



Deceived

Irene Hannon

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For three years, Kate Marshall has been grieving the loss of her husband and their four-year-old son in a boating accident. But when she spots a familiar-looking child on an escalator in the mall, she is convinced it is the son she thought was dead. With police skeptical of her story, she turns to private investigator Connor Sullivan. The former Secret Service agent is dubious but agrees to investigate. Digging into the case he discovers that the incident may have been no accident at all. But if Kate's son is alive, someone is intent on keeping him hidden--and may be willing to go to lethal lengths to protect a sinister secret.

As Irene Hannon's many fans have come to expect, *Deceived* is filled with complex characters, unexpected twists, and a riveting plot line that accelerates to an explosive finish.

Deceived Details

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Author : Irene Hannon

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From Reader Review Deceived for online ebook

Diamond Jones says

Like the first two books in this series, I was hooked from the beginning.

Deb Haggerty says

Deb's Dozen: Missing child, a chance encounter—could it be? Poppysicles, blonde hair, love.

Saying good-bye to a wonderful series is always difficult, so reading *Deceived*, the third book in Irene Hannon's *Private Justice* series was hard. I loved this premise and the characters—I only hope Irene brings them back in another series. One thing we can all count on, thank goodness, is that there is another wonderful series in the wings we can anticipate.

Kate Marshall has mourned the loss of her husband, John, and their son, Kevin, for three long years. A fishing trip gone bad and two empty life vests spelled the end to all her dreams. After a tough period of recovery and a move to St. Louis to start over, Kate has her life more or less back together. Then, running an errand at the mall for a friend, she hears a young voice ask for a poppysicle—Kevin's word for the treat. Looking up at the sound, she sees a boy with wheat blond hair—just like hers and Kevin's. Could it be? Is her son alive?

After fruitlessly searching the mall for the man and boy she saw, she decides to hire Phoenix, Inc., a private investigation firm. Connor Sullivan draws her case and is drawn to her. He agrees to help, even though the police don't think she has any reason to hope. Will he uncover any clues? Will that attraction wax or wane?

Hannon has constructed another complex yarn, with complex characters, and lots of twists and turns that keep you turning pages hours on end. I loved this book as much as I loved the other two in the series, *Vanished* and *Trapped*. You will love *Deceived*, too! Five stars for the book and the series. Get them – now!

Irene Hannon has written more than forty-five novels and is the winner of a multitude of awards including two RITAs from the Romance Writers of America, a Carol Award, a Retailers' Choice Award, and many more. She and her husband make their home in Missouri and, when not otherwise busy, enjoy coffee shops, traveling, and their family. To get all the skinny about Irene, visit www.IreneHannon.com.

Revell gave me a copy of *Deceived* for my candid review

Dawn says

Three years ago, Kate Marshall lost both her husband and their four year old son in a boating accident. When she sees a child at the mall who looks like her son, her world is shaken. She wants answers. With her story dismissed by mall security and the local police, Kate turns to the PIs at Phoenix Inc. Connor Sullivan is a former Secret Service agent. When Kate lands in his office with her incredible story, Connor vows to do all

that he can to determine the truth. As his investigation takes him deeper and deeper into the events at the mall, he soon realizes that the accident wasn't really an accident. Will Connor be able to identify the child before something else happens? And is there a chance for a relationship with Kate once everything is over and done?

I think that this was probably my favorite of the entire series. The day I received this one in the mail, I'd also received two others. But this was the one I was the most excited about.

I loved Connor. I've wanted to read his story since he appeared on the pages of *Vanished*. Of the three PIs, he is my favorite. I loved how he was determined to get to the truth. I also loved how he tried (unsuccessfully) to not fall for Kate. His relationship with his partners was one that captured my attention too. He showed mutual respect for the cases his partners were working and knew they would help him out as they needed to.

I thought that Kate was also really well developed. She's hurting. She's grieving. She really only wants answers. If she gets evidence that the child at the mall isn't her son, she'll let it rest. But if there is the slightest bit of hope, she latches onto it. I thought that her search for answers really showed her emotion. She loved her son. She was falling for Connor. She didn't want to get confused. I also thought that the way that she put her life back together after the accident shows just how strong she was.

