

The Socialite's Guide to Murder: A Pinnacle Hotel Mystery

S. K. Golden

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A savvy heiress solves two crimes at a Manhattan hotel in S. K. Golden's satisfying cozy mystery novel *The Socialite's Guide to Murder*.

In 1958, Evelyn, pampered and in her twenties, lives in the luxurious Pinnacle Hotel, which is owned by her tycoon father. An Agatha Christie fan, she displays a talent for "finding things," from misplaced purses to children gone astray. She both copies the tastes of her idol, Marilyn Monroe, and proves to be a keen observer herself. She's plagued by demons, and a childhood trauma left her agoraphobic. The snug realm of the Pinnacle constitutes her sanctuary from the world.

After a valuable painting disappears from an exhibit, Evelyn's best friend becomes a prime suspect. The police arrest a hotel employee following an apparent set-up, and Evelyn employs her detection skills to safeguard the reputations of her friend and the Pinnacle, too. A murder on the premises ramps up the tension. Evelyn enlists aid from Mac, a handsome bellhop who's happy to do her bidding—and not just for tips. Their playful interactions evolve into a sweet romantic subplot. Still, Evelyn is terrified to leave home, even knowing that, to solve the mystery, she'll have to venture out. Mac helps her to sort through a colorful array of suspects, too.

The plot zips along in the novel's first half, after which its pace begins to drag. There's a long gap in the action before an attempt is made on Evelyn's life in the book's fast-moving final chapters. Still, Evelyn is the source of the book's ultimate reveal, out-sleuthing even the police from the comfort of her posh suite.

The Socialite's Guide to Murder is a witty, lighthearted mystery novel in which a charming sleuth investigates mysteries that hit close to home.

PAULA MARTINAC (September / October 2022)

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