



## Peril By Ponytail

*Nancy J. Cohen*

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## **Peril By Ponytail** Nancy J. Cohen

Hoping for a romantic honeymoon at an Arizona dude ranch, Marla and Dalton arrive to find a series of mishaps plaguing the resort. A nearby ghost town is suffering similar problems. Is it a coincidence that Dalton's Uncle Raymond owns both properties? When the patriarch asks for their help in finding the culprit, Marla and Dalton eagerly accept. News of a local forest ranger's death raises the stakes, especially when they learn the man was Raymond's friend.

Since sleuthing comes more naturally to Marla than horseback riding, she throws herself into the investigation with her usual zest. But as she digs deeper, she discovers skeletons in the family closet. Someone means to drive Raymond out of business, and the reason may be linked to his past misdeeds. But Raymond isn't the only one with secrets. The trail leads Marla from an environmental activist group to saguaro poachers to water rights proponents to an old copper mine beneath the ghost town. She'd better saddle up, rein in the clues, and find the killer before she becomes the next spirit inhabiting the haunted hillside.

In this explosive tale of murder and mayhem, buried secrets surface and threaten to tear Marla's new family apart. As the bodies pile up, Marla races to find proof that Dalton's uncle is innocent. Or is he more involved than he wants them to believe? This adventurous mystery will have you turning pages while wondering how well you truly know your relatives.

## **Peril By Ponytail Details**

Date : Published September 16th 2015 by Five Star

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Author : Nancy J. Cohen

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## **From Reader Review Peril By Ponytail for online ebook**

### **Babs says**

This is the first book in the Bad Hair Day Cozy Mystery series by Nancy J. Cohen that I have read. I will be getting the others in the series to read.

Marla Vail, hair salon proprietor, and her new husband Dalton Vail, a homicide detective, are on a belated honeymoon. Dalton's cousin Wayne runs the dude ranch and asked Marla and Dalton to come help with some problems.

The action starts to build as a rattlesnake in Dalton's luggage appears, a fire and then Carol getting injured things are really getting heated up as more bodies are turning up as well.

The author does a great job between all the characters, the storyline, the descriptions and the scenery. Each of them draws you into the book and you never want to stop until the story ends even then you want the story to keep going.

A great series you will not be disappointed in reading.

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### **Debbie Fox says**

Peril by Ponytail is another excellent book by Nancy Cohan. Marla and Dalton finally able to take a delayed honeymoon where Marla would prefer to head to the tropics but instead heads to her new husbands family owned ranch. Dalton has a "heads up" that some things have been happening on the ranch surrounded by a town that has been named a ghost town. Will Dalton let his love of detective work stay out of their honeymoon or will he join in? Will Marla end up helping him or will she stay out of it? Is family the cause of the "happenings"? Find out by reading Peril by Ponytail. Excellent read especially after following Marla and Dalton through previous books.

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### **Mary says**

This is the first book in the Bad Hair Day Cozy Mystery series by Nancy J. Cohen that I have read!

I can tell you right now, it will not be the only one that I will be reading.

Marla and Dalton have decided to spend their long awaited honeymoon on a Dude Ranch in Arizona owned by Dalton's, Uncle Ray and his Children Wayne and his wife Carol, and Wayne's sister Annie.

I have never read a book with more twists and turns in it. There was so much happening, I was on the edge of my seat and biting my nails.

There is a little family drama added in for good measure, that Marla, Dalton, Wayne, Carol, and Annie

would like Uncle Ray to tell them about, but his lips are sealed until they find some clues that they ask him about.

The book is great and I am on my way to Amazon to see what other Bad Hair Day Mysteries I can find. It is a wonderful mystery and well worth the read.

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### **Teresa Kander says**

Having spent many years listening to my husband talk about Arizona (he lived there for 20 yrs), reading the descriptions of that area in this book was very interesting for me. Not only that, but there was also a bit of Arizona history included as well.

The murder mystery in this book was very well done. The ending was a complete surprise, which is something I really enjoy in a mystery. There are quite a few characters in this book, but that doesn't seem to bog down the flow of things at all.

I enjoy the romantic relationship of Marla and Dalton, even though solving a murder doesn't seem much of a way to spend your honeymoon. We meet quite a few members of Dalton's extended family in Arizona, and some of them are characters in every sense of the word.

This is a great read for a lazy weekend. Even though it is the twelfth book in the series, you don't need to have read the entire series to follow the story.