I really enjoyed Todd. He's the child that Kate saw at the mall. He doesn't know why his dad has gotten protective of him all of a sudden, but he knows his father loves him. My heart broke a bit for him with all that he'd been through and was going through.

The suspense builds fast in this book. When the puzzle pieces started to fall into place, it really picked up. I found it to be a true page turner.

I received this book for free from Revell Books for the purpose of reviewing. My thoughts and opinions are my own.

Recommended to fans of romantic suspense, Irene Hannon, Dee Henderson, Lynette Eason

Rating - 5 stars

Emily says

Review added 5/26.

Definitely my favorite from this series! Romance, mystery, and characters all came out much stronger this time around. This villain was one of the strongest and most sympathetic that I've read from Irene Hannon. Also, for longtime Hannon readers, this one wasn't as twisted and sick in action as most of hers.

Sarah Grace says

Well then, that was a wild ride! And painful . . .

After reading and loving *Vanished* by this author, I was excited to finish the series. The characters from Phoenix Inc were such fun, deep characters, and I couldn't wait to read more about them.

I loved Kate. She was such a realistic and relatable character. Her story especially touched my heart. Connor, also, was fantastic. I really enjoyed getting to hear his story. I'm not sure if I like him or Cal better! Sanders was an amazing and terrible character. Even though he was the villain, because Hannon made him so realistic and relatable, you didn't want him to be the villain. You wanted him to have a happy ending. But unfortunately both Kate and Sanders couldn't have a happy ending, which was sad.

The story was a wild ride from beginning to end, and the romance was really sweet. It was also an intensely emotional story, which I loved even if it did hurt. Sometimes in suspense novels, the heart of the characters gets lost, but not so with this one. The chemistry between the characters, especially the Phoenix Inc characters was so awesome! Nikki and Dev will always crack me up . . . They're great comedic relief.

The ending was so sweet and heartwarming and definitely made me cry.

The reason I docked a star was because the romantic attraction between the characters got a little out of hand for my tastes. While it was very sweet, some of the physical attraction, along with a few mildly inappropriate comments\thoughts made me squirm.

All in all, I really enjoyed this novel! Hannon is a very talented author.

Recommended for ages 17+ for romance. (view spoiler)

Staci says

Another well done romantic suspense novel by Irene Hannon. *Deceived* was the final book of the series.

Recommended for fans of Dani Pettrey.

Brittany says

Deceived is such a gripping and interesting story! It gets off to a wonderful start that grabs the reader and makes it impossible to not care about what happened to Kate Marshall's family. It is book three in the Private Justice series, but can be read as a stand-alone novel if you haven't read the other books in the series.

While this book deals with a woman who's been widowed and who's son was killed three years earlier, it is not at all a depressing read. I found *Deceived* to be riveting, with great suspense. I love the way this author lets the reader into the mind of the "bad guy" in the story, as well as the hero and heroine of the story.

I couldn't help but like Kate Marshall and Connor Sullivan, two people who have made mistakes in their past, but have the desire to go forward with their lives in the best way possible. Kate was a very inspiring heroine, trying to rise above the grief that had incapacitated her three years earlier. Connor was professional and dependable. I really liked the way Connor went about his investigation of the claims that Kate brought to him regarding the possibility of spotting a boy that looks and talks just like the child she thought was dead.

Very intense stuff!

I received a complimentary copy of this book from Baker Publishing Group in exchange for an honest review, which I have given.

You can read this review on my blog at:

<http://brittreadsfiction.wordpress.co...>

Lorraine says

SUMMARY: A grieving mother. A mysterious child. And a dedicated PI who's determined to solve the puzzle.

For three years, Kate Marshall has been mourning the loss of her husband and four-year-old son in a boating accident. But when she spots a familiar-looking child on a mall escalator, she's convinced it's her son. With police skeptical of her story, she turns to private investigator Connor Sullivan for help. As the former Secret Service agent digs into the case, the boating "accident" begins to look increasingly suspicious. But if Kate's son is alive, someone is intent on keeping him hidden--and may go to lethal lengths to protect a sinister secret.

