



Jump the Gun

Zoe Burke

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Meet Annabelle Starkey. A shrewd, sweet, and sexy Stephanie Plum without the Jersey girl attitude. She's a one-man kind of girl who loves hats and shoes.

Annabelle also loves movies. She can't help but wonder why her own life doesn't match her favorite silver-screen scenarios.

Then, one day she meets the charming, slightly mysterious, and definitely magnetic Mickey Paxton and decides it's time to live one of those Cary Grant films. She accepts Mickey's invitation to fly to Las Vegas for a holiday and a test flight for Romance.

The script takes a surprising turn when they arrive in Sin City. Suddenly Annabelle and Mickey are on the run, but from what? And why? Did Mickey lead Annabelle into this mess? Then a murder in Annabelle's San Francisco apartment sends the couple winging west to that city where, once again, criminals and cops pursue them.

In two frenetic days of fast driving, fast talking, and fast thinking, Annabelle discovers several truths by learning to trust her own instincts. No matter what the danger, Annabelle's fresh and funny voice is her best weapon. Jump the Gun begins a cinematic new series.

Jump the Gun Details

Date : Published August 6th 2013 by Poisoned Pen Press (first published January 1st 2013)

ISBN : 9781464201615

Author : Zoe Burke

Format : Hardcover 250 pages

Genre : Mystery, Fiction, Romance, Cozy Mystery

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From Reader Review Jump the Gun for online ebook

Jill says

This turned out to be a funny, quirky, and entertaining mystery. I liked that there were actually several "mysteries" going on. There was the mystery of who Mickey really was, then the mystery of the chain of circumstances that led him and Annabelle to where they ended up, and then, of course, the murder. Not the best, not the worst, but fun and easy to get through. There were enough twists and turns to keep me going. I would rate this a solid summer/vacation read.

Bierka says

This book was so dumb. I don't even know why it was on my to-read list. I need to reevaluate my life choices.

LeeAnna says

I LOOOOVED THIS BOOK! Such a fun, fast read! Can't wait for #2!

Kaye says

Annabelle Starkey is at a book convention as part of her job, and she meets an interesting man, Mickey Paxton, he invites her to go with him to Las Vegas. On a whim she takes him up on it. She loves movies, and her life just hasn't been matching up. One delightfully, slightly sinful weekend in Las Vegas, what could possibly go wrong?

Almost from the time they arrive in Sin City, things become complicated to say the least. Annabelle and Mickey find themselves running from, who? Definitely running for their very lives, but have no idea what is going on. Then when her BFF is murdered in Annabelle's San Francisco apartment, things become even more mystifying. They spend their time running from bad guys, bad cops, and don't know who to trust or why this is happening.

I really liked this book. The characters were fun, there were lots of movie references. It was a quick read, in places funny, in places sweet. I'm looking forward to Annabelle's next adventure.

Tory says

completely unbelievable,

Blue says

This is a ridiculous book. And I enjoyed it.

But if you want a book that is approaching believable, and has fleshed out characters... this is not the book for you.

Robert says

This novel dropped more movies than the Sundance Film Festival. Since I happen to appreciate all things cinema related and routinely engage in movies for dialogue and action and drama and comedy and chick-flick entertainment, along with the simple fact that it helps me forget who I am for about two hours, without the detriment of doctors and metal probes and electric shock treatment and prescription medication and anesthesia, I was open to the deviations. I was somewhat comforted when Al Pacino and Matt Damon and Jack Nicholson and others appeared on the printed page. But there were quite a few of them, possibly too many for individuals who like fewer movie references with their literary works, and I must confess here that it was possibly even a bit too much for me. And my wife and I do everything we can to keep Netflix in business, along with enjoying the summer movie-going season.

