



## Hotel No Tell

*Daphne Uviller*

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**Hotel No Tell** Daphne Uviller

**The smart and sassy detective Zephyr Zuckerman is now armed and undercover in a Greenwich Village hotel where mysteries—from garbage-grabbing guests to the reservation system—lurk around every corner.**

Now working as a junior detective with the New York City Special Investigations Commission, Zephyr's gone incognito as a concierge to find out who laundered a hundred grand off the hotel books—and why. But the discovery of a prone, flush-faced guest gasping for air in room 502 only hints at the sinister goings-on inside this funky establishment. While the rapid response of the fire department leads to a sweaty date with a smooth-talking, rock-climbing rescue worker, Zephyr finds herself even more hot and bothered by an attempted murder on her watch. Could the smart-mouthing Japanese yenta across the hall know more than she's telling? How are cryptic phone calls from a mysterious corporation linked to the victim in 502?

Under pressure and overwhelmed, Zephyr soon finds that a concierge cover is no protection in a place where crime, like the city itself, never sleeps.

## Hotel No Tell Details

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Author : Daphne Uviller

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## From Reader Review Hotel No Tell for online ebook

### Lauren says

I am always up for a good, smart, and sassy detective book, and Daphne Uviller's Hotel No Tell, the second in the Zephyr Zuckerman series, fit the bill perfectly.

Zephyr has finally landed her big break...an undercover position. Working as a concierge at a fancy hotel to find out who laundered a hundred grand off the hotel books should be easy but it is surprisingly not, and after attempted murder occurs at the hotel, Zephyr begins to see that there may be a lot more than money at stake. Fielding crazy old women, a bad break-up, and the chance of new love, Zephyr's month promises to be anything but hectic. Will she make it out in one piece? Better yet, will she ever catch the bad guys? Moreover, what about her ex- will they kiss and make up? Only time and more pages will tell in this exciting new mystery that is sure to have nearly any reader wondering, "Who did it?"

When I first started Hotel No Tell, I was not sure what to expect exactly, as I had not read the first one. Thankfully, I had no problem falling easily into the story for a variety of reasons.

For one, the characters were fantastic. Zephyr was a great main character, and there was not a time when I was not laughing out loud at her antics, or rooting for her in the many problems that arouse. In addition, I adored not only seeing her working undercover but in regular day-to-day life, because it managed to bring such a warm and funny cast of characters right along with it. From Zephyr's friends (Macy in particular as her backstory was so original!), to her family, to Gregory, her ex-boyfriend, and her potential suitor, every one brought such a great addition to the story!

The one thing that always makes or breaks mystery novels for me is the mystery at hand. There is nothing better than a mystery I cannot figure out fully, and if that does not happen, I am always at least a little disappointed. Thankfully, the former occurred with Hotel No Tell. The mystery involving the laundered money brought many twists and turns to the situation, so many in fact, that I never exactly knew how it would end, and I have to say I adored that aspect! The side plots involving Zephyr's relationships and friends were also decent, and I loved how everything was mostly wrapped up nicely in the end.

Finally, Daphne Uviller's writing and world building were nothing short of fabulous. From setting to plot to main characters, there was not a time where everything wasn't fully developed.

Full of wit and zeal, Hotel No Tell is a refreshing and charming read that I can't help but suggest.

All I can say is there better be some more Zephyr books and soon hopefully.

Grade: B+

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### Rachel Birsner says

A must read! I need more Zephyr in my life.

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## **Romancing the Book says**

Reviewed by JoAnne

Borrowed from library for BookSparks PR Summer Reading Challenge

This book is a contemporary novel that could be labeled a mystery due to Zephyr Zuckerman, an undercover agent. I enjoyed it - there was some mystery, intrigue, and laughter, but it was by far not a favorite of mine. It was interesting to reconnect with characters from Uviller's first book, Super in the City, which I did not enjoy because it was so disjointed.

I would give Uviller another chance if she continued to write, but my feelings on that book would determine if I added her to my authors to read pile. Give her a shot for a quick read.

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## **Stephanie says**

Zephyr Zuckerman is one of my favorite protagonists to emerge in recent fiction.

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## **Sue says**

I won this novel "Hotel No tell", by Daphne Uviller through Goodreads giveaway.

