

## Knock Off Reviews:

### From Kirkus (Starred Review)

Romance writer Pollero spins the hilarious tale of a paralegal whose loyalty to a client imperils her bargain-chasing.

Champion discount shopper Finley Tanner has never thought of her job in the Estates and Trusts Department of Dane, Lieberman and Zarnowski as anything but a means to keep her in last season's Lilly Pulitzer—until Victor Dane makes her babysit estates client Stacy Evans, who's convinced that her jeweler husband Marcus's auto death was no accident. At first, Finley goes along with Dane's wish to appease the client without really investigating her claim. But when she discovers that Marcus Evans served on a jury with the late Jos Vasquez and Graham Keller in a malpractice case brought by the estate of Brad Whitley against transplant surgeon Kent Hall and defended by Dane, Lieberman and Zarnowski, Finley is suddenly very attentive. Petty harassment at the office—on orders from above, Margaret the evil receptionist makes her sign in and out and logs her phone calls—and threatening notes pinned to her front door don't deter her, and the chance to work with sexy p.i. Liam McGarrity, a stunning counterpoint to her loyal but boring boyfriend Patrick, is a bonus. But it's her inner drive to close the deal that makes Finley track Evans's killer with a focus she usually reserves for off-price Armani.

Finley's firm sense of priorities and laser-accurate descriptions of the most banal circumstances will make readers eager for an encore.

---

### From Publishers Weekly

With more than 25 contemporary romances (*Automatic Proposal*, etc.) under the pen name Kelsey Roberts, Pollero makes her frivolous but fun mystery debut featuring Finley Anderson Tanner (F.A.T.), a 29-year-old West Palm Beach paralegal whose designer name-dropping prattle and discount shopaholism obscure her smarts. Bored silly by her job in the estates and trusts department, she agrees to help a senior partner handle a client convinced that her deceased husband didn't fall asleep at the wheel but was actually murdered. Finley's sweet but boring boyfriend is out of town, and her credit cards are maxed out, so she applies her bargain-hunting instincts to the investigation and finds a statistical improbability in the "accidental" deaths of several jurors after a medical malpractice suit. She meets the obligatory bad boy detective, Liam McGarrity, and wriggles out of several tight spots in this lighthearted romp. (*Mar.*)  
Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

---

### From Library Journal

Paralegal Finley Tanner is asked to placate a client of the high-powered legal firm where she works. The client is a widow who believes her husband was murdered in an automobile crash. No one takes her seriously, but as Finley begins to delve into the facts, she sees that there may be some truth in the widow's suspicions. Chick lit-mystery fans will love Finley's offhand mention of her Prada bags and her lusting after the one-dimensional hunk private investigator who is

helping her. Her libido aside, Finley shows that she is intelligent as well as beautifully dressed. Writing as Kelsey Roberts, Pollero has produced more than 25 romances and won many awards. She lives in southern Florida.

---

### **From Once Upon a Romance**

Finley Anderson Tanner is a paralegal. She works solely to support her habits, which are coffee and serious discount (designer clothes) shopping.

She's turned her job into a cushy position, coming in late, long lunches, leaving early, shopping E-bay (merely a sideline habit). Until her boss dumps a client, Mrs. Stacy Evans, in her lap to deal with. It's not long before Finley starts to realize this grief stricken widow is a few coffee beans shy of an espresso. She believes, against all the reports, that her husband was murdered, and she fully expects Finley to investigate.

Warned to accommodate Mrs. Evans, but not to dig too much, Finley reluctantly gets to work. Yet where does she begin? She's never done anything like this before and it shows. Enter Liam McGarrity, an investigator used by the firm. He gives her some tips, though isn't very much help at first. But (boyfriend aside) he *is* nice to look at and drool over.

Finley really would rather tell the neurotic widow she's nuts and walk away since this investigation has turned her well-ordered office upside down. Just in case you're skeptical about that, you should know that Finley actually goes in to the office early, works through lunch, takes work home, and also takes some initiative. And in doing so she unearths the puzzle of all puzzles. Time begins to run out as Finley gathers the clues and struggles to put them together before anyone else is murdered. Yes, she's convinced its murder, which puts her job and her life in jeopardy!

