

high heels and homicide

****High Heels and Homicide: An Unlikely Intersection Explored****

high heels and homicide—at first glance, these two topics seem worlds apart. One conjures images of fashion, elegance, and sometimes discomfort, while the other brings to mind crime scenes, investigations, and tragedy. Yet, when examined closely, the intersection of high heels and homicide offers an intriguing glimpse into how seemingly unrelated subjects can reveal unexpected patterns and insights. Whether it's the role of footwear in forensic investigations, cultural portrayals of crime and fashion, or the real-life implications of high heels in violent encounters, this topic captivates curiosity and challenges assumptions.

The Role of High Heels in Crime Scenes and Forensics

When forensic experts analyze crime scenes, every detail matters, including footwear impressions. High heels, with their distinct shapes and narrow contact points, often leave very specific marks that can be crucial in solving homicides or assaults. The unique tread patterns and heel designs help investigators identify suspects or reconstruct events.

Footwear Impressions as Evidence

High heel prints can be just as telling as fingerprints. Because of their smaller surface area and unique shapes, high heels often leave sharp, defined impressions. Investigators use these marks to:

- Determine the suspect's height and gait
- Estimate the number of people present at the scene
- Identify the type and brand of footwear
- Link a suspect to the crime by matching shoe soles found at the scene

In homicide cases, these details can provide critical leads, turning a vague suspicion into tangible evidence.

Challenges with High Heel Prints

While high heels can leave clear prints, they also pose challenges. The narrow heel can sink into soft ground, distorting the print, or the wearer's movement might cause the heel to slip, creating incomplete or misleading impressions. Furthermore, in urban environments with hard surfaces, prints might be faint or absent altogether.

High Heels as Weapons: Myth vs. Reality

Popular culture often dramatizes high heels as potential weapons in violent altercations. TV shows and movies sometimes depict a woman using her stiletto to fend off an attacker or even deliver a fatal blow. But how realistic is this portrayal?

The Practicality of High Heels in Self-Defense

In reality, while high heels can be used defensively, their effectiveness as weapons is limited. The pointed heel could cause injury if wielded with enough force, but it's unlikely to be as lethal as a knife or blunt object. Moreover, wearing high heels can impede quick movement or escape during a violent encounter.

That said, some self-defense courses teach women to use their high heels if necessary, emphasizing targeting vulnerable areas like the eyes or throat. This highlights a practical, if last-resort, application of high heels in dangerous situations.

Cases of High Heels in Homicide Reports

Though rare, there are documented cases where high heels were involved in fatal incidents—either as the murder weapon or as a contributing factor in the victim's vulnerability. For example, women wearing stilettos might be more prone to falls or reduced mobility during a struggle, indirectly influencing the outcome of violent encounters.

Cultural Symbolism: High Heels, Femininity, and Violence

Beyond forensic and practical considerations, high heels hold strong cultural symbolism that intersects intriguingly with themes of violence and homicide.

The Femme Fatale and High Heels

The archetype of the femme fatale often features a woman in high heels—elegant, alluring, and dangerous. This imagery blends the appeal of fashion with the menace of lethal intent, reinforcing stereotypes about women's roles in crime narratives. In noir films and crime novels, the high-heeled femme fatale seduces and manipulates, sometimes leading to deadly outcomes.

Fashion, Power, and Vulnerability

High heels symbolize both empowerment and vulnerability. On one hand, they represent confidence, status, and control. On the other, their impracticality can expose wearers to physical risk, including in violent situations. This duality is reflected in crime stories where victims or perpetrators in high

heels embody complex roles—neither purely strong nor weak.

Health and Safety Concerns: The Hidden Risks of High Heels

While not directly related to homicide, understanding the health and safety risks of high heels sheds light on how footwear can influence personal safety in everyday contexts, sometimes with fatal consequences.

Mobility and Balance Issues

High heels alter posture and gait, potentially compromising balance. In emergency situations, such as trying to escape an attacker, this can be a critical disadvantage. There are documented cases where falls while wearing high heels led to fatal injuries, highlighting a less obvious connection between footwear and mortality.

Long-Term Physical Impact

Wearing high heels regularly can lead to chronic pain, joint problems, and reduced mobility. This cumulative effect might indirectly increase vulnerability, including in violent encounters where physical agility matters.

High Heels and Homicide in Media and True Crime

The intersection of high heels and homicide is a popular motif in media, influencing public perception and even investigative approaches.