Zephyr has finally landed her big break...an undercover position. Working as a concierge at a fancy hotel to find out who laundered a hundred grand off the hotel books should be easy but it is surprisingly not, and after attempted murder occurs at the hotel, Zephyr begins to see that there may be a lot more than money at stake. Will she make it out in one piece? Better yet, will she ever catch the bad guys? Moreover, what about her ex-will they kiss and make up? Only time and more pages will tell in this exciting new mystery that is sure to have nearly any reader wondering, "Who did it?"

When I first started Hotel No Tell, I was not sure what to expect exactly, as I had not read the first one. Thankfully, I had no problem falling easily into the story for a variety of reasons.

For one, the characters were fantastic. Zephyr was a great main character, and there was not a time when I was not laughing out loud at her antics, or rooting for her in the many problems that arose. There was a lot of humour in this book.

The mystery involving the laundered money brought many twists and turns to the situation, so many in fact, that I never exactly knew how it would end.

Hotel No Tell is a refreshing and charming read that I can't help but suggest.

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### **Lisa says**

This is a sequel to *Super in the City*, which I really liked. Unfortunately, this isn't up to par. I enjoyed it, but am left unsatisfied that Zephyr and her cronies couldn't reach the same zany heights again.

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### **Cheryl says**

Zephyr Zuckerman finally gets her big break. She is just a junior detective but she aims to prove that she can go far. It seems that someone is fudging the books at the Greenwich Village Hotel. Zephyr goes undercover as a concierge. It isn't long before mayhem ensues at the hotel.

This book is the first of the Zephyr novels I have read. *Hotel No Tell* is the second Zephyr Zuckerman novel. It can be read and enjoyed as a stand alone novel. I liked the character, Zephyr. She was witty, charming, had a nose for detective work but seemed like she also had the luck of being at the wrong place at the wrong times. The characters in this book were intriguing. I like the simplicity of this book. It was clean and had a good story line. Though, I must admit that the beginning was good but than it kind of slowed down the pace in the middle a bit for me. I did walk away from it for a little while but overall I did enjoy this book.

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### **Terri Armstrong says**

“Hotel no Tell” by Daphne Uviller

Zephyr Zuckerman has a lot to contend with, the least of which is her family and group of girl friends better known as The Sterling Girls, all with issues and all in need of her help at one time or another. Zephyr has her own life plan: she wants to become a full-fledged private investigator.

Commissioner Pippa Flatland is her boss and a woman who cuts right to the chase of her need and enjoys using the Staten Island Ferry as her office, at least the part where she holds private meetings with her detectives. As they talk on the ferry, Pippa informs Zephyr her next assignment is The Greenwich Village Motel. She was contacted by owner Ballard McKenzie because he's worried his son, Hutchinson is doing something fishy with the books to the tune of a hundred grand and he needs to find out for sure.

Pippa sets her up with Ballard to be the new concierge at the hotel. Zephyr has some personal baggage of her own that promises to get in the way. Ollie her father who happens to be the ADA, her mother Bella, the founder of a financial seminar franchise, her brother who she fears will use any and all of her “life issues” for the meat in his screenplays, ex-boyfriend Gregory Samson and her best gal pal, Macy St. John. They enjoy meeting at the Leroy Street dog run—even though neither one of them owns a dog—for their favorite beverage, Roasting Plant coffee.

Zephyr meets more than her fair share of colorful characters and situations: a Korean woman who is absolutely out of place, a nursing home, poisoning, lies, humor, even nail-biting, this novel has it all! Hutchinson is less than impressed and more than a little insulted that his father has brought in someone new to “work with him.” Thank god for Asa, the man who covers the front desk and Zephyr’s backside whenever she needs it, which is often.

If Zephyr can ever decide whether or not she'll give Gregory the children he wants—and she doesn't—and

she can get her license, all will be right in her world. Fun! Fast! Overall, a great read!

Reviewed by Terri Ann Armstrong, author of "How to Plant a Body"

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### **cheeseblab says**

Ah, the further fun misadventures of the delightful Zephyr Zuckerman, now a neophyte quasi-cop, still romantically and reproductively unsettled (and while the author is not old enough to know the show except in reruns, let's hope she's aware what happened to the appeal of another nice Jewish girl living too close to her parents [after moving back to her native Bronx from Minneapolis] once she found Mr. Right).

