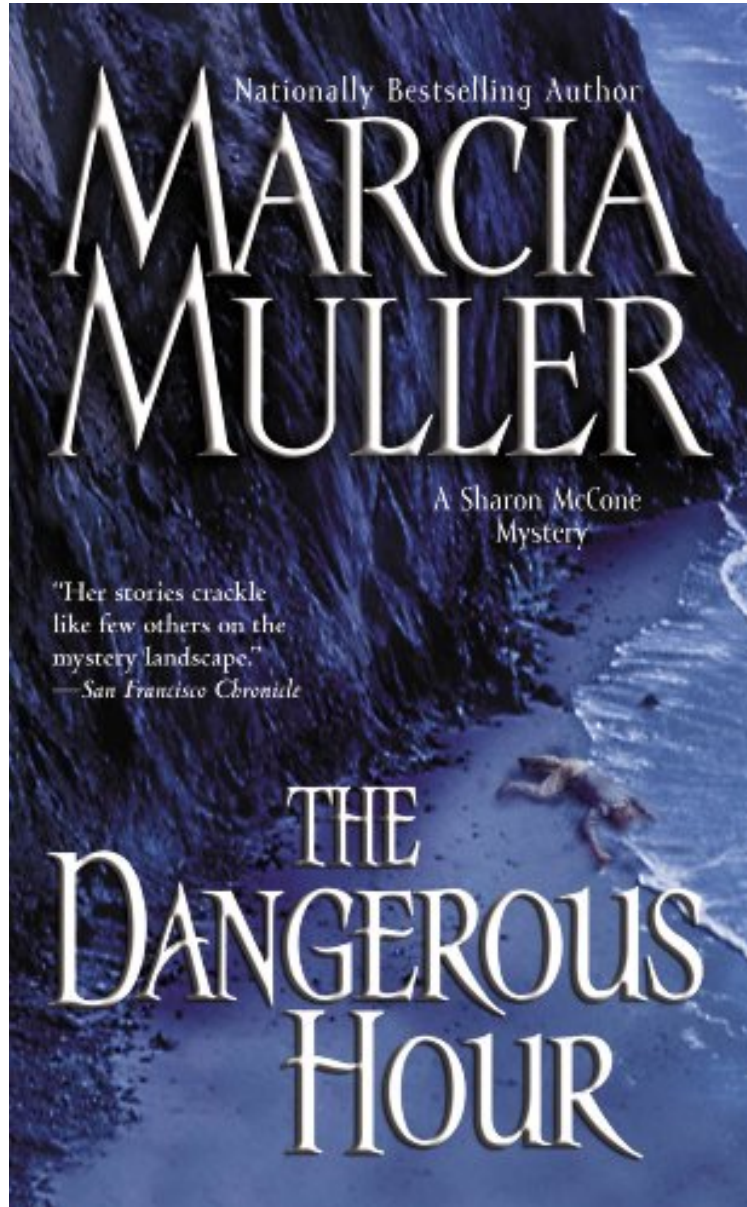


(Download pdf) The Dangerous Hour (A Sharon McCone Mystery Book 23) (English Edition)

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Von Marcia Muller

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Von Marcia Muller : The Dangerous Hour (A Sharon McCone Mystery Book 23) (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Dangerous Hour (A Sharon McCone Mystery Book 23) (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. McCone Faces Down Two Personal CrisesVon Donald MitchellAs *The Dangerous Hour* opens, Sharon McCone is filled with joy over the economic and professional success of McCone Investigations . . . and overflowing with anxiety about Hy Ripinsky's marriage proposal. Almost instantly the joy of success is replaced with fear of loss as one of her new employees is hauled away for credit card fraud against a recent client. Under California licensing rules, McCone can lose her business due to an employee's malfeasance. While expensive lawyers right to gain her time and breathing space, McCone leads her entire firm and related friends, neighbors and snitches to find out what's really going on. At the same time, she has to keep the wolf from the door so client work continues as well. In the process, all of the usual characters make at least cameo appearances. One of the challenges that Marcia Muller faces in each Sharon McCone mystery is how to employ all of the interesting and memorable characters that she has developed through more than 20 novels. That challenge usually determines how well the book turns out. In *The Dangerous Hour*, Ms. Muller gives into the temptation to deploy all of her characters . . . and to add a few more interesting ones. Unless she wants to write *War and Peace*, this means that some characters appear by name but don't really appear as characters. That makes the story seem bloated and dull in places. But considering how many characters are crammed into this book, it's a remarkable achievement to have this only be a minor problem that caused me to nick my rating by one star. McCone is really a loner who likes people . . . but doesn't feel comfortable getting close to them. I credit Ms. Muller with great skill in being able to populate the McCone books with so many characters who could plausibly want to be connected to McCone. Ms. Muller has a great instinct for capturing human motivations, weaknesses and strengths . . . and connecting them to their natural environments and human connections. In *The Dangerous Hour* she does this very deftly in a number of places so that the new characters seem more vivid than the old ones do. As the McCone universe expands, it becomes more realistic and the stories resonate better. I look forward to even more complicated plots with even more characters in the future. Ms. Muller's skill is developing nicely. I hope she remembers to leave out characters that she cannot involve sufficiently to make them relevant to the story and our interest in those characters. On the other hand, Ms. Muller wisely chose to have McCone deal with the investigation in as much of a one-woman style as possible . . . bringing back the tension and immediacy of the earliest books in the series. Very nice!

KurzbeschreibungMarcia Muller's beloved heroine Sharon McCone is back to investigate a personal betrayal by one of her operatives that has put her business and reputation on the line. From Publishers WeeklyIn Muller's 23rd page-turner about scrappy, smart PI Sharon McCone (*Dead Midnight*, etc.), McCone now heads her own firm, McCone Investigations, a successful, established agency with a growing staff and more work than they can keep up with. But someone from her past would like to see her fail and is willing to take out her close associates to do so. When Julia Rafael, a young investigator whom McCone decided to take on despite her checkered youth, is accused of stealing the credit card of Supervisor Alex Aguilar, the man being groomed to be San Francisco's first Hispanic mayor, the criminal investigation could have dire implications for McCone Investigations. McCone's initial doubts about her employee quickly give way to a determination to discover who's trying to sabotage her company. Muller has a knack for painting a full picture of McCone's life without getting too cutesy (even when discussing cat health care), and readers with a taste for romance will enjoy the direction her relationship with the dashing Hy Ripinsky is taking. While the plot is a bit by-the-book and the high-stakes confrontations could be more compelling, fans should be well satisfied. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From BooklistPI Sharon McCone has barely had time to appreciate the hard-won success of her firm when one of her operatives is arrested, putting the whole agency at risk. Is reserved, almost standoffish Julia Rafael, who has a juvenile record, guilty? If not, why in the world would Alex Aguilar, one of San Francisco's up-and-coming Hispanic politicians, accuse her of stealing his credit card? It doesn't take Sharon long to recognize that it's up to her to sort out the mess, and when she begins digging into Aguilar's past, she finds that he has some unpleasant secrets--one of which leads her to the realization that a vengeful killer is out there, and Julia isn't the real target. Muller's plotting isn't quite as tidy as usual (she has to stretch pretty far to bring everything in line by the end), but once again she gives us a solid slice of a San Francisco community and a protagonist with character. Fans of the sturdy, ongoing series will be especially pleased with the final scene, which opens the way for a new chapter in McCone's personal life. Stephanie ZvirinCopyright American Library Association. All rights reserved