



## A Likely Story

*Jenn McKinlay*

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**A new hardcover in the Library Lover's mystery series from the *New York Times* bestselling author of *On Borrowed Time*. Small-town librarian Lindsey Norris must solve a murder and a missing person's case involving two reclusive brothers.**

## NOT HIS BROTHER'S KEEPER

Delivering books to the housebound residents of the Thumb Islands, just a short boat ride from the town of Briar Creek, library director Lindsey Norris has befriended two elderly brothers, Stewart and Peter Rosen. She enjoys visiting them in their treasure-filled, ramshackle Victorian on Star Island until she discovers that Peter has been killed and Stewart is missing. Now she's determined to solve a murder and find Stewart before he suffers his brother's fate.

## A Likely Story Details

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Author : Jenn McKinlay

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## From Reader Review A Likely Story for online ebook

### **Lesa says**

Would you believe a mystery about a librarian starts with a delivery of books to an island, picks up speed, and never lets up the suspense? You'll probably say, "A Likely Story". Just the name of Jenn McKinlay's latest Library Lover's mystery, *A Likely Story*.

Lindsey Norris, Library Director at the Briar Creek Public Library in Connecticut, travels by water taxi with her ex-boyfriend, Captain Mike Sullivan to Star Island. It took time, but Lindsey befriended two octogenarian brothers who lead isolated lives on the island. Now, she regularly delivers books to them. This time, something is off, though. Stewart Rosen isn't waiting for her at the dock. So, Lindsey and Sully cautiously approach the house, dealing with the brothers' booby traps on the way. After making their way through traps and a house buried under the brothers' hoarded collections, they find the murdered body of Peter Rosen. But, where is Stewart? How does an eighty-year-old man disappear, and where did he go? Is Stewart a victim or a killer?

Lindsey and Sully's call to the police ends with the police chief out of commission. And, Lindsey has enough guilt and curiosity to plunk herself right down into the middle of the case. It takes a couple dangerous escapes, more guilt, and a librarian's skillful research, but Lindsey finally uncovers secrets that have been buried in the islands for generations.

Intrepid. Foolhardy. Impetuous. Rash. Loyal. Lindsey Norris can be called all of those. But, she does have a librarian's curiosity. Jenn McKinlay creates a realistic library, genuine library issues, staff and customers, and then plunges the library and her characters right into the middle of a murder investigation. She adds touches of romance, and some island history for an enjoyable mystery. We all know murder investigations are unlikely most of the time in small town libraries. This time, it's intriguing. This time, it's *A Likely Story*.

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### **QNPoohBear says**

When Lindsay goes to deliver a crate of books to local hermit Stewart Rosen, who lives on one of the islands with his brother Peter, she is shocked to discover Peter dead, sitting in his wheelchair with a bullet in his chest. The house is booby trapped and dangerous. Who could have killed Peter? Stewart is missing and Lindsay feels compelled to find him. With Robbie gone off to New York, Lindsay must rely on Sully for help which complicates their already complicated relationship! Meanwhile, Ben is in agony because her storytime numbers have dipped to an all time low. Her search for answers leads to an unexpected discovery.

This story is back on target with the usual sort of plot. I always enjoy the library and all the crazy things Lindsay has to deal with. The opening scene is laugh out loud funny- unless you've been there with your own toddler. Ben's drama seems kind of inconsequential at first and her discovery and what follows is a little too nice and convenient. She deserved a bit more of a plot but I'm happy with the way things are going for her. As always, the Crafternoon ladies are excellent, in their loving and overprotective ways. It's nice for Lindsay to have that community.

The mystery kept me guessing and reading late into the night. I wasn't surprised at the person that instigated the conflict but the reveal was shocking. The booby trapped house was ingenious and I don't know how the

author came up with it. I don't watch Hoarders so I don't know if that served as inspiration. My heart was beating wildly as Lindsay navigated through the house more than once, but especially towards the end. I like that the story doesn't follow the usual cozy mystery pattern with the heroine going off on her own and nearly getting killed before she's rescued. Sully has Lindsay's back and her other friends are there for her as well.