Where was I? Oh: I happen to know, via the mutual friend network, that Julianne Moore is indeed "Julie" to her pals, so bonus points for that bit of verisimilitude. But I wonder (and since the author is a Goodreads friend, why don't I just flat-out ask): why does Julie (or, as I call her on my movie blog, *My Future Wife Julianne Moore*) get to participate in the action (granted, as the silent partner in a one-sided party conversation, but still) under her own name, but "Ben Plank" and his wife "Aphrodite Jones, the philanthropic sexpot" and serial adopter of foreign children (on whom my niece Angie used to have a big crush, by the way, but not so much anymore), are shielded from identification from anyone with an IQ of less than 25 (or, to be charitable, anyone who is hermetically sealed off from pop culture)? And if "Benodite" get the full initial treatment, why isn't Ben's costar in all 3 *Cans of Gravy* films (still trying to navigate the 11 seas of that allusion) Glen Carter or Gary (oops, never mind: that name is taken) or Geoff Carter or Gabe Carter (OK: that sounds too much like another old sitcom character)?

Anyway, I look forward to Zeph's further adventures--and in all seriousness, I like spending time with Ollie, who reminds me of a certain very tall, very smart author with whom I used to have good natured battles about arcana of grammar and usage.

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### **Alicia says**

<http://wordnerdy.blogspot.com/2011/04...>

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### **Alyssa Goodnight says**

Like *Super in the City*, the first in the quirky-girl detective Zephyr Zuckerman series, this book (the second) just had a lot going on. I lot of funny commentary, a lot of personal and professional hijinks, and a lot of fun.

Zephyr is a junior investigator with the NYC Special Investigations Commission and undercover on assignment, working as the concierge at the Greenwich Village Hotel, while searching for clues to support her embezzlement case assignment. She's also trying to be supportive of the friend who thinks she's jinxed, because people around her are dying, and the friend who is frazzled by her MIL and hates the suburbs with a passion. And then there's the fact that her last serious boyfriend has moved back from Alabama and wants to pick up where they left off as long as Zephyr is willing to make a single concession to their relationship.

It makes for quite the fictional mix.

From the book:

Talking about firemen...

"They were sexy in their utter domination of the situation, and they were sexy because confidence-verging-on-cockiness radiated from the yellow stripes of their open jackets to their clean-shaven faces. Why the paramedics right behind them--one with a thin ponytail, the other with a tattoo of a bull that ran down his neck--were not sexy, even though they, too, had the power of rescue, was an intriguing mystery I'd devote some time to later."

"There was no way for Delta to know how much I loathed texting abbreviations, that I considered them dangerously close to the end of civilization."

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### **Samantha March says**

Hotel No Tell is the second book from Daphne Uviller that features Zephyr Zuckerman, after Super in the City. I always worry when I don't read the first book, as in this case, but it was fairly easy to pick up on the story. Zephyr is working as a junior detective with the New York City Special Investigations Commission, and finally has a great case handed to her- where she gets to go undercover. Working as a hotel concierge at the Greenwich Village Hotel, trying to crack a money laundering investigation, Zephyr finds herself a mystery inside the mystery- why was the guest in room 502 found near death? Was it suicide, or an attempted murder? What does the sweet older guest have to do with it, and could her friend Lucy be involved? Zephyr sets out to solve all the mysteries, but the toughest mystery of all is her love life. Though she is madly in love with her boyfriend, she doesn't want kids-ever- and he does. Should she compromise for love? And how will she solve her work mysteries and finally be taken seriously as a detective?

Like I said, it was easy to fall into the character's lives. I really enjoyed Zephyr's friends and their problems. I thought Lucy was hilarious with her suburban mom crisis, and though Macy was a bit out there, her stories were intriguing to read about. This book is very fast-paced, almost a bit too fast for me in the beginning. I couldn't really keep up with who was who and where they came into the story and where this plot point was taking me, etc. Maybe that has a bit to do with me not reading the first book? It threw me off for awhile, but as I kept at it, I thought the book slowed to a pace that could keep my interest. Uviller has some great comedic moments throughout the story, and the descriptions of New York were a lot of fun to read about. Once the actual mystery stuff got underway, I was really into the story and trying to figure out who did what and how everyone was connected. Overall, funny and interesting read that I would recommend to chick lit fans, but not a favorite of mine.

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### **Cindy says**

This was one of those books that I sort of hesitated on, almost didn't accept for review and then decided to go for it and cannot regret it. I was unaware that Zephyr Zuckerman was a character in Uviller's previous book Super in the City, so this can easily be called the second in the "series." I was still able to pick it up and enjoy it because there was not enough connection (I think) to the first one to leave me feeling as if I was

missing some information.

