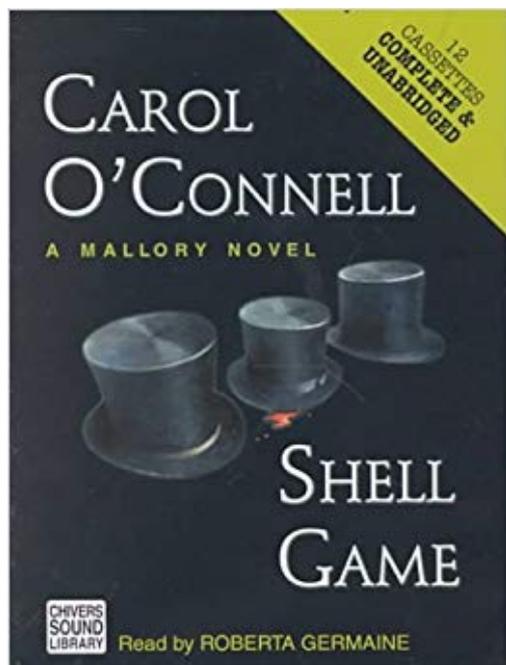


Shell Game (Chivers Sound Library American Collections) by Roberta Germaine, Carol O'Connell



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When a legendary magic trick goes fatally wrong on live television, everyone believes that it had been a horrible accident, except for an aging magician in a private New York hospital and former streetchild-turned-NYPD officer Kathleen Mallory, who must search for a killer with a taste for the theatrical. Read by Roberta Germaine. Book available.



Reviews of the Shell Game (Chivers Sound Library American Collections) by Roberta Germaine, Carol O'Connell

Dainris

The second Kathleen Mallory entry mentioned, as an off-stage character, a legendary magician whose signature trick was to make his audiences believe that his dead wife was with him, as a ghost. In this outing, the magician is the center of attention.

Kathleen Mallory is convinced that the death of a magician during his recreation of a trick famed for being dangerous was murder. She is also convinced that the bullet that brought down the balloon of America's most loved cartoon character during Macy's Thanksgiving Parade was fired in another murder attempt. She spends most of the novel in a mental chess game with the Great Malakhai, whom she believes is planning to murder the man who murdered his wife. She fails, rather refreshingly.

But she also finds a way to win. That is one of the things I disliked about this effort; I would have liked seeing the little monster made more vulnerable. I will admit that the book did humanize her more. The old man doesn't seduce her sexually, but he does get her to fall for him on some level, although he can't get her to abandon her duty. He also diagnoses her more convincingly than her psychologists did when she was eleven. He thinks she is ruthless, not psychopathic, the latter being the opinion of her friends and admirers, and I do believe he is right. Her ruthlessness is can still be jaw-dropping. I am starting to like the character as much as I do her adventures. I think that started when the old man got her a little drunk and persuaded her to wear a top hat as she talked to him.

IWantYou

Just a little disappointed in this Mallory novel. Thoroughly enjoyed Mallory's Oracle, Chalk Girl and Stone Angel, but this one, by comparison, left me feeling like I missed something. The plot was fairly convoluted so it was difficult to keep up with who did what and when, since many of the clues came from the past. Don't get me wrong, it is a good read and well-written, but too twisty for my taste and felt a little "empty" when finished. Most of her other books are much better.

Vishura

I have just given up on this book, after pushing myself to keep going for several days. I got half way through and couldn't believe that the story could be dragged out any more. The main (only, apart from an imaginary one) female character is unsympathetic to the point of being unlikable. Perhaps if I had read the earlier books in the series I may have had a bit more sympathy for her, but I hadn't and all authors need to keep in mind that sometimes people come to series part way through. I couldn't recommend this book at all. I found it tedious. Shell Game (Kathleen Mallory Novels)

Mananara

When a man dies on live television, everyone believes it is a tragic accident. Mallory does not. The death was simply a performance planned for pagentry and spectacle. Mallory is on the trail of a killer whose mind makes the same dark twists as her own. The suspense builds steadily throughout the story until the compelling denouement.

Tygrarad

First rate series...Mallory is unique...

Sudert

A real pleasure to read and re-read.

Frostdefender

COC continues to write excellent material. Her characters come to life as you turn each page. Mallory continues to display brilliance with thought provoking conclusions.....ER

This is a very unique mystery, involving magicians from WWII. I really liked it, but I haven't been disappointed by this author yet.

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