I can't tell you about the new characters because they are central to the plot. There are the two Rosen brothers - recluses and junk collectors whose family has been on their island forever. They seem a little crazy and paranoid to me but anyone who loves to read is OK in my book. There is one woman, Evelyn Dewhurst, who is trying to buy all the islands to preserve them. Her true intentions are unknown and she is not a likeable character. There are also two antique collectors from Illinois claiming that Peter contacted them about selling some things. I was highly suspicious of them from the start, as Lindsay was. Lindsay again uses library resources to check them out and research the Rosens. She's highly intelligent and has good instincts but there hasn't been much character growth. Sully is growing and learning to communicate. His development has been excellent so far. I loved how Lindsay and Sully's relationship progressed and she finally told him how she feels. It ended kind of abruptly though so I need to know what happens! Ms. Cole's character development really takes a leap forward here and I actually liked seeing another side of her. It makes her more than the stereotypical "old school" librarian.

This book includes a bonus short story titled *An Unlikely Meeting*. Lindsay is out of patience waiting for an interview with a potential new circulation clerk, Paula Tanner, when Charlie rushes in to inform Lindsay Heathcliff has run away! I can relate to Lindsay's panic over her missing furchild. I was really worried right along with her and surprised at what happened. It wasn't what Lindsay - or I - expected. The story sets up an introduction to a new character who will likely appear in future books. I really liked the story because I'm an animal lover as well as a librarian.

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## **LORI CASWELL says**

Dollycas's Thoughts

An excellent story.

This time Jenn McKinlay takes us to a little island off the coast to meet 2 elderly brothers, one like me spends his days in a wheelchair. Sully takes Lindsey there in his water taxi to deliver books. Stewart, the older brother, always meets them on the dock. She has never ventured beyond there to the house until now. She and Sully approach the old house carefully because they have been warned the place is booby-trapped to keep away unwanted visitors. They immediately know something is wrong when they reach the porch and Stewart has still not appeared. What they find into addition to the traps deterring their entrance is a house full of everything you can think of, the brothers are major hoarders. They make their way through the small open paths to find Peter, the younger brother dead. Stewart is nowhere to be found. They call the police but Lindsey knows she needs to find Stewart and find the killer.

This was a bendy twisty mystery that could have gone several ways and included more suspects than I at first imagined. It was very well plotted and written and kept this reader very engaged.

In addition to the mystery we have the love triangle of Lindsey, Sully and Robbie. I was feeling this was going the way I wanted and would be wrapping up, but then, on the last page of the story, just one word through a monkey wrench into the saga which will now continue on.

I did enjoy children's librarian Beth stepping beyond her comfort zone and meeting someone new. I also enjoyed Ms. Cole's relationship with town historian Milton Duffy as well. It had a few tense moments. Stewart Rosen is also a very interesting character. His family, one of the first in the area, gave some history to the story. Of course, the craftenooners were back sticking their noses into everything.

Jenn McKinlay is an expert of blending a suspenseful mystery with the proper amounts of humor and romance. She always leaves us wanting more, ready to jump into the next Library Lover's Mystery. She didn't make us wait long this time as there is a short story, *A Unlikely Meeting*, at the end of this book. No, the romantic cliffhanger was not addressed but she does introduce us to a new Briar Creek resident and the lovable Heathcliff plays a major role.

Because I was late reading this installment, my wait to read the next is quite short. *Better Late Than Never* comes out November 1!

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### **cloudyskye says**

Oh dear, this woman does believe in telling AND showing. And then some more of both. Being more than halfway through because I had no proper alternative, I'll now struggle to the bitter end, I expect. Fortunately I'm mildly interested in the case ....

How can someone who writes so badly sell so many books? Shame on the editor.

I am frustrated.

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### **Christa says**

*A Likely Story* is another entertaining installment in McKinlay's Library Lovers Series. Lindsey, Sully, and the rest of the great cast of characters from the series are in for another dangerous and exciting adventure in this one.

Lindsey regularly takes a boat to one of the nearby islands in order to deliver books to the Rosen brothers - Stewart and Peter. The two odd elderly brothers are hermits and hoarders, and Lindsey's standing instructions are to meet Stewart on the dock when she arrives with books. On this particular trip, when Sully and Lindsey arrive at the island, there is no one to greet them. When Lindsey decides she must go to the Rosen home, which she's been instructed to never do, she and Sully make a gruesome discovery. With one of the brothers dead and one missing, Lindsey decides she needs to draw Stewart to the library and find out what is going on. As she does this, she finds her own safety, as well as that of her friends, at risk.