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### **Rhonda says**

#### **4 STARS**

This is book #12 of A Bad Hair Day Mystery but the first one I have read. It holds up fine as a stand alone book. Did not feel that I had missed anything. But I am going to read more of the series now.

The mystery part was easy for the most part to figure out. But not all the bad guys. It kept my attention.

I really enjoyed learning about the area and it's history. The setting was at a dude ranch and ghost town. It had a little bit of Ghosts.

Marla and Dalton decide to go to a dude ranch for their belated honeymoon. Dalton's relatives that he just got to know invited them down. He also wants Dalton's help figuring out who is trying to ruin there businesses. Dalton is a homicide detective in Florida. He has a daughter. Marla owns a hair salon in Florida. They have been married 10 months.

Dalton's mother never talked about his Uncle Ray. She has not talked to him for years. His cousin did not know what caused the fight ether.

Someone is causing trouble on the dude ranch. They are also causing trouble at the old ghost town that Ray is trying to restore and open. His workers are getting afraid of the ghosts at the ghost town.

There is plenty of drama, mystery, romance, history, humor and is a clean read too. I enjoyed the characters and would like to get to know them better.

I was given this ebook to read for free and in return I agreed to give a honest review of Peril by Ponytail. Also be part of it's blog tour.

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## **Karla Brandenburg says**

Hairstylist Marla is on her honeymoon with police detective husband Dalton at Dalton's family's ranch in Arizona. In exchange for a free stay, his cousin has requested help uncovering the source of a series of accidents in and around the ranch and a ghost town Dalton's uncle is trying to resurrect. Threats, sabotage and ultimately murder threaten not only Marla and Dalton, but Dalton's family as well.

Filled with information on mining and Arizona lore, Marla and Dalton work together to uncover the secrets hidden in this cozy mystery, the 12th in Ms. Cohen's "Bad Hair Day" series.

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## **OpenBookSociety.com says**

<http://openbooksociety.com/article/pe...>

Peril by Ponytail

Bad Hair Day Mystery, Book #12

By Nancy J. Cohen

ISBN: 9781432830984

Author's Website: <http://nancyjcohen.com>

Brought to you by OBS reviewer Andra

### Synopsis:

Hoping for a romantic honeymoon at an Arizona dude ranch, Marla and Dalton arrive to find a series of mishaps plaguing the resort. A nearby ghost town is suffering similar problems. Is it a coincidence that Dalton's Uncle Raymond owns both properties? When the patriarch asks for their help in finding the culprit, Marla and Dalton eagerly accept. News of a local forest ranger's death raises the stakes, especially when they learn the man was Raymond's friend.

Since sleuthing comes more naturally to Marla than horseback riding, she throws herself into the investigation with her usual zest. But as she digs deeper, she discovers skeletons in the family closet. Someone means to drive Raymond out of business, and the reason may be linked to his past misdeeds. But Raymond isn't the only one with secrets. The trail leads Marla from an environmental activist group to saguaro poachers to water rights proponents to an old copper mine beneath the ghost town. She'd better saddle up, rein in the clues, and find the killer before she becomes the next spirit inhabiting the haunted hillside.

In this explosive tale of murder and mayhem, buried secrets surface and threaten to tear Marla's new family apart. As the bodies pile up, Marla races to find proof that Dalton's uncle is innocent. Or is he more involved than he wants them to believe? This adventurous mystery will have you turning pages while wondering how well you truly know your relatives.

## Review:

Jumping into a series at this late date (book #12) can be difficult as the reader does not have the back story on the main characters. However I must commend Nancy J. Cohen on creating a story and developing these characters in such a manner that I was not at all lost. And as such, I look forward to being able to read the first 11 books of the series in due course.

Marla Vail (hairstylist) and Dalton Vail (a homicide detective) are newlyweds heading off on their honeymoon from their home in Florida. As a favor to Dalton's family, this overdue honeymoon is taking place on Dalton's families' dude ranch in Arizona. One main factor is because a forest ranger has died under suspicious circumstances, and there has been a rash of supposed accidents (or are they ???) at both the ranch and ghost town that Uncle Ray is in the process of constructing. There was depth to both main characters which definitely added to my enjoyment of the story.

I really enjoyed the familial interactions, especially with Annie Campbell. I really felt connected and kept hoping that Marla and Dalton would finally figure out what was going on (and of course...they did ?). And Uncle Ray was an interesting character. I really liked that at the beginning of the book there was a "List of Characters" outlining everyone within the context of the series. Even though Marla and Dalton were helping to solve a family mystery, they never lost sight of the fact that it was their honeymoon. I thought this story line was portrayed tastefully, cute and left some things to the imagination of the reader.

