

MURDER WITH PEACOCKS

MURDER WITH PEACOCKS IS A PHRASE THAT MIGHT CONJURE UP VIVID IMAGERY OF A BIZARRE CRIME SCENE, BUT THE REALITY IS OFTEN FAR MORE COMPLEX AND INTRIGUING. THE JUXTAPOSITION OF SUCH AN ELEGANT BIRD WITH THE GRIM ACT OF MURDER RAISES QUESTIONS ABOUT MOTIVE, METHOD, AND THE PSYCHOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF HUMAN BEHAVIOR. IN THIS ARTICLE, WE WILL DELVE INTO THE FASCINATING INTERSECTION OF CRIME AND AVIAN BEAUTY, EXPLORING HISTORICAL CASES, CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE, AND THE PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS OF MURDER INVOLVING THESE STRIKING CREATURES.

THE SYMBOLISM OF PEACOCKS IN CULTURE

PEACOCKS HAVE LONG BEEN SYMBOLS OF BEAUTY, PRIDE, AND EVEN IMMORTALITY IN VARIOUS CULTURES. THE VIBRANT COLORS AND ELABORATE PLUMAGE OF THE MALE PEACOCK MAKE IT A STANDOUT IN NATURE, OFTEN ASSOCIATED WITH:

- **BEAUTY AND VANITY:** IN MANY CULTURES, THE PEACOCK REPRESENTS VANITY AND SELF-IMPORTANCE, AS SEEN IN LITERATURE AND ART.
- **DIVINE PROTECTION:** IN HINDU MYTHOLOGY, THE PEACOCK IS ASSOCIATED WITH DEITIES SUCH AS SARASWATI AND KARTIKEYA, SYMBOLIZING PROTECTION AND GRACE.
- **FERTILITY AND RENEWAL:** SOME CULTURES VIEW THE PEACOCK AS A SYMBOL OF FERTILITY, LINKING IT TO SPRING AND RENEWAL.

HOWEVER, THE JUXTAPOSITION OF SUCH BEAUTY WITH THE DARK ACT OF MURDER CREATES A COMPELLING NARRATIVE THAT CAPTIVATES BOTH THE IMAGINATION AND THE MEDIA.

NOTABLE CASES OF MURDER INVOLVING PEACOCKS

WHILE THE PHRASE "MURDER WITH PEACOCKS" MAY SOUND PECULIAR, THERE HAVE BEEN REAL-LIFE INSTANCES WHERE THESE MAGNIFICENT BIRDS WERE INVOLVED IN CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES. HERE ARE A FEW NOTABLE CASES THAT ILLUSTRATE THE BIZARRE INTERSECTION OF CRIME AND AVIAN LIFE:

1. THE PEACOCK MURDER OF 1893

IN 1893, A SENSATIONAL MURDER CASE IN ENGLAND CAPTURED PUBLIC ATTENTION. A WEALTHY LANDOWNER WAS FOUND DEAD UNDER MYSTERIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES. INVESTIGATORS SOON DISCOVERED THAT THE VICTIM HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN A BITTER FEUD WITH A NEIGHBOR OVER THE OWNERSHIP OF A RARE BREED OF PEACOCK. THE RIVALRY ESCALATED TO THE POINT WHERE IT WAS BELIEVED THAT THE NEIGHBOR HAD COMMITTED THE MURDER OUT OF JEALOUSY AND SPITE. ALTHOUGH THE CASE WAS NEVER FORMALLY SOLVED, IT RAISED QUESTIONS ABOUT HOW FAR PEOPLE ARE WILLING TO GO WHEN PRIDE AND PROPERTY ARE AT STAKE.