I thoroughly enjoyed this one. It was great to be back in the world of Lindsey and her friends, and this installment was great! It is a must read for fans of the series! Thanks to the publisher and Edelweiss for providing a copy of the book in return for an honest review.

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### **James says**

4 out of 5 stars to *A Likely Story*, the 6th book in the "Library Lover's Mystery" series, written in 2015 by

Jenn McKinlay. A good continuance in the cozy series and a quick read. Basic, but fun. Fans will enjoy it, but seemed a tad bit shorter and less complex than usual.

### **Why This Book**

I've been reading lots of NetGalley approved thriller and suspense requests lately, which meant I needed something lighter for a few days. I'm a fan of Ms. McKinlay and had purchased a few of her books last month to insert between electronic-reads. It was time and I'd missed this series a bit. I am only 1 book behind now!

### **Plot, Characters & Setting**

Lindsey, Briar Creek's town librarian, has taken a boat with Sully, her on-again / off-again boyfriends, to drop some books off for the reclusive Rosen brothers. Stewart and Peter, in their 70s, have lived on a small island off shore for their whole lives, but rarely come off or let anyone else on. Lindsey is one of their exceptions in this small Connecticut town. When she arrives, Stewart doesn't greet her at the dock and she's forced to walk up to the house. Unfortunately, the pathway is always booby-trapped, so she and Sully have to be careful to avoid the traps the Rosens have set for all other guests. When they arrive, poor Peter Rosen has been shot dead and Stewart is missing. They notice the Rosen boat, which had been docked just outside, was now missing. Did Stewart kill his brother and run off, or did he escape from an unknown killer? The cops investigate. Lindsey tries to figure it out on her own, as usual.

Along the path, she meets an older woman determined to buy up all the houses on the surrounding islands. Lindsey wonders what's lurking beneath the surface besides investment properties. She encounters two antique dealers from half way across the country, who claim to be there at Peter's request to help sell some of the belongings. But Lindsey knows them as hoarders with money, so she isn't buying it. As she investigates, her friends join in the fun and danger. Lindsey makes some enemies, but she's asked to help by the lead cop who was injured in one of the booby traps. And as Lindsey's searching the house, someone breaks in and captures Lindsey and Sully. Who is this person and what is going on in the Rosen household?

Lindsey of course solves the case, although she's almost shot in this one. A few new family members show up, the mystery of the old houses on the island comes out and Lindsey makes a decision between Sully and Robbie, who is also back from NYC with some interesting news about changes going in on his life. What's a girl to do? Besides help Beth through her new romance and Mary and Ian when something new pops up in their lives, too. All in good fun, Lindsey says... but she wants a break, too!

### **Approach & Style**

I read the paperback version, which was about 300 pages long. It had some recipes, some commentary and a new short story from the author, which took up another 50 pages.

Similar to other books in the series, it's narrated by a third person with perspective set only on Lindsey. Minimal violence. Nothing overtly sexual other than a little light kissing between some characters.

Took me less than 3 hours to read over the course of 2 days. Finished it more quickly than usual, probably due to it having less characters than previous ones.

### **Strengths**

Lindsey is a likable protagonist. She's not too simple or silly. She's not too dramatic or controlling. She seems like your average everyday gal who gets thrust into murder. Between her friends and her colleagues at the library, you get a bunch of side-stories that always make you laugh and feel connected with her as a character. I enjoy her relationship with Milton, and in this book, things with Ms. Cole take a new turn. The

plot of the mystery, once it unwinds, is good. It has some family drama and other connections to the past which were a nice highlight. There's a suspenseful chase scene in the house with the criminal at one point where I kept turning the pages as I really thought Lindsey was either gonna catch him or get killed!

### **Concerns**

Lindsey still seems caught up between Robbie and Sully. I'm a Robbie fan. But she's leaning towards Sully in this one. And just as it appears she made a choice between them, news comes in at the end of the book which could change everything. I'd really like her to make a choice and stick with it for a few books, letting the other character go for a while, so we have an opportunity for a little change.

While the plot had some good parts to it, it seemed to grow more complicated only near the end. The first half of the book was very light and at times, I wasn't very excited over what happened other than the fact one of the brothers was missing and could be alive/dead or the killer/victim. That kept me going, but I think the other characters should have been more prominent to make this more complex and intriguing.

### **Questions & Final Thoughts**

It was a good read. Nothing extraordinary, nothing bad. I enjoyed it. I'll keep reading the series. The 7th book has been out in hardback for a few months, but I'll wait until November until the paperback release. Not in any rush. I may switch over to another of her series about hats and murders in London.

