



Mystery reviews

New in crime fiction: The latest mysteries and thrillers

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- **Champagne for Buzzards**

By Phyllis Smallman, McArthur & Co., 320 pages, \$24.95

Arthur Ellis Award-winner Smallman returns with her third amusing novel featuring bartender Sherri Travis, heroine of *Margarita Nights* and *A Brewski for the Old Man*. We find Sherri outside her comfort zone. She's holed up in a ranch on the Florida Panhandle. There are gators and snakes and horses that bite. Sherri isn't impressed, but she really loses her taste for country when a dead body turns up in the back seat of her pickup truck. What is a lady to do? Investigate the strange neighbours, for one thing, and get the hell out of the grass for another. Smallman has made this character her own. The dialogue is crisp, the jokes are funny and the setting as nutty as any city slicker can believe.