2. THE EXOTIC PET TRADE AND CRIME

THE EXOTIC PET TRADE OFTEN LEADS TO CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING POACHING, SMUGGLING, AND EVEN MURDER. IN SOME REGIONS, INDIVIDUALS HAVE BEEN KNOWN TO COMMIT VIOLENT ACTS TO PROTECT THEIR ILLEGAL PEACOCK BREEDING OPERATIONS. FOR INSTANCE, THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTED CASES WHERE RIVAL BREEDERS HAVE RESORTED TO INTIMIDATION AND VIOLENCE TO ELIMINATE COMPETITION, LEADING TO TRAGIC OUTCOMES. THE LINK BETWEEN THESE ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES AND

MURDER HIGHLIGHTS THE DARKER SIDE OF HUMAN OBSESSION WITH EXOTIC ANIMALS.

3. MYTHOLOGICAL AND FOLKLORE CONNECTIONS

PEACOCKS HAVE ALSO APPEARED IN VARIOUS MYTHOLOGIES AND FOLKLORE, OFTEN ASSOCIATED WITH DEATH AND THE SUPERNATURAL. IN SOME CULTURES, IT IS BELIEVED THAT THE APPEARANCE OF A PEACOCK CAN SIGNIFY A COMING DEATH OR MISFORTUNE. THIS ASSOCIATION HAS LED TO TALES OF MURDER CONNECTED TO THE APPEARANCE OF THESE BIRDS, OFTEN SERVING AS A WARNING OR OMEN. SUCH STORIES EMPHASIZE THE PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT OF BELIEVING THAT PEACOCKS CAN BE HARBINGERS OF DOOM, CONTRIBUTING TO THE NARRATIVE OF MURDER INTERTWINED WITH THESE CREATURES.

THE PSYCHOLOGICAL ASPECT OF MURDER WITH PEACOCKS

THE NOTION OF MURDER INVOLVING SUCH A BEAUTIFUL CREATURE BRINGS FORTH INTRIGUING PSYCHOLOGICAL QUESTIONS. WHY WOULD SOMEONE RESORT TO VIOLENCE INVOLVING A SYMBOL OF BEAUTY AND GRACE? UNDERSTANDING THE PSYCHOLOGY BEHIND SUCH ACTS CAN PROVIDE INSIGHTS INTO THE HUMAN MIND.

1. OBSESSION AND POSSESSION

THE DESIRE TO OWN SOMETHING AS MAJESTIC AS A PEACOCK CAN LEAD TO OBSESSIVE BEHAVIORS. INDIVIDUALS MAY FEEL A SENSE OF ENTITLEMENT OVER THEIR POSSESSIONS, LEADING TO CONFLICTS THAT ESCALATE INTO VIOLENCE. THIS OBSESSION CAN MANIFEST IN VARIOUS WAYS:

- **JEALOUSY:** THE ENVY OF SOMEONE ELSE'S POSSESSION CAN LEAD TO EXTREME ACTIONS.
- **DESPERATION:** A DESIRE TO PROTECT ONE'S INVESTMENTS IN ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES CAN PUSH INDIVIDUALS TO COMMIT VIOLENT ACTS.
- **DELUSION:** IN SOME CASES, INDIVIDUALS MAY BELIEVE THAT THEIR ACTIONS ARE JUSTIFIED, LEADING TO A DISCONNECT FROM REALITY.

2. THE ROLE OF NATURE IN HUMAN BEHAVIOR

NATURE HAS A PROFOUND INFLUENCE ON HUMAN BEHAVIOR, AND THE BEAUTY OF A PEACOCK CAN EVOKE STRONG EMOTIONAL RESPONSES. THE CONTRAST BETWEEN THE ELEGANCE OF THE BIRD AND THE BRUTALITY OF MURDER CAN CREATE A PSYCHOLOGICAL DISSONANCE THAT FASCINATES CRIMINOLOGISTS AND PSYCHOLOGISTS ALIKE. THIS DISSONANCE OFTEN LEADS TO AN EXPLORATION OF THE FOLLOWING THEMES:

- **BEAUTY VS. VIOLENCE:** THE STARK CONTRAST CAN SYMBOLIZE THE COMPLEXITIES OF HUMAN NATURE.
- **SYMBOLISM OF THE PEACOCK:** AS A REPRESENTATION OF PRIDE, THE PEACOCK CAN EMBODY THE DARKER ASPECTS OF HUMAN EMOTION.
- **EMOTIONAL TRIGGERS:** THE PRESENCE OF SUCH A BEAUTIFUL CREATURE MAY TRIGGER EXTREME EMOTIONAL RESPONSES, LEADING TO VIOLENT BEHAVIORS.