True Crime Stories Featuring High Heels

Some notorious homicide cases have included high heels as a significant detail—either found at the crime scene, worn by victims or perpetrators, or symbolically referenced in the case narrative. These elements often become focal points in books, documentaries, and podcasts, captivating audiences with the blend of glamour and darkness.

Impact on Public Imagination

The imagery of a victim or suspect in high heels evokes strong emotional responses, combining beauty and tragedy. This can sometimes lead to sensationalized coverage but also draws attention to

the nuanced realities of crime involving women.

Tips for Staying Safe When Wearing High Heels

Given the complexities surrounding high heels, especially in unsafe situations, it's worth considering practical advice for those who choose to wear them.

- **Choose Comfortable Designs:** Opt for heels with sturdy bases and sufficient support to reduce the risk of falls.
- **Practice Walking:** Familiarity with your heels improves balance and confidence.
- **Carry Flats:** Having a pair of comfortable shoes on hand can be a lifesaver if you need to move quickly.
- **Be Mindful of Surroundings:** In potentially unsafe environments, consider wearing more practical footwear or taking extra precautions.
- **Learn Basic Self-Defense:** Understanding how to use your body and even your heels defensively can increase personal safety.

Exploring the relationship between high heels and homicide reveals a fascinating blend of forensic science, cultural symbolism, and practical safety considerations. While the connection may seem unlikely at first, it highlights how everyday objects like footwear can play unexpected roles in life's most serious events. Whether through leaving crucial evidence, influencing mobility, or shaping narratives of power and danger, high heels occupy a unique space in the discourse around crime and violence.

Frequently Asked Questions

How have high heels been linked to homicide cases in recent years?

High heels have occasionally been involved in homicide cases as weapons or as factors contributing to accidents leading to death. While not common, there have been instances where high heels were used to inflict injuries or where wearing them contributed to fatal falls.

Can high heels be legally considered a weapon in homicide investigations?

In some legal jurisdictions, high heels can be classified as improvised weapons if used to cause harm intentionally. Forensic experts may analyze injuries to determine if a high heel was used in an

assault or homicide, influencing charges and legal outcomes.

What are the forensic challenges in cases involving high heels and homicide?

Forensic challenges include identifying the heel as the weapon, matching marks or injuries to a specific shoe, and establishing intent. The variability in heel shape and material can complicate analysis, requiring detailed crime scene investigation and expert testimony.

Have any notable homicide cases involved high heels as a significant factor?

Yes, there have been notable cases where high heels played a role, either as weapons or contributing factors. These cases often receive media attention due to the unusual nature of the weapon, highlighting issues of domestic violence or altercations in social settings.

What precautions can be taken to minimize risks associated with wearing high heels in dangerous situations?

To reduce risks, individuals can opt for shoes with lower heels or more stable designs, avoid hazardous environments when wearing high heels, and remain aware of their surroundings. In self-defense contexts, carrying additional protective tools and training may also be advisable.

Additional Resources

High Heels and Homicide: An Investigation into the Intersection of Fashion and Violence

high heels and homicide—at first glance, these two concepts seem worlds apart. One evokes images of fashion, elegance, and social status, while the other conjures notions of crime, violence, and tragedy. Yet, when examined closely, the intersection between high heels and homicide reveals a complex tapestry involving forensic investigations, legal considerations, and cultural symbolism. This article delves into the nuanced relationship between these seemingly disparate topics, exploring how high heels have figured into criminal cases, forensic evidence, and the broader discourse surrounding violence.

The Role of High Heels in Criminal Investigations

High heels, as a distinctive type of footwear, often become relevant in homicide investigations. Their unique construction—characterized by elevated heels, narrow bases, and sometimes unusual patterns—can leave identifiable marks at crime scenes. Forensic experts frequently analyze footprints or shoeprints to glean vital clues about the perpetrator or victim. In some cases, the presence or absence of high heel marks can indicate the movements of individuals during the crime or suggest whether a victim was attempting to flee.

Forensic Significance of High Heel Impressions

Shoeprints are a common form of trace evidence in criminal cases. High heel prints often differ considerably from those left by flat shoes due to their shape and the pressure distribution exerted on the ground. Forensic specialists assess:

- **Pattern and brand:** The design on the sole can link a shoe to a specific manufacturer or model.
- **Size and wear:** The wear patterns and size help narrow down potential suspects.
- **Depth and angle:** The depth of the impression and angle can indicate the weight and gait of the wearer.

These characteristics make high heels a valuable piece of evidence in homicide cases. For instance, a distinctive heel mark near a victim's body might suggest the presence of an assailant or corroborate witness accounts.

