



# Caught by Surprise

*Jen Turano*

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## **Caught by Surprise** Jen Turano

Miss Temperance Flowerdew is on her way to work when a stranger suddenly grabs her off the street and sends her on a Chicago-bound train before she can figure out what happened.

When Mr. Gilbert Cavendish is called upon to rescue a missing woman, he follows the trail to Chicago only to discover that the woman is his good friend Temperance. Before they can discover who was behind the abduction, they're seen alone together by a New York society matron, putting their reputations at risk.

Gilbert is willing to propose marriage--except Temperance will have none of it. She's finally stepped out of the shadow of her relations and won't give up her independence. But when it becomes clear the misunderstanding in Chicago has escalated into a threat on her life and followed her to New York, accepting Gilbert's help in solving the mystery may lead to more than she ever could have dreamed.

## **Caught by Surprise Details**

Date : Published July 31st 2018 by Bethany House Publishers (first published July 2018)

ISBN :

Author : Jen Turano

Format : Kindle Edition 368 pages

Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Romance, Christian, Christian Fiction, Christian Historical Fiction, Fiction, Adult, Humor, Comedy, Thriller, Mystery Thriller

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# From Reader Review Caught by Surprise for online ebook

## Beth Erin says

Full review on [FaithfullyBookish.com](http://FaithfullyBookish.com)

Caught by Surprise is a wildly appealing story of love and laughter for ladies everywhere. The longtime friendship between our hero and heroine is a solid foundation for robust banter and exasperated declarations.

Jen Turano's delightful characters, humorous shenanigans, and sweet subtle romance entertain and inspire with sincerity and faith. I highly recommend this story for everyone from teens to the young at heart.

I received a complimentary copy of this book from the publisher and was under no obligation to post a review. The opinions expressed are my own.

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## Rachael says

Thoroughly wonderful, fun, and laugh out loud enjoyable read. I think this might be my favorite by this author, though the pig Matilda still gives it a run for its money( quite literally, actually). :)

The main characters and secondary characters are just so fun. Due to the crazy life I lead, I so enjoyed this series. We are all a little ridiculous at times, and I, at least, love having fun. This author's books are so unique in their humor, fun in their plots, and characters that sometimes closely resemble people I know...namely myself!

You just must give this author a chance...if you live to laugh, have fun, smile, and enjoy even the difficulties of life, then you MUST read this book and series-Apart From the Crowd. Do not miss out on her other series as well.

I received this book from the publisher. All opinions are my own.

I have no idea what God was thinking with this one, Gilbert....I simply accept the results, and what we're witnessing now, my dear friend, are wonderful results.

Reverend Perry believes God gives us these difficult times to allow us an opportunity to grow. You've certainly grown, risen above the neglect, and seized life in a new and exciting way...

In all honesty I'm beginning to believe that my time spent as a poor relation to Wayne and Fanny was God's way of allowing me to see that none of us are superior to one another.

"You're very annoying." Were the most eloquent words she seemed capable of getting out of her mouth.

...that love had begun to change. It had begun to turn into something...more. That thought caught her completely by surprise...

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## Lynda Edwards says

Jen Turano is a talented author that I have greatly enjoyed in the past. Despite missing two earlier books in this series, I still eagerly began turning the pages of this novel as soon as it was in my hands. Within the first ten pages, I was already laughing out loud, firmly hooked and immersed in Temperance's delightful escapades.

Part of the charm of Turano's work is her quirky and often stubborn heroines. Temperance is no different. She has many talents and a fun-loving nature, but calling her strong-willed would be a definite understatement. Both funny and annoying, that trait gets her into trouble as often as it helps her out of it--through perseverance.

The Gilded Age setting is entertaining and the details that sprinkle the story help to make it unique. Opulent locations of the wealthy are described so well that I can see them in my mind even though the world the characters inhabit is so different from my own. The rules guiding proper society remind me of Regency strictures, which can create some messy tangles. Combined with Turano's humor, the situations become comic, often physically so.

Somehow, in the process of telling a thoroughly entertaining and humorous tale, Turano manages to gently pull at threads of profound significance. Considering how our pasts shape who we become, for example, and how we can then use that to form a wonderful future, even one we may never before have considered. She had me both laughing and crying over the course of the novel, and threw in a few surprising twists that I did not see coming.