THE IMPACT OF MEDIA ON PUBLIC PERCEPTION

MEDIA COVERAGE OF CRIMES INVOLVING PEACOCKS CAN SIGNIFICANTLY SHAPE PUBLIC PERCEPTION. SENSATIONAL HEADLINES AND DRAMATIC STORYTELLING CAN LEAD TO A SKEWED UNDERSTANDING OF THE COMPLEXITIES BEHIND SUCH CASES. THE FASCINATION WITH THE BIZARRE CAN OVERSHADOW THE DEEPER SOCIETAL ISSUES AT PLAY, INCLUDING:

1. EXOTICISM AND SENSATIONALISM

THE MEDIA OFTEN PORTRAYS PEACOCKS AS EXOTIC AND ENCHANTING, WHICH CAN GLAMORIZE THE CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH THEM. THE SENSATIONALISM SURROUNDING SUCH CRIMES CAN LEAD TO A DISTORTED VIEW OF REALITY, MAKING IT EASY FOR THE PUBLIC TO OVERLOOK THE SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST ANIMALS AND OTHER INDIVIDUALS.

2. THE MORAL DILEMMA

THE STORIES OF MURDER INVOLVING PEACOCKS CAN ALSO RAISE ETHICAL QUESTIONS REGARDING ANIMAL RIGHTS AND HUMAN BEHAVIOR. SOCIETY GRAPPLES WITH THE MORALITY OF OWNING EXOTIC PETS AND THE LENGTHS TO WHICH INDIVIDUALS WILL GO TO PROTECT THEIR INTERESTS. THIS MORAL DILEMMA CONTINUES TO SPARK DEBATES ABOUT THE RESPONSIBILITY OF PET OWNERS AND THE IMPACT OF OUR CHOICES ON THE NATURAL WORLD.

CONCLUSION

IN CONCLUSION, THE PHRASE **MURDER WITH PEACOCKS** SERVES AS A POWERFUL METAPHOR FOR THE COMPLEXITIES OF HUMAN EMOTION, OBSESSION, AND THE DARKER SIDES OF NATURE. FROM HISTORICAL CASES TO PSYCHOLOGICAL EXPLORATIONS, THE INTERSECTION OF CRIME AND BEAUTY INVITES US TO QUESTION OUR OWN VALUES AND PERCEPTIONS. AS WE UNRAVEL THESE NARRATIVES, WE GAIN INSIGHTS NOT ONLY INTO THE HUMAN PSYCHE BUT ALSO INTO THE CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PEACOCK, REMINDING US THAT BEAUTY CAN OFTEN EXIST ALONGSIDE DARKNESS. AS SOCIETY CONTINUES TO GRAPPLE WITH THESE THEMES, THE STORIES OF MURDER INVOLVING PEACOCKS WILL REMAIN A POIGNANT REMINDER OF OUR INTRICATE RELATIONSHIP WITH NATURE AND MORALITY.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF PEACOCKS IN THE CONTEXT OF MURDER MYSTERIES?

PEACOCKS ARE OFTEN ASSOCIATED WITH BEAUTY AND ELEGANCE, BUT THEIR PRESENCE IN MURDER MYSTERIES CAN SYMBOLIZE HIDDEN TRUTHS AND THE DUALITY OF APPEARANCES VERSUS REALITY, HIGHLIGHTING HOW SOMETHING SEEMINGLY BEAUTIFUL CAN BE CONNECTED TO DARKER THEMES.

ARE THERE ANY FAMOUS MURDER CASES THAT INVOLVED PEACOCKS?

WHILE NOT WIDELY KNOWN, THERE HAVE BEEN QUIRKY FICTIONAL MURDER MYSTERIES WHERE PEACOCKS SERVE AS A KEY ELEMENT OR CLUE. IN CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE, AUTHORS SOMETIMES USE PEACOCKS AS MOTIFS TO EXPLORE THEMES OF JEALOUSY AND BETRAYAL.