Where JUMP THE GUN really took a swing and a miss with me, though, was the relationship between Annabelle Starkey and Mickey Paxton. Sure, Annabelle felt fresher than a sunflower in the New Mexican sun, and Mickey had abs that could crack walnuts and possibly almonds as well, but I didn't buy the two of them together. It felt forced in the beginning, and I needed more details to believe that Annabelle would hop in a car with Mickey, end up in Las Vegas, and make sweet-lovin' to the sounds of Aretha Franklin. Call me old-fashioned, call me conservative, but don't call me Shirley, and please help me help you, because this is one relationship that could have worked better.

The mystery could have been ratcheted up a bit as well. This felt more like a romance novel with cinematic tendencies and then a mystery was tossed into the mix. It's certainly not bad for a debut novel, but I had hoped for a bit more.

I received this book for free through NetGalley.

Sharron says

Fun, light, witty. Great read when I'm looking for an easy distraction.

Ivyd says

Annabelle Starkey is a film buff and publicity manager for a San Francisco publisher. While at a book convention in Chicago she meets sales director Mickey Paxton. Mickey has it all, good looks, charm to

spare, confidence, and success if the way he spends is anything to go by. When the convention ends he suggests an impromptu Vegas trip to Annabelle. Shortly after their arrival in Vegas events go all Sea of Love on Annabelle and Mickey.

Annabelle Starkey is billed as Stephanie Plum without the attitude. Unfortunately it wasn't just the attitude that was lacking for me.

As Annabelle is a film buff I expected a lot of film references. Even though I'm more of a reader than movie watcher I'd actually seen many of the movies and had no problem with the frequent mentions. My first problem lay with the political references. Not sure about other readers but I prefer my escapist reading to be free of political bias. I'd rather have characters, even ones briefly described in passing and never introduced, be deemed good or bad based on their traits rather than their political leanings. For me the references added nothing to the story, weren't the least funny, and detracted from the book.

However, my biggest problem lies with Annabelle, Mickey and their Bullit relationship. While the fast pace suited the action and mystery that started once they arrived in Vegas it was a disservice to Annabelle and Mickey developing as a couple. There wasn't enough time spent on their initial attraction and interaction for me to believe Annabelle would impulsively fly to Vegas with Mr. Gorgeous and Perfect Paxton so I questioned and doubted them throughout the book.

While there were elements I liked JUMP THE GUN didn't live up to its potential and was simply a quick, fluffy, mediocre read for me.

Reviewed by IvyD for Manic Readers
Rcvd digital via Netgalley

Rebecca McNutt says

I love mysteries and crime thrillers, it's not often that I come across one that I hate. And yes, hate is a strong word, but I hate the romance genre. Trying to read a book with the phrase "sexy" in it over a hundred times just gets on my nerves.

Sydney Merten says

I was told that Annabelle was just like Stephanie Plum, without the Jersey girl attitude, but I was sadly misinformed.

I was on the hunt for an audiobook to listen to while at work and stumbled across this book. When they compared Annabelle to Stephanie, I was intrigued, as I am starting the Plum series and was waiting on a hold for the next book.

While this was highly zany and bouncy, Annabelle is no Stephanie Plum! I felt that she was too timid and just was very confusing. And, do NOT get me started on all the movie references! I know that was part of her character, but I just had to roll my eyes at every reference, and my eyes got a workout because that was very often.

While there was some fun action and some cute romance, I was screaming (in my head of course) with the

entire "Some hot guy asked me away on a trip who I met like a hot second ago, so I'm gonna go and then get my ass in hot water over something stupid." While she said this was highly out of her character to do so, why did she not back out when her gut was all being run over by buffalos as she mentions a lot? I would say that is some cause for concern, but what the hell do I know?

I thought the ending was a little sappy for my taste, and that is nothing like Plum. I just couldn't fully get into the story, but it was a great way to pass the time.

Christyn says

Jump the gun was a quick, fluffy and passably entertaining read. I may have found the movie parts more entertaining if I myself were a movie buff, as it was a lot of the movie references went completely over my head. Some of them I got, more of them I didn't. The mystery was okay, it wasn't the best but it wasn't the worse, which for a debut novel is actually pretty normal. I enjoyed the action and 'investigating' by Annabelle and Mickey, it was fast-paced and entertaining.