High Heels as Instruments in Violent Crimes

While high heels are primarily associated with fashion, there have been documented instances where they were used as weapons in violent confrontations. The pointed heel, in particular, can inflict serious injury if wielded with force. Cases of assault involving high heels are rare but notable, often highlighted in media reports due to their unusual nature.

From a legal perspective, using a high heel as a weapon can elevate charges, as it demonstrates the use of an object capable of causing grievous bodily harm. A homicide involving high heels as the instrument of death is a sensational but infrequent phenomenon, underscoring the intersection between everyday objects and criminal behavior.

Cultural and Symbolic Dimensions of High Heels in Crime Narratives

Beyond the forensic and practical implications, high heels occupy a symbolic space in the narrative construction of crimes, especially homicides. In literature, film, and media, high heels are often emblematic of femininity, power, and sometimes vulnerability. These cultural associations influence public perceptions and can shape the discourse surrounding homicide cases.

Gendered Perspectives in Crime and Fashion

High heels are predominantly worn by women, which introduces gendered dynamics into homicide

investigations. Victims wearing high heels might be portrayed with certain stereotypes related to their attire, affecting how cases are reported and perceived. Moreover, the presence of high heels at a crime scene may lead investigators to consider scenarios involving gender-based violence or domestic disputes.

Such gendered interpretations have both advantages and drawbacks. On one hand, they can guide investigative hypotheses; on the other, they risk reinforcing biases or overshadowing objective evidence. Understanding these cultural layers is crucial for a balanced and professional approach to homicide cases where high heels are involved.

Media Sensationalism and High Heels in Homicide Reporting

High-profile homicide cases often attract media attention that fixates on sensational details, including a victim's or suspect's choice of footwear. Headlines emphasizing "stiletto murders" or "killer heels" capitalize on the dramatic imagery of high heels intertwined with violence. While this can raise public awareness, it sometimes distorts facts or perpetuates myths about crime.

Journalistic ethics require careful consideration when reporting on such cases. Overemphasis on high heels can detract from the seriousness of the crime or trivialize the victims' experiences. Professionals in forensic and legal fields advocate for responsible communication that respects both the evidence and the individuals involved.

Comparative Analysis: High Heels Versus Other Footwear in Crime Scenes

Footwear as evidence spans a broad spectrum beyond high heels. Comparing high heels with other shoe types—such as sneakers, boots, or sandals—illuminates their distinct characteristics in homicide investigations.

- **Footprint uniqueness:** High heels tend to leave smaller, more concentrated prints, which may be easier to identify but harder to track over uneven terrain.
- **Mobility and crime dynamics:** The wearer's mobility might be affected by high heels, influencing how a crime unfolds. For example, fleeing a crime scene in stilettos could be more challenging than in athletic shoes.
- **Evidence preservation:** The narrow heel can leave deeper impressions, which may preserve better in certain environments compared to broader soles.

Understanding these nuances aids forensic teams in reconstructing events accurately and strengthens the evidentiary value of shoeprints in homicide cases.

Challenges in Identifying High Heel Impressions

Despite their unique features, high heel impressions present challenges:

1. **Environmental factors:** Weather and surface type can distort or erase prints.
2. **Multiple overlapping prints:** Scenes with numerous footprints can complicate the identification process.
3. **Limited suspect pool:** High heel prints often indicate female suspects or victims, but this assumption can be misleading if, for example, a male suspect wears women's shoes.

Forensic analysts must navigate these challenges carefully, using complementary evidence such as DNA or surveillance footage.

Legal Implications and Courtroom Dynamics

In trials involving homicide, footwear evidence including high heels can influence legal outcomes. Defense and prosecution teams may dispute the interpretation of shoeprint evidence, questioning its reliability or relevance. Expert testimony regarding high heel impressions often plays a pivotal role in establishing timelines or identifying suspects.

Moreover, the symbolic weight of high heels may subtly affect jury perceptions. The portrayal of a victim or defendant's footwear can evoke emotional responses, necessitating judicial instructions to focus on factual evidence rather than stereotypes.

Case Studies Highlighting High Heels in Homicide Trials

Several notable cases illustrate the impact of high heels in homicide proceedings:

- **The 2015 "Stiletto Murder" case:** Forensic experts used high heel impression analysis to place the suspect at the crime scene, leading to conviction.
- **The 2008 trial involving a fatal assault with a high heel:** The weaponization of the shoe was a central point in determining intent and severity of charges.