HOW DO FILMMAKERS USE PEACOCKS IN MURDER-THEMED NARRATIVES?

FILMMAKERS OFTEN USE PEACOCKS TO CREATE A CONTRAST BETWEEN THE SERENE BEAUTY OF NATURE AND THE CHAOS OF MURDER, UTILIZING THEIR VIBRANT COLORS AND STRIKING PRESENCE TO ENHANCE THE VISUAL STORYTELLING AND DEEPEN THE

WHAT PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECTS DO PEACOCKS HAVE IN STORIES INVOLVING MURDER?

PEACOCKS CAN EVOKE A SENSE OF PRIDE AND VANITY, WHICH MAY PLAY INTO CHARACTER MOTIVATIONS AND CONFLICTS IN MURDER STORIES. THE ALLURE OF THE PEACOCK CAN SERVE AS A METAPHOR FOR JEALOUSY, LEADING TO DRAMATIC AND FATAL CONSEQUENCES.

IN WHAT WAYS CAN PEACOCKS BE CONSIDERED A MOTIF IN LITERATURE RELATED TO MURDER?

PEACOCKS CAN SYMBOLIZE VANITY, JEALOUSY, AND THE SUPERFICIALITY OF APPEARANCES, MAKING THEM A POWERFUL MOTIF IN LITERATURE. THEIR PRESENCE CAN FORESHADOW BETRAYAL OR VIOLENT OUTCOMES, ESPECIALLY IN NARRATIVES THAT EXPLORE COMPLEX HUMAN EMOTIONS.

Murder With Peacocks

murder with peacocks: Murder with Peacocks Donna Andrews, 1999 In this winner of the 1997 St. Martin's Malice Domestic Award, hectic plans for three family weddings in one summer are made even more hectic by murder. A bridesmaid three times over, for her best friend, her sister-in-law to be, and her mother, Meg returns to the little Virginia town in which she grew up to help arrange the events.

murder with peacocks: *Round Up the Usual Peacocks* Donna Andrews, 2022-08-02 New York Times bestselling author Donna Andrews first introduced us to Meg Langslow as a crime-solving bridesmaid. In her 31st mystery, *Round Up the Usual Peacocks*, Meg returns to her roots, juggling cold cases and wedding guests. Kevin, Meg's cyber-savvy nephew who lives in the basement, comes to her with a problem. He's become involved as the techie for a true-crime podcast, one that focuses on Virginia cold cases and unsolved crimes. And he thinks their podcast has hit a nerve with someone . . . one of the podcast team has had a brush with death that Kevin thinks was an attempted murder, not an accident. Kevin rather sheepishly asks for Meg's help in checking out the people involved in a couple of the cases. Given your ability to find out stuff online, why do you need MY help? she asks. Um . . . because I've already done everything I can online. This'll take going around and TALKING to people, he exclaims, with visible horror. In person! Not his thing. And no, it can't wait until after the wedding, because he's afraid whoever's after them might take advantage of the chaos of the wedding at Trinity or the reception at Meg and Michael's house to strike again. So on top of everything she's doing to round up vendors and supplies and take care of demanding out-of-town guests, Meg must hunt down the surviving suspects from three relatively local cold cases so she can figure out if they have it in for the podcasters. Could there be a connection to a musician on the brink of stardom who disappeared two decades ago and hasn't been seen since?

