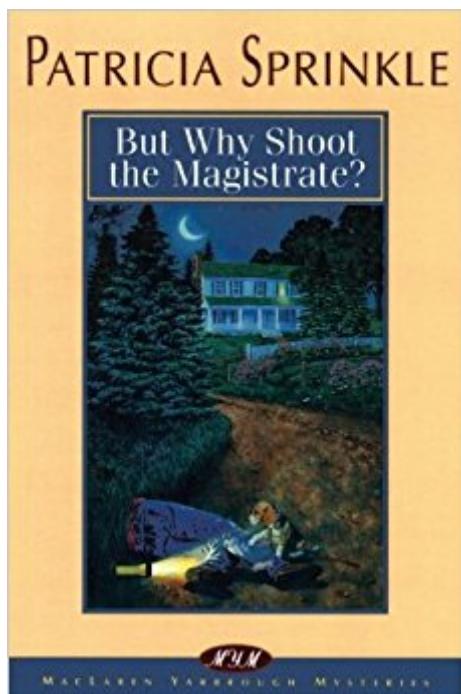


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# But Why Shoot The Magistrate? (Thoroughly Southern Mysteries, No. 2)



## Synopsis

When a popular youth pastor is accused of a grisly crime, MacLaren Yarbrough won't rest until she finds the truth. Her gut instinct tells her Luke Blessed is innocent. Still, how could the dream he had on the night a young woman was murdered depict the crime with such chilling accuracy? As MacLaren tracks down clues from all corners of Hopewell, GA, four like suspects emerge. But the police aren't buying her theories. Even her husband, local magistrate Joe Riddley, resists her amateur sleuthing. This case, he feels, is too dangerous. Just how dangerous, both of them are about to discover. The assailant strikes again, leaving Joe comatose from a gunshot wound to the head. And suddenly, a new question stares MacLaren in the face. It's the most perplexing question of all -- and the most personal: Why shoot the magistrate?

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I bought this book because the cover had a sticker that said if I did not love it, I could return it and get my money back with no questions asked. I figured what did I have to lose? Patricia Sprinkle has since become one of my favorite authors. Her Maclaren Yarbrough books are easy reads. I felt like I knew her characters personally and was already missing them as I read the last few pages. If you like Perry Mason, Ben Matlock, or Jessica Fletcher, you will love Maclaren Yarbrough.

I picked up this book on a whim and had never heard of Patricia Sprinkle or her other books. I liked the slow pace of writing and the development of the characters. I related to the family dynamics and

the description of small-town life. Ms. Sprinkle does a great job of weaving hints of the mystery that keeps you wanting to know more. I would recommend this book if someone was looking for something to read but didn't want to put too much thought into it. Not a memorable book, but good for a lazy weekend!

The first sentence of a good mystery can "hook me" and then hook, line and sinker I'm into delving into the read trying to figure out the mystery. Such is the case of this read, *But Why Shoot the Magistrate* by Patricia Sprinkle. Here's the first sentence, "On the night of the first murder, a full moon sailed over middle Georgia." Even though this is the second book in the *Thoroughly Southern Mysteries* series it is probably (in my opinion) one of the best mysteries I've read. I was surprised that I had not read any books by Patricia Sprinkle since this book was published in 1998! I was enthralled from page one. I truly like MacLaren (yes, her first name), the southern charm and the great mystery of why would anyone want to kill a nurse and then blame the Youth Pastor. Had a hard time figuring this mystery out! Mac is on the case! MacLaren Yarbrough is back in her hometown of Hopemore, Georgia, with another mystery to solve. There are quite a few eccentric characters who inhabit Hopemore and we also meet MacLaren's sons, Ridd and Walker. I enjoy a good clean mystery and I love it when an author writes about the "God things" of life. Ms. Sprinkle incorporates a lot of God and Christianity into this short, fast read! Will be looking for more books from Ms. Sprinkle!\*This book was provided for review by Zondervan\*

I just finished this early book in the author's Mac Yarbrough series after reading several of the others. Fortunately I have a few more to read and I sure hope Ms. Sprinkle hasn't stopped writing mysteries. She's an excellent writer and I love how she weaves in such interesting details about her character's daily life, relatives, neighbors, humorous local customs, etc. Before reading any of her books I was concerned that they might be hokey but they're not (just gently humorous in that dry, quiet southern way).

I received this prior to the date indicated and it was in a new formatted cover. The pages were easy to read and it is part of my book collection..

I enjoyed this book very much, as I had already come to love Maclaren Yarborough from her later escapades. The characters are well-rounded, the plot beautifully executed, and the setting, Hopemore, Georgia, is a place I never want to leave. I wonder, though, if I would have enjoyed this

one as much had I read it first. ("Why Shoot the Magistrate?" is Maclaren Yarbrough's debut story.) The reason for my hesitation is that this book is a bit heavy on the "preachy" kind of religion. Overall, I love Mac's philosophy, her connection with God, her staunch morality. But in this book, and the next (When Did We Lose Harriet?) the reader is made to feel that unless you believe exactly what Mac does, you are sadly misled, spiritually. Happily, every book in this series from the third one on is light on the religion angle and heavy on just basic common sense and common decency - and excellent plotting. Don't pass this one by, even if you have no religious beliefs at all, because overall the book is a winner!

This is the second in the Thoroughly Southern Mysteries series and is definitely as good, if not better, than the first. MacLaren Yarbrough is back in her hometown of Hopemore, Georgia, with another mystery to solve. This time the youth minister from her church is a suspect in the brutal murder of a young nurse. We get to meet many of the eccentric characters who inhabit Hopemore and MacLaren's sons, Ridd and Walker. This is a thoroughly delightful mystery with a well crafted plot and people you feel you want to know in real life. I'll definitely be reading more of the Thoroughly Southern Mysteries.

There is something wonderfully familiar about the locale and the characters in this series. Maybe because I'm in the same age range as Maclaren Yarborough and grew up in the south, it's very easy to identify with her family and friends. I was given this book by a neighbor and since I usually stick to serious mysteries, legal thrillers and some non-fiction, I was sure this would be much too "corny" for me. But I loved it!!!! Hope this series doesn't end!

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