There were MANY twists and turns to this tale adding to the enjoyment of this read. One little snafu is that I was able to figure out the 'whodunit' before it was revealed...and that left me a bit flummoxed. Luckily, the writing and story was well told so that my interest was held throughout. I have even put other titles by this author on my TBR pile ?

If you would like to read an enjoyable, entertaining and engaging cozy mystery (though this one did have a bit more gun play than is usual), then Peril by Ponytail is your book!

\*OBS would like to thank the publisher for supplying a free copy of this title in exchange for an honest review\*

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## Yvonne says

Hair stylist, Marla Vail, and her new detective husband, Dalton, are finally taking that long awaited honeymoon. They head to an Arizona dude ranch and ghost town, which is definitely not Marla's choice. She was looking for a relaxing beach honeymoon. She's, also, not too happy when she learns that the ranch and ghost town are owned by Dalton's cousin and uncle. Then, to top it all off, she finds out that there are strange and dangerous happenings going on and Dalton's cousin wants his expert advice. Loving a good mystery, Marla is more than a little interested in these incidents. When a forest ranger turns up dead, she puts on her amateur sleuth hat and investigates alongside her husband.

The stakes are raised when more strange things occur, including deadly accidents. Everyone's life is on the

line and Dalton's uncle, Raymond, appears to be in the center of it all. He's quick to put the blame on an old childhood friend and neighbor, but there's more to the story than an old rivalry. The more Marla digs, the more she learns that Dalton's family has quite a few secrets hidden deep in their closet. Will these secrets destroy the family or will they lead to more murder?

This is the 12th book in Nancy J. Cohen's Bad Hair Mystery series. I started reading this book with the 10th book and I don't feel as if I'm lost. I was able to jump right into the series, although I do want to start with book #1. I want to read all about Marla and Dalton's relationship from the beginning and see how they grow. However, I didn't feel as if I missed anything by reading this book. The Vails are a fun, exciting, and romantic couple. They are a natural fit.

The author outdoes herself with this one. The story is a fast-paced, adventure. It keeps you guessing. I tried to fit all the pieces together along with Marla – like a jigsaw puzzle. This book is a great way to spend the weekend – romance, excitement, and mystery with a clever and exciting plot. It's the perfect read for any time of the year.

FTC Disclosure: The author provided me with a copy of this book to review for this blog tour. This did not influence my thoughts and opinions in any way. All opinions expressed are my own.

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### **Ana says**

Marla & Dalton are in a dude ranch in Arizona for their honeymoon and of course there is a murder mystery to solve. What is behind the fall to his death of a forest ranger? Does it have anything to do with the sabotage at the ranch and the ghost town renovation? And why is Dalton's family feud such a secret?

This was a great mystery with a few unexpected turns. I missed Dalton's daughter, Brianna, but otherwise this was a great addition to a wonderful cozy series.

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### **Barbara Tobey says**

Honeymoons can be dangerous. Marla may be away from her shop, but she still cuts hair and gets into dangerous situations while helping her new relatives. Visiting Sedona again via this book was enjoyable. It also convinced me not to visit a copper mine. I was aware of the culprit's identity long before it was proven, but it still made for enjoyable reading. A nice change of scenery in this entertaining series.

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### **Carla Johnson-Hicks says**

This is the first book in the Bad Hair Day Cozy Mystery series by Nancy J. Cohen that I have read and I can tell you right now, it will not be the only one that I will be reading. I really enjoyed this book.

Marla Vail, hair salon proprietor, and her new husband Dalton Vail, a homicide detective, are on a belated honeymoon. Dalton's Uncle Raymond owns a dude ranch in Arizona, and is developing a ghost town as a tourist attraction. Dalton's cousin Wayne runs the dude ranch and has invited Dalton and Marla to come out at no cost to them to help him solve the problems they are encountering. It seems that both the dude ranch

and the ghost town have had things happen, but they do not want to involve the police. When the local Forestry Officer, who is also Ray's silent partner turns up dead, the Sheriff gets involved. With Carol, Wayne's wife getting injured, a rattlesnake in Dalton's luggage and a fire in their hacienda they all become a little worried about what will be next. A few more bodies turn up and Marla and Dalton start to take chances to solve the mystery. There is a little family drama thrown in for good measure. This story was one that really drew me in and I could not stop reading. I will definitely check out more in this series.

I received a copy of this book from the author in exchange for a review and this did not affect my comments at all.