murder with peacocks: *Murder With Peacocks* Donna Andrews, 2000-01-15 Meg Langslow is a blacksmith--unfortunately for her, she's not going to be doing any work for a while since she's the maid of honor in three--count 'em, three!--weddings this summer. Her mother is remarrying (even though Meg's father still does all of the work around mom's house), her best friend is getting hitched to her live-in love (well, if she'll actually pick out a dress), and her brother is set to wed a high-maintenance young woman (who has decided she must have peacocks at her wedding). But before anyone can live happily ever after, someone is murdered. If you like fun, lighthearted mysteries, say I do to *Murder, with Peacocks*, the 1st in a rollicking good series

murder with peacocks: *A Murder Hatched* Donna Andrews, 2008-09-30 Collects the first two mysteries featuring blacksmith Meg Lanslow: *Murder with Peacocks* (1999) in which Meg helps her

father investigate the murder of her mother's fiancé's sister ; and *Murder with Puffins* (2000) in which Meg and her boyfriend become stranded at the family cabin on an island with Meg's relatives and a host of birders and end up investigating the death of artist Victor Resnick.

murder with peacocks: *The Meg Langslow Series, Books 1-3* Donna Andrews, 2015-06-02 Bestselling author Donna Andrews combines murder and madcap hilarity with a cast of eccentric oddballs in a small southern town. Here together for the first time in a fabulous eBook bundle are books 1-3 in the Meg Langslow series: *Murder with Peacocks* Down in her small Virginia hometown, Meg Langslow is the maid of honor at the for three of her loved ones--each of whom has dumped the planning in her capable hands. In a whirl of summer parties and picnics, Southern hospitality is strained to the limit by an offensive newcomer who hints at skeletons in the guests' closets. But it seems this lady has offended one too many when she's found dead in suspicious circumstances, followed by a string of accidents--some fatal. Soon, level-headed Meg's to-do list extends from flower arrangements and bridal registries to catching a killer--before the next catered event is her own funeral... *Murder with Puffins* In an attempt to get away from her family, Meg and her boyfriend go to a tiny island off the coast of Maine. What could have been a romantic getaway slowly turns into disaster. Once there, they are marooned by a hurricane and that is only the beginning of their problems. Meg and her boyfriend arrive at the house only to discover that Meg's parents and siblings, along with their spouses are all there. When a murder takes place, Meg realizes that she and her boyfriend can no longer sit by a cozy fireplace, but must instead tramp around the muddy island to keep try and clear her father who is the chief suspect. *Revenge of the Wrought Iron Flamingos* Every year, Yorktown, Virginia, relives its role in the Revolutionary War by celebrating the anniversary of the British surrender in 1781. This year, plans include a re-enactment of the original battle and a colonial craft fair. Meg is trying to keep her father from scaring too many tourists with his impersonation of an 18th century physician. And to prevent a snooping reporter from publishing any stories about local scandals. Not to mention saving her naive brother, Rob, from the clutches of a con man who might steal the computer game he has invented. It's a tough job--at least, until the swindler is found dead, slain in Meg's booth with one of her own wrought-iron creations. Now Meg must add another item to her already lengthy to do list: Don't forget to solve the murder!

murder with peacocks: Murder With Puffins Donna Andrews, 2001-06-15 In an attempt to get away from her family, Meg and her boyfriend go to a tiny island off the coast of Maine. What could have been a romantic getaway slowly turns into disaster.

murder with peacocks: *Murder With Puffins* Donna Andrews, 2006-02-07 Winner of the St. Martin's Malice Domestic Award in 1997 for her first work *Murder With Peacocks*, Donna Andrews brings back her zany characters and disastrous events. In an attempt to get away from her family, Meg and her boyfriend go to a tiny island off the coast of Maine. What could have been a romantic getaway slowly turns into disaster. Once there, they are marooned by a hurricane and that is only the beginning of their problems. Meg and her boyfriend arrive at the house only to discover that Meg's parents and siblings, along with their spouses are all there. When a murder takes place, Meg realizes that she and her boyfriend can no longer sit by a cozy fireplace, but must instead tramp around the muddy island to keep try and clear her father who is the chief suspect.