My biggest issue was the relationship between Annabelle and Mickey. Not even five pages into the book, Annabelle a reasonable intelligent woman decides to fly to Vegas with a guy she just met not even a whole day ago? Why? I mean I understand that some people can occasionally feel the impulse to do something irrational hit them, but when they do they get tattoos, go skydiving, buy a new car, get a pet not decide to hop on a plane to Vegas with a stranger. And if that's what you're going to do could you at least explain it to me a little more? What makes a supposedly smart woman decide to hit Vegas with some random dude she met at a convention? If there had been more time spent on that initial meeting, with more interaction and information I could've coped better with it then thinking that there is something wrong with both of them (what kind of guy asks a woman he just met to Vegas, and what kind of woman accepts - survival instincts anyone? That person could be anyone).

To sum it up after they get to vegas they get into trouble, jump into bed, more trouble, more sex and then surprise revelation (to one person, not to me, the reader - I saw that coming), angry/hurt emotions, confessions and L-word (despite the fact that they've known each other for days and how they got to know each other and feel so deeply after everything going on I have no idea), confrontation, rest - with more sex (none - by the way explicit), confrontation, wrap up. This is the bare bones of the story and their relationship - I just didn't buy the relationship. The biggest problem was it didn't have any real detail, any interactions or reasoning for why they felt what they felt (and sometimes did what they did). It's one thing to fast-track a story, but a relationship - I think this could've been done differently - especially if Mickey and Annabelle are to have a long-term, multi-storyline relationship. But then again in the long term - I suppose it could work, it's romantic - in a spontaneous, unusual kind of way.

As characters they were okay. I mean I liked Annabelle, she was quirky, adorable, feisty at times, enthusiastic and impulsive and with a fairly good gut instinct. I was trying to picture her as I read but the only description we get is from the dust jacket which compares her to Stephanie Plum "without the Jersey Girl attitude" and the few sentence in the book mostly devoted to her big ears and fondness for hats (that supposedly hide the big ears). I have to say I'm picturing an average sized brown haired girl with dumb ears, it's a little disconcerting I mean what qualifies as big ears, is it just that she has a small head (and am I now going to be picturing her with a small head)? As for Mickey, I liked him okay - I'd probably have liked him more if I didn't know he was keeping things from Annabelle, and if he was more competent as a detective. I'm not saying he was a bad detective...he just wasn't particularly good - at least in my opinion -

he was just okay. I mean if Annabelle figured things out first, and how many times did this guy get beat up/hurt in this book (mostly because someone got the jump on him), three times - minimum, not to mention not being able to tell one of his fellow detectives is a bad actress and another is dirty.

I know this sounds like I didn't like this book but it was likable - there were just some things in the book that could've been done better. I would read another in the series just to see how things turn out for Mickey, Annabelle and Luis (whom I did like) and their new venture. This was fast-paced and entertaining when you want light (and quick) reading. 3 stars.

Janet Martin says

Fast paced romantic mystery, well performed by Hillary Huber

Christina says

Loved it. It was a fun read.

Marika Ann says

Overall, this was an engaging book. Maybe it's because of my unfamiliarity with the mystery genera, but I didn't find the case monotonous or predictable. Instead, I was insatiably curious about what would happen next, even up until the last few chapters. There were definitely a couple twists that I didn't see coming and I always love a good surprise.

However, the writing itself was a bit awkward at times, and the frequent movie references felt forced (and also went completely over my head as I'm not a movie buff). I feel like it starts off shakier than the rest of the book, the writing getting better as you progress, but nonetheless it was still a big enough issue with me to knock the book back two stars.

Considering this book is a really quick read, I would definitely recommend it to anyone who's curious. It really is an engaging mystery.

As a sidenote, and although this doesn't really affect the rating I give, I feel the need to mention that (spoiler alert), disappointingly, the only murder that happens in this story is of the only lesbian character (besides her girlfriend who shows up for a couple lines in, what is essentially, the epilogue). Another example of the "dead gay" trope.