As Irene Hannon's many fans have come to expect, *Deceived* is filled with complex characters, unexpected twists, and a riveting plotline that accelerates to an explosive finish.

REVIEW: This third and final book in the Private Justice series brought the series to a great conclusion. The characters' interaction and slowly developing romance was well developed and realistic. The suspense was developed at a pace that kept the reader wondering if the villain was truly behind the mystery as he was presented as such a "nice guy." Definitely not the usual suspect.

The plot escalated with a piece by piece realistic grit that will definitely keep the reader turning pages as the suspense climbs. The story is told through the point-of-view of Kate, Connor, and the antagonist which adds to the interest.

Once again Irene Hannon has written a series that will definitely appeal to those who love romantic suspense.

FAVORITE QUOTES: "Some people feel more deeply than others. And I don't consider that a liability. In fact, those people tend to be even stronger. They have to be in order to survive."

"Coincidence is a small miracle in which God chooses to remain anonymous."

Wendy says

"Deceived" by Irene Hannon is the third enthralling book in the "Private Justice" series and begins three years after Kate Marshall loses her husband and son in a boating accident. Working at a new job in St. Louis, Kate never expects to spot a young boy in the mall who looks a lot like her son whose body was never recovered. With the help of Private Investigator (PI) Connor Sullivan clues begin to emerge that give credibility to Kate's belief that four year old Kevin may have survived the accident.

In a plot that combines mystery, romance and suspense Irene Hannon ramps up the intensity and intrigue as Connor pieces together a puzzle with few clues and only a mother's strong conviction that her husband John would have kept his long held promise to make sure he and Kevin wore life preservers when fishing. In this story you sense Kate's conviction to find out the truth, Connor's dedication to unravel the mystery, and a killer's commitment to protect the child he loves and calls son. It's fast-paced, the action never slowing as events unfold and Connor doggedly works to solve the case, and yet keep his ethical integrity as love between the two blossoms. With clever dexterity Irene Hannon has woven a tale of faith with twists and turns that keep the reader captivated until its explosive conclusion. She sends powerful messages throughout about learning from our experiences, not judging others, trusting in miracles and the power of God working in our lives.

Like the plot the characters are unforgettable, realistic and complex each one dealing with past mistakes and possibilities in an unpredictable future. Kate Marshall, the Director and counsellor at New Start is a kind, level-headed and caring woman who has survived heartbreak and addiction. Connor Sullivan a former Secret Service agent who works as a PI for Phoenix Inc. is assertive, competent, and a listener who instills trust and confidence in his clients. Haunted by guilt from his past, he's determined to be honest, principled and professional in his client-relationship with Kate even as their love grows. Greg Sanders a construction worker who's troubled by the tragic loss of his son and wife is deceptive and paranoid, his fear and bitterness steering his dark decisions. Kevin (aka Todd) a loveable and sweet-natured seven year old is reliant on, and trusts the man he calls father. All these characters and many more add to the power and drama of an exciting and fascinating story you can't put down.

I thoroughly enjoyed "Deceived" which I highly recommend to those that like an inspirational novel loaded with mystery and romance.

Rissi says

Typical to what we've come to expect from the talents of Irene Hannon, her final novel in her latest (aka my favorite!) series is no let down. Yet, somehow it's creatively new and different. It tells the story of grieving mother, Kate Marshal whose husband died three years ago and though she is operating under the assumption her four-year-old son died in the same boating accident as her husband, Keith's body was never found. When a chance encounter in a busy shopping mall leads her to believe that her son is still alive, Kate employs the help of Phoenix, INC. detective Connor Sullivan in the hopes that she will finally have the answers that have plagued her for years. What neither one of them expected was the web of secrets they'd uncover.