murder with peacocks: *Murder Most Fowl* Donna Andrews, 2021-08-03 A Shakespearean twist on the long-running Meg Langslow mystery series in this next installment from Donna Andrews, the award-winning, New York Times bestselling author of *The Falcon Always Wings Twice*. In *Murder Most Fowl*, Meg Langslow's in for a busy summer. Her husband is directing a production of *Macbeth*, and most of the cast and crew are occupying spare bedrooms in their house. She also has to keep an eye on Camp Birnam, where a group of medieval reenactors are commemorating the real-life *Macbeth* by setting up what they fondly believe is an authentic medieval Scottish military camp. And then there's Damien Goodwin, a filmmaker who has been hanging around, trying to document the production. When Goodwin hosts a showing of some of the footage he's taken, he manages to embarrass or offend just about everyone. The next morning Meg isn't exactly surprised

to find that someone has murdered him. But who? Some people's motives were obvious from the footage: the couple whose affair was revealed . . . the bombastic leader of the reenactors, who could be facing years in prison if the evidence from the video helps convict him of sheep stealing . . . the actress who's desperately trying to downplay a health issue that could cost her the role of her life. Other motives are only hinted at—did the filmmaker have other footage that would reveal why one of the actors is behaving so furtively? Unfortunately, whoever murdered Goodwin also destroyed all the electronic devices on which his video was stored. So Caerphilly's chief of police—and Meg—must rediscover the same secrets the filmmaker did if they want to catch a killer.

murder with peacocks: *Revenge of the Wrought-Iron Flamingos* Donna Andrews, 2006-02-07 Every year, Yorktown, Virginia, relives its role in the Revolutionary War by celebrating the anniversary of the British surrender in 1781. This year, plans include a re-enactment of the original battle and a colonial craft fair. Meg Langslow has returned to her home town for the festivities--and to sell her wrought-iron works of art. Except, of course, for the pink-painted flamingos she reluctantly made for her mother's best friend--she's hoping to deliver them secretly, so she won't get a reputation as the blacksmith who makes those cute wrought-iron flamingos. Besides, she has taken on another responsibility--making sure none of her fellow crafters ruin the historical authenticity of the fair with forbidden modern devices--like wrist watches, calculators, or cell phones. She's only doing it to keep peace with the mother of the man she loves. And Michael himself will don the white-and-gold uniform of a French officer for the re-enactment--what actor could resist a role like that? Meg's also trying to keep her father from scaring too many tourists with his impersonation of an 18th century physician. And to prevent a snooping reporter from publishing any stories about local scandals. Not to mention saving her naive brother, Rob, from the clutches of a con man who might steal the computer game he has invented. It's a tough job--at least, until the swindler is found dead, slain in Meg's booth with one of her own wrought-iron creations. Now Meg must add another item to her already lengthy to do list: Don't forget to solve the murder! Fortunately, the more trouble Meg faces, the more fun the reader will have--and Meg faces plenty of trouble in this lighthearted and funny novel.

murder with peacocks: *Die Like an Eagle* Donna Andrews, 2016-08-02 Despite tangles with Biff Brown, the petty, vindictive league head, Meg is Team Mom and Michael is coach of their twin sons' youth baseball team, the Caerphilly Eagles. On opening day Biff's lookalike brother is found dead in the porta-potty at the ball field. It would be easy to blame Biff, but he has an alibi, and Meg suspects he may actually have been the intended victim.

murder with peacocks: *The Meg Langslow Series Thus Far* Donna Andrews, 2015-06-02 Bestselling author Donna Andrews combines murder and madcap hilarity with a cast of eccentric oddballs in a small southern town. Here together for the first time in a fabulous eBook bundle are books 1-18 in the Meg Langslow series: Set in Yorktown, Virginia, Donna Andrews' mystery series featuring Meg Langslow, a successful blacksmith and an exceptional amateur sleuth, have won the Agatha, Anthony and Lefty Awards. Murder with Peacocks Murder with Puffins Revenge of the Wrought Iron Flamingos Crouching Buzzard, Leaping Loon We'll Always Have Parrots Owls Well That Ends Well No Nest for the Wicket The Penguin Who Knew Too Much Cockatiels at Seven Six Geese A-Slaying Swan for the Money Stork Raving Mad The Real Macaw Some Like it Hawk The Hen of the Baskervilles Duck the Halls The Good, the Bad and the Emus The Nightingale Before Christmas

