



Due for Discard

Sharon St. George

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The delightful protagonist of this whodunit is full of spunk and grit, adding intrigue and fun.

Racing against the clock, an audacious forensics librarian pairs with her brother to solve a murder, in Sharon St. George's *Due for Discard*, an absorbing mystery that is suspenseful and fun.

Aimee Machado, a recent library sciences graduate, has been hired to set up a research library at a medical center near Sacramento. On her first day, she notices an awful smell coming from the Dumpster as she enters the building. Later it is discovered that her boss's wife, the notorious Bonnie Beardsley, has been murdered.

Aimee's best friend and brother, Harry, was the last one to see Bonnie alive, and he is under suspicion by the police. In fact, Bonnie's fingerprints are all over Harry's apartment, and the two were arguing just before Bonnie left Harry's place. Aimee believes her handsome and successful brother is innocent, so she engages in her own amateur sleuthing. She soon learns that the deceased, who was a brazen and ruthless sort, had many enemies.

Aimee is staying at her grandparents' barn, taking care of their llamas and other animals while her grandparents are out of town. She is also dealing with heartbreak over a recent breakup with Nick. But Nick won't let Aimee be—he wants to help her solve the mystery of Bonnie's death and keep her safe, especially since she had been a victim of a violent crime several years earlier.

The multidimensional Aimee is a delightful character, full of spunk and grit. Romance readers will appreciate the entanglements and situations in which Aimee finds herself as several men pursue her romantically. The author keeps the reader guessing until the end about who really holds Aimee's heart.

Due for Discard, which is the first in a series, is breezy and light, with some humor thrown in, despite the murder that frames the story. The dialogue is true to life, and Aimee's flaws are both frustrating and winsome.

HILARY DANINHIRSCH (Summer 2015)

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