Every time I read a new book by Jen Turano, I declare it to be my new favorite. But this one—this one is different. Perhaps it's the sweet romance of childhood friends who discover each other again, or the innocent yet not naïve Temperance, but this story has captured my heart. It's going to be hard to write a better novel than this, but if anyone can, Turano's the one to do it. Fans will not be disappointed, and new readers have a treat ahead of them.

I received a review copy of this book from the author and publisher but was not required to write a positive review. The thoughts expressed are both honest and my own.

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## Lindsey (Books for Christian Girls) says

About this book:

*“After years of hiding her true nature, Miss Temperance Flowerdew is finally enjoying freedom outside of the shadow of her relations, so the last thing she expected on her way to work was to be grabbed off the street by a stranger and put on a train bound for Chicago.*

*When Mr. Gilbert Cavendish is called upon to rescue a missing woman, he follows the trail to Chicago only to discover that the woman is his good friend, Temperance. Before they can discover who was behind her abduction, they're spotted alone together by a New York society matron, putting their reputations at risk. Even though Gilbert is willing to propose marriage, Temperance is determined not to lose her newfound*

*independence. But when the misunderstanding in Chicago escalates into a threat on her life, accepting Gilbert's help in solving the mystery may lead to more than she ever could have dreamed."*

Series: Book #3 in the “*Apart From the Crowd*” series. Review of Book #1 [Here](#) and Book #2 [Here](#)!

Spiritual Content- Church going; Talks about God, prayers, & sermons; ‘H’s are capital when referring to God; Mentions of prayers & praying; Mentions of churches, church going, sermons, hymns, & ministers; Mentions of witnessing, missionaries, & martyrs; A few mentions of thanking God; A few mentions of blessings; A couple mentions of faiths.

Negative Content- Minor cussing including: an ‘oh my gosh’ and four ‘idiot’s; A few mentions of curses (said, not written); Eye rolling & sarcasm; Being kidnapped, threatened, & passing out (up to semi-detailed); Being shot at, shooting back, & gunshots/gunfire (up to semi-detailed); Knives & throwing them (up to semi-detailed); Pain & blood/bleeding (up to semi-detailed); Watching someone nearly commit suicide (he is stopped, barely-above-not-detailed); Social drinking; Many mentions of murders, murderers, attempted murders, killing, & hiring assassins; Many mentions of attackers, ambushed, being shot, being shot at, shooting back, gunshots/gunfire, blood/bleeding, injuries/bruises, passing out, knives and throwing them (up to semi-detailed); Mentions of the possibility of being killed; Mentions of a missing person who is assumed dead; Mentions of a dead body that was stolen; Mentions of the kidnapping/abductions & kidnappers (up to semi-detailed); Mentions of criminals, thieves, stealing, burglars, crimes, & illegal actions; Mentions of being swindled & debts; Mentions of jails, arrests, & threats; Mentions of being drugged with a sleeping potion; Mentions of alcohol & drinking; Mentions of lies & lying; Mentions of gossip, rumors, & eavesdropping; Mentions of throwing up; A few mentions of nightmares; A few mentions of screams; A couple mentions of divorce; A couple mentions of jealousy; A mention of finding yourself dead in bed; A mention of hunting.

Sexual Content- Finger/Hand kisses, three barely-above-not-detailed kisses, and a semi-detailed kiss; Wanting to kiss & Staring (up to semi-detailed); Touches & Nearness (barely-above-not-detailed); Quite a bit of Noticing & Smelling (barely-above-not-detailed); Mentions of & talks about kisses, kissing, & wanting to kiss; Mentions of hand, cheek, & forehead kisses; Mentions of chaperones, reputations, compromising situations, & scandals; A few mentions of a maid becoming pregnant by her employer & the illegitimate daughter; A few mentions of thinking a man is alone with a mistress; A few mentions of flirting; A couple mentions of a man hiding more than one wife; A couple mentions of a married couple not being alone together in a close nature for over a year; Love, falling in love, & the emotions;

\*Note: A few mentions of a man's hairy body (not attractive); A few mentions of unmentionables; A mention of a woman's "impressive childbearing hips".

