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# Murder & The Monkey Band: High Desert Cozy Mystery Series



## Synopsis

Seven Time All Star author with her latest in a brand new cozy mystery series - A High Desert Cozy Mystery Series. Marty Morgan is a recently divorced antique and art appraiser who moves from the Midwest to live with her sister in High Desert, California, just outside of Palm Springs. Since their early childhood days, her sister has always possessed unexplained psychic abilities that often enable her to predict future events. An antique appraisal in the home of a recently murdered woman puts Marty at the center of a search for the killer. Who did it? The woman's son? The well-known collector of antique Meissen china? A professional art and antique thief? The owner of Mai Tai Mama's Restaurant? And just what part did the collection of Meissen Monkey Band figurines play in the murder? Detective Jeff Combs is just as determined to develop a relationship with Marty and her dog Duke as he is to solve the crime. Will the psychic abilities of Marty's sister help her find the killer? You'll love Dianne Harman's bestselling cozy mysteries. More than 275,000 downloaded in 2015 and 1000s of five star reviews! Available in digital, print, and audiobook.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Being familiar with that part of southern California, I was intrigued from the beginning. Murder & The

Monkey Band: High Desert Cozy Mystery Series. What an exciting read in this new mystery series. The characters are so well written it feels like you know them. I don't give out spoilers, so you must read it to discover all the twists and turns. I've read many of author Dianne Harman's previous works, and knew this one would be brilliant as well. Looking forward to the following book! I highly recommend and give it 5 stars!

I wanted to like this book -- seriously I did ! However, the author apparently took the advice 'Show, don't tell' entirely wrong when she interpreted that to mean her characters should have ridiculous dialogue in order to "show" instead of "tell". I simply couldn't finish this this book, it was so poorly written, although the premise was promising. Sorry.

Overall a good story/mystery with a bit of romance thrown in with a bit of suspense. But, dialogue is often too simplistic (for me), too detailed so I want to say 'get on with it!' The overall book seems to be written according to a guide "How to Write a Mystery." I may be picky but I did enjoy the overall story and will probably read more by Harman.

Recently I started reading this series and find it very enjoyable. I can relate to the characters as their story unfolds and worry about them when danger rears its ugly head. The information about antiques and art is very interesting and the recipes look quite tempting. I believe anyone can pick up a book in the series and enjoy it without reading the rest, however, you might get hooked on the whole series.

The people of High Desert, California, just outside of Palm Springs were an interesting bunch and I felt like I could move in next door and fit right in.. This book had murder, mystery, the disappearance of The Monkey Band and just the right amount of romance! Wondering what the Monkey Band is? You might be surprised at who they are, read the book.. I think you will like this one I certainly did!

Having moved to the High Desert Community shortly after her divorce, Marty makes her living as an antiques appraiser. When she received some a request for an appraisal on antiques belonging to a murder victim, she enlists her psychic sisters help. Once she meets the detective on the case, and feels the immediate attraction to him, Marty and her sister set about to assist in the investigation any way they can. Will their snooping lead to their demise? Delightful and believable characters mesh well and set the stage in a desert setting for a quick and easily read cozy mystery.

Marty has moved to the high desert in California to be closer to her sister after her divorce, and to continue her antique appraisal business. She's called to the estate of a murdered woman by the son who wants the antiques appraised, and gets caught up in the whodunit of why the woman was murdered and why her antique monkey band plate settings have gone missing. The reason I titled the review a good bedtime read is because this book helps put the reader to sleep. Most books I read the author has "show don't tell" under control. This author does it in reverse, preferring the tell don't show approach and the book is heavily dialogue driven. This might work for more talented writers but not this one. The dialogue was stilted, unnatural, and awkward. The characters weren't developed, tough to do in a dialogue driven book, and not especially likeable. The worst was a police detective named Jeff who became enamored with Marty. Here's a cop investigating a murder and he's sharing details with people he's just met. Around a dinner table? There's a scene where Jeff is talking to Rosa, the dead woman's housekeeper. Jeff promises her the conversation will stay just between the two of them, but later that night he spends 20 minutes telling Marty the details of the "private" conversation with Rosa. The book had a good idea, but the mystery of the whodunit was pretty obvious even though a couple of red herrings were thrown in there. I liked the California desert setting, but it was too bad the story didn't develop properly.

Marty Morgan has just gone through a divorce after having been married 25 years. Her sister Laura, lives in High Desert, CA & talks Marty to move there. One of the 4 small homes is available & it shares the common area in the middle of all 4 homes. Marty is an antiques appraiser & Palm Springs isn't far. Laura works for a large insurance company who starts giving Marty appraisal work. A well know wealthy woman, Pam Jensen, who owns major art & antiques collection is murdered. Her son Jim hires Marty to do the appraisal. Detective Jeff Combs, Palm Springs, PD is assigned the case. Right now he has no leads. He meets Marty & her sister Laura who has a sixth sense. A dear friend of Pam realizes that Pam's favorite collection the Monkey Band was stole. Here's when things start to change. There's romance, danger & I doubt you won't figure out who the murder is for quite some time. There's more than one suspect. It's a good read & enjoyable.

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