Finley is great fun, though she can have a bit of a mouth on her. She is surrounded by a great ensemble of best friends, family, and backstabbing co-workers, all of whom are very helpful in various stages of her investigations. And it only makes the story that much more fun.

A disappointment for me was the ending. There was such a build up through the well thought out maze of clues Finley dug up that it seemed to me the book ended in a rush. Was it my desire for the book not to end? Perhaps.

Rhonda Pollero has penned a winner with *Knock Off*. It's a fabulous start to a new mystery series! Amazing twists and turns are woven between humor, fashion, and romance. A sharp combination guaranteed to make Finley an instant hit.

Connie

---

### **From Booklist**

When it comes to putting together a killer couture wardrobe on a tight budget, paralegal Finley Anderson Tanner knows exactly what she is doing. When it comes to catching a clever killer, Finley doesn't have a clue. But Finley's boss insists that she meet with Stacy Evans, who is convinced her husband Marcus' death was no accident. At first, Finley thinks the widow is just

having a difficult time adapting to loss, but she discovers that not only was Marcus a juror on a high-profile medical-malpractice trial but also that several other of the jurors have recently died in “accidents.” Pollero fashions the first volume in a stylishly entertaining new amateur sleuth series that is certain to be a runaway hit with mystery readers who like a dash of chick-lit sass and a pinch of romance with their detecting. —*John Charles*

---

### **From Mysterious Galaxy Review**

Meet Finley Anderson Tanner, a paralegal in the Estates & Trusts division of a prestigious law firm. Her deep dark secret is that she is a *discount shopper*. She wants all the fashions but doesn't want to pay for them. Her boss, a civil trial attorney, has sent her a case where a woman's husband died in an automobile accident. The widow, Stacy Evans, immediately lets Finley know that she believes that her husband death wasn't an accident but was murder, and she expects Finley to prove it. Finley is used to listening to grieving widows but would like to draw the line at delusional widows. However, Stacy is a personal friend of Finley's boss, Victor Dane, and Finley feels obliged to at least pretend to do some investigation.

Once Finley gets started, she discovers that she enjoys investigating. She actually finds some discrepancies in the accidental death scenario. Her boss, however, tells her to drop the investigation. When she doesn't stop investigating, she finds herself out of a job. Wow, is this a clue? What does it all mean? Finley is an interesting heroine and it's fun to see her throw herself into her investigation. She does discover some evil doings and some ancient history that is causing unpleasant ripples in the present. This is a cozy with some humor and I will look forward to a sequel. —*LRE (Linda Rae)*

---

### **From Coffee Time Romance**

Finley Anderson Tanner, FAT to her enemies, wants to drink coffee, shop online, date her sweet but ho-hum boyfriend, and avoid work like the plague; in that order. However, her priorities are about to get switched around and nobody is more shocked than Finley.

Liam McGarrity is an investigator under contract to Finley's firm and likes to discover new ways to get under her skin.

When Finley is assigned to a case involving a grieving widow who suspects foul play in her husband's auto accident, nobody thinks it will lead to a murder investigation, least of all Finley. Her favorite thing to sniff out previously has been marked down designer clothing. However, that does not stop her from getting close enough to the truth to land in a lot of trouble. She enlists Liam's aid and, at first, he does not believe there is a case. However, all too soon he sees signs that Finley is getting close enough that someone wants to scare her off. Can the duo solve the mystery before the suspect gets close enough to knock off Finley?

