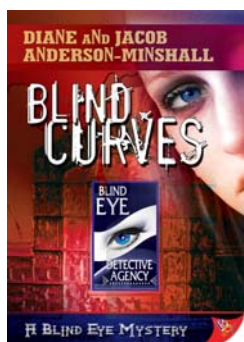


Book Review: May 2007

by Richard Labonte (Book Marks)



Blind Curves

Diane and Jacob Anderson-Minshall

ISBN: 978-1-933110-72-1

Trade paper, 264 pp, \$15.95

March, 2007

Lesbian Mystery

Bold Strokes Books, Inc.

www.boldstrokesbooks.com

Q Syndicate

Book Marks

qsyndicate.com/BookMarks.htm

E-mail:

BookMarks@qsyndicate.com

Richard Labonte

The catfight setting for this intricate mystery is the world of lesbian magazine publishing - and because half the writing team (Diane) is the current editor of *Curve*, the plot has a patina of possibility. Some action is set in a park; that the other half of the writing team is a former park ranger adds nicely to the authenticity. The dead body that causes mayhem belongs to lesbian publisher Rosemary Finney, loathed by her overworked and underpaid staff (real-world *Curve*'s work environment is surely more pleasant). One early suspect is Velvet Erickson, her former partner in founding *Womyn*, squeezed out when the magazine's feminist ideals were sacrificed for corporate profits. The sleuths are grown-up poster children for affirmative action: Yoshi, the blind Asian lesbian who inherited her late father's Blind Eye Detective Agency, and her sole field investigator, Bud, a cantankerous, straight white former cop paralyzed from the waist down. With help from their dorky but able-bodied office assistant, the dogged duo clear sundry suspects before the killer - not too obvious, thanks to clever plotting - is fingered.

-Richard Labonte, Book Marks, Q Syndicate, has been reading, editing, selling, and writing about queer literature since the mid-70s.

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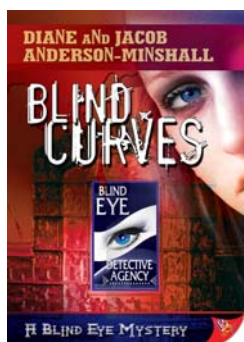
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Book Review: Spring 2007

by Kathy Belge ([LesbianLife](#))



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LesbianLife

lesbianlife.about.com

Kathy Belge
Editor/guide

Blind Curves is filled with a diverse cast of true-to-life lesbian characters. Shy butches, sexy femmes, closeted movie stars and dykes with disabilities, almost any lesbian can see herself or people she knows in the pages of this book....

... Enter a great cast of lesbian characters with drama to spare. Therapists, editorial interns, lovers and even movie stars are all suspect. Was Rosemary killed for her money? By a jealous lover? A disgruntled employee? Or just someone she pissed off with her arrogant ways...

... Fans of lesbian murder mystery will love this book. It's a great summer read and the first in a series. I look forward to more Blind Eye mysteries.

Excerpt of review on [LesbianLife](#).



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Book Review: May, 2007

by Kathi Isserman (reviewer at [JAW](#) & [L-Word.com Literature](#))



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Just About Write

Web site:

www.justaboutwrite.com

Nann Dunne
Editor-in-Chief
& Publisher

Blind Curves is the first book in a thrilling new detective series by Diane and Jacob Anderson-Minshall. The story takes place in San Francisco, the authors' home, and the descriptions are rich and lively, thus making the city itself an additional character in the novel.

Velvet Erickson, journalist, is suspected of killing wealthy publisher and former lover, Rosemary Finney. Since she is the only suspect and must prove her innocence within 48 hours or be jailed until her trial, she hires friend Yoshi Yakamoto, owner of Blind Eye Detective Agency. Yoshi and fellow detective Bud Williams set out to find the killer, but along the way they uncover corruption at the highest levels in the wealthy secluded town of Woodside, south of San Francisco. In a race against time, the real murderer is doing everything possible to keep the truth from unfolding, and Velvet is counting on the Blind Eye team to save her skin.

This easy to read, down to earth novel is electrifying from the get-go. The pace moves at a quick clip, and the authors clearly explain the complex relationships as they divulge key clues. *Blind Curves* is used metaphorically and literally throughout the book tying together the mystery puzzle neatly in the end.