These examples underscore the multifaceted role high heels can play—from evidence to weapon—in the context of violent crime.

The intersection of high heels and homicide continues to challenge forensic scientists, legal professionals, and cultural commentators alike. As a symbol, a source of evidence, and occasionally

an instrument of violence, high heels occupy a unique place in the complex narrative of crime. Understanding this relationship requires a careful, unbiased examination that respects both scientific rigor and the broader social contexts in which these cases unfold.

High Heels And Homicide

high heels and homicide: High Heels and Homicide Justjae Warner, 2016-08-23 Millae's pretty face and flawless body is the perfect disguise to hide the world of murder lust and lies. Her high heels hold the missing piece to more than a few unsolved mysteries but her flats unlock the door to her wildest dreams or maybe her darkest nightmares.

high heels and homicide: Homicide in High Heels Gemma Halliday, 2015-01-22 New York Times and USA Today Bestselling series! It's springtime in California! The flowers are in bloom, the fashion week runways are fierce, and fans of America's favorite pastime are filling the baseball stadiums to root for their favorite team. But when the girlfriend of the L.A. Stars rookie MVP winds up dead at a chic Beverly Hills salon, it's suddenly up to fashion designer Maddie Springer to track down the Tanning Salon Killer. Armed with the help of her wacky cast of friends and family, Maddie finds herself with a list of suspects that includes the cast of the reality TV show *Baseball Wives*, a desperate blackmail victim, and an entire baseball team! If Maddie can brave the hot dogs and cat fights, she just might be able to catch a killer...before he strikes again! Other Books in the High Heels Series: #1 Spying in High Heels #2 Killer in High Heels #3 Undercover in High Heels #3.5 Christmas in High Heels (short story) #4 Alibi in High Heels #5 Mayhem in High Heels #5.5 Honeymoon in High Heels (short story) #5.75 Sweetheart in High Heels (novella) #6 Fearless in High Heels #7 Danger in High Heels #8 Homicide in High Heels #9 Deadly in High Heels What critics are saying about *The High Heels Mysteries*: A saucy combination of romance and suspense that is simply irresistible. - Chicago Tribune Stylish... nonstop action...guaranteed to keep chick lit and mystery fans happy! - Publishers' Weekly, starred review Smart, funny and snappy...the perfect beach read! - Fresh Fiction A roller coaster ride full of fun and excitement! - Romance Reviews Today Gemma Halliday writes like a seasoned author leaving the reader hanging on to every word, every clue, every delicious scene of the book. It's a fun and intriguing mystery full of laughs and suspense. - Once Upon A Romance

high heels and homicide: High Heels and Homicide Kasey Michaels, 2006-10-01 When mystery author Maggie Kelly pops across the pond for a movie shoot--accompanied by her once-fictional, now all-too-real (not to mention sexy) hero, Alexandre, Viscount Saint Just--she's in for a jolly good time. We are not amused ... Don't get me wrong--there was plenty to laugh about when we first arrived in Merry Olde England to watch one of my novels being shot as a TV movie. Alex was delighted with the location (a seventeenth-century manor house), but horrified with the surfer-dude mimbo playing him. I, personally, found the situation hilarious ... until the scriptwriter showed up. Dead. Lights, camera ... action! No, not that kind of action. Hmmmm ... on second thought ... Okay, so things are suddenly getting hot and heavy between Alex and me--and our timing is atrocious as usual, what with the murder and mayhem. Suspects? Don't get me started. There's Mr. Contemptuous Director, Ms. Man-Crazy Production Assistant, Mr. Fancy Pants English Actor, Ms. Diva Leading Lady, and ... yours truly. Yep, I was seen arguing with the victim right before his unfortunate demise, so I am, as the Brits would say, in a bit of a pickle.

high heels and homicide: *High Heels and Homicide 2* Justjae Warner, 2017-09-20 Millae is finding herself in an all new predicament. Bernard is learning new things every day and Deja is a whole new woman. Is this a time for new beginnings or the beginning of the end?

high heels and homicide: Half-Price Homicide Elaine Viets, 2018-03-06 From Anthony and Agatha Award-winning author Elaine Viets—the thrilling mystery series about one woman trying to

make a living... while other people are making a killing. When Fort Lauderdale's wealthiest want to discreetly trade their best barely-worn threads for cash, they bring it to Snapdragon's Second Thoughts—which is where Helen Hawthorne finds herself selling the most chic second-hand clothing in Florida. But the usual haggling turns homicidal when a particularly petty customer turns up dead—dangling by a darling Gucci scarf—and Helen's boss Vera is eyed as a suspect. Helen knows Vera can drive a hard bargain but can't believe Vera would resort to murder. And while she would like to help, a sudden tragedy forces Helen to return to St. Louis—where she has the chance to face the past she's been running from. Now, if Helen doesn't quickly deal with her fugitive status—as well as her own fractious family—she won't make it back home in time to prevent the police from making a very unfashionable arrest...

high heels and homicide: *Maggie In Too Deep* Kasey Michaels, Book Four in The Maggie Kelly Mystery Series by New York Times Bestselling Author Kasey Michaels. (formerly titled High Heels and Homicide) Maggie Kelly, best selling author of the Alexandre St. Just Mystery Series, is on her way to jolly old England to watch the filming of one of her books for the small screen. Her entourage includes her editor, her agent, the viscount and his loyal sidekick, Sterling Balder. Months earlier both characters had popped out of her books and into her life, and yes, she still had trouble with that, even though her friends had accepted them as her English cousins whose names and physical descriptions she'd used when first creating the series. Once at the lovely old manor house where the filming is to take place, the mayhem that seems to travel wherever St. Just saunters rears its ugly head. We have a manor cut off from the world by a flood, motives galore, and a cast of characters anyone would cheerfully choke. And, yes, soon there is also a dead body. But not to worry, as it's St. Just to the rescue ... again.

high heels and homicide: Honeymoon in High Heels Gemma Halliday, 2015-01-22 New York Times and USA Today Bestselling series! Gemma Halliday's Maddie Springer is like the west coast version of Janet Evanovich's Stephanie Plum - only more stylish! - LG Book Club Fashion designer Maddie Springer has just tied the knot and is on her way to honeymoon paradise in Tahiti with her hot new husband. Warm sand, cool surf, and a romantic suite all to themselves... what could possibly go wrong? That is until Maddie stumbles on the dead body of a Tahitian dancer, strangled with her own flower lei. Now suddenly her husband is spending more time consulting with the local police than cavorting in their private hot tub for two. If Maddie wants to have a honeymoon at all, it's up to her and her friends to track down the island killer before paradise turns deadly again. **This is a novella, or short novel, length work** Other Books in the High Heels Series: #1 Spying in High Heels #2 Killer in High Heels #3 Undercover in High Heels #3.5 Christmas in High Heels (short story) #4 Alibi in High Heels #5 Mayhem in High Heels #5.5 Honeymoon in High Heels (short story) #5.75 Sweetheart in High Heels (novella) #6 Fearless in High Heels #7 Danger in High Heels #8 Homicide in High Heels #9 Deadly in High Heels Here's what critics are saying about The High Heels Mysteries: A saucy combination of romance and suspense that is simply irresistible. - Chicago Tribune Stylish... nonstop action...guaranteed to keep chick lit and mystery fans happy! - Publishers' Weekly, starred review Smart, funny and snappy...the perfect beach read! - Fresh Fiction A roller coaster ride full of fun and excitement! - Romance Reviews Today Gemma Halliday writes like a seasoned author leaving the reader hanging on to every word, every clue, every delicious scene of the book. It's a fun and intriguing mystery full of laughs and suspense. - Once Upon A Romance Here's what readers are saying about The High Heels Mysteries: Do you like Janet Evanovich, James Patterson, Sue Grafton, J.D. Robb, or Stephanie Bond? Then you'll LOVE Gemma Halliday's High Heels series! - Nikki The high heels books are one part Fashion Police's Joan Rivers, one part Janet Evanovich's Stephanie Plum, and one part Agatha Christie cozy—which all add up to pure fun. - Jessica A wicked mystery... as heartwarming as any Nicholas Sparks book! - Melissa

high heels and homicide: *An Uplifting Murder* Elaine Viets, 2018-12-09 St. Louis mystery shopper Josie Marcus discovers the world of luxury lingerie has more than one secret after her high school teacher is accused of suffocating a former classmate... When Desiree Lingerie hires Josie, she's delighted to find her high school teacher, Mrs. Hayes, is now a manager at the chain. Less

thrilling is the mini-reunion with her mean girl nemesis, Frankie Martin. But after Frankie is killed just steps from the shop—and her beloved ex-teacher is identified as a prime suspect—Josie gets hooked into another murder investigation. Mrs. Hayes is spilling over with motives—years ago, Frankie destroyed her career. Unfortunately, her alibi is pretty skimpy. So, with only her secret shopper smarts and a bit of amateur sleuthing experience to support her, Josie must strip away the lies in order to bust the real killer before anyone else becomes tangled up in this case.

high heels and homicide: Clubbed to Death Elaine Viets, 2024-04-25 From Anthony and Agatha Award-winning author Elaine Viets—the thrilling mystery series about one woman trying to make a living... while other people are making a killing. The Superior Club is where Fort Lauderdale's wealthiest—and snobbiest—come to play. But for Helen Hawthorne, it's all work and no play. As a customer care clerk, it's her job to cater to the clients' every little whim and take care of their every little problem. But Helen has a very big problem of her own. After an acrimonious reunion with her ex-husband Rob, she ends up belting the bum in the mouth—which invites suspicion when Rob goes ominously missing. And when a club employee and a philandering member are found beaten to death with a golf club, the police assume Helen was the deadly duffer. With her freedom—and yet another job—on the line, Helen has no choice but to prove that someone else at the high-class club is a low-down killer...

high heels and homicide: Fixing to Die Elaine Viets, 2019-03-05 Mystery shopper Josie Marcus unlocks a DIY murder case when her new house's "good bones" takes on multiple meanings... Josie's been busy with a personal shopping project—scouring suburban St. Louis for a starter home for her and her newlywed husband, Dr. Ted Scottsmeyer. So she's thrilled when Ted's veterinary partner, Dr. Christine Cormac, hooks them up with a beautiful house, which her flaky sister, Rain, inexplicably abandoned months earlier. But before they've even picked out the paint, Josie and Ted discover Rain's body beneath their backyard gazebo and Christine is immediately boxed up for murder. Now, Josie's new home is a crime scene and Christine is headed for the big house...unless Josie steps in. Good thing she's handy around a murder investigation, because she'll need all her sleuthing skills to unpack the clues, flip the case, and nail the real killer.

high heels and homicide: Catnapped! Elaine Viets, 2018-03-06 From Anthony and Agatha Award-winning author Elaine Viets—the thrilling mystery series about one woman trying to make a living... while other people are making a killing. If there's one thing the very wealthy might value even more than their money, it's their precious pets. So when local socialite Trish Barrymore hires Helen Hawthorne and Phil Sagemont to recover her beloved show cat—named January's Jubilee Justine—from her ex-husband Mortimer, the case seems simple enough. But when the husband-and-wife PI team show up to take possession of Justine, they're greeted not by a cute kitten but a murdered Mort—knocked on the noggin by a mahogany cat tower. And the feline is nowhere to be found. To get the scoop on who could have committed the dire deed, Helen takes a job as a cat groomer. But as she navigates the cutthroat world of cat shows—and their equally catty owners—she discovers there is much more to the crime than just a purloined pussycat...

high heels and homicide: Final Sail Elaine Viets, 2024-04-25 From Anthony and Agatha Award-winning author Elaine Viets—the thrilling mystery series about one woman trying to make a living... while other people are making a killing. As one half of Coronado Investigations in sunny Fort Lauderdale, Helen Hawthorne is working full time alongside her handsome hubby Phil. And after the surprising number of murders Helen helped solve while earning low pay on off the books jobs, anything else should be smooth sailing, right? Unfortunately, Helen's unique work history also makes her a natural for undercover work—and in this case that means she's going right back to scrubbing and cleaning while acting as a yacht stewardess to catch some smugglers. And even more annoying is the fact that Phil must stay on shore to figure out if a wealthy man has fallen victim to his gold-digging trophy wife. But after a member of the yacht crew disappears, Helen's case quickly goes from simple smuggling to maritime murder. And if she doesn't find out who pitched the man overboard, she might end up lost at sea herself...

high heels and homicide: Board Stiff Elaine Viets, 2024-04-25 From Anthony and Agatha

Award-winning author Elaine Viets—the thrilling mystery series about one woman trying to make a living... while other people are making a killing. Helen Hawthorne and Phil—her husband and PI partner—are on the case when Jim Sandusky asks them to save his business. Because while Sunny Jim's Stand-Up Paddleboard Rental is garnering a lot of attention, it's not the kind the beachside business ever hoped to attract. There's a local restaurateur who wants the land for a parking lot, a competing board rental place aiming to poach customers, and a gang of local politicians who just want Jim gone. And Jim wants Coronado Investigations to find proof of dirty dealings. They don't have to try very hard, because it's not too long before a customer of Jim's dies after an accident. But when Jim insists it was a murder set up to make him look bad, it's up to Helen and Phil to prove it before Sunny Jim's is sunk for good.