Zephyr Zuckerman has just gotten a great opportunity to go undercover as a concierge in a hotel where a hundred grand has gone missing and an attempted murder takes place. Not only is she dealing with that, but she just ended her long-term relationship, has a chance at a new love and must help her good friends as they struggle through their troubles. We are thrown in to quite a mystery and when things start to spiral out of control, Zephyr and her adventure only gets better.

Zephyr is definitely a new favorite character. She's a sassy and witty lady that I instantly liked and she had me laughing out loud with her interesting ideas. Her friends are awesome, and even though at times a bit strange, they definitely add a whole lot to the story. There is also other fun characters like her boss Pippa, her ex-boyfriend Gregory, her new guy friend Delta, and her family. I really enjoyed learning about each character and the way they were part of Zephyr's life.

I love mysteries, even though I haven't read too many, and this one kept me pretty interested the entire time. There were a few points in which I wasn't too sure what the heck Zephyr was doing, but her little adventures made the story all that better. I wasn't able to figure out the ending beforehand, and was surprised on how it ended. The ending sort of wrapped up nicely, but still left some questions that might be answered in another Zephyr Zuckerman novel.

Overall, I really enjoyed the Hotel No Tell. I found it fun and very interesting, full of humor and sometimes some quite touching moments that only made me like it more. Definitely full of some wonderful characters that I want to see more of in future books. I recommend this to everyone who would like a fun, quick mystery with a little romance and friendship thrown in. I can't wait to read the first one, Super in the City, since I've heard only good things about it as well.

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### **Liviana says**

I didn't really know what to expect with HOTEL NO TELL. I hadn't read the first book about Zephyr Zuckerman, SUPER IN THE CITY. But the press release promised comedy and the cover struck me as a modern update on noir. I'd just seen Kiss Kiss, Bang Bang, and had visions in my head of a funny update and deconstruction of noir detective tropes.

Not so much.

And yeah, I can be harsh on books when they aren't what I was expecting. But I liked HOTEL NO TELL and identified with Zephyr almost immediately.

HOTEL NO TELL gives about equal weight to Zephyr's life with her family and friends as to her case. She recently broke up with long time boyfriend Gregory, because he wanted kids and she didn't. Everyone is acting like she's silly to break up a good thing for a stage she'll grow out of. Since I don't want kids of my own, I know how pushy people can be when you bring up that fact. (Even my family does it, and they know I have no maternal instincts.) She also has to help two close friends with their personal crises: one isn't adapting to suburbia and the other . . . well, people she comes in contact with have a tendency to die in freak accidents.

As for the case? Now a junior detective with the New York City Special Investigations Commission, Zephyr

gets her first chance to go undercover. \$100,000 has been embezzled from a small hotel. Shortly after going undercover, Zephyr finds the owner's nephew in a customer's room, dying from an Ambien overdose. As with any good detective story, the two seemingly unrelated cases are intimately related.

Daphne Uviller's prose style didn't capture my attention at first, but I liked her vocabulary. After a couple of chapters I managed to get into the rhythm of HOTEL NO TELL. From there the story was fast-paced and funny, if rarely hard-boiled. Zephyr's world is somewhat cartoonish, but there's a strong emotional core. I certainly intend to spend more time in her world.

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### **Kitty says**

YUCK. This book started out promising....lady detective, undercover at a hotel....and then it went horribly, horribly awry. Wah wah, she doesn't want to be with her ridiculously hot boyfriend because SHE doesn't want kids. So instead of immediately replacing her, which is what would happen in real life, this guy moves home to the Midwest, only to return and beg her to reconsider. Riiiiiiigggghht. She's not that likeable. I don't buy it.

But what really was the finish for me was how the story completely went off on a tangent....she's supposed to be investigating someone cooking the books at the hotel (still not sure how that is a police matter, as the hotel owner only suspects someone is skimming off the top. So there is no crime here, right? So the police are investigating what again?) and turns into a murder for hire about a Ivy League egg selling fertility business scam.....where they arrest the ring leader for.....ummmm...I don't know. They never said. Just slapped cuffs on her and she confessed to.....scamming people? I still don't understand what the point was or where the suspected embezzled money comes into any of it.

By the end I was completely pissed. Not a good time.

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