - they're not "fine!" I like a little quirkiness in the heroines in cozies, but mortal stupidity really annoys me! I DO want to see what happens in the next book, though!

Michelle: i am hiding the entire evaluation simply because i actually desired to wait to check and fee the booklet till after my booklet membership meeting, but when i do not write a assessment quickly after completing a book, I prove having a troublesome time remembering a number of the issues I had desired to say. Luce is returning to the U.S. to wait her father's funeral. He died suddenly, strangely. She has been staying in France to get over a awful vehicle crash that left her handicapped...and probably somewhat of a vacationer to life. In fact, initially she has a large number of flashbacks which serve purposes: to trap the reader up and convey that Luce is

simply not residing existence within the present. But there are all types of items taking place at her family's vineyard. There are funds issues, pressures, blackmail, unusual family members meetings, and shadowy farmhands. there have been plenty of layers to this ebook that I enjoyed. it truly is enjoyable to examine a space that i am lovely familiar with. I loved that the secret wasn't too straightforward, and that every one the questions were not replied through the end. i wished to understand who dunnit yet while used to be having fun with the characters...The one grievance i've got is the multitude of half-finished conversations among Eli and Luce. If anything used to be so very important to him as getting Luce to sell, you'll imagine he'd stick round lengthy adequate to complete an argument. Or that Luce may spend a bit extra time considering how one can make monetary ends meet if she relatively desires to continue carry of the vineyard. That said, I loved it and that i realized a few issues too. i'll most probably learn the second one e-book within the sequence within the future.

Laura W: within the 1st e-book within the Wine state secret series, we meet siblings Lucie, Eli, and Mia Montgomery. they're descendants of a once-wealthy kinfolk who owns a 500-acre winery in Virginia besides their father and godfather. Lucie has been hiding in France for 2 years, convalescing either emotionally and bodily from a devastating vehicle twist of fate that crippled her left leg and left her utilizing a cane to walk. She gets a choice from Eli early one morning, in basic terms to find that their father has died below mysterious circumstances. Lucie is going domestic for the funeral, and discovers that their appealing property has turn into run-down and is deep in debt. Now that her father has died, Lucie's brother and sister are looking to promote the winery and break up the proceeds. However, the winery continues to be owned partially via Lucie and her godfather, Fitz, who aspects with Lucie and refuses to sell. while Fitz is located lifeless from one other "accident", Lucie speedy starts to query no matter if one in every of her siblings is determined adequate for funds to kill their father and godfather. Lucie needs to paintings quickly to place a cease to the killings and check out to save lots of the winery that she dearly loves and desires to maintain in the family. Being not like many cozies out there this present day with its advanced and complicated plot, i used to be intrigued with the fashion and the writing during this book. The plot used to be interesting, and provided lots of twists and turns to maintain me guessing as to the identification of the killer. I loved the a bit of "tragic" personality of Lucie, and the way she persisted to struggle for every thing she loves regardless of her disability. i glance ahead to studying extra books during this interesting new series.

BJ Rose: i did not observe this can be a part of a chain while I picked it up - in fact, i did not determine it out till I received to the tip of the ebook and suggestion there could be extra to the story, so I appeared up the author's identify and chanced on extra Wine nation secret books. do not get me incorrect - the homicide secret during this one is well solved, it is the relations tale that keeps on. the writer does a truly great activity of having the reader into the approach of the vineyard owners, and there is a wine primer of types scattered throughout. I think it will proceed in succeeding books, besides extra of the tale on what to this point is a truly dysfunctional family. And it appears besides that the titles might be alliterative - the subsequent one is The Chardonnay Charade

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