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## **Kelly says**

Peril by Ponytail is the 12th installment of the Bad Hair Day mysteries.

Marla and Dalton's are invited to spend their honeymoon at an Arizona dude owned by Dalton's cousin and uncle. Turns out there is no time to enjoy a honeymoon as there is sabotage and murder happening. Dalton and Marla help the local law enforcement to find out what is going on. Plus, Dalton's uncle has some hidden secrets.

This is the first book in the series that I read. I enjoyed reading this book. Just as I thought I had the mystery figured out, there was yet again another twist. I will be catching up on this series and looking forward to the next installment.

I received a free copy in exchange for my honest review.

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## **LORI CASWELL says**

Dollycas's Thoughts

Finding time in their busy lives for a honeymoon wasn't easy but Marla and Dalton head to an Arizona dude ranch when his cousin asks for help promising them a wonderful honeymoon getaway. They arrive to learn the ranch and a nearby ghost town renovation have had a run of bad luck, at least that is what everyone hopes. Both properties are owned by Dalton's Uncle Raymond. Just as Marla and Dalton arrive they learn a local forest ranger's body has been found just off a trail he was very familiar with. Accident, maybe but added to all the other mishaps Marla and Dalton start to investigate and decide to follow wherever the trail may lead, even underground if necessary.

Experiencing this trip to a dude ranch with Marla and Dalton was a lot of fun. I am glad it was a virtual trip or I would have been completely exhausted ? The dude ranch has plenty of things to do including horseback riding and hiking trails. The distance from the main lodge to the cabins is also a good walk. Plus they followed leads to the ghost town and several other places like Scottsdale. It would have made a great honeymoon sans the dead bodies, the explosion and the fire. Maybe not as good as the tropical vacation Marla would have liked by maybe next time.

These are characters I have grown to love, this being the 12th book in the series. They have sure come a long way since *Permed to Death*. Newly married they are still figuring things out like Dalton not talking to Marla about honeymooning in Arizona until after he told his cousin they would be delighted to come. They both enjoyed getting to know these long lost family members better and I did too.

The mystery was tricky but I did figure out the guilty parties a bit before Marla and Dalton. I still enjoyed following along to find out if I was right and to get all the details straight. I lost count of all the twists and turns that tried to divert my attention. The ending was very suspenseful. Learning some of the history of the area and copper mines was a great bonus.

If you are new to this series, this book can be read on it's own. The author provides a cast of characters at the beginning of the book.

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### **Laura Reading says**

I really enjoyed this mystery with all the extra information and history.  
The relationship between the "honeymoon couple" was fun to watch.  
Who is the true master detective?

When Dalton Vail receives an invitation to spend two weeks on his cousin's dude ranch, he tells his wife it will be their honeymoon vacation.

Dalton's mother and her brother had a falling out at a young age, so Dalton does not know much about his uncle and that part of his family.

The facts that Dalton is known as a proficient detective and recent, damaging incidents have occurred on both the dude ranch and Uncle Ray's ghost town project, are not details he shares with his bride.

Until the dangerous events start affecting the couple personally.

Soon the "honeymoon" turns into a full blown investigation.

The danger escalates and even when you think all has been settled and solved, there are more secrets and danger to come. The title reference takes a while to be apparent. When you open the book and see the long list of characters referenced, don't be intimidated. You can follow along even though everyone seems to be involved in various ways.

I did receive this book in exchange for an unbiased review.

Now I want to visit Arizona!

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### **Maggie says**

Saddle up for a great mystery read!

Hair stylist and amateur sleuth Marla Vail and her detective husband, Dalton, travel to a dude ranch out West for their delayed honeymoon at the invitation of Dalton's cousins. Despite the starkly beautiful scenery and their warm welcome, something is amiss.

Troubles escalate at the dude ranch and at a neighboring cattle ranch, igniting a long-simmering feud. Tempers run hot, and there's plenty of blame to go around. Plus, there's something odd about the mountainside water bottling plant with armed guards.

A forest ranger is found dead, and a missing worker at a nearby ghost town also adds to the unease at the ranches and in town. Marla and Dalton are drawn into the investigation, and trouble soon finds them. The dangerous attacks make this personal. Who is behind these incidents and possible murders?

I enjoyed another delightful visit with Marla and Dalton, and after such a long and successful series, they feel like old friends. Additionally, the western setting brought back pleasant memories of a family trip years ago. Another winner from talented author Nancy J. Cohen. Saddle up and come along for a great read!

Maggie Toussaint and Rigel Carson for Muddy Rose Reviews

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