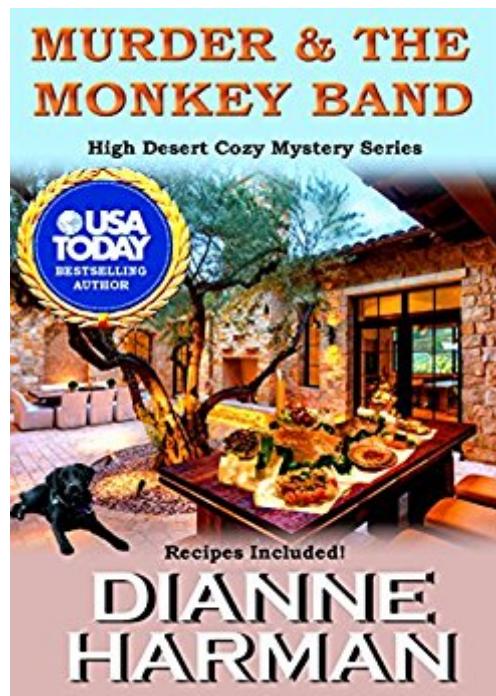


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# Murder & The Monkey Band: High Desert Cozy Mystery Series



## **Synopsis**

From USA TODAY bestselling author andÂ seven time All Star authorÂ comes another page-turning murder mystery.Â Marty Morgan is a recently divorced antique and art appraiser who moves from the Midwest to live with her sister in High Desert, California, just outside of Palm Springs. Since their early childhood days, her sister has always possessed unexplained psychic abilities that often enable her to predict future events. An antique appraisal in the home of a recently murdered woman puts Marty at the center of a search for the killer. Who did it? The woman&apos;s son? The well-known collector of antique Meissen china? A professional art and antique thief? The owner of Mai Tai Mama&apos;s Restaurant? And just what part did the collection of Meissen Monkey Band figurines play in the murder? Detective Jeff Combs is just as determined to develop a relationship with Marty and her dog Duke as he is to solve the crime. Will the psychic abilities of Marty&apos;s sister help her find the killer?

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Marty Morgan has just gone through a divorce after having been married 25 years. Her sister

Laura, lives in High Desert, CA & talks Marty to move there. One of the 4 small homes is available & it shares the common area in the middle of all 4 homes. Marty is an antiques appraiser & Palm Springs isn't far. Laura works for a large insurance company who starts giving Marty appraisal work. A well known wealthy woman, Pam Jensen, who owns major art & antiques collection is murdered. Her son Jim hires Marty to do the appraisal. Detective Jeff Combs, Palm Springs, PD is assigned the case. Right now he has no leads. He meets Marty & her sister Laura who has a sixth sense. A dear friend of Pam realizes that Pam's favorite collection the Monkey Band was stolen. Here's when things start to change. There's romance, danger & I doubt you won't figure out who the murderer is for quite some time. There's more than one suspect. It's a good read & enjoyable.

I have read all of Dianne's books! All I can say is make sure you have the time because once you start, you are hooked! When I found her, I read her first 3 in 5 days. Didn't get a thing done! I just love Mike and Kelly!. The dogs are a big part of the story line. Murders are everywhere. Easy fast reads that will keep you guessing and wanting more! Dianne cares about her fans! Thanks Dianne, I am glad I found you!

Overall a good story/mystery with a bit of romance thrown in with a bit of suspense. But, dialogue is often too simplistic (for me), too detailed so I want to say 'get on with it!' The overall book seems to be written according to a guide "How to Write a Mystery." I may be picky but I did enjoy the overall story and will probably read more by Harman.

This book was just "OK," nothing special. The characters were rather shallow and some of the dialog was odd. The story started out well but then just sort of fell flat. The mystery was solved rather fast in my opinion. It's not a bad book, just not a great one either.

Having moved to the High Desert Community shortly after her divorce, Marty makes her living as an antiques appraiser. When she receives some a request for an appraisal on antiques belonging to a murder victim, she enlists her psychic sister's help. Once she meets the detective on the case, and feels the immediate attraction to him, Marty and her sister set about to assist in the investigation any way they can. Will their snooping lead to their demise? Delightful and believable characters mesh well and set the stage in a desert setting for a quick and easily read cozy mystery.

I love that this heroine is a good strong woman who is in her early 50s and still having romance. It's

nice to read a book occasionally where the heroines aren't young and beautiful. The mystery and her sister Laura are good components as well.

I like Ms Harman 's novels and the recipes. This one had a different setup. The several suspects each gave their potential reasons for the crime. Then the crime and the solving of it Then the same suspects gave their take on how it ended. All well that ends well.

The writing was sort of robotic, the characters flat and not really likeable, and the ending too easily wrapped up.

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