

BOOK REVIEW: *Clubbed to Death*

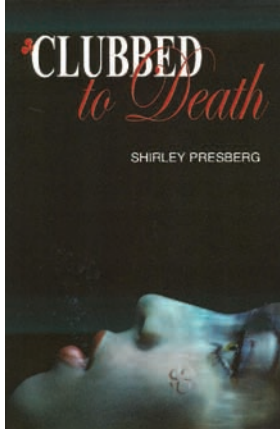
By Shirley Presberg — Reviewed by Anita Finley

We don't often review murder mysteries but this one is so close to home that we thought our readers would enjoy *Clubbed to Death*. We have so many bridge players in South Florida that they will relate to the characters in the story. The story opens with a body in a Miami hotel pool where a National Bridge Tournament was taking place.

Two sisters are the main characters and as they inquire as to whom the dead woman was, found in the pool, murdered, they are surprised to learn that it was one of the bridge players and a very good one at that. So nothing would do but for the two sisters to become detectives and try to solve the murder.

For all bridge players, this book will appeal to you, since the entire story is woven in and around playing bridge. The comments that each of the sisters make regarding all things, including sex, are really funny. I am not a bridge player, but after reviewing the book, I could become one! Obviously, to be a champion bridge player, you need to be smart and both Eva and Sharon, used their intelligence and curiosity to find the killer. In all 27 chapters, the talk is fresh and funny and makes the readers think that they are really having these conversations.

Here's how the story goes: On the first day of a National bridge tournament in Miami, the body of Holly Harrison, a professional bridge player, is found floating in the hotel pool. Sisters Sharon Price and Eva Kaplan, who recently helped solve another bridge murder, decide to use their bridge expertise and newly developed detective skills to help Detective Whittaker and the local cops solve



Holly's murder.

As the sisters compete in daily bridge events, they question Holly's teammates and friends. They discover that Holly was blackmailing Julia, a long-time bridge-playing friend. They also hear rumors that Holly had been having an affair with Mark, a married professional player. Sounds like a daytime soap opera?

The cover of the book is very artful and a simple book to carry with you while waiting and waiting for appointments and planes.

About the author:

Shirley Presberg is a champion duplicate bridge player that followed duplicate bridge competitions around the country, won several tournaments and became a Life Master. She is now a Diamond Life Master and needs fewer than 500 points to become an Emerald Life Master (7500 points).

She received a B.A. degree from Syracuse University and an M.A. degree from the University of Michigan. For several years, Shirley wrote book reviews for a lifestyle magazine in Hampton Roads, Virginia, and for the *Virginian-Pilot* in Norfolk, Virginia. She eventually created her own mystery column called "From the Mystery Shelf." In 1997 she published her first mystery, *Death by Contract*.

Shirley now lives with her husband, Dr. Harry Presberg, a retired pediatric radiologist, in Boca Raton, Florida. They have two daughters and four grandchildren.

(To order *Clubbed to Death*, go to www.BridgeMystery.com or amazon.com; cost: \$14.95)