



The Deadhouse

Linda Fairstein

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* *This is an updated cover of this Kindle edition.* *

Assistant D.A. Alexandra Cooper returns in this page-turning New York Times bestseller from legendary Manhattan sex-crimes prosecutor Linda Fairstein.

On Roosevelt Island, a strip of land in New York City's East River, stands an abandoned 19th century smallpox asylum, "The Deadhouse," where the afflicted were shipped off to die. It's a gruesome bit of history perhaps best forgotten. But for Alexandra Cooper, it may be the key to a shocking murder that cuts deeper than the arctic cold front gripping the city. A respected university professor is dead -- strangled and dumped in an elevator shaft. And while the school does damage control for anxious parents, Cooper and her close detective friend Mike Chapman scramble for answers, fueled by the most daunting discovery: a piece of paper, found on the lifeless body of Professor Lola Dakota, that reads The Deadhouse....

The Deadhouse Details

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Author : Linda Fairstein

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From Reader Review The Deadhouse for online ebook

Kristen says

This is another intense thriller from Linda Fairstein in this series. Great drama with some historical background and good suspense.

Zach says

Not the worst book I've read, but certainly not great. A lot of it felt a bit amateur—like a creative writing exercise.

Too many of the characters were extraordinary. Everyone had “revolutionized surgical procedures,” or “had the best instincts in the business,” or “was one of the most prominent urban anthropologists in the country.” It wasn’t believable. On top of that, the author’s attempts to make her leading protagonists endearing seemed incredibly forced and obvious — like Chapman’s nickname for Cooper of “blondie.” The author also seemed overly fond of the word “interminable,” using it every chance she got.

In spite of these struggles, “The Deadhouse” manages to hold the reader’s attention with a light, fluffy, and fast-paced plot. Not a classic, but entertaining enough to throw in your carry-on.

Nicole Jacob says

Seriously... she (Fairstein) makes it look so easy to write a crime/murder mystery novel. I feel like these are so quick and snappy and easy to read and understand.

Gina Place says

One of the best books I have read. Didn't know who did it till the very end. I also love the detail description of all the NY sites. Also the history background. One of my new Fav. authors.

Peggy Sinden says

A Deadhouse is a group of shacks placed behind a facility with an expected high death rate to keep the bodies of those who had died before burial could occur. These houses played an important part during the small pox pandemic era of early New York City history. Professors from the colleges used students in digs to uncover artifacts leading them to sometime follow rumors from fathers and grandfathers who had lived that history. Mystery rules and Greed kills. Alex Copper and Mike Chapman are there to figure it out. This book lacked a bit and reading was a bit tedious because there was not enough forward motion to keep my total

attention.

Pat Timpanaro says

I was really enjoying this book until I got to the end, when it just ended. I felt like the ending was too sudden, too abrupt, that there should have been more.

That said, this is a very interesting story. I like the way Fairstein features a New York City landmark or place of interest in many of her books. Here it is Blackwell's Island, the then-uninhabited part of Roosevelt Island. The book was published in 2001 and I think large parts of the abandoned buildings have been reclaimed.

As someone who grew up in the New York metropolitan area, I enjoyed that parts of the book went outside on Manhattan. The book starts with a scene in Summit, NJ, the town next to the one where we lived. And later, on a day when there is snow in the forecast, several of the characters head to White Plains, NY. The comment about it not being a good day to drive to the country cracked me up -- only someone from Manhattan could ever think of White Plains as "the country!"

The mystery is good, too.

Laura Grable says

There was a lot I enjoyed about this book: the setting and history of Roosevelt Island, the cast of characters at King's College, the Law & Order-type vibe to the murder mystery; but I did not enjoy what I found to be a rushed and abrupt ending. So much is built up about the island, I just wanted to the story to spend more time there. It felt like a waste of an awesome location. Also, though I now know this is part of a series, it felt like so many loose ends were not tied up. While I appreciate that they probably will be addressed in later books, I like when the individual stories and completely stand up for themselves.

That being said, I this was a quick listen and it definitely pulled me in. It is a fun mix of murder mystery and treasure hunt, I just think it could have been longer and more fleshed out, especially at the end.

Ed says

#4 in the Alexandra Cooper series. "2002 Nero Award; Finalist 2002 Macavity Award for Best Novel". Author Fairstein's novels about NYC ADA Alex Cooper always focus on a piece of NYC. This time it's Roosevelt Island, an East River site with an abandoned smallpox asylum.