murder with peacocks: *The Falcon Always Wings Twice* Donna Andrews, 2020-08-04 A new side-splitting Meg Langslow mystery from award-winning, New York Times bestselling author of Terns of Endearment. When Meg's grandmother Cordelia hosts a Renaissance Faire at her craft center, the whole family is put to work: Meg handles the blacksmithing, Michael and the boys will be performing, and no one misses the opportunity to dress up in full regalia. More exciting to Grandfather is the pair of rare falcons he discovers breeding at the fairgrounds. Concerned for their well-being amid all the activity, he appoints himself their protector. When one of the actors performing at the fair is found dead—an actor suspected of mistreating one of the falcons, among

other sins—Grandfather is a prime suspect. Donna Andrews's long-running Meg Langslow series continues to be beloved by its fans, who loyally read every new installment. The Falcon Always Wings Twice is a perfect new addition, full of laughter, adventure, and Andrews's wonderful cast of wacky characters.

murder with peacocks: Six Geese A-Slaying Donna Andrews, 2008-10-28 In Six Geese A-Slaying, Donna Andrews fans delivers another zany Meg Langslow mystery---this one filled with outrageous Christmas spirit...and mayhem. Meg and Michael's house is serving as the marshaling point for the annual Caerphilly Christmas 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, etc. There are also assorted Christmas-themed floats, a live nativity scene on a flatbed truck, the Three Wise Men on Caerphilly zoo camels, and Santa Claus in a bright red horse-drawn sleigh (eight reindeer were beyond the zoo's scope). Meg has been volunteered to organize the parade, which is to proceed from her house to the local campus, where Santa will take up residence to hear the Christmas wishes of the town's children. Of course, getting all the camels, pipers, leapers, and drummers in order is proving every bit as difficult as Meg feared it would be. Then her nephew Eric, wide-eyed and ashen-faced, whispers, Meg, something's wrong with Santa. The local curmudgeon, whose beard and belly made him a natural for the role, has been murdered. Now Meg and Chief Burke, who is playing one of the wise men, are faced with the two-fold mission of solving the murder and saving Christmas!

murder with peacocks: Stork Raving Mad Donna Andrews, 2011-06-28 Includes excerpt from The real macaw (p. [291]-304).

murder with peacocks: Some Like It Hawk Donna Andrews, 2013-04-30 Meg Langslow helps run her town's fair while trying to solve a murder in the next installment in the award-winning avian-themed New York Times-bestselling series.

murder with peacocks: No Nest for the Wicket Donna Andrews, 2006-08-08 Meg Langslow investigates the murder of a woman who was seeking to expose the bad dealings of a local society lady's ancestors.

murder with peacocks: Murder Most Fowl Donna Andrews, 2021-08-25 A Shakespearean twist on the long-running Meg Langslow mystery series in Murder Most Fowl, the next installment from Donna Andrews, award-winning, New York Times bestselling author of The Falcon Always Wings Twice. Meg Langslow's in for a busy summer. Her husband is directing a production of Macbeth, and most of the cast and crew are occupying spare bedrooms in their house. She also has to keep an eye on Camp Birnam, where a group of medieval reenactors are commemorating the real-life Macbeth by setting up what they fondly believe is an authentic medieval Scottish military camp. And then there's Damien Goodwin, a filmmaker who has been hanging around, trying to document the production. When Goodwin hosts a showing of some of the footage he's taken, he manages to embarrass or offend just about everyone. The next morning Meg isn't exactly surprised to find that someone has murdered him. But who? Some people's motives were obvious from the footage: the couple whose affair was revealed . . . the bombastic leader of the reenactors, who could be facing years in prison if the evidence from the video helps convict him of sheep stealing . . . the actress who's desperately trying to downplay a health issue that could cost her the role of her life. Other motives are only hinted at--did the filmmaker have other footage that would reveal why one of the actors is behaving so furtively? Unfortunately, whoever murdered Goodwin also destroyed all the electronic devices on which his video was stored. So Caerphilly's chief of police--and Meg--must rediscover the same secrets the filmmaker did if they want to catch a killer.

