Paw Enforcement
by Diane Kelly (2014)

A book review by Allison Kozak

Paw Enforcement is the first in a series of hilarious light mysteries about police officer Megan Luz and her K-9 partner Brigit in the Fort Worth Police Department. I found this to be a romp with laugh-out-loud bits but still a worthy mystery. We're not talking Agatha Christie, mind you, but enough to keep you entertained. And you're really there for the laughs anyway.

Megan is a newbie cop with anger management issues. They get her into trouble early in her career; quoting from the first page of the book:

> *I'd never felt close to my partner in the six months we'd worked together, but at that particular moment I sensed a strong bond. The connection likely stemmed from the fact that we were indeed connected then – by the two wires leading from the Taser in my hand to my partner's…*

Men, imagine the worst.

Her partner deserved it, but Megan is lucky she doesn't get canned, and her "punishment" is being paired with a partner who "can't carry a gun, can't drive a cruiser, and can't recite the Miranda Rights" – Brigit, a police dog rescued from the pound, whose partner is leaving the force. Neither Megan nor Brigit are thrilled about being paired but they grow together through training and police work. I found the development of their bond to be a weak point in the story, but you get some good laughs out of it.

The mystery starts when a bomb goes off in a mall's food court while Megan is there on her beat. Though just a beat cop, Megan (who aspires to be a detective) weasels her way in to working the case. With Brigit's help, she moves it forward. Along the way she meets a studly bomb squad firefighter and his K9 – the romantic interest in the story (the dude not the dog). Seth has issues of his own, meaning the romance is slowed down enough to carry over to the next story.

Each chapter about Megan (in the first person) is followed by one shorter ones from Brigit's point of view, and then the bad guy, a device that I found kept my interest and allowed for more laughs.

My sister (an avid reader & rescue dog owner) leant this paperback to me but I'll be buying the next one myself. This is beach reading at its best!