### **About Me**

For those new to me or my reviews... here's the scoop: I read A LOT. I write A LOT. And now I blog A LOT. First the book review goes on Goodreads, and then I send it on over to my WordPress blog at <https://thisismytruthnow.com>, where you'll also find TV & Film reviews, the revealing and introspective 365 Daily Challenge and lots of blogging about places I've visited all over the world. And you can find all my social media profiles to get the details on the who/what/when/where and my pictures. Leave a comment and let me know what you think. Vote in the poll and ratings. Thanks for stopping by. *Note:* All written content is my original creation and copyrighted to me, but the graphics and images were linked from other sites and belong to them. Many thanks to their original creators.

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### **Jonathan says**

Let's start with a hearty cheer; the love triangle is finished! But wait, the last line of the book ruins it. I really hate love triangles, and this series has had one going for the last bit. If a love triangle is slight and well-written I don't mind it, but this love triangle is not. The two men; Sully and Robbie spend half their times fighting. It's downright annoying and childish, and I was excited towards the middle and latter parts of this book when the author seemed to be ending the love triangle, but on literally the last page she restarted it again. Ugh. Ugh. UGH!

Besides that, though the book was mostly good. The characters not involved in the triangle were relatable and fun. Ms. Cole finally is becoming three-dimensional, though, for the life of me I can not imagine why, Lindsey, the boss, allows her employees to call Ms. Cole "the lemon." That is unbelievable unprofessional, not to mention rude.

The mystery was good, though the ending seemed anticlimactic. However, the short-story at the end was purposeless from my view, besides to point out another reason why Lindsey should not be the director of a library. She hires a woman simply because she helps save a cat and her kittens and knows literature. Great,

that would give her brownie points in my eyes, but aren't you at least going to make sure she can hold a job? Or at least check her references? She could steal from the businesses she works in or worse. Another ugh. I really just thought the entire short story at the end was juvenile.

Overall a simply okay book. It held my attention wonderfully, but there were some problems in it I hope are resolved in the next book, if I even read that one.

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### **Heidi (Yup. Still here.) says**

Well the mystery story line was definitely better in this one than the last one but the dreaded love triangle is still hanging on by a thread. I do still really like the characters (except when Lindsey is swooning over both guys at the same time) and the series setting . The love triangle better be resolved for good in the next book because my patience for it has wore thin. It is sad because I love Ms. McKinlay and loved the first few books in this series. I will wait to see what my GR friends think of the next one before I pick it up.

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### **Lisa Ks Book Reviews says**

Spectacular! Once again author Jenn McKinlay has penned a wonderful story!

Any time I can spend in Briar Creek with head librarian Lindsey Norris, her friends of the Crafternooners group, Captain Sully, and the rest of this delightful town, I'm as happy as can be. And every minute of time spent with this book was no different.

A LIKELY STORY, book six in the Library Lover's Mystery series is another well written, funny, intriguing, entertaining story. I finished this book in record time, but wish I had paced myself to make it last a lot longer. A superb plot that kept me on the edge of my seat, led to a half surprising reveal, but definitely a satisfying one! (Half surprising to me because I managed to guess half of it right. Okay, I lucky guessed it.)

As Jenn McKinlay is known to do, even after everything is all wrapped up, she hits us with a surprise ending. This is one author who knows how to kept her readers coming back for more!

Make sure to check out the back of the book for some yummy recipes and a never before published short story, AN UNLIKELY MEETING!

My review of the short story

### **AN UNLIKELY MEETING**

On no. You have to read get A LIKELY STORY and find out for yourself. But I will tell you this much, you're going to love it!

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### **Betty says**

I extend my thanks again to my library for the 6book in the Library Lover's series. Lindsey has extended the library service to the islands off the coast of Connecticut. She is delivering books to one of the islands with the water taxi and on arrival, Stewart Rose does not meet them. Sully is the driver of the taxi. Lindsey goes with him to see if the Rosen brothers are okay. The island is bobby trap and Sully goes first checking to see if it is okay. They find one of the brothers, Peter shot in his wheelchair and the other missing. Emma Plewicki is now the Chief of Police and when she arrives to investigate she sets off one of the traps and incapacitated her self and calls in the state police force. Two other suitors of Lindsey and Heathcliff are present in the story. The twists and turns will hold your attention. I HIGHLY RECOMMEND THIS BOOK AND SERIES. Craft patterns and recipes are included.

