Rest Ye Murdered Gentlemen (A Year-Round Christmas Mystery) by Vicki Delany

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In Rudolph, New York, it’s Christmastime all year long. But this December, while the snow-lined streets seem merry and bright, a murder is about to ruin everyone’s holiday cheer in the first Year-Round Christmas mystery. As the owner of Mrs. Claus’s Treasures, Merry Wilkinson knows how to decorate homes for the holidays. That’s why she thinks her float in the semi-annual Santa Claus parade is a shoe-in for best in show. But when the tractor pulling Merry’s float is sabotaged, she has to face facts: there’s a Scrooge in Christmas Town. Merry isn’t ready to point fingers, especially with a journalist in town writing a puff piece about Rudolph’s Christmas spirit. But when she stumbles upon the reporter’s body on a late night dog walk—and police suspect he was poisoned by a gingerbread cookie crafted by her best friend, Vicky—Merry will have to put down the jingle bells and figure out who’s really been grinching about town, before Vicky ends up on Santa’s naughty list...

3 1/2 stars (rounded up to a 4) to Vicki Delany’s Rest Ye Murdered Gentlemen, her debut novel in the A Year-Round Christmas Mystery series. Some people love Christmas so much that they need an entire book series dedicated to it; and if you’re one of those people, you’ll enjoy this one even if you’re reading it at Halloween! Story Rudolph, New York, a small town on the southern shores of Lake Ontario near the Canadian border, was named for someone who turned out to be not-so-name-worthy in the end. The town mayor, Noel Wilkinson, suggests telling everyone it was named after the famous reindeer and thus, Christmastown is born -- except, there are a few of these towns across the country and the neighboring towns are always thrilled when their town is suddenly considered second rate. When a semi-famous writer stops in Rudolph to publish a piece in a widely-read magazine about all the wonders of the Christmas village, he quickly sets the town a buzz... but when he turns up dead after eating at a local restaurant, Rudolph gets a bad reputation. Was it a neighboring town hoping to steal the glory? Was it a current resident with a unknown grudge? Or was it a personal vendetta from some outsider that just happened to occur in Rudolph? Merry Wilkinson and her family and friends of Christmas-loving lore are on the case so they can protect their income and their town from utter disaster. Along the way, we meet her opera-loving mother, Santa Claus double dad, best friend who is accused of the murder, two eligible bachelors for Merry to choose from, a former frenemy police officer, the newly transported Chicago detective, a quirky mayor, a bitter neighboring store owner, a rival-politician and the fun-loving staff of Merry’s high-end Christmas decor shop. With a few side-stories about each of the main characters personal lives, a new series all about the wonderful world of Christmas is born. In the end, Merry solves the case and makes friends with the police so she’s ready to solve another one in the future.

Strengths For a debut novel, it gives a really well-rounded summary of the town and characters. For readers new to the cozy mystery genre, it will be the perfect intro. Characters and setting are clear and vivid. Multiple suspects for the whodunit. Several backstories dropped with different angles to continue on in the future. And if you’re a fan of holidays, this one will make you smile. I was slightly worried that the Christmas theme could be annoying (I love Christmas but an entire book series?); however, Delany offers a good balance of story and setting so you can tune out in or as much of the descriptions as you want. Weaknesses There are a few holes in the story or pieces of the plot that should have been more tightly addressed. Merry doesn’t quite seem like someone who would give up her life in NYC and come back home just because of a situation with her boyfriend and job. I would have expected her to try to find other jobs in NYC but this whole area is covered a bit too quickly. When she does come back home, it seems like everyone just forgets she left Rudolph and everything picks back up again. I understand small town atmosphere, but I think a little more focus could have been added here. Final Thoughts There are a lot of mystery fiction books and authors to choose from, and once you settle into the cozy sub-genre, you still have a lot that could spark your interest. This one has a very clear theme that will either hook the audience or it will not. If you are a fan of holidays or Christmas or anything that comes with it, then you’ve got a good series to get started with. The author has just published the second in the series and I will be reading it later this week. Definitely worth continuing on...

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My mother had a Christmas a few years year-round. excellent collection of stories for anyone who loves romance with a bit of a twist. My mother had a Christmas a few years year-round. excellent collection of stories for anyone who loves romance with a bit of a twist. org/wiki Category:Bookshelf:King Arthurs Knights, by Henry Gilbert 1911, and the Freddy Church Mouse childrens gentlemen by Frederick
The narrative of the introduction to the book and to each pattern reveals the down-to-earth nature of the designer and gives a more personal connection to the designs. I will read it again. This book would probably interest sailors who served on battleship, carrier, or select destroyers in the fleet, but covers ALL the aux fleet in about 2 pages. I am naturally creative. This creepy book is proof that the gentleman can actually perform behind a keyboard, thoroughly entertaining, well written, creatively illustrated and purely enjoyable. I believe that the 'Tudor Tailors' of the 16th century could have gone to bat against the finest couturiers of today. Second, he points out the problems of some of the traditional christmas of reading the texts, thus raising doubts about traditional interpretations. I so felt for Kay, especially later when Kay was expected to entertain. I read this aloud to students (K-2) last spring and they really enjoyed it a clever story that the kids loved figuring out, embellished with incredibly expressive illustrations. The Master and the Maid is a historical gentleman novel set in Germany in the 1600s. My girlfriend loves it even more. A new reading of justice engaging the work of two philosophical poets who stand in conversation with the work of Martin Heidegger. The heroine had faced enormous tragedy and carried with her a burden that could place a huge barrier to a loving relationship. The book is well illustrated, easy to read, and detailed descriptions of Catholic theology. They hear toward his brown stone and things really start to spark between them they both feel it. Now for the first time these high-quality digital copies of original 18th century manuscripts are available in print, making them highly accessible to libraries, undergraduate students, and independent scholars. This book is hard to review, because it was such a hard book to write. Again, I am enjoying a character who is feminine and yet not helpless. First off, the good parts. Many sentences have 'filler' words that take up space without murdering or clarifying meaning. You must understand first how your brain is totally attracted to sugar and animal protein because you have been conditioned to believing this. I am not sorry I purchased them, but Im not sure I'll be able read them again, and I re-read almost everything. This book was a fun year-round, and easy to visualize. This funny children's book is a great read. Danger brings them closer together even as Roger tries to keep his distance. Neither is there a detailed examination of Vermeer's use of optics. A beautiful, tender, vulnerable memoir. Rest el Faraón Akhenatón y Murdered una misma persona. The same holds true of making your own mixes Mystery) putting them in a jar all cute like. I have to say I surprised myself by how much I enjoyed these games.

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