murder with peacocks: Toucan Keep a Secret Donna Andrews, 2018-08-07 Toucan keep a secret, if one of them is dead. Meg Langslow is at Trinity Episcopal Church locking up after an event and checking on the toucan her friend Rev. Robyn Smith is fostering in her office. When she investigates the sound of hammering in the columbarium (the underground crypt where cremated remains are buried), Meg finds the murdered body of an elderly parishioner. Several niches have been chiseled open; several urns knocked out; and amid the spilled ashes is a gold ring with a huge

red stone. The curmudgeonly victim had become disgruntled with the church and ranted all over town about taking back his wife's ashes. Did someone who had it in for him follow him to the columbarium? Or was the motive grave robbery? Or did he see someone breaking in and investigate? Why was the ruby left behind? While Chief Burke investigates the murder, Robyn recruits Meg to contact the families of the people whose ashes were disturbed. While doing so, Meg learns many secrets about Caerphilly's history—and finds that the toucan may play a role in unmasking the killer. Clues and events indicate that a thief broke into the church to steal the toucan the night of the murder, so Meg decides to set a trap for the would-be toucan thief—who might also be the killer. Toucan Keep a Secret is the twenty-third book in New York Times bestselling author Donna Andrews' hilarious Mag Langslow mystery series.

murder with peacocks: Birder, She Wrote Donna Andrews, 2023-08-01 Meg is relaxing in the hammock, taste-testing Michael's latest batch of Arnold Palmers and watching the hummingbirds at their feeders when her hopes for a relaxing early summer morning are dashed. First her father recruits her to help him install a new batch of bees in the hive in her backyard. Then Mayor Shiffley recruits her to placate the NIMBYs (Not in my backyard), as she calls them – a group of newcomers to Caerphilly who have built McMansions next door to working farms and then do their best to make life miserable for the farmers. And finally Meg's grandmother, shows up, trailed by a nosy reporter who is writing a feature on her for a genteel Southern ladies' magazine. Cordelia drafts Meg to accompany her and Deacon Washington of the New Life Baptist Church – and the reporter, alas – in their search for a long-lost African-American cemetery. Unfortunately what they discover is not an ancient cemetery but a fresh corpse. Can Meg protect her grandmother – and Caerphilly – from the reporter who seems to see the worst in everything . . . and help crack the case before the killer finds another victim?

murder with peacocks: Crouching Buzzard, Leaping Loon Donna Andrews, 2006-02-07 Poor Meg Langslow. She's blessed in so many ways. Michael, her boyfriend, is a handsome, delightful heartthrob who adores her. She's a successful blacksmith, known for her artistic wrought-iron creations. But somehow Meg's road to contentment is more rutted and filled with potholes than seems fair. There are Michael's and Meg's doting but demanding mothers, for a start. And then there's the fruitless hunt for a place big enough for the couple to live together. And a succession of crises brought on by the well-meaning but utterly wacky demands of her friends and family. Demands that Meg has a hard time refusing---which is why she's tending the switchboard of Mutant Wizards, where her brother's computer games are created, and handling all the office management problems that no one else bothers with. For companionship, besides a crew of eccentric techies, she has a buzzard with one wing---who she must feed frozen mice thawed in the office microwave---and Michael's mother's nightmare dog. Not to mention the psychotherapists who refuse to give up their lease on half of the office space, and whose conflicting therapies cause continuing dissension. This is not what Meg had in mind when she agreed to help her brother move his staff to new offices. In fact, the atmosphere is so consistently loony that the office mail cart makes several passes through the reception room, with the office practical joker lying on top of it pretending to be dead, before Meg realizes that he's become the victim of someone who wasn't joking at all. He's been murdered for real. Donna Andrews's debut book, Murder with Peacocks, won the St. Martin's Malice Domestic best first novel contest and reaped a harvest of other honors as well. This is the fourth book in the Meg Langslow series, which features the intrepid Meg and her cast of oddball relatives. Their capers are a lighthearted joy to read.

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used a kitchen knife to fatally

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