



Fatal Forgeries

Ritter Ames

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When art recovery expert Laurel Beacham's personal and professional worlds collide, she learns no good theft goes unpunished. Incomplete intel and a missing source compel her to make a huge mistake, and she's left with a divided team. Every retrieved masterpiece has a price—and the cost of forgeries can be deadly. This time Laurel could lose not only her best lead, but also her most trusted ally.

The stakes have never been higher, forcing her and her partner, Jack, to go on the run, crisscrossing Europe to evade the criminals. Except instead of two masterminds working against them, they realize there might be three. With no time to lose, Laurel and her team must pool their resources and work to set aside their differences before they become the next fatalities.

“This third book in the Bodies of Art Mystery series is as engaging and entertaining a worldwide romp as the first two books, and I highly recommend the entire series. Ritter Ames has penned a marvelous story with Laurel Beacham continuing to show her cleverness and intuition portraying a strong character...I was thrilled!” – *King's River Life Magazine* (on *Abstract Aliases*)

Related subjects include: women sleuths, cozy mysteries, amateur sleuth books, murder mysteries, whodunit mysteries (whodunnit), international mysteries, crime capers, book club recommendations.

Books in the Bodies of Art Mystery Series:

COUNTERFEIT CONSPIRACIES (#1)

MARKED MASTERS (#2)

ABSTRACT ALIASES (#3)

FATAL FORGERIES (#4)

Part of the Henery Press Mystery Series Collection, if you like one, you'll probably like them all...

Fatal Forgeries Details

Date : Published June 6th 2017 by Henery Press

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Author : Ritter Ames

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Genre : Mystery, Cozy Mystery

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From Reader Review Fatal Forgeries for online ebook

Breakaway Reviewers says

A fun and exciting action-adventure story but probably should be read as part of a series

Art recovery expert Laurel Beacham spends her time retrieving stolen or missing masterpieces for the Beacham Foundation. After a successful incognito mission to steal back a stolen painting turns out to throw a spanner in the works of her team's greater plans to catch someone selling one of its forgeries, Laurel discovers that there may be a spy in her midst. Unsure of whom she can trust, she sets off with her partner Jack on an adventure across Europe, avoiding danger and kidnapping attempts at every turn. Unfortunately, the people who were interested in the stolen painting are not happy and Laurel must use all her wits to stay alive and to try and uncover who is behind the forgeries and thefts before it's too late.

This was a very well-written book by a clearly talented author. Laurel is a strong and witty heroine and, as the story is written from her POV, the reader gets an insight into her thoughts as she delves into the mystery of the stolen artwork and experiences the many shocks and dangers that her character encounters as a result. The rest of the characters are mostly well-constructed and interesting to read about, and the relationship that Laurel has with them all – particularly her tentatively burgeoning romance with Jack – were well represented through their conversations and her thoughts. The locations of the novel (which range from London to Yorkshire to exotic Barcelona) are also described in a very atmospheric way that makes the reader easily able to imagine the events taking place there. The biggest draw of this story for me was the non-stop action, with twists and turns on almost every page and barely a lull in either the plot or the peril that Laurel seems to find herself in, making for an exhilarating read. Gun fights, kidnapping attempts, spies and hand-to-hand combat – this book has it all, and with a bit of mystery and romance thrown in, it will certainly entertain fans of a multitude of genres.

However, despite being a good read, I felt straight away that this book would have been significantly more enjoyable if I had read the first three instalments in the series. Whilst the author does make great efforts to get the reader up to speed with what went on in the previous books, I still found the many different characters and organisations that were conspiring against each other and betraying each other very difficult to follow. From what I can gather, there are at least two separate 'groups' working against Laurel, with one of their members a double agent for the other – all quite confusing, but intriguing nonetheless! Add in a previous plot about Laurel's supposedly dead father turning out to be alive and a master art criminal and it was easy to get a bit mixed up with what was going on and who was working for whom. In terms of the actual writing, one minor criticism is that I did find the character of Laurel a bit too perfect at times, and the (fairly frequent) sections of her narrative where she described her designer clothes and such made her come across as a bit stuck-up and unlikeable.

Overall, this was a fun adventure novel that was easy to read and well-constructed, but without even looking at the previous books I can confidently say that reading them first would probably have improved my enjoyment of this instalment. It may have even increased my star rating, as my confusion over certain parts of the plot was one of the main let-downs in this book and I would otherwise have rated it higher. I would recommend 'Fatal Forgeries' to anyone who enjoys a good action-packed mystery, providing they are willing to read the three previous 'Bodies of Art' novels or are good at following complicated plots, and may even seek out the earlier episodes myself in order to fully appreciate them.

Daenerys

Breakaway Reviewers received a copy of the book to review.

Kathleen says

“Fatal Forgeries” earns 5/5 Mysterious Family Photos!

Beacham, Laurel Beacham...She continues to fulfill her responsibilities with the Beacham Foundation joined by a small close knit team, and the new ‘base of operations’ (since the last one was compromised) is fitted with high tech gizmos, but a Chinese restaurant on the bottom floor? Protecting art has been paramount, but the mission scope has broadened beyond ‘rescuing’ stolen masterpieces into thwarting the art heists themselves. This larger mission has become problematic since the master criminals have been elusive and deadly. After inadvertently locating a missing Caravaggio masterpiece, Laurel sets to retrieve it, but it sets into motion dangerous consequences: kidnapping attempts, gunfights, and a mugging to name a few, and discovering there may be not one, not two, but three masterminds puts Laurel increasingly on her own and once again in the crosshairs not knowing who can be trusted.

Ritter Ames once again starts us off with a riveting intro...keeping me turning the page and ‘under my breath’ hoping Laurel gets out of this safely. The plot is a continuation of an intricately planned story weaving through the series of now four books. