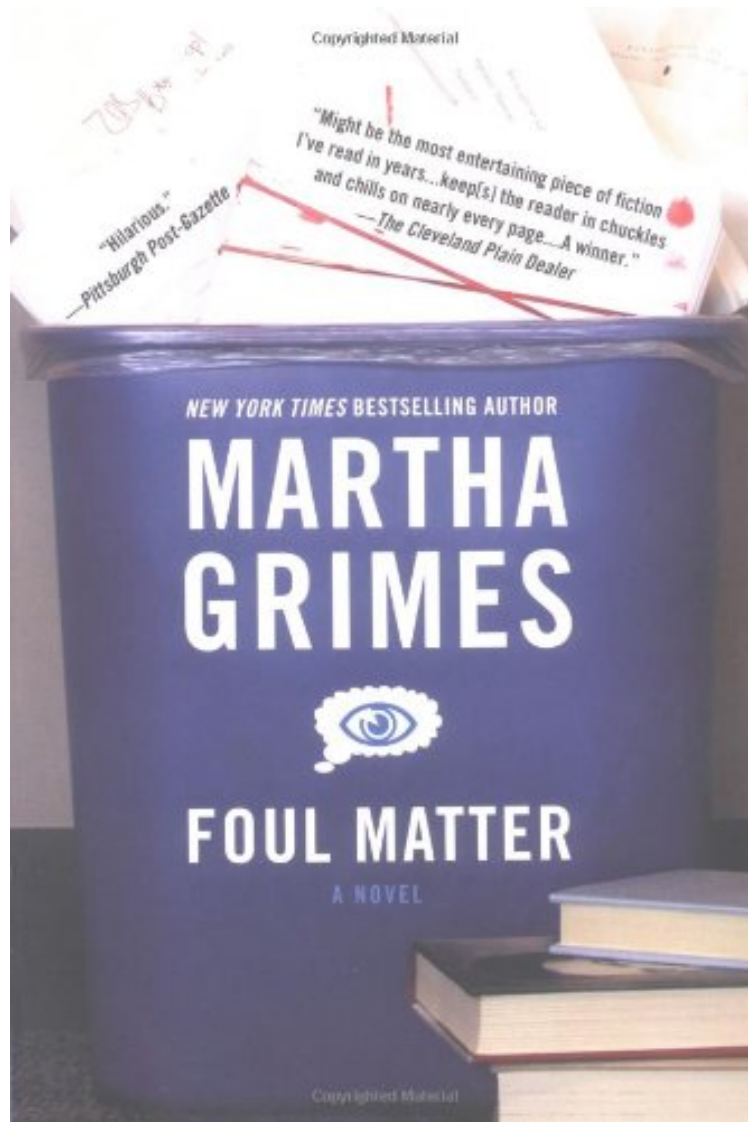


Foul Matter

Martha Grimes

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Martha Grimes : Foul Matter before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Foul Matter:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The ancien regime of publishing scrutinizedBy David WarrenSo many artists have condemned the terminal state of publishing imposed on creative thought by and its books by mail, electronics, and whatever . . . that it's nice to look at this tongue-in-cheek picture of the institutions that controlled ALL access to distribution prior to . Of course, this is gentle satire (and wickedly funny). But the good old days of publishing involved restraint of trade that should have been actionable. This book delights in showing some of the

obsolescent pitfalls - although the happy endings take away the sting. Buy it. Read it. Give it to your friends. It will add to the supply of chuckles in the world. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. and I loved this book By Dede I adore Martha Grimes, and I loved this book. But I do miss the Jury and Plant novels. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. something unusual By Linda W. Jones Foul Matter starts out slow, but I kept on because it's Martha Grimes and because it had some really positive reviews. I'm glad I did. There's a lot of humor in the book, but it's not hilarious. Once it picked up speed, though, I couldn't put it down, because I really wanted to know what happened next. Most of the characters were richly complex, and their problems were not the standard literary clichés. I often found myself sent off on daydreams prompted by the thoughts and situations of the book's characters, which was unusual. There's a lot more going on than just the suspense of the main story, though that is in itself enough to justify a high rating. I would give it 5 stars if it didn't drag so much in the beginning.

The bestselling author of the Richard Jury novels delivers a razor-sharp and raucously funny send-up of the cutthroat world of publishing. And the praise is pouring in: "A hilarious and wicked caper-adventure on the evils of the book business."—Pittsburgh Post-Gazette "Does laughing uncontrollably on a subway train constitute legitimate literary criticism? If it does, then Foul Matter...gets a great review from me." —New York Times Book Review "She can kick literary butt—in more ways than one." —USA Today

From Publishers Weekly Red pencils draw real blood in this delightful publishing world crime spoof by Grimes, expert storyteller and bestselling author of the Richard Jury mysteries (The Man with a Load of Mischief, etc.). When Paul Giverney, a hot suspense novelist, seeks a new publisher, he decides on the house of Mackensie-Haack under the condition that they dump their highly respected and award-winning author, Ned Isaly. Ruthless president Bobby Mackensie will stop at nothing to sign Giverney, even though breaking Isaly's contract is a legal impossibility. His solution? Sign another contract—this one with two hit men, who are hired to knock off Isaly. What Mackensie doesn't know is that Candy and Karl are killers with scruples and a keen interest in literature. Isaly, meanwhile, is totally engrossed in finishing his current novel and barely notices the two men as they mingle with Isaly and his friends at popular New York City literary watering holes. Not even when a multitude of bumbleres follow him on a visit to his hometown of Pittsburgh—in one of the most humorous episodes in the book—does he realize his plight. Although verging on the caricaturish, the characters are memorable, especially the hit-men duo. Insider publishing lingo, a quirky plot, atmospheric settings and Grimes's dry sense of humor make this a delectable bonbon of a book. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist Grimes, author of the popular Richard Jury mysteries, ventures far afield from Scotland Yard, this time to examine the cutthroat world of contemporary New York book publishing. Book contracts and Mafia hit contracts collide in this caper-satire in which the publishing houses have Dickensian names such as Grunge and Dreksnead. A popular writer suffers from terminal envy—it's not enough to bank millions per book and command the best-seller lists; he wants a big-time literary reputation. The plot hinges on the envious writer's unlikely scheme to get New York's most famous literary editor all to himself by eliminating his main competition, a genuinely talented up-and-comer. Grimes is best here at delivering insider insights about the frantic profit-mongering that dominates publishing. Along the way, too, there is plenty of time for racy editorial details (the title, for example, is the publishing term used to describe authors' manuscripts before editors get their hands on them). Grimes loses her way, unfortunately, in the midst of all the satire. Her characterization—ordinarily a strong point—tends toward the comic-bookish here, and even the comedy starts huffing and puffing with effort about halfway through. Not nearly as surefooted as the Jury novels, then, but a fun read nonetheless, thanks to some grand comic moments (like the editorial meeting with hit men in a prententious New York eatery). Connie Fletcher Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved "Does laughing uncontrollably on a subway train constitute legitimate literary criticism? If it does, then Foul Matter...gets a great review from me."