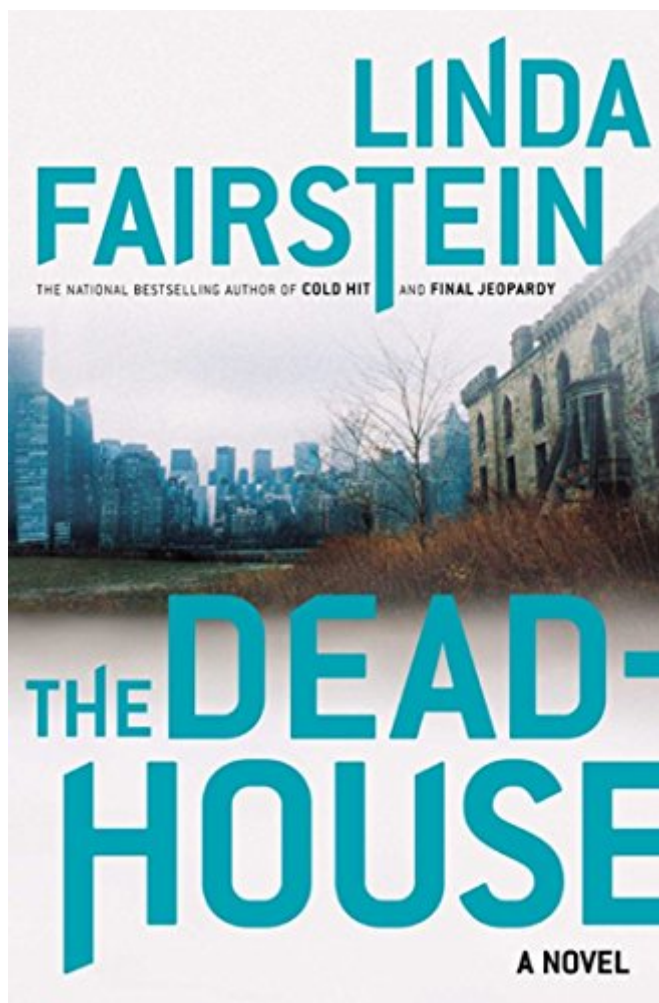


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The Deadhouse (Alex Cooper Book 4)



Synopsis

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....

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Alex Cooper is a District Attorney. She and her favorite Detective, Mike Chapman watch a and bet on the last question of every night's "Jeopardy" with Alex Trebek. Every Alex Cooper novel that I

have read ends with her being in some sort of jeopardy with Mike finding her with via a clever clue. Those are the bones of the books. The stories in between are what make this series so great. And then there is the romance angle. Read the book. You'll enjoy it.

I think this is one of Fairstein's best in the Alex Cooper series. It plays to her strengths--stories about prosecuting sex crimes and facets of New York history. And it contains less of what I feel are the novels' weaknesses: focus on the superficialities of Cooper's glamorous lifestyle. Every successful series of mysteries runs variations on a formula established at the outset by the author. Fairstein's formula is a version of her own life. Alex Cooper is a tough-minded prosecutor, head of the sex crimes unit in the Manhattan DA's office. On the private side, she's tall, blonde, has family money and lives a privileged life on the Upper East Side. As I understand it, all of this describes Fairstein as well. The tension between grit and glamour could be effective, but the author never finds a way to pull the two aspects of Cooper's life together. On the job, Alex is smart and tough, cynical about office politics yet deeply sympathetic to rape victims. But the private Alex is an airheaded fan of the most superficial aspects of the good life. We get rapturous descriptions of fashionable restaurants, dropping of prominent social names, meals of champagne and lobster with handsome, successful boyfriends. It's like we are flipping back and forth between a good mystery and a dumb romantic novel. I guess what I'm saying is that with *The Deadhouse* we get maximum good mystery and minimum lunch at Swifty's and dinner at Primola. But I wish Fairstein would rethink the whole formula. Maybe Alex could be as amusingly snarky about swank restaurants as she is about the dim bureaucrats and mulish judges she encounters on the job.

I love this great read! For me to purchase all of an author's work is a strong sign that I will read once, quickly due to the intrigue and suspense and then re-read many more times to garner every last detail so that I may do some research of my own pertaining to the historical information included. I may be a bit slow, but I did not realize that a real Gotham City existed in the past/present that is referenced in the "Batman" movies, books, etc. I must learn more about the history of Roosevelt Island! Thank you Ms. Fairstein, for the marvelous entertainment as well as the opportunity to learn some new history about our great Nation! You rank up there, in my humble opinion, with Lee Child, Vince Flynn and David Baldacci in providing fictional mystery with well researched factual information and when these two writing styles combine, make great novels! I had to be coerced into reading one of your novels but when I discovered that it was a series, I had to begin with the first one. I am not disappointed. Rebecca Stewart

Pretty good procedural novel. Interesting characters and a history of Roosevelt Island as well.

I discovered Linda Fairstein's talent quite by accident and am now reading the entire Alexandra Cooper series. After reading my first novel (which took place at the Metropolitan Museum of Art), I was amazed at the historical information and fascinating things I learned. I was ready for more! The Deadhouse is an excellent example of Fairstein's attention to detail with surprises around each corner. Her research is impeccable. I was so intrigued with the historical information on Blackwell's Island that I found myself searching on my own for more. What fascinating people had links to the island! Billie Holiday even served time there for prostitution! Wikipedia has an 1853 drawing of the prison and a photograph of the ruins of the smallpox hospital as well as current photos of other parts of the island. Fairstein's character development is equally marvelous, allowing the reader to truly get to know each of the characters complete with their flaws and idiosyncrasies. No shallow characters for Fairstein! The Deadhouse is a rich book that builds in suspense so that I found myself carrying it with me as I approached the end -- I needed to know what would happen next! In the final chapter, as Alexandra stepped from icy rock to icy rock at the tip of the island, in an attempt to elude her captor, I was on the edge of my chair. I could almost feel the icy water as it swirled around her. Unfortunately, the novel ended too quickly. I still wanted more. In reading the series, I find that my biggest challenge is trying to do it slowly. I have to remind myself that faster I devour each novel, the more quickly the series will be completed. I can only hope that Fairstein continues to produce such elegant mysteries! I will continue to want more!

495 pages... it become almost impossible to track the main story line in this book; it is well hidden in page after page of minutiae. I really do not care what the storyteller, Alex Cooper, ate, saw at an art museum, wore, or account for a socialite lifestyle. In the first few pages, Lola Dakota is murdered. At page 361, I'm still waiting for her and Detective Mike Chapman to get through the Christmas & New Years holidays so they can get back to the story.

Another wonderful adventure with Alex and her guys. The NY history is excellent. Enthralling in it's presentation I love you Linda Fairstein.

Enjoyed it!

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