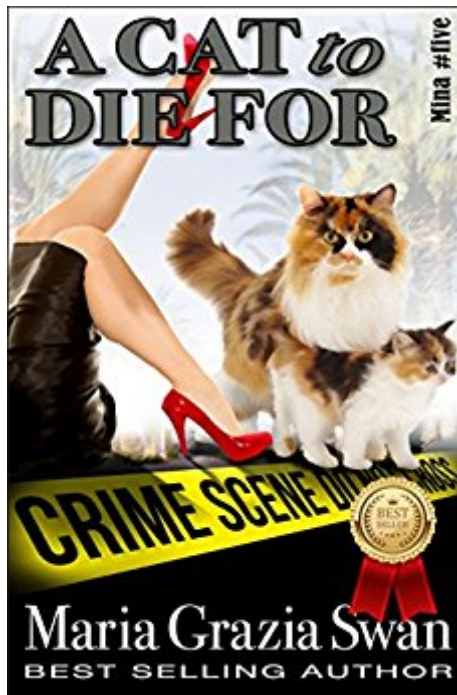




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# A Cat To Die For (Mina's Adventures Book 5)



## Synopsis

Mina Calvi's new Furry Friends Foundation is a dream come true for the formerly footloose young woman. Her no-kill shelter rescues and places dogs and cats into new forever homes, and it gives Mina a purpose in life. But changes are looming on a perfect Sunday afternoon at the Dana Point Marina where she is minding the adoption booth. A Greek heiress, young, petite and beautiful, shows up on the arm of the love of Mina's life, Diego Moran. And worse, she wants to adopt Mina's calico cat, Houdini. The spoiled woman will not take no for an answer. Why is she so insistent on getting Houdini when she already owns a look-alike cat? When Houdini is cat-napped, the cat-sitter murdered, and the ransom demand sent to the heiress, Mina has to keep her wits about her to get her beloved cat home safely, and to keep her heart from getting broken again by Diego, who inexplicably pops up at every turn of the unfolding drama.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

It's amazing how much we love our pets and so the author creates a good amount of conflict when her cat Houdini is catnapped. It's all part of a larger plan, a couple of look alike cats, a Greek

heiress and some no-goods looking to make some money. The author's pacing is what sets her apart from many indie reads, the book just flows, not too fast but not with a bunch of annoying down time that doesn't have anything to do with the mystery either. This is the second book I have read in the series, but the cat rescue line is a real plus for me. I also felt like the author had an excellent grasp of the area she was describing (San Clemente area). Well worth the money and the time. Brava!

This cozy mystery is a lot of fun. Beautifully paced and well written, it has a lovely conversational tone that drew me in right from the start. I hadn't read any other Mina mysteries but it didn't take long to get up to speed and into the story. It's definitely one for true cat lovers as it centers around a kidnapped kitty and his look-a-like 'twin', both rare male 'calicos'. All is not as it seems and while Mina is drawn into a dangerous murder mystery, she seems a lot more concerned about the safety of those cats! She's a warm, likeable protagonist with a tough exterior but a soft, sweet core and I had a lot of fun with her. Might just go in search of her other adventures now...

"A Cat to Die For" is the fifth book in a series about Mina Calvi, written by Maria Grazia Swan. Mina manages the Furry Friends Foundation, a "no kill" operation that rescues cats and dogs and actively promotes adoption. She also has her own pet boarding business. Diego Moran, Mina's former and continuing love interest, arrived near closing, on the scene, at one of the adoption events with his current spoiled, wealthy girlfriend. She insists on buying the kitty Mina has decided to adopt. Mina tells her the pets are for adoption, not for sale and gives her an application packet to take with her. The story quickly turns into a mystery of a cat napping, murder, break-ins and Mina's continued angst over Diego. This is a really fun read with great characters and plot! I hope the next book continues with the events at the end of this one!

Mina Calvi is back in action, and I mean that in the literal sense. Committed to her newfound purpose in life, rescuing stray and unwanted animals, she's growing, grounded, and discovering her place in the world. That is until "he" saunters back into her life with a new woman on his arm but with that same maddening inscrutable demeanor, and the new love of her life, a calico cat named Houdini, disappears. While the Mina of old wasn't always ready to fight in order to keep what she loved, the Mina we find in "A Cat to Die For" is fierce and focused in her resolve to bring Houdini home. As in every Mina Calvi adventure, there's a mysterious man, a mysterious woman, a mysterious death, and--yes--mysterious circumstances. Maria Grazia Swan's dialogue is always

tongue-in-cheek. her storyline fast-paced, her characters conflicted, and her settings vivid. So curl up with a warm cat and a cold drink, and travel to SoCal with Ms. Swan and Mina Calvi. I bet you enjoy the trip.

This is the first book I've read in this series, and I was worried that it would be hard to get into, since it is actually book 5, but I was captured immediately and thoroughly enjoyed it. In fact, it was so much fun that I read it in one sitting. Now, I will have to go and get the rest of the books to see what happened before and what happens next. Fun, cozy read!

This is a delightful romance-murder-theft mystery that will please cat lovers, which I am. I liked the main character being ethnic Italian, altho she does not seem to have Italian cooking skills, and you get a feel for a sympathetic character in all her troubles. Her lost love is not well developed, remaining mysterious to the end, but her friends are developed and believable. It was a quick, uncomplicated read, perfect for the subway or waiting room. I look forward to reading the author's other tales.

I have loved all Maria Grazia Swans books so far. They tend to be fast reads for me because they are so hard to put down. This book was no exception. Whether one is a cat lover or not (I'm a dog lover myself but have known and loved many exceptional cats during my life), one can appreciate the cats in Mina's life and appreciate her love for them. While there is the mention of violence, it isn't graphic and, for the most part, is after the fact. The sexual content is mild and, again, not graphic, making this book suitable for all ages (I'm in my 60s) despite the age of the protagonists. One thing I wished Mina...er...Ms. Swan had been clearer on was why Mina was so upset that Zeus had been declawed. Not many people know just what is involved with declawing a cat and the trauma even a properly done declawing (and all too many are not done properly) inflicts on a cat's physical and mental health. Otherwise, the book was excellently done. I'm eagerly awaiting the next book in Mina's Adventures as well as Ms. Swan's Lella York series.

A very nicely written book. Will read more from this author.

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