

First 2 Pages: Murder at the Moonshine Inn  
by Maggie King

Curiosity. That's what keeps readers turning the pages. To that end I waste no time and get right down to the business of filling their heads with questions. Here is my story opening:

*If only I could learn to say no, I wouldn't be perched on a barstool in a redneck bar, breathing secondhand smoke and pretending to flirt with men sporting baseball caps and Confederate bandanas, their eyes riveted on my Victoria's Secret-enhanced cleavage. I wouldn't be tricked out in a bizarre hairstyle, frosted blue eye shadow, painted-on jeans with strategically placed slashes, and a two-sizes-too-small Harley Davidson tank top.*

*I hit the rewind button on my life and stopped a few days earlier, at the point where Phyllis Ross threw a cup of coffee in Nina Brown's face. How that led to this undercover assignment—finding out who killed a middle-aged drunken woman in the parking lot of the Moonshine Inn—is quite a tale.*

Who is the narrator and why is she investigating a murder? Is she a cop or a private investigator? Unlikely, since she's clearly reluctant and it's her difficulty with saying "no" that landed her in a situation that doesn't thrill her. *If only I could learn to say no, I wouldn't be perched on a barstool in a redneck bar.*

So our sleuth, while intrepid, is less than enthused about her assignment. Who convinced her to find the killer of a middle-aged drunken woman? And why ask her? Blackmail? Calling in favors? Or is there a personal connection?

It's clear that our sleuth doesn't frequent redneck bars and that her getup is a departure from her usual style. *If only I could learn to say no ... I wouldn't be tricked out in a bizarre hairstyle, frosted blue eye shadow, painted-on jeans with strategically placed slashes, and a two-sizes-too-small Harley Davidson tank top.*

Maybe she isn't even a woman. Hmm.

What about the other characters, like the middle-aged drunken woman who met her maker in the Moonshine Inn's parking lot? Who is she? Who is the coffee-flinging Phyllis Ross? Who is Nina Brown?

Why did Phyllis Ross throw coffee in Nina Brown's face? And how did the coffee incident precipitate the sleuth's undercover assignment?

I hope I now have mystery lovers so curious that they're eager to dive in and learn more about my sleuth and her adventures in *Murder at the Moonshine Inn*.

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Bio:



Maggie King is the author of the Hazel Rose Book Group mysteries, including the recently-released *Murder at the Moonshine Inn*. She contributed the stories “A Not So Genteel Murder” and “Reunion at Shockoe Slip” to the *Virginia is for Mysteries* anthologies.

Maggie is a member of Sisters in Crime, James River Writers, and the American Association of University Women. She has worked as a software developer, retail sales manager, and customer service supervisor. Maggie graduated from Elizabeth Seton College and earned a B.S. degree in Business Administration from Rochester Institute of Technology. She has called New Jersey, Massachusetts, and California home. These days she lives in Richmond, Virginia with her husband, Glen, and cats, Morris and Olive. She enjoys reading, walking, movies, traveling, theatre, and museums.

Website: <http://www.maggieking.com>

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