

## **Madame Griselda's Reviews: *The Perfectly Proper Paranormal Museum* by Kirsten Weiss**

Hi Everyone! It's Gabrielle again. Guess what? Madame Griselda says I'm doing such a good job with her book reviews that she's promoted me to assistant editor! It's not a paid position, but it sounds good, doesn't it—Gabrielle Mochizuki, MD, MGE (Madame Griselda's Editor)?

Reading heavy medical journals gets pretty tedious, and one of my guilty pleasures is to curl up with a good cozy mystery, especially if it has a ghostly angle. And I've found a brand new one, just published by Midnight Ink. It's called *The Perfectly Proper Paranormal Museum* by Kirsten Weiss. Weiss isn't a newcomer to the supernatural fiction market; she has a series of urban paranormal whodunits featuring detective Riga Hayworth, but this seems to be a new blend of mysterious elements for her.

If you've ever been to Madame Tussaud's, then you know how spooky museums can be, so Weiss has already got a leg up on her setting, supernaturally speaking. The story centers around Maddie Kosloski who lives in the little town of San Benedetto, near Sacramento. Maddie has been pushed by her friend Adele into managing San Benedetto's Paranormal Museum. Since she is out of work, she agrees to take it on temporarily. But as soon as she gets a look at the place, lo and behold, there is a dead body lying on the floor!

Adele is arrested for the crime, and it is up to Maddie to determine who the real killer is and clear her friend. Along the way, we meet a cast of peculiar characters: a procurer of arcane artifacts, a taxidermist with a macabre creative flair, and the members of the local parapsychological society, who wish to spend the night in the museum. (The Nevada City

Parapsychological Society, of which I am a proud member, stayed overnight in the firehouse museum once, and we got some really cool readings on the equipment, but that's another story.) Add to that mix a hunky motorcycle dealer and a building contractor with an interesting sideline of work, and you have the ingredients for a wild mystery!

But what about the supernatural part, you ask? The ghostly nature of the museum is subtly interwoven into the plot: is it just a bizarre collection of exhibits designed as a tourist trap (like some of the residents believe) or is it, in fact, haunted (as others suppose)? The collection includes creepy dolls, a rocking chair that seems to move on its own, and a spirit cabinet, a freestanding closet inside which mediums sit during a séance. (Madame Griselda says only charlatans use them; in any case, she is so big she could never squeeze inside one.) And Maddie is mysteriously drawn to an old photograph which may hold a clue to solving a riddle from the town's past.

Then there is the ghost detecting cat. I haven't had much experience with supernatural cats myself, but Madame Griselda says they are very common. Members of the species *Felis catus*, she says, are very spiritually perceptive creatures. This particular one seems pretty temperamental, and it's a little hard to know if he's actually detecting ghosts or just behaving weirdly.

The characters in *The Perfectly Proper Paranormal Museum* are fun and the writing style is breezy and humorous. The plot has a sufficient number of twists and turns that even I was unable to figure out the identity of the culprit, and I'm getting pretty good at picking out murderers. It appears that the book will be part of a series, and I hope that even more otherworldly goings on will be revealed as the books progress. *The Perfectly Proper Paranormal*

*Museum* is available from [Amazon](#), [Barnes and Noble](#), and [Powell's Books](#), or your local independent bookseller should have no trouble getting a copy for you.

Happy Reading!