-Temperance Flowerdew, age 24

-Gilbert Cavendish, age 27

P.O.V. switches between them {Epilogue in Mrs. Davenport's}

Set in 1883 (Epilogue in 1884)

359 pages

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### Pre Teens- One Star

New Teens- Two Stars

Early High School Teens- Three Stars

Older High School Teens- Four Stars

My personal Rating- Four Stars

The last book in the "*Apart from the Crowd*" series, this was so bittersweet! I feel like I always say that when finishing a good trilogy, but it's definitely true!

While there felt to be a lot of characters to have to keep up with in "*Caught by Surprise*", I did better than expected and enjoyed the book. I liked Temperance & Gilbert, but I still think Harrison took the icing on the cake with his scenes. I would say that the last book was definitely my favorite in the trilogy and it was overall a great read! Sad to say goodbye to this group of fictional friends, but excited to read the author's next series next year! :)

Link to review:

<https://booksforchristiangirls.blogspot...>

\*BFCG may (Read the review to see) recommend this book by this author. It does not mean I recommend all the books by this author.

\*I received this book for free from the Publisher (Bethany House) for this honest review.

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## **Melissa says**

What an absolutely delightful book! Filled from cover to cover with humor, adventure, mystery, and romance. I loved Temperance, I think she was my favorite of the wallflowers, although I loved the others when I was reading their stories. The conclusion was a bit far-fetched, but that really didn't matter. I just enjoyed the entire ride.

Honestly, I'm not a big historical romance fan, it takes a stellar book to catch my fancy and this one did the trick. Overall a fun read--I definitely recommend reading the series in order so you understand the cast of characters and how they fit into the overall tale.

I voluntarily reviewed a complimentary copy of this book from Bethany House and Netgalley. All opinions are my own.

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## **Alysha (For The Love of Christian Fiction) says**

Today we're saying farewell to a series that will always hold a special place in my heart!

We met the wallflowers back in 2017, though it seems like we've known them forever. They had this way of worming into your heart, and never letting go. I was so invested in these characters and now it's come to close. I don't know how to feel, or what to say for that matter.

Let me explain why I loved this series so much!

This series reminded me that EVERYONE has a special someone out there. Someone who will look at us, see our flaws and even our terrible fashion choices and say "I choose you." From the meek quiet mouse to

the loud outspoken warrior princess, God created a perfect someone for each one of us.

Jen did this all with endless amounts of humor mixed in!

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Let's talk about Temperance's story in particular now.

We meet Temperance in the novella "At Your Request" for like the hottest of hot seconds. And boy what a timid little mouse we had on our hands.

She slowly started coming out of her shell in "Out of the Ordinary", and by the time her story was written she was a whole new girl.

And oh how I loved the change!!

I don't know if it's just me, but I love when a character has the backbone to stand up for themselves! I love a good quick witted response...and Temperance has this in spades!

Temperance had a bit of a rough hand dealt to her.

Her parents died...her fortune was gone...her extended family didn't want her. Just some rough things going down.

THEEEEEENNNNNNN she runs into her old childhood BFF, and thus one of my favorite troupes was used.

I LOVED Gilbert and Temperance's relationship! It was kind of awkward, but also kind of weirdly comforting because it was so real to me. To see that transition of childhood friends into soul mates was SO CUTE!!

I also loved how different they were! Like opposite sides of the spectrum here, but they balanced each other out PERFECTLY!!

AND I LOVED IT!!

Honestly this book was a roller coaster ride, for my emotions and my brain. I held on tight through the twists and turns and I all I can say is..."CAN WE RIDE IT AGAIN?!"

I rated this book a 4.5/5 stars. I don't know how to feel about this series ending (totally teared up when I read the epilogue), but I do know I ADORED every minute of this journey. I loved getting to know every wallflower and their perfect guys!

\*I received this book from the author in exchange for my honest review\*\*I was not required to give a positive rating\*All opinion are my own\*

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## **Winnie says**

If you want to read a book that will make you giggle, laugh, chuckle, and snort, then grab this one. I know I'm in for a good time when I read one of Jen Turano's stories, but I was "caught by surprise" by how much I loved Temperance Flowerdew and all her cohorts. Temperance tickled my funny bone with her sassy, dry wit and her endearing mannerisms, while Gilbert stole my heart with his lists and his loyalty and devotion to Temperance. Fellow "wallflowers", Gertrude Cadwalader and Permilia Griswold, make appearances in this

book and add to the fun. I just love the names the author dreams up for her characters. They are so delightful and fit the personalities of the characters so well. Their attempts to navigate New York society in the Gilded Age kept me laughing through the entire book. A brilliantly funny story peopled with amusing, entertaining characters I won't soon forget, *Caught by Surprise* is headed straight for my "keeper shelf!"