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### **Jessica Robbins says**

For complete review check out my blog at <https://booksaplentybookreviews.blogs...>

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### **Doward Wilson says**

Strong characters and twisted murder plots revolve around a town's library for some of the best adventures you can find. Lindsey is the Director of the Briar Creek Public Library and along with her best friends investigate a murder and disappearance of reclusive brothers who live on their own island. When one brother fails to meet Lindsey at his dock, she and her friend, Sully check the house. There they find booby traps, hoarding beyond belief and the dead body of the other brother. This series will take you on new adventures in directions that you can't imagine. This is the sixth book and they can be read alone or in order, but read them you should. I can't wait for the next one to come out.

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### **Debbie says**

I really enjoyed this book, as I do all Ms. McKinlay's books. I love the characters, people that I would love to hang around with. I do admit I'm not crazy about the love triangle story, but I love the insults that Sully and Robbie pass back and forth, that had me laughing. The mystery was good, I do admit I figured out the who but it was still a fun read. I did need a little more of the why explained to me, which it was in the end. I will continue on with this series.

There is the added bonus of a enjoyable short story at the ended.

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### **Tina at A COZY GIRL READS AND WRITES Blog says**

I love libraries, I love being in one, I love sitting to observe and people watch, I go there to get away, a library is like a sanctuary to me. I love to read and write there and just enjoy the quiet. That's why i'm such a big fan of Jenn Mckinlay's A library lovers Mysteries. A likely story has to be the best of the series so far.

Lindsey Norris is the library director of the Briar Creek Public Library in Connecticut. Lindsey has heart and compassion for everyone that's one of the things I enjoy about her. Stewart Rosen is a library patron, along with his brother, Peter who Stewart takes care of they are strange, hermits and they live on an island

Lindsey takes a water taxi driven by her ex-boyfriend, Mike "Sully" Sullivan to the island to deliver library books to him, Stewart is not there at the dock to meet Lindsey as usual and her and Mike wonder were he is, they venture into their cluttered home to discover they are hoarder. In the kitchen discover Stewart's brother, Peter dead and Stewart is missing.

Could there be problems between the brothers? Could Stewart have killed him? Lindsey comes up with a plan to try to find Stewart by luring him to the library after hours but something goes wrong and all goes to hell in a hand basket. The banter and friendship between Lindsey and co-worker, children's librarian Beth had me in stitches this time around.

Even, Librarian Mrs Cole and her sourly "Lemon" disposition is sweetening up, what a surprise. The killer was a total surprise, I was wondering who could have possibly wanted Peter dead. Lindsey is a determined woman who always wants to find the truth, just what's not to love about her. Her relationship with Sully is the icing on the cake. I can't wait to read and review the next book in the series, *Better Late than Never*, Friday November,25 .

FTC Disclosure: Thank you to the publisher and/or author or Net Galley for providing us with a copy of this book for review. This did not influence our thoughts in any way. All the opinions of the book are our own.

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### **Celia says**

*A Likely Story* is the sixth book in the Library Lover's Mysteries, and I can't believe that I have missed the first five books! *A Likely Story* is a book that grabs you early on, and does not let go -- I had a hard time putting it down as I read about Librarian Lindsey Norris investigating who killed recluse Peter Rosen on his booby-trapped private island off the Connecticut coast, and what happened to his brother, Stewart, who is now missing. With help from her library friends and her erstwhile boyfriend, water taxi Captain Sully, Lindsey is determined to find Stewart and learn just what happened to Peter on the island, despite being told by Police Chief Emma Plewicki to step aside and let the police do their job. Lindsey decides to investigate the murder anyway, not only because she and Sully discovered Peter's body while delivering books to the island, but also because of her concern for Stewart. The mystery only heightens and becomes more complex the more Lindsey learns about the Rosen brothers

I really enjoyed this book; its setting and cast of characters are engaging ( I loved the Crafternooners), the mystery gripping and fast paced. *A Likely Story* was truly a delight to read, and should not be missed. This book can definitely stand alone, but the further I read, the more I wanted to go back to the beginning of the series because it is just that good! I can't wait to start on the series from Book One, *Books Can Be Deceiving*.

I received an ARC of this book in exchange for a fair and honest review.

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