



Books In *Style*~Evening of the Dragonfly

Review by Regina Gerstman

Evening of the Dragonfly by Mary Montague Sikes (Monti) is a wild romance-mystery novel set in the fictional Tidewater town of Jefferson City. We meet our heroine and hero at the gate. We also learn about the central conflict which keeps our heroine from fully accepting this new heartthrob into her life.

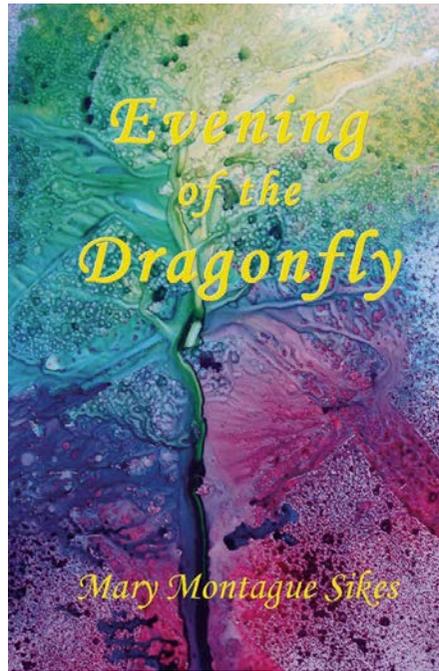
Although it takes nearly the entire 260 pages to unravel the facts from Ms. Farrah's unconscious fears and repressed memories, it is most rewarding when the story threads get neatly tied up in a bow by its end.

We begin with an insecure high school art teacher who has unwittingly led on the football coach. She has been putting off leveling with him. At the same time she notices she is being followed in the evenings causing her to suddenly

change moods when dating or working with her new suitor.

Dirk is originally from New York City and quite the cosmopolitan. It turns out he is experienced in hanging art shows. This comes in quite nicely after he helps Farrah build an art studio in her house and she can finally paint after work and weekends. He even suggests a gallery in Richmond where she applies to hang her first show. In the meantime, Dirk has his own family and personal dramas from the past to work out before he too can fully live in the present with Farrah.

Throughout the narrative we are



mundated with descriptions of muscle tone, jutting jaws, and sweaty brows. Be prepared for changes in body temperature and heart rate! Tepid first kisses and passionate later loving on the beach in the dark at night. Students whom Farrah has mentored in the past and new students who currently need her attention

notice these changes in her behavior and mood. Her best friend is also weaved into the support team as she becomes closer with Dirk.

Happily Monti settles all conflicts

and solves all mysteries. Our lovers are able to grow and commit to each other after several more twists and turns in their lives. This is the second novel in Monti's *Passenger to Paradise* series and is available through Live Oak Tree Press at Facebook. Readers who know Monti will wonder how much of the story is autobiographical and how much is truly fiction.

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