This is the third and last book in the *Apart From the Crowd* series and can be read as a stand alone book, but why would you want to do that? Read all three of them to get the full impact of these three charming ladies and their friends.

I voluntarily reviewed a complimentary copy from the publisher. All opinions are my own.

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### **Tia says**

I'm hesitant about ever giving 5 stars, but this book kept me guessing and smiling. The intrigue, mystery and endearing moments are deserving. *Caught by Surprise* just might be my favorite of the three. There's so much going on in this one and so many of the characters are fantastic. I love books about camaraderie, childhood friendships and community. I liked how the two sisters and Mrs. Devenport looked after the girls and the trusty Mr. (the butler). I especially enjoy how faith and things working out in God's time comes into the story. This is a book I'd happily recommend and read again. It's truly a great feel good page turner with intrigue.

I was given an eArc of this book for review via Netgalley and the publisher.

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### **Paula says**

I loved, loved this book. I am recuperating from surgery and staying with a friend. Every time I laughed out loud, which I did often. my friend would ask what I was reading. Miss Temperance Flowerdew is on her way to work when a stranger suddenly grabs her off the street and sends her on a Chicago-bound train before she can figure out what happened. When Mr. Gilbert Cavendish follows the trail to Chicago he discovers that the woman is his good friend Temperance and soon they're seen alone together by a New York society matron, putting their reputations at risk. Gilbert is willing to propose marriage--except Temperance will have none of it. And thus begins the delightful story.

Temperance is a delightful character who does exactly what you do not expect. She is often impulsive and quirky and doing the unexpected. But those who know her love her. Gilbert makes list, charts and graphs before every decision. I have tried all through the book to grasp a picture of him, especially carrying a gun. I guess I didn't realize that was required in New York during Victorian times. Can two entirely different types of people ever come together? And what would it take to make it happen? You'll have to read Ms. Turano's book to find out if it can happen.

I have read many of Ms. Turano's books and enjoyed each and every one but I don't think I have laughed nearly as much as in this one. It is laugh out loud funny in parts but has a captivating story as the captors are revealed and the need for guns becomes apparent.



I received a copy of this book in exchange for my review. I was under no obligation to write a positive one.

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## Adrienne says

After running into her childhood friend Gilbert Cavendish, Temperance Flowerdew has decided to throw off the meek, quiet, wallflower persona she adopted after her parents' death and loss of their fortune forced her into the station of unwanted familial obligation in the household of her relations. She quickly finds it a good thing that she has returned to her spirited self, as she is abducted off the streets on New York, stuffed into a coffin in a Pullman car, and taken to Chicago. While she manages to free herself of her captors, that's only the beginning of her adventures. She soon crosses paths with Gilbert, who was sent to Chicago to rescue the damsel in distress--only to find that the damsel he thought he was finding, Temperance's cousin Clementine--isn't there and that Clementine herself may have had a hand in the abduction gone awry.

When a society matron sees Gilbert and Temperance together, straight-laced, rule-loving Gilbert knows they must do the proper thing and wed--and he finds himself becoming more and more interested in marrying his friend. Free-spirited Temperance, however, rejects him time and again, insisting that the gossip will blow over and that they're not suited for each other.

Back in New York, besides trying to convince Temperance to accept his suit, Gilbert also finds himself trying to protect her and himself as they are embroiled in mystery and mayhem that go far beyond a kidnapping attempt. As Gilbert throws aside some of his lists and rules and stuffiness, and even as he uses them, Temperance comes to see that maybe their differences aren't that great--and maybe those differences actually balance each other out.

Okay, how can you not love a book that has such gems as these:

"I don't think anyone in their right mind would consider what you've gone about as being even remotely close to a marriage proposal."

"You think she'd change her mind about marrying me if I got her a puppy?"

"How did you get that solution out of what I just said?"

