

New Kienzle mystery true to form

"Masquerade" by William X. Kienzle (267 pp., Andrews & McMeel, \$15.95)
 William Kienzle once said something to the effect that his books, like bedbugs, always come out in the spring.
 Well, it's spring and, sure enough, there's a new Father Koehler mystery at your bookstore. Believe it or not, this is Kienzle's 13th mystery tale. "The Rosary Murders," his first, was published way back in 1976.
 In the lively new whodunit, "Masquerade," faithful readers will find such familiar figures as the inimitable Inspector Walter Koznicki, along with Detroit's crack detective, Alonzo "Zoo" Tully, and, of course, that lovable amateur sleuth, Father Robert Koehler.
 "Masquerade" takes place on the secluded campus of Detroit's Marygrove College, where a Trappist monk, an Episcopal priest, a rabbi and a nun have gathered to speak at a writers' conference.
 All, in addition to their religious vocation, are mystery novelists. In addition, all have shadowy pasts.

ROUNDING OUT THE cast of "Masquerade" are the Episcopal priest's wife, the director of the conference, and Klaus Krieg, a televangelist and founder of the P.G. (Praise God) Press, who specializes in publishing super-sleaze, often set against a "religious" background.

Brought together at Marygrove, the group soon is faced with a strange, confusing murder — and the whodunit game is afoot.
 Koehler, with his seemingly infinite knowledge of church matters and his insight into the human soul is, of course, at the forefront of the ensuing investigation.
 In this tale, which is a bit reminiscent of Agatha Christie's "Ten Little Indians," the star of the story is Klaus Krieg, who, though he's riding high as a popular televangelist and publisher of sleaze, is anything but popular among the panel of authors at the Marygrove seminar.

IN FACT, AS IS evident early on, each one of them would like to see the loud-mouthed, conniving Krieg dead.
 Rather strange, Koehler thinks, that their hatred of Krieg runs so extremely deep, especially since he's eager to publish each one of them and provide a hefty financial reward in the bargain.
 (Also rather strange, thinks the reader, that a fundamentalist



book break
Victoria Diaz

Christian evangelist, no matter how dastardly, would carry around with him the astonishing supply of liquor that Krieg does, and often openly partake of same.)
 Readers familiar with the finer points of the teachings of the Church will be ahead of the game here (as is always the case in Koehler's mysteries).

While the pace of "Masquerade" is occasionally slowed by lengthy flashbacks, and Kienzle's propensity to launch into churchly tales and anecdotes that seem to have little to do with the story at hand, things never really bog down.

His vividly fleshed out characters are delightful, and his effective evocation of the rather eerie background against which this darkest of deeds takes place makes the adventure even more fun.

IF YOU'RE LIKE me, you may think you have this one solved fairly early on. But chances are — if you're like me — you'll be wrong. Ultimately, "Masquerade" is a bit more complex than you may think.
 Those who are especially attracted to Kienzle's books because of their Detroit ambience may be slightly frustrated with "Masquerade," however, simply because there's not a lot of running around and "seeing" Detroit landmarks.

Almost all of the action is limited to the Marygrove campus, which, ultimately, for purposes of this story, could be almost any secluded college campus anywhere.

Overall, though, the book is a surprising, suspenseful, tightly plotted, sharply focused mystery tale, with an intriguing cast of characters and a satisfying conclusion.

You might even say it contains a considerable amount of food for thought. Kienzle fans won't be disappointed.
 Victoria Diaz is a free-lance writer/creative writing instructor who lives in Livonia.

No such thing as too much color

Q. There's nothing I like better than indulging myself with as many colors around me as possible. I particularly like the deep, rich colors currently popular in fashion, such as magenta, violet, teal, periwinkle red and blue. Could you tell me how I could tastefully use these colors in my apartment? I don't want to fall back on using them as accents with white.
A. You can have an elegant apartment using as many colors as you like if you understand and apply four key design techniques: Arrange color by its tone, or dark or light value, as much as you do by the quality of color itself; introduce textural variations of each color; incorporate a pattern that combines at least three of the colors used throughout the room; and pay a lot more attention to detail such as borders, walling, and accessories than you would if you were dealing with more conventional, soft colors.

Start by designing which color will become the key background color. In this instance, a slightly greyed, middle-toned violet would be suitable because it is a color that bridges the warm periwinkle reds and cool teals and blues. All other colors should be either a match to this color's value, or distinctively lighter or darker. If the walls are a smooth finish, then the carpet would be slightly ribbed or patterned.

Then determine what will be your secondary colors. Blue and blue-green (teal) would make an excellent choice in solid and patterned variations. Here, a bright magenta could be added in a weave or print pattern. These colors also combine to make elegant iridescent effects.

Despite the popularity of decorating with many patterns, I would recommend using no more than two patterns of different scales and with one color in common between them.
 Then complete the color harmony with warm accents of periwinkle reds and magentas in decorative pillows, braiding, and silk flower arrangements. Cap off everything with discreet touches of burnished gold in candle sticks and picture frames.



all about color
Helen Diane Vincent

The entire look will also achieve a sense of elegance if wood finishes are included in armchairs or other furniture pieces. Avoid anything too plastic or metallic with such an intense color harmony.

Q. Many spring and summer fashions are using a strong yellow-green color that I've heard described as "chartruse." It's very dramatic, especially when combined with other strong colors. Since I like keeping up with fashion, I was wondering whether I should wear this color, or avoid it? I'm quite tall, with an in-between shade of brown-blondish hair, hazel eyes, and balanced skin tones that don't seem to fit in to any "seasonal" category.
A. Since the 1920s, the yellow-green color you are referring to as "chartruse" has been surveyed by various color researchers and found to be consistently and deeply disliked — more than any other color. Yet this most-hated color makes its periodic appearances, particularly in fashion.

Don't hesitate to use very small amounts of this color when it adds sparkle to deep, rich colors. But avoid it in any larger amounts or in a solid color garment. It's perhaps the most unflattering color for most skin tones, and for anyone with pale or even medium balanced coloring. I would suggest exploring other fashion colors you can use to your advantage, such as the new oranges and rusts making their periodic comeback.

briefly speaking

• Cabaret concert
 The Livonia Symphony Orchestra's cabaret concert will begin at 8 p.m. Saturday at Madonna College. The evening features "Fat Bob" Taylor, the singing plumber; guest conductors Slater Mary Francione, president of Madonna College, and Ernest Jones. The evening offers raffles and plenty of surprises, including a chance to conduct the orchestra.
 Refreshments available at 7 p.m. Ticket price \$10. For more information and/or to reserve tables of eight or 10, call Betty Jean Awrey, 522-1100. Madonna is on Levan at 1-95 in Livonia.

• Basic gardening
 A seminar, "Gardening in the '90s" focusing on new techniques for basic gardening, will be offered by the Master Gardener Association of Wayne County 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 21, in the Wayne County Extension and Education Center, 5454 Venoy, Wayne.
 Some of the topics that will be covered are garden design, lawn care, flowers, vegetables, container gardening, pest management, basic flower arrangement and roses.
 All classes are taught by certified master gardeners. Registration fee is \$15.
 To register, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope and a check payable to Master Gardener Association of Wayne County to: Gardening in the '90s, Wayne County Extension Center, 640 Temple, Detroit. A registration confirmation and class schedule will be sent by return mail.

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