This trilogy has actually been one of my favorites from Irene or really, in this genre period. It's been somehow, indescribably different which is what let it have a voice all its own. One of the funniest bits was the banter between the three partners – Dev, Cal and Connor, even though they all met their better halves much the same way, it doesn't take away the fun of the mystery. Getting back on task with the specifics of Deceived, what I appreciated most was that it wasn't the same kind of edge-of-your-seat suspense as the norm. Hannon managed to find "new" devices to ensure the pages keep turning as opposed to putting someone in danger for a fourth of the book or kidnapping the heroine – a plot "twist" books have relied on one too many time. Instead, wonderfully the danger that does ramp up in the climax doesn't overstay its welcome and does just what it set out to – demands that we keep reading in the late night hours!

Some readers may not enjoy this story as well because it's more information gathering and conversations

than any kind of car-chase-happy action flick you could conjure up, I loved that missing element. One of my biggest pet peeves in suspense novels is the lack of “real” (or appropriate passage of time) one-on-one time with the leading couple who are poised to fall in love. By eliminating that high-action mentality, Irene allowed the reader to revel and enjoy the burgeoning romance between Connor and Kate – there is more depth to the emotional stability of their relationship and realistic believability because of that – plus the ending is darling. Following in the good character traits is the interesting “villain” character; he’s more conflicted than most and isn’t the stereotypical evil person we’ve come to expect. Yet another way Irene Hannon’s books are anything but ordinary.

If you like suspense novels and if you’ve been reading this series, you’ll enjoy reading Irene Hannon’s latest; the final book ends very well and does justice to the series.

Sincere thanks to the publisher for providing a complimentary copy of this book for reviewing purposes.

Lisa Johnson says

Title: Deceived (A Private Justice Novel #3)

Author: Irene Hannon

Pages: 416

Year: 2014

Publisher: Revell

Amazon: <http://www.amazon.com/Deceived-Privat...>

Deceived is a tale that focuses on Conner who is a partner in a PI firm in St Louis along with his college buddies Dev and Cal. The other two novels of the series, Vanished & Trapped, introduced us to the three men who run the Phoenix firm along with their cases and romances. I couldn’t wait to delve into the book, knowing how well the author pens a gripping suspense-filled story. Each book is unique and allows readers to follow the main characters through life-changing events.

Conner has sworn off having any type of relationship and is brought face-to-face with a beautiful woman named Kate, who brings with her a very weird tale. She has been widowed for three years and rebuilt her life, believing she lost her husband and son. Now, on a last minute shopping trip, she is brought up short when a young boy looks remarkably just like her son, though she knows that isn’t possible, is it?

Kate and Conner work very hard to keep their time together professional though it is extremely difficult when the electricity between them is so captivating. The more the firm works to dig up the truth the more the danger element is elevated for anyone attempting to learn the truth about the man named Sanders along with his “adopted” son Todd.

Don’t be too surprised if hours pass by and all sense of time is lost as readers immerse themselves in the pages of this great book! The action and adventure never seemed to really let up. The plot has some twists and turns to keep the attention of any audience. The romance that begins to blossom fairly rapidly is fun to read about, especially because of the attention the case needs, but the hearts of Kate and Conner make that a true chore.

Read the whole series as each story is engrossing and entertaining!

My rating is 5 stars.

Disclosure of Material Connection: I received one or more of the products or services mentioned above for free in the hope that I would mention it on my blog. Regardless, I only recommend products or services I use personally and believe will be good for my readers. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission’s 16 CFR, Part 255. “Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising.”

Other reviews can be read at <http://seekingwithallyourheart.blogspot.com/2014/09/deceived-by-irene-hannon.html> . Also follow me on Twitter @lcjohnson1988, FaceBook at <https://www.facebook.com/lisa.johnson...>

Melanie says

Review on Amazon: <http://www.amazon.com/review/R3DNJ78C...>

Review on my blog: <http://christianbookshelfreviews.blog...>

I've read and really enjoyed all of Irene Hannon's romantic suspense novels, so I was eager to finish up her latest series, Private Justice, with this final book. I loved it. The characters were wonderful -- I loved how they conversed with each other -- and my favorite character was probably Nikki (she made me laugh a lot!).