"One would have thought you'd become less contrary with age, not more."

"I spent three years not being contrary at all. I'm simply trying to make up for lost time."

"And that right there," Gilbert began, "is why I'm thankful my mother never had any other children, especially daughters. They seem to turn scary as they age."

"I'm going to see to it that you acquire the love of your life, and I'll hear no argument about that from you, if you please."

"You [...] sit around talking about unmentionables?"

He nodded. "We also talk about romantic gestures."

"You've apparently not picked up many pointers about those."

Seriously, there are SO many spots where you'll be laughing so hard (actually, if you're the type to snort with laughter, I would advise reading this book in complete isolation in order to prevent anyone thinking you're crazy). This book was just tons of fun to read. There's never a dull moment; it moves quickly and is highly entertaining. I liked seeing the mystery element unfold nearly as much as I liked the romance (which is saying something because I don't do mysteries). My one quibble is that the characters, while they all have

their distinct quirks and traits, tended to sound alike sometimes. All in all, though, this was so much fun to read, and I'm eagerly looking forward to more of Jen Turano's books.

I recommend reading this series in order so you can get a proper introduction to all the characters. There is a delightful cast of characters, and you don't want to miss out on any of them.

I read an ARC from the publisher via #NetGalley. All opinions are my own.

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### **Melissa says**

This was one of the best and funniest books I have read this year. Caught By Surprise caught me by surprise by making my heart smile. I ADORED the characters of Temperance and Gilbert and I loved their relationship dynamic. Their witty banter was a hoot!! Add in a dose of mystery and this made for a PERFECT book. Caught By Surprise is one of my favorite reads ever!

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### **Andi says**

I have been a huge fan of Jen Turano since I read and reviewed her first book A Change of Fortune. With each book the cast of characters are more delightful, entertaining, and will put you in a fit of stitches.

I don't usually find others predicaments funny, like getting snatched off the street, but since these were characters and not real it was perfectly appropriate to laugh, and I mean laugh out loud. Which I did a lot of.

One of the fun things about series is that we get to catch up with characters from the previous books in the series. And Ms. Turano places them in funny predicaments as well. So, just when you think you're done laughing, believe me you're not!

I loved Temperance because she says and does what she wants, which definitely goes against society's norm. She's sassy and snarky, which is what I love in an heroine.

The sweet friendship between Gilbert and Temperance was real and so endearing. I loved that he just didn't give up on her. He was a true knight in shining armor.

The secondary characters were just as lovable as the main characters. They supported the story perfectly.

My Bottom Line:

I loved every minute of this story, and the characters. The suspenseful parts were like those of a cozy mystery which was delightful. The faith thread dealt with forgiveness of not only self but others. It was woven nicely throughout the book.

I wasn't expecting a mystery at all, and I had no idea what was going to happen next. The crazy situations that all of the characters found themselves in were utterly hilarious.

If you are looking for a "Calgon, take me away moment," look no further. This book is a perfect historical rom-com and I highly recommend it!

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## BlueJeansAndTeacups says

### FANTASTIC – TOO MANY ADJECTIVES TO LIST!

With some despair, I write this is the final book in the series. I believe it is Jen Turano's best book yet! I had so many emotions. I was completely hooked from the page one kidnapping of Miss Temperance Flowerdew (Jen does have a way with names) in 1883 – New York.

She is whisked off to Chicago by two bumbling criminals.

**Ch. 2** They were sitting at a small table covered in fine linen, slurping their way through steaming cups of tea held in delicate china teacups. "Forgive me for disrupting your tea, but isn't it a little unusual for kidnappers to whisk their captives away in a private Pullman car?"

Temperance has a propensity for pastries, a determined nature and favors music and art. But, having fallen from the high rungs of society into the lowly wallflower set, she had resigned herself to keep her head down and accept her lot. But that changes when, at age 25, her cousins are no longer forced to care for her and have tossed her out.

Through a series of events, she is reacquainted with her childhood friend, Gilbert Cavendish. He is quite sensible, enjoys order, making lists and following the rules. Having grown up with Temperance he understands her outlandish ways and together they take on danger, engagement balls, dastardly deeds, and memorial services for the dearly departed.