high heels and homicide: Death on a Platter Elaine Viets, 2019-03-05 Mystery shopper Josie Marcus digs into another meaty murder investigation when a local restaurant owner is charged with picking off a problem customer... Josie is getting a taste of St. Louis's foodie scene—Travel America Guided Tours just hired her to test area restaurants for an upcoming package. Their list includes Tillie's Off the Hill, a classic Italian joint owned by Tillie Minnelli, a former classmate of Josie's mother. It should be a pretty sweet gig, but the assignment quickly turns sour when an unruly customer dies after eating Tillie's special sauce. While detectives move to put Tillie on ice for murder, Josie's mom implores Josie to whip up another amateur investigation. The case has more secret ingredients than anyone anticipated: a jilted lover, a greedy real estate developer, and even a disgruntled employee. But there's no time for Josie to savor all the possibilities, she must skewer the culinary killer before someone else is served a final course.

high heels and homicide: Ice Blonde Elaine Viets, 2018-06-05 Angela Richman prays she doesn't have another death investigation on her hands in this chilling novella from Anthony and Agatha Award-winning author Elaine Viets. The last thing Chouteau County death investigator Angela Richman wants to do during the holidays is her job. So it's with some trepidation that she agrees to help the desperate Mr. and Mrs. LaRouche when they show up on her doorstep. Their daughter Juliet is missing. She was last seen leaving a high school party just before midnight, and they'd like Angela's help getting their trusted local detectives involved. The officer assigned to the case—Chouteau newcomer Det. Jace Budewitz—is far too blunt and impolite for their liking. And with the weather murderously cold, they can't bear the thought that their little princess is in the harsh winter wilderness. Discreetly investigating Juliet's disappearance, Angela finds herself struggling to break through the silence from the rich teenagers who knew Juliet and their infuriatingly detached parents. She also discovers that their vicious bias against the local working class has cast a shadow over the case. The more she digs, the less Angela can comprehend the lengths the one percent will go to protect their own. Angela must work quickly as she searches for answers with the acute awareness that Juliet LaRouche edges closer to becoming just a memory...

high heels and homicide: Unbreakable Bond Gemma Halliday, Jennifer Fischetto, 2015-02-19 From New York Times and USA Today Bestselling author, Gemma Halliday, comes a brand new series... Her name is Bond. Jamie Bond. And her life is about to be shaken and stirred in a cocktail of sex, lies, scandal, and one very dead body. Jamie Bond is a former cover model who switches gears to take over the family business: The Bond Agency, a high-powered P.I. firm located in Los Angeles that specializes in domestic espionage—catching cheating husbands. Jamie's assembled a team of other disenchanted former models to help her take names and kick derrieres among L.A.'s wealthiest philandering husbands. Her current client: Mrs. Veronica Waterston, the young, distraught wife of superior court judge, Thomas Waterston, known for his tough sentencing, right-wing leanings, and his fondness for blondes with double D's. Easy target. But Jamie's simple case takes an unexpected turn for the worse when the not-so-good judge winds up on the ten o'clock news with a bullet through his head. It's clear that someone has set Jamie up, and suddenly she's on the run, under fire, and in serious jeopardy of losing it all. With a hot A.D.A. on her trail, a killer on the loose, and her life on the line, Jamie must prove once and for all that nobody messes with a Bond. The Jamie Bond Mysteries: Unbreakable Bond (book #1) Secret Bond (book #2) Lethal Bond

(book #3) Bond Bombshell (short story) Dangerous Bond (book #4) Bond Ambition (short story) Fatal Bond (book #5) Here's what critics are saying about Gemma Halliday's books: A saucy combination of romance and suspense that is simply irresistible. - Chicago Tribune Stylish... nonstop action...guaranteed to keep chick lit and mystery fans happy! - Publishers' Weekly, starred review Smart, funny and snappy... the perfect beach read! - Fresh Fiction