The character development though is what makes this novel stand out and will make the reader crave for more in the series as they complete *Blind Curves*. In discovering that Yoshi is legally blind and Bud is a paraplegic and wheelchair bound, we get a glimpse of the challenges they face and how they compensate. But the reader does not feel sorry for these two because *Blind Curves* strips away the labels and gives us gritty, likeable, and appealing characters. The authors add depth to their characterization by enlightening us, and we see Yoshi as clever, intelligent and at times manipulative, but never helpless. This detective knows how to get to the facts, and she uses all of her resources to do it. Anderson-Minshalls add to the book by including wonderfully colorful secondary characters in Tucker, Yoshi's receptionist, and AJ, an East Palo Alto policewoman.

One of the best features of this book is that all of the key characters except Bud are lesbians, and that's the way I like my fiction. While the reader is left hanging as to what the future has in store for these characters, I was fully satisfied with *Blind Curves*. I am counting the days until *Blind Leap* is released in October of 2007.

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Book Review: April 5, 2007

by Brian Jewell (reviewer at [InsideBayArea](#))



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March, 2007

Lesbian Mystery

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www.boldstrokesbooks.com

Bay Windows

Arts/Out in Print

www.baywindows.com

Brian Jewell

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The murder of a San Francisco-based lesbian publisher is bad news for private detective Yoshi Yakamota, because her best friend is the prime suspect...

...The authors put their own insider knowledge of the queer publishing world to good use, weaving a tale full of so much detail and believability that it's easy to swallow some of the more outré aspects of the book — like a detective agency which only has disabled PIs. With its expected unexpected twists, vivid characters and healthy dose of humor, *Blind Curves* is a very fun read that will keep you guessing.

Excerpt of review on Inside Bay Area.



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Book Review: October 2007

by Anna Furtado, author of *The Heart's Desire* & reviewer at JAW



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March, 2007

Lesbian Mystery

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Just About Write

Web site:

www.justaboutwrite.com

Nann Dunne
Editor-in-Chief
& Publisher

Any story that begins with a string of curse words is sure to take the reader on a bumpy ride—and *Blind Curves* doesn't disappoint. Careening through the story past events and characters, we take it all in and try to process the information, sorting the red herrings from the true perpetrator of the murder of lesbian magazine publisher, Rosemary Finney. Along the way, we get to know a cast of distinct, memorable characters—members of the Blind Eye Detective Agency and their friends.

Velvet Erickson, although the name sounds as if it should belong to a porn-star, is a serious journalist who works for the *San Francisco Chronicle*. In the name of a good story, Velvet ends up at the wrong place at the wrong time and looks like the best bet for the murderer. Thus Velvet comes headlong into the opening of the story hurling curses for her misfortune. However, as the plot twists and turns, we find that Rosemary has a long list of enemies, many of whom have both motive and opportunity.

The ragtag bunch at Blind Eye has their own issues, not the least of which includes physical handicaps as well as emotional baggage. Yet they all manage to do their jobs remarkably well—although somewhat unconventionally at times. In some cases, the lack of convention is a necessity to compensate for limitations; in other cases, it's simply because it is in a character's nature to be a rebel.

The unmistakable star of the show is Yoshi Yakamota, Blind Eye's owner and primary detective. As a vulnerable woman who regrets no longer being able to see the beauty of the world around her, Yoshi is struggling to come to grips with her progressive blindness and we see her alone in her apartment, hidden away from the rest of the world for whom she puts on a strong, brave persona. Throughout the story, there is a sense that we haven't even scratched the surface of who Yoshi really is.

As the story unfolds, we find that many of the characters have less than six degrees of separation, with lives that intertwine in ways that make us marvel at the creativeness of husband and wife team Diane and Jacob Anderson-Minshall in their imaginative collaboration.

The authors, both of whom have worked in the lesbian magazine publishing industry, having founded similar publications in real life, skillfully portray the high-stakes events surrounding the industry. Both characters and plot are expertly developed to keep the reader turning page after page until the killer is finally revealed.

A word of caution: don't start *Blind Curves* on a work night. Save it for a weekend when you have nothing to do but read because you won't be able to put it down! Thankfully, there is more—much more—to come with a whole series of Blind Eye mysteries scheduled for future publication with Yoshi and the Blind Eye crew at the center of it all.

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