*Now, at this point in my review, I'm starting to worry. I have said plenty, but the book is so dang good! Grab a cup of tea and please stay with me (smile).*

The supporting cast is superb as always! Mr. Barclay is a treasure of a dear older gentleman. He has served under two very special spinsters who have money to spare. I adore him! **Ch.8** "Mr. Barclay inclined his head. I'm sure you know I always close my eyes and descend into prayer when you insist on taking the reins, Miss Henrietta."

He is also feisty and will defend those he cares about both on principal and physically if necessary.

**Ch. 8** Gilbert, being a gentleman who noticed whenever something was amiss, rose to his feet, made short shrift of pouring out the tea, then handed the cups all around, smiling ever so slightly when he handed a cup to Mr. Barclay and was rewarded for his efforts with a scowl.

**Ch.12** Gilbert found Miss Henrietta marching into the room... "I'm certain you're soon to be upset with me, dear," she began, "but I've been lurking right outside the door, eavesdropping if that was in question..."

Tobias is recently arrived from London and the fiercely protective valet of Gilbert, yet also adds a bit of whimsy.

There is a fantastic Go-As-You-Please Quadrille, a couple of "I did not see that coming" moments one of which caused me to remove my reading glasses and pause for the sobbing I was doing, and the most adorable of romantic gestures which had me laughing out loud.

I can never recommend Jen Turano's books enough. She remains my all-time favorite author and I cannot wait to see what she comes up with next!

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### **SERIES: Apart from the Crowd**

0. At Your Request – Free eNovella Prequel

1. Behind the Scenes April 2017

2. Out of the Ordinary Nov. 2017

### **Susan Snodgrass says**

'You're not going to shoot your relatives. You don't have the stomach for that nasty business.'

I am absolutely a forever fan of Jen Turano's work! When I read her first book, I was just captivated. She has the most wonderful and dry sense of humor, which is evident in abundance in her books. This sense of humor will have you rolling in the floor laughing. I have honestly laughed so much reading one of her books, it scared my dog, who was sitting with me in the chair. He got up and left. Seriously.

In this book, one of her *Apart From The Crowd* series, Miss Temperance Flowerdew, formerly one of the wallflowers, is enjoying some freedom away from her overbearing and decidedly hateful relations. Then one day, while strolling down the street, Temperance is kidnapped and put aboard a Chicago bound train. What in the world?

Mr. Gilbert Cavendish is asked to rescue a missing woman, not Temperance, and he follows the trail to Chicago, only to discover Temperance. They put their heads together and try to discover what is afoot. Then they are spotted by a seriously stoic New York society matron, and their reputations are put at risk. Gilbert immediately proposes marriage and Temperance immediately rejects him. Then threats on their lives begin happening at an alarming rate and the book takes off! Actually, it takes off on the first page, but when you're laughing all the way through a book, you lose count of how much you do laugh.

Jen Turano has a wonderful way of creating characters that just leap into the reader's imagination and plot right down. You just can't stop until you finish the book. These folks are quirky in their own right and have the most interesting conversations. Even all the secondary characters are amazing! I always eagerly anticipate a new Turano novel, and it starts when I close the last page of the book I'm currently reading. It's so hard to wait another year for one of her delightful books. And this one is one in which Jen Turano has absolutely outdone herself! One of her very, if not the, best! Highly recommended. Don't miss this book.

\*My thanks to the publisher for an early copy of this book. My opinion is entirely my own.

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### **Lisa (Bookworm Lisa) says**

\*\*\* 4.5 stars\*\*\*

Jen Turano is a master at creating stories with great plots, humor, eccentric characters, and romance. Oh my goodness, it was hard to put this book down!

From the moment that Temperance Flowerdew is kidnapped and awakens in a coffin, traveling by train, you know that you are in for a unique and amazing read. Temperance has a fantastic outlook on life and gives everyone the benefit of the doubt. She is spontaneous, artistic, and a great friend.

Gilbert, her friend since childhood, is rigid, structured, and also a great friend. The two of them and their escapades kept me laughing. For two opposites, they really compliment each other.

If you love a book with a lot of humor, great message, mystery, romance, and eccentric characters.... pick this book up today! You may want to read the first two books in the series before this one. It shows the evolution of the characters and an amazing set of friends.

Source: I requested a copy from Netgalley. All thoughts and opinions expressed are my own.

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