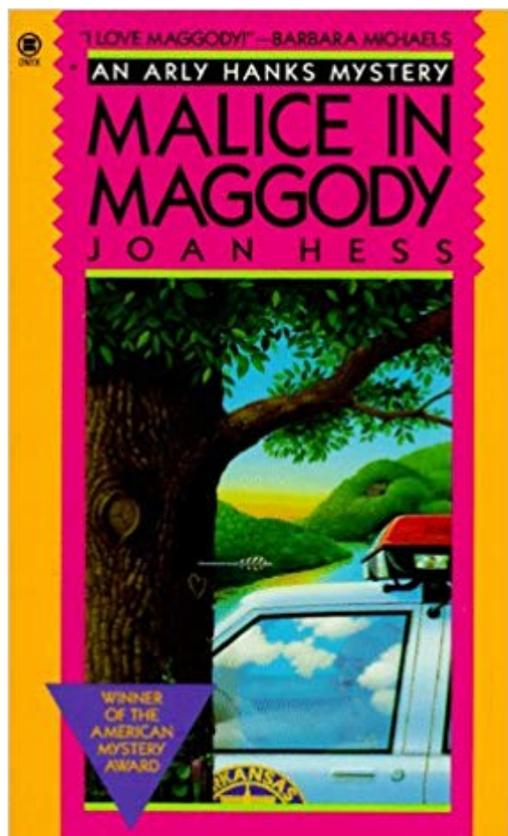


Malice in Maggody (An Arly Hanks Mystery) *by* Joan Hess



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Recuperating from a disastrous marriage in New York City, Arly Hanks, returning to her home town of Maggody, Arkansas, to become its first woman sheriff, is shocked when murder and mayhem turn the town upside down



Reviews of the **Malice in Maggody (An Arly Hanks Mystery)** *by* Joan Hess

Na

Well, maybe at least 15 characters who speak and have a definite personality. It says a lot about the talent of the author when there are so many characters and their personalities are so defined that I know who is speaking. I didn't have to skim backwards to figure out who Estelle or Jim Bob were.

This is the first book in the Maggody series and the first I have read. As you probably know by now it takes place in a small Arkansas town with a population of less than 1,000. The surprising thing to me is that a town that small even has a sheriff AND a deputy. The town has much more murder and mayhem than Mayberry, but then, it doesn't have Andy Griffith and Barney Fife.

This book has a lot of mildly amusing moments and there were times I came close to a quiet chuckle. Yes, there are four letter words which have become so common in books that I didn't notice. Kind of sad, really. However, considering the number of raunchy, classless characters in this book the bad language does fit.

I was surprised at who was murdered and who did the murdering. I don't want to spoil it by saying more.

This is a mildly entertaining book. I do get a little tired of women police in books who are too tough. However, Arly does have some human moments. And, of course, there are the kernels of a romance planted. I guess that's obligatory in every book. I gave the book three stars because it wasn't the page turner it needs to be to get a higher score. However, Malice in Maggody was interesting enough that I will read the next book in the series. And, I have to find out how the Marshland Duck is progressing.

saafari

The Arly Hanks books are always a great read. I wish Hess would write some more of this series. I've read them all many times. She transports you to this delightful 'village' with such colorful characters and when I need a good laugh or just a quick read I'll open one of the books for the afternoon.

Vaua

Malice in Maggody is the first book in the Arly Hanks series of mysteries set in the small town of Maggody Arkansas. Arly is the police chief, but it would be difficult to call this book a police procedural cozy since the characters are broad, the action is heavily infused with madcap nonsense, and the police actions are unorthodox. There are humorous moments in the book, but I prefer her Claire Malloy series and find it funnier. It is not as funny as Jana DeLeon's Miss Fortune series, the Gertie Johnson mysteries by Deb Baker, or even the Merry Wrath series by Leslie Langtry. Joan Hess is a very successful author with many titles to her credit. Each of them is light and readable. The series is popular so perhaps it improves after the introductory volume. The first volume in a series is always tricky since you have to set up the continuing characters and the setting all while telling a story.

Samulkis

This book captures the colorful language and character of rural small towns in the Ozarks. I am from the region myself and she gets the flavor exactly right. Her characters and their colorful language are so much fun, it really doesn't much matter about the plot of the mystery.

Lcena

I love Joan Hess books, especially the Maggody series. As odd as the characters are, they are believable--there is just enough snarkiness and pragmatism in these well-written books to hold my interest from halfway through the first page! I heartily recommend them to anyone who wants a chuckle and a very good story!

Pringles

This is a very entertaining and humorous story. The dialog, with its country style colloquialisms, is interesting and funny. The action is crazy but fascinating and there is a surprise ending.

Eayaroler

A virtual stew of Maggody residents taking a walk on the wrong side of the law. Somehow it finally all links together into one big mess. Chief Arly slowly works her way to the finish. Truly fun. I have read a couple of later books in the series and was glad to read the first in the series to see how Arly came to be Police Chief. Love the characters and Arly's options of the towns characteristic. Good mystery with lots of laughs.

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