



Friends in High Places

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Kick Keswick, once a jewel thief living an exciting double life, has now retired in simple luxury to the south of France. But when an old enemy resurfaces, threatening to expose the countless fake jewels Kick had carefully substituted during her years of secret theft, she is ready to act.

Back in London, Kick finds herself with more employment than she bargained for at a company whose status is much more precarious than she'd thought. Her enemy, in disguise, circles ever closer. And a young nun comes to Kick with a mysterious jewel-encrusted figurine, and a story of greed and murder.

To balance on this high wire, Kick must sneak into an upper-crust wedding in the Italian Alps, break into an ancient castle owned by a very modern murderer, and do it all with her customary panache, style, and grace. Can she keep one step ahead of the most seductively ruthless foe she's ever encountered?

Friends in High Places Details

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Author : Marne Davis Kellogg

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Mickie says

A Delightful Star in a Creative Tale

Another really good tale in this series of delightful mysteries starring a jewel thief . If you read one, you want to read the whole series. My advice is to start with number one and work your way through. If you only want to read one, however, this is a good one to read. The story is unique and delightful .

Alethea says

Retirement just doesn't suit Kick Keswick well. She's back at Ballantine's and, not only are old issues at the auction house resurfacing, but part of Kick's past seems to be at the cusp of eruption as well. This is a delightful addition to the series of Kick's adventures which are always delicious to read and I imagine, for the author, similarly lavish and delightful to research!

Michelle says

What happens when a "gentlewoman" jewel thief retires but has to put her skills to use replacing the fake jewels with the real jewels in some of her undetected replicas? That's what you'll find out in this Kick Keswick mystery.

Julie says

Kick has spent most of her life as a jewel thief. Now she has comfortably retired to the French country side with her husband. All is well until she hears that her old auction house is in trouble. It starts her on a journey to London and ultimately to Italy.

I loved that Kick is a curvy, confident woman of middle age. There are so few sexy 50 year olds as the heroines of detective fiction. The story was entertaining, but I guess not technically a mystery. Still there was suspense and jewel thefts and jewel returns and lots of intriguing characters.

At the start of the book she fainted and I nearly stopped reading then, but I'm glad I didn't. It certainly seemed out of character for her as I got to know her better.

Scott says

For jewelry lovers and mystery lovers alike, this quick novel stars Kick Keswick, a retired jewel thief dubbed the Shamrock Burglar, who worked at the esteemed auction house Ballantine & Company. While there

she was taught all there was to know about the business by her mentor Sir Cramner.

While working at Ballantine & Company, Kick also replaced many original stones with fakes in pieces being sold through the auction house. This story starts with Kick returning to the auction house to help the company, finding that some of the jewelry that she had replaced is not coming back for resale. She knows that she must fix the situation, but at what expense.

Helen says

Kick is back at Ballantine's. There is a very delicate job she must undertake to save the reputation of this old firm that means so much to her. We also see her vulnerabilities are a lot closer to the surface than she leads most everyone to believe. So it's back to London and then to the Italian Alps.

Karen Porter-Wolf says

If you are looking for a quick fun read, this is it. Kick Keswick, jewel thief and mature, smart, rich woman with a questionable vocation is the main character. As the book opens with Kick retired, married and comfortable in her country manor, she quickly finds out that one of her many heists could be linked back to her due to the financial difficulties being faced by her former employer, a prestigious auction house. Kick is drawn out of retirement and into action. With a little plot twist, she encounters a very likeable nun, and a woman scorned. They work together to put jewels back where they belong.

Of course, you gotta wonder about Kick's ethics in the whole adventure, given that any one of her other scams could unravel sometime in the future.

Bridget says

Kick Keswick is enjoying her life in Provence, a quiet and content existence, when she learns that there is trouble brewing at the auction house in London where she used to work. When her husband Thomas is called away to investigate something for Scotland Yard, she returns to London to see what is going on. From there, she is thrown back into the world of high end auctions and in this case, a set of particular jeweled Madonnas and a cursed ruby necklace.

Kick investigates as only she can, with her ability to change her looks and identity, her knowledge of gems and history, and her amazing lifestyle. As usual, the book is a fun read, with exotic locales, amazing food and drink, and adventures that you know will turn out OK, but you are not sure how it will happen.

I enjoy this series, and hadn't read one for a while. I enjoyed hanging out with an old friend again!

Carah says

Quite enjoyable and entertaining tale about Britain's premier jewel thief! This is the first of Kellogg's series that I read, and got caught up in the characters. Kellogg's Kick Keswick is a heroine like Sue Grafton's Kinsey Millhone: flawed, lovable, and totally comfortable in her own skin. I do enjoy books with strong female leads-- this one's great.

Annie Burge says

Very likeable main character: strong-willed and slightly sassy. The usual details found in this series (wines, gourmet foods, and exquisite locations) were not nearly as interesting enough in this edition to forgive some of the far-fetched action. But... the relationships Kick formed with other female characters borderlines on actual friendships which could reappear in later books.

Enjoyable along the lines of the Stephanie Plum series by Janet Evanovich and the Heller series by JD Nixon.

(I purchased the rest of the Kick Keswick series for Nook at discount prices.)

Jeanne Quigley says

Kick Keswick, the star of Marne Davis Kellogg's series, is one of my favorite characters. She is strong, smart, witty, and brave. Kellogg again gives readers an entertaining story that takes place in a beautiful locale. Through Kick she does an excellent job of describing setting as well as the luxuries only the rich can afford: jewels, wine, food, homes. This book is wonderful escapist reading, and a great choice to take along on an upcoming summer vacation.

Katie says

It was fun to read some of the international jewel thief hijinks. And jumping into the series with the 4th book was not hard; Kellogg did a nice job repeating/refreshing details so newbies like me could follow it all without boring series aficionados. The droll humor and clever task analyses of how to heist are a fun combo for a light read. Why only 2 stars? Well...

I can't say that I really like Kick or care about her version of justice. Yes, she sets some things to right, helps some folks out, puts some bad guys in their place and seems to be removed from her stealing-for-profit daily routines. But...the big pickle threatening to tank her beloved mentor's company is happening in no small part due to her 30 years of trust-snubbing felonies. And Kick's efforts to redeem the situation are severely limited only to the immediate problem. Which could easily resurface. For somebody so savvy (Kick), this just reads as illogical and rather selfishly narcissistic. The title warned me of this cronyism; I just hoped for a little more Disney ending (esp. since a really cool nun was involved).

Sharon says

I read this one out of order. Kick's high flying lifestyle is a bit over-the-top (think "Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous"), but she has made her own way in the world. Kellogg goes into a lot of detail about the jewelry trade, which is interesting.

Barbara Brink says

Hilarious, irreverent, intelligent, snobbish, master of disguise, and all together delightful! Kick Keswick, the greatest jewel thief of all time, is a character you can't help falling in love with. Her story is truly entertaining! This is my 4th book in the series and I'm a true fan of Marne Davis Kellogg's work.

Ingrid says

What a fantastic series. Lavish parties, gigantic jewels, a strong female character...what more could a girl want out of a fluffy summer read? Kick is independent, knows what she wants and how to get it. I admire her zeal for food and lack of concern for her weight. She's the kind of character I'd like to be friends with.
