

CRITICAL READER FEEDBACK SHEET			TITLE	The Art Dealer
			EVALUATION DATE	May 21, 2012
ITEM #	EVALUATION TYPE	RATING (1 low – 5 High)	COMMENT	
1	PLOT	1 2 3 4 <b>5</b>	Excellent plot. I like the twists and turns, but it does get a bit bogged down towards the end i.e. the court session. A bit of a rewrite here might be useful	
2	CHARACTERIZATION	1 2 3 4 <b>5</b>	Great work. The characterization is flawless.	
3	DIALOGUE	1 2 3 <b>4</b> 5	I know Fleming is an Aussie, but we don't say mate here in the States. Still, the dialogue is excellent and suits the characters.	
4	PACE/ACTION	1 2 3 4 <b>5</b>	Suited me perfectly. Love the short chapters and the story never bogged down. Well almost never.	
5	VOICE	1 2 3 <b>4</b> 5	Well matched to events and characters.	
6	POINT OF VIEW	1 2 3 4 <b>5</b>	Not really important in crime stories, but I think the story is written from Alex's and Murray's POV.	
7	STORY BELIVABILITY	1 2 3 <b>4 5</b>	I believed every word of this story.	
8	STYLE	1 2 3 <b>4 5</b>	I'm a Fleming fan and this is because of her style.	
9	SUBPLOTS	1 2 3 <b>4</b> 5	They tied in well and were relevant to driving the plot.	
10	HOW WELL DO THE EVENTS TIE TOGETHER?	1 2 3 4 <b>5</b>	Fleming's prose is not self-indulgent, her dialogue realistic and the story's pace snappy. Her characters are everyday people we can all identify with caught up in extreme and thrilling, yet still plausible situations.	
11	DO THE VOICES FIT THE CHARACTER?	1 2 3 <b>4 5</b>	Absolutely	
12	ARE THE INDIVIDUAL EVENTS BELIEVABLE?	1 2 3 <b>4 5</b>	Sure are.	
13	THE ENDING WORKS WELL	1 2 3 4 <b>5</b>	Works for me!	
14.	DID YOU FORM AN ATTACHMENT WITH ANY OF THE CHARACTERS? If so, which ones and why?		Sure did. I fell in love with Alex and I wanted to take Jimmy home to my mother.	

Wow! I love this novel.

I know that crime novels are plot driven so POV is less important than in other genre, but I felt a connection with Alex and really related to her throughout the story. I felt her distress and understood the personal and professional conflict she constantly faced. I think the POV was both Alex's and Murray's.

The ending is perfect. Fleming gives the reader enough to fill in the gaps, without completely directing them. I like this in a story because it allows me to mould the events in a way that fits my expectation and my personal needs.

There are a few descriptors that I'm not one hundred percent convinced need to be in the story, i.e. the stuff about the New York garbage department, but I found it interesting, so I let it through without being too precious about whether Fleming should ditch this bit. It will be interesting to see what the other CRs say about this and a few other paragraphs that might be superfluous to the plot.

I had great empathy for Jimmy Clarkson and for a short time I thought Fleming should tell the readers that he got off because of his background and rotten life experiences, but I gave myself a smack on the hand and a serious dressing down, because the readers will know that that legal system will be kind to Jimmy, and he and Biscuit will end up great pals.