Mrs. Pollifax and the Hong Kong Buddha by Dorothy Gilman

Downright Disturbing

Like the proverbial first potato chip [this book] gives you an irresistible craving for the first six Mrs. Pollifax books.

Newport News DAILY PRESS

Although recently married, Mrs. Pollifax is packed and ready to go to China, where a young agent, Sheng Ti, holds the answers to goings on at the sinister Feng Imports--a one-time agency front. Only Mrs. Pollifax has earned Sheng's trust, and only she can possibly stop what turns out to be a frightening and ominous plot involving drugs, smuggled diamonds, a famous cat burglar turned Interpol agent, a mysterious psychic, and, of course, murder.....possibly her own!

My Personal Review:
The biggest thing on newlywed Mrs. Pollifaxs mind is making sure the contractor installs the bay window in her new home slightly off center. But then Bishop from the CIA pulls into the driveway and her whole world changes again. Seems that a young man she helped smuggle out of China a year ago is working at a shop in Hong Kong where another CIA agent has been placed, but that agents reports have grown useless. Carstairs, Bishops boss, wants Mrs. Pollifax to make contact and figure out what exactly is happening.

But as is always the case with Mrs. Pollifax, things soon spiral out of control, and it starts when she runs into an old friend from a previous assignment. Then the man she met on the plane stumbles into her room with a wound on his head. Slowly, she suspects that her assignment is leading to something much bigger. But just what is it?

It had been so long since I read this book that Id forgotten much beyond the basics, so I was pulled along for the ride just like it was new. And what fun it was filled with the usual mix of coincidence and deductive reasoning to reach the astonishing conclusion. The characters are charming like always as well.

However, I was disappointed by the climax. Despite attempts to explain things, it felt like the author wasnt sure how to resolve things. It worked,
but not seemed improbable, even for a Mrs. Pollifax book. Theres also the fact that it was dark, although not as dark as the next book in the series.

Still, I do recommend this book. Its mostly fun although not quite as enjoyable as early books in the series.

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