



Trapped!

James Ponti

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“A top-shelf test of courage, friendship, and ingenuity.” —*Kirkus Reviews* (starred review)

Florian Bates—the only kid on the FBI Director’s speed dial and several international criminals’ most wanted lists—must save his friend from being framed for a crime he didn’t commit in this hilarious third novel in the *Framed!* series.

Middle school is hard. Solving cases for the FBI is even harder. Doing both at the same time, well that’s just crazy. But that doesn’t stop Florian Bates! Along with his best friend, and Watson to his Sherlock, Margaret, Florian’s making the case that kids can do anything.

When Florian and Margaret’s FBI supervisor, Marcus Rivers, is accused of a crime, it’s up to this mystery solving duo to jump into action and clear his name, because Marcus is more than their boss—he’s family.

The case involves one of Marcus’s first investigations for the FBI and a Russian spy ring. However, when the spy they are chasing learns what they’re up to, the tables are turned, and Marcus finds himself implicated in a variety of crimes, including theft, corruption, and espionage. For Florian and Margaret, it just got personal. They’re going to catch the spy and clear Marcus’s name...even if they have to break into (and out of) the Library of Congress to do it.

Trapped! Details

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Author : James Ponti

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From Reader Review Trapped! for online ebook

Angie says

Florian and Margaret are back and this time they have to save Marcus. Marcus's first case is tied to a current case and someone is setting him up to take the fall. Florian and Margaret have to use TOAST to find out which one of their suspects is the culprit. Their investigations take them through the library world of Washington, DC and leave them trapped in the Library of Congress.

This was another fantastic TOAST mystery by James Ponti. I thought this would be the end of the series since it does wrap things up, but Ponti himself has assured me that it will continue. We just had him at the library and he was amazing! Several things in this book made me really happy. I love how attached Florian and Margaret are to Marcus and the family they have formed. I loved that Florian's mom got in on the action and was fantastic. And I loved that Margaret's parentage was dealt with. I do hope there are more books to come.

Lucia says

I think this book was very good to end the series (I'm assuming). Margaret finally finds out who her birth parents are and Florian and Margaret solve probably one of the hardest cases yet. I think it was good for Margaret to finally find out and do their most urgent case at the same time. I like the way James Ponti starts at the end-ish part to intrigue you and then go back and start at the beginning. This book was very good. The sense of urgency and confusion in the case makes it all the more interesting and intriguing. I think this book is very good and I highly suggest it.

Becky B says

Florian and Margaret are helping Marcus on a case trying to track down who is stealing rare books from the Russian Imperial Collection at the Library of Congress. The trail seems to involve Russian spies and a cold case of Marcus' from several years ago. But as the case progresses, they don't seem to be getting any closer to narrowing down their suspect list and then Marcus is framed for being involved. Can two kids solve a case that has eluded agents for years, and can they do so in time to save Marcus' job?

Another fantastic mystery with Florian and Margaret. I like that Margaret isn't just along for the ride any more, she's definitely mastered TOAST and contributes just as much as Florian. It was fun for the case to revolve around rare books and lesser-known parts of the Library of Congress. The mystery kept me guessing until the kids figured it out. Margaret's desire to find her biological parents gets highlighted in this one, as does prioritizing relationships over cases. So there were some interesting character developments along with the intriguing mystery. The students will be ecstatic to have another Framed book to read. It's a very addictive series for any kind of reader. Highly recommended!

Notes on Content: No language issues. No sexual content. No violence (some self-defense training and two people take tumbles, but no one is seriously hurt).

Suzanne Maley says

Best TOAST book yet!

Brooke Beeson-king says

Well, I just couldn't rate it any less than 5 stars.

Debbie Ladd says

Another winner in this series!

Josh Newhouse says

A toast to TOAST, and may Florian and Margaret's adventures be as numerous as the Hardy Boys of my childhood! Another great story... a little conclusive... hope we have new mysteries unfold in the next! And hey I get a name check:)

Jill Cd says

I love this series!!! I skipped the second book but Trapped reads well as a stand alone. Fun, intriguing, and totally engaging.

Traci says

Florian & Margaret use TOAST to solve a mystery involving books stolen from The Library of Congress.

Becky says

Love this series! And this third installment was flat out awesome. Well-written, great characters, and an educational element to the story. It was well-paced and fun and full of intrigue. Highly recommend. I hope he keeps the series going.

Shaie B says

A well-written mystery that's both realistic and entertaining. The plot also beautifully deals with relationships—and how we sometimes hurt the people we love the most.

Ms. Yingling says

E ARC from Edleweiss Plus

Florian and Margaret have their most important mission yet-- Marcus has been accused of stealing valuable library books and of having ties to organized crime, and only they can prove him innocent. We start with the two of them brilliantly crashing a fund raiser to get information, the flashback to the case that gets Marcus in trouble. His first case was never solved to his satisfaction, and when someone intercepts a dead drop key in a library book and finds a pile of classified documents in a post office box, he feels the cases may be related. The trio go back and investigate the four most likely suspects, who all have ties to books or libraries, and some of whom have very personal ties to Marcus himself. As always, adults underestimate the detective abilities of the children, who in turn completely underestimate the spying skills of Florian's mother! Eventually, Florian works out the code, and has to ask Nic the Knife for help in bringing the federal agents in to corner a Russian spy.

Strengths: Like Stuart Gibbs' various mysteries, Ponti's work is always just a pleasant relief to read. I push through a lot of books that are either poorly written or don't interest me, so just letting Ponti's clever, deft prose wash over me and his characters amuse me is wonderful. There are so many interesting details about D.C., libraries, and various things that I kept turning the pages to see where the story would take me next. Good stuff. The affection the children have for Marcus is great to see, and Margaret and Florian's friendship is fantastic. If I recall correctly, there are supposed to be five books in this series.

Weaknesses: This is a tiny bit on the long side.

What I really think: Definitely purchasing. I think the covers may be working against this series. It doesn't check out as often as Gibbs' work, but then Gibbs' books have really appealing covers.

Lisa D says

Loved it! Another great mystery in those series!

Kimberley Cornwell says

Best of the books and i do hope this series continues. Jam packed with action and written with a deft hand, Ponti delivers. Florian and Margaret rock!

Cara says

I really think this series is great. The characters are good, and the story moves right along. I hope there are more of these soon.