This book made me laugh, and at the same time had me reading well past my bedtime so I could figure out who did it. I loved Finley because she was so normal and would not give up because she knew deep down that there had been a murder. I also liked how one of her so-called bad habits gave her one of her first clues. Her befuddled attraction to Liam was great and her frustration with his vagueness made me smile. I also felt as if I knew each of the heroine's

girlfriends personally by the end of and book. I loved my first FAT mystery, and hope to see more of Finley A. Tanner very soon. —*Jenn*

---

### **From Romance Junkies Reviews**

Finley Anderson Tanner hates her job. But who doesn't, right? She would much rather be shopping for the lowest sale price on a pair of Jimmy Choo's than dealing with the estates of the dearly departed. But a gal's got to pay for those shoes somehow. When her boss tells her to take on the case for a personal friend of his whose husband was killed in a vehicle accident, she is somewhat surprised. That is until she meets the grieving widow. The widow Evans insists her husband's death was a lot more nefarious than a simple accident. And Finley is downright stunned when Mrs. Evans demands that she be the one to get to the bottom of it. Being an avid fan of CSI is apparently not the same as having the actual know-how on how to go about solving a crime. That is if there really is a crime to solve. Everyone, including Finley herself, believes that Mrs. Evans is off her rocker. When the threatening notes start appearing it looks like someone wants Finley to stop her snooping. How does the gorgeous Liam McGarrity fit in her quest of a would-be killer? And will Finley be able to keep her thoughts and hands on the task at hand and not the mouth-watering Liam.

KNOCK OFF is definitely a knock out! Rhonda Pollero has created a snappy suspense that works beautifully with the quirky and loveable paralegal turned Nancy Drew. Mixing her with the aloof but very appealing Liam adds the spice we want to create a delightful page-turner. For all you readers looking for that fun-to-read romance that leaves you smiling, look no farther! KNOCK OFF is most satisfying.—*Nadine St. Dennis*

---

### **From JoyfullyReviewed.com**

Finley Tanner is a paralegal reluctantly investigating the death of Stacy Evans' husband Marcus. As Finley goes through the motions of the case she stumbles upon some interesting and disturbing information that leads Finley to believe that there may be more going on than she thought, so she hires detective Liam McGarrity to help investigate the case.

Although Finley's boyfriend Patrick seems picture perfect, there are no fireworks between them. Whenever she is with Liam though, the sparks fly!

While Finley struggles with her feeling for both men, she is getting closer to solving the case and danger is trailing behind her.

***Knock Off*** is a very suspenseful and fun story. Finley is a blast, Patrick is sweet and Liam is mysterious and sexy. ***Knock Off*** is a very good story with more mystery than romance in it. It also has an open ending. Hopefully in the next book Finley will take us on another adventure and choose her Mr. Right! —*Nannette*

---

In West Palm Beach, paralegal assistant Finley Anderson Tanner, known as FAT to her adversaries, works in the Estates and trusts Department of Dane, Lieberman and Zarnowski law firm. She does enough at work to not get fired by her boss Mr. “Vain” Dane. Instead of handling estates and trusts as expected, she prefers extended lunches, coffee by the gallon, and shopping for designer clothing in discount or consignment stores, especially on the lookout for irregulars.

Dane dumps a particular pain in the butt client on Finley. Mrs. Evans believes her spouse Marcus was murdered though officially he had a heart attack that led to his death in a car accident. To quiet the nuisance client, Finley plans to do just enough to affirm it was an accident. However, with the help of private investigator Liam McGarrity, she begins to uncover strange happenings. Three members of a medical malpractice jury, including Marcus, have died in accidents in a short time. Could the accused Dr. Kent Hall be killing those who exonerated him though no motive seems apparent? In between coffee, shopping and ogling Liam’s butt, Finley plans to prove Dr. Hall is a killer, but must be careful that the surgeon does not KNOCK OFF a suddenly active underachiever.

Finley is a fascinating protagonist whose efforts to keep up appearances will have the audience shaking their heads in amusement. Though at first she seems inane leaving fans to wonder what her friends see in her; she soon displays an inner strength to uncover the truth as much for herself as her client. Readers will appreciate the impatient Finley as she, while hiding the nasty spot on her designer bag outlook, shakes up the legal, medical, and private investigative worlds of West Palm Beach in this lighthearted, chick-lit mystery. —*Harriet Klausner*