The suspense aspect was good. For the majority of Deceived the villain didn't seem that bad to me, but later on we started to see his darker side...still, he wasn't the worst villain in my opinion, even if the things he did were terrible. The story had a different feel from other suspense books, probably because of that, which I actually liked for a change.

Overall, a really good read and conclusion to this series. I look forward to reading Irene's next novel and recommend Deceived and the previous two books, if you like inspirational romantic suspense novels.

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Carole Jarvis says

Reviewed at The Power of Words blog: <http://tinyurl.com/k8n4m49>

Deceived by Irene Hannon has it all - the romance and breath-taking suspense one would expect, but also the kind of rich characterization that is not always found in suspense novels. It's obvious that Deceived is well researched, and Irene also pens a narrative filled with dialogue that swiftly moves the plot along, with exactly the right balance between suspense and romance.

I'm not a big fan of suspense . . . so why do I enjoy Irene's writing so much? In Deceived, the level of suspense is high, but not so much that I'm terrified to read. Painstaking, methodical investigation is highlighted here, which is something I really like. Connor and Kate were able to spend a lot of time together, and it was so enjoyable to watch their feelings for each other develop. Also, while suspense is very much present, the story feels character-driven - and to me, that's what sets Irene's novels apart.

Connor and the male leads from the previous two books, Dev and Cal, formed a private investigation company called the Phoenix Group, using their previous experience to help see that justice is served. All

three make great heroes - not perfect by any means, but strong, dependable, committed to helping, and they know how to laugh. Connor is especially likeable and easy to relate to. I couldn't help but be drawn to Kate - strong, having faced unimaginable losses in her life, and all the stronger for it.

One spiritual theme that stood out to me was the idea of coincidence - or divine appointments, as I often call them. Referring to coincidences, Connor tells Kate, "I like that old saying about them being small miracles in which God chooses to remain anonymous." That's pretty much how I feel, for I suspect that what we are quick to term coincidence is actually something that has God's hand in it.

Irene Hannon has become a "must read" author for me. Although Deceived is book #3 in the Private Justice series, it works well as a standalone story. Highly recommended.

Thank you to Revell for providing a copy of this book in exchange for my honest review.

sue says

Its been three years since Kate lost her husband and young son to a boat accident.

Her grief is immense as you can imagine.

But what if, you were out, and you seen your son? Would think it was wishful thinking? Grief?
Would you follow through on what you saw?

Kate believes that was her son she saw, shes convinced of it, so much so she hires a private investigator.

But who and why wants her son hidden?

This is the bulk of this story line which keeps your glues, its a plot that thickens and thickens and you just have to dive right in the middle of it all.

I am so glad I got this from Net Galley for the publishers of Revell, brilliant mystery

Donna (More Than a Review) says

Deceived grabs your attention from the first scenes and doesn't let go. The author does an amazing job of weaving small details together. Three years ago Kate lost her husband and son in a boating accident. Kate sees a boy that looks like it could be her son; his body was never found. The police and mall security think she is just wishful thinking and do not take her seriously. She then reaches out to a PI; enters Phoenix and Connor. Connor is a retired Secret Service agent and is skeptical about her story but willing to do some research.

Secondary characters add dimensions to the story that make it even more special. Pauline is a great friend and a wise woman to give her advice. You always need someone to talk you off the ledge? Nikki is a continuing character from the series and is just hilarious. I was impressed how the author handled Kate's reactions to the development of the case. I found the development of the case also fascinating as to how they track down the identity of the boy on the escalator. The author made both Kate and Connor human by

revealing problems from their past and how they overcame them. Love the commradery between the guys in the Phoenix office.

I was thrilled when they mention Nick and the raggedy ann doll from the St Louis FBI office; if you have read the other series.

Deceived is part of the series but can be read alone. I recommend reading them all and reading then in order to follow the character development of some of the secondary characters from the PI firm

You can see my full review at More Than a Review dot com where I rate the level of sex, violence, language and drug/alcohol use in books.
