Claire Malloy discovers that house-hunting can be murder—literally—in the latest entry in Joan Hess’s wildly entertaining series. (Mystery Scene) Back from her somewhat unusual honeymoon, Claire Malloy must face the harsh reality of life with her new husband, police chief Peter Rosen, and her teenage daughter Caron—three people simply can’t fit into her cozy two bedroom apartment. After a week of fruitless looking, she finally finds the perfect place—a well preserved large house on a large plot of land in an area called Hollow Valley. There are only a few problems. Such as the real estate agent disappeared mid-showing and hasn’t been seen since. And the last owner died in circumstances labeled ‘accidental’ but were actually both ‘mysterious’ and ‘dubious’. The family that owned the estate is now suing the lover of the dead owner over the rights to the property. Oh, and it isn’t really for sale. When the previous owner’s lover dies practically at her feet, Claire decides to take matters into her own hands. After all, to get the house of her dreams, first she has to find a killer. And all’s fair in love, war, and real estate.

I am just not so thrilled about these recent entries in the Claire Malloy series. In this, Claire is recently married and in search of a larger domicile for her, new husband (and deputy chief) Peter Rosen, and daughter Caron. Claire falls in love with a house in a secluded valley inhabited by a nutty extended family, the Hollows. But before she can put an offer down, her real estate agent disappears.

The rest of the book involves a twisted and turning plot and various revelations. This has to be the most confusing and, at the same time, easiest to figure out whodunnit mystery I’ve read in a long time.
Unfortunately, I think Claire should hang up her PI shoes and enjoy her newlywed status.

Don't bother with this one.

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Deader Homes and Gardens: A Claire Malloy Mystery (Claire Malloy Mysteries) by Joan Hess - 5 Star Customer Reviews and Lowest Price!