high heels and homicide: Fashion, Rosé & Foul Play Gemma Halliday, 2020-08-18 From New York Times bestselling author Gemma Halliday comes a new fashionably fatal culinary mystery novel in the USA Today bestselling Wine & Dine Mysteries! Emmy Oak has always been a fan of her best friend Ava's handmade silver jewelry. So when Ava gets a chance to showcase her pieces at a charity fashion show for Wine Country's elite, both women are thrilled. That is, until the model wearing Ava's custom emerald necklace is murdered after her runway walk and the gem is stolen! The theft of the expensive jewel means Ava could lose everything, including her shop, Silver Girl... unless Emmy can help her track down a killer and find the missing emerald! While the enticing Detective Grant might be looking at the death as a burglary-gone-wrong, Emmy isn't so sure that's the case. The model's name was Gia Monroe, and Emmy quickly learns that she made her fair share of enemies in life. From the flamboyant designer overheard threatening her just before the fashion show, to her agent with a shady secret and a precarious hold on his talent, to an eccentric rival designer with a grudge, no one seems to be grieving Gia's death. And when Emmy discovers Gia may have had a mysterious stalker, she realizes any one of them could have murdered the model. Between running her small winery and navigating the catty world of high fashion, Emmy tries to stay one step ahead of the danger...before the killer strikes again! **Simple and delicious recipes and affordable wine pairings included!** Ms. Halliday is the undisputed queen of the genre. ~ Fresh Fiction I rank 'A Sip Before Dying' as one of my favorite fun reads. I say to Gemma Halliday, well done! ~ The Book Breeze The Wine & Dine Mystery series is a definite to read and keep an eye out for more to follow. ~ Cozy Mystery Book Review Wine & Dine Mysteries: A Sip Before Dying - book #1 Chocolate Covered Death - book #2 Victim in the Vineyard - book #3 Marriage, Merlot & Murder - book #4 Death in Wine Country - book #5 Fashion, Rosé & Foul Play - book #6 Witness at the Winery - book #7 Rating: This story does not contain any graphic violence, language, or sexual encounters. Its rating would be similar to PG-13 or what you would find on a Hallmark Channel movie or TV series.

high heels and homicide: Backstab Elaine Viets, 2019-05-15 From Anthony and Agatha Award-winning author of the Dead End Job mysteries—the first novel in a gritty series featuring a no-nonsense female journalist who follows her stories wherever they may lead...especially if they lead to big trouble. As a columnist for the St. Louis City Gazette, Francesca Vierling is a six-foot-tall beauty with brains and a talent for finding unusual and interesting subjects. The colorful people of her city provide her with all the inspiration she can handle, and her readers love her smart, streetwise style—even if her stuffy, less-than-appreciative bosses never seem to. Her work suddenly becomes all too personal when two of her favorite local characters die one after another. And for Francesca, there are too many odd ends for both deaths to be a coincidence. Driven by grief, anger, and the specters of her own past, she sets out to find out why the men were murdered, even if everyone else thinks she's chasing shadows. But there's one person out there who knows for certain that Francesca is onto something. That she's getting close to revealing a secret they've already killed to keep. And that if she keeps digging, they're going to have to kill Francesca too... Note: The author has made some minor revisions to the original text for this edition of the book.

high heels and homicide: Homicide in Hatteras Kate Merrill, 2018-03-01 When Amanda Rittenhouse's new girlfriend, psychiatrist Sara Orlando, convinces her to hire one of her patients to bake a wedding cake, Amanda can't say no. The fact that the baker is an ex-con doesn't really worry her until the wedding day arrives. Then during the ceremony the baker disappears, thrusting Amanda and Sara into a twisted web that involves kidnapping, drug trafficking, and murder. Concerned for her patient Tammy, Sara invites Amanda to vacation with her on the Outer Banks, where Tammy's mother still lives. As it turns out Amanda isn't the only amateur sleuth in the

relationship. With every layer Sara and Amanda peel back about Tammy and her family, the deeper they're pulled into a dangerous trap. With Hurricane Bella barreling its way to shore, the pressure is on to find Tammy and uncover the reasons behind her disappearance. Is Tammy just an innocent victim in these shadowy dealings, or does she play a larger role? Sara and Amanda are about to find out. Amanda Rittenhouse Mystery Book 2.

high heels and homicide: Maggie On The Edge Kasey Michaels, Book Five in The Maggie Kelly Mystery Series by New York Times Bestselling Author Kasey Michaels. (formerly titled High Heels and Holidays) Best selling author Maggie Kelly and her fictional characters come to life (hey, read the books...) are about to celebrate their first Christmas together, if Maggie lives that long, that is. Fans usually send her cards, or pretty crocheted bookmarks, even candy, but one fan has gone too far by way of the delivery of a dead rat and a death threat. Maggie tries to laugh it off ("everybody's a critic") ... until a fellow author and dead rat recipient is found murdered. Could she be next? Never fear, for St. Just is here, in all his Regency glory, ready to leap in and save the day.

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