NYC ADA Alexandra Cooper series - When archeologist Lola Dakota is found dead at the bottom of an elevator shaft in her apartment building on Manhattan's Upper West Side, assistant D.A. Alexandra Cooper takes on one of her darkest cases yet. Alexandra, aided by homicide detective Mike Chapman, must sift through the testimonies of Dakota's close-mouthed colleagues at small, experimental King's College. Despite bitter December weather, the professor was engaged in an archaeological dig on the city's Roosevelt Island for clues about the criminals and mental patients shipped there a hundred years ago and left to die. Cooper, who had been working with Dakota to apprehend her abusive husband, now reaches out to Lola's resistant

family and legal counsel in New Jersey, where she has been hiding out. And what of Charlotte Voight, a young woman who disappeared several months ago? The city is ablaze with holiday lights and cheer, Mike is acting peculiarly, team member Mercer Wallace injured in Final Jeopardy (1996) rejoins them late in the game, and Alex and new love Jake, a news correspondent, might be breaking up.

Kellie says

I had read a few books from this series a long time ago. They weren't bad. So, after all of these years, I decided to read the next in the series. First, I did enjoy the storyline between Alex and Mike. You can tell they have a great friendship and it's obviously something more. I also like the way the author explains terms and situations so the reader can understand. And the history of Roosevelt island was pretty interesting. Now the negative. The plot in this book was horrible. The suspense kept building and building and finally when you reach the climax, the resolution was so lame. It was like it was thrown together so the book could be finished. The author obviously ran out of time. The book took me way too long to read anyway. It obviously did not keep my attention like really good books do. I felt like all the build up to the climax was a way to add pages. To me, half the story line had nothing to do with the ending. I was very disappointed in this book and I'm going to really think hard if I want to continue this series.

Sue says

I wish Ms. Fairstein could write a strong, independent main character who didn't whimper when the going gets tough...but still a great mystery and love the location.

Bev Taylor says

assistant d.a. alex cooper is back in action again with mike only whilst mercer recovers from his gunshot wound

university professor lola lived in fear with her abusive husband, always going back to him or forgiving, as is too common. when it is suspected that he is going to hire a hitman to kill her they decide to take part in an undercover operation to make it appear she is murdered. this appears to be successful and they arrest him but an hour later she is dead

this leads alex to columbia, a local university, with lecturers with the usual problems = petty jealousies, swindled funds and affairs. ad to this a missing student and drugs and the one common thread seems to be their research site on an island off manhattan. what is it hiding and who wants to uncover it's secrets?

once again a well researched and narrated novel with the usual play between alex and mike. just left a few unanswered questions at the end - not least about the murdered wife that was revealed to alex's boyfriend?

bev

Katie.g says

I actually finished a book! Shock! Horror! Hope this reading slump ends soon.

John Toffee says

Unlikeable professor Lola Dakota is murdered is found dead in a lift and everything points to her brutal abusive husband.

As the story moves on there are the usual thrills and twists and excitement that form part of Linda Fairstein's series about Alexandra Cooper the ADA in charge of all cases 'female-abuse' related in New York City. The story is very fast paced and keeps the reader guessing.

Without being repetitive there are a few problems for me with this series that makes the books 4 star rather than 5. Whilst the stories themselves are really good the main character and wanna be comedian police side kick Mike Chapman are both unlikeable for different reasons; her whiney and him unfunny and both annoying as hell. My main gripe though, as I've said in other reviews of this series is that the Police don't seem to be able to move, interview a suspect, go to a crime scene etc. without Cooper. She seems to single handily solve EVERY crime so God only knows where she gets the time! Her role should be to supervise her department and take cases to trial but those seem to be the least of her worries.

Anyway it is a good series and the Deadhouse is definitely worth a read.

Ralph says

A strangely surreal murder-for-hire plan leads to a mysterious murder freighted with academic intrigue, sex, drugs, misappropriated government funds, and a treasure hunt in the ruins of a lunatic asylum on Roosevelt Island in NYC. What ties it all together is the character of Alexandra Cooper, a prosecutor in the DA's Office. Is that a photo of Miss Cooper on the back of the book? No, it isn't. Although the narrating attorney is indeed a tall, vivacious, well-dressed, very pretty blonde girl, the tall, vivacious, well-dressed, very pretty girl in the photograph is actually author Linda Fairstein, a former prosecutor in the DA's Office. Well, you should always write about what you know best, and of course always follow Socrates' advice.

A writer presenting a first-person story always plays a balancing act, making a character think and expound and interpret everything going on around her, advancing the story without giving too much away. The narrator has to solve the mystery through her own efforts, sorting out everything in her head, but without giving it all away too soon--she has to think about everything, but be selective about what she releases to the reader. At the same time, she has to remain baffled by events without seeming a dunce. In all of this, Linda Fairstein/Alexandra Cooper does an admirable job. The character is at the top of her game when observing suspects, winnowing the truth from the lies, interpreting clues, and evoking suspense and atmosphere through her own reactions; she's at her worst (at least for me) when she shares the gritty girlishness of her personal life.

For me, there are two highlights in the book. The first is her navigating amongst the prickly personalities and hidden peccadilloes of the furtive and mendacious students and teachers of King's College that emerge after the murder of popular (and unpopular) teacher Lola Dakota. For various reasons (many having nothing to do

with the murder) everyone lies, some much more convincingly than others. Fairstein's descriptions of collegiate corruption and academic internecine warfare are very convincing and help set up the climax of the novel. The other thing that Fairstein does excellently is making the history of Roosevelt Island (or Blackwell Island) come alive. The urban ruins of the penitentiary, the lunatic asylum, and New York's first pathology laboratory (and attendant deadhouses) make for an appropriately eerie backdrop.

What I did not enjoy about the novel was the character of Detective Mike Chapman, Cooper's foil and sidekick. It's not that he's a male chauvinist pig and totally un-PC (fortunately for me, neither of those are prosecutable crimes...yet), but that he's totally repulsive. Were we to take away Cooper's acceptance of the way he acts, no one would like him...well, I don't like him anyway, even with her inexplicable tolerance. He's cartoonish and brutal, shallow and mean-spirited; he's like a distillation of every bestial trait that women assume every man possesses (but which most men don't). His dialogue would have been considered offensive and dated even by the standards of the pulp magazine era, from which Fairstein seems to have time-napped him. For me, he's a definite detraction in this otherwise enjoyable and appealing series, but not enough of one to stop reading them.

This book, as well as others in the series, would appeal to both fans of the police procedural and the cozy mystery -- step-by-step investigation and the presentation of a limited set of suspects in a closed environment. Although there is some courtroom action, it occurs only because she has to show up for court from time to time as a practicing attorney, and does not have the same focus as in other books with lawyer protagonists. What also does not have much of a focus in the novel is the reason for the murders and all the intrigue; when revealed to the reader it assumes the character of a McGuffin, but its incongruous nature does nothing to detract from Fairstein's story. Well worth reading, and the readers who look up other books in the series will be rewarded for their efforts.

Obsidian says

And this is where I leave this character. This whole book made about zero sense, but seemed to just be there to push things to a head with Alex and Mike. They both suck in this one and Alex does a woe is me thing when she finally realizes that Mike is seeing someone and shockingly enough seems to be happy. It's also gross when Alex throws out that the woman that Mike is seeing is similar to her so that means he has feelings for her. Yeah I don't know I just rolled my eyes a million times while reading this. This series should just be called the Alexandra Cooper and Mike Chapman series at this point.

There is zero development of anyone in this series. We have Mercer still getting over being shot almost to death after the events in the last book. He is moving on with his life, but you barely see it being a blip on Alex's life. She gets mad at her boyfriend about something that really isn't her business and runs out into the night to make Mike do something about it. Bah.

Mercer seems to just be that magical negro that has barely anything to do in this series and he really deserves better.

I think I finally had enough when Alex gets judgmental about a potential rape victim (the young woman drank a lot and made out and had initial consensual contact with someone) and then we find out that she was lying. And the last book had another potential rape victim that lied too. Considering that I have read the stats about rapes and the small number of women and men who lie about being sexually assaulted I side-eyed the crap out of this whole book/series at this point. I will say that Fairstein at least acknowledges that most rapes

are between two people who know each other.

The actual murder case makes zero sense that Alex is even involved. A woman whose husband tried to have her killed, who shows up murdered later was not raped. We hear that Alex is involved cause it was domestic, but that felt like a stretch.

Fairstein spends too much time on the history of every little thing and I didn't care.

Alex finds herself in danger a freaking gain and weeps because Mike must not be coming cause he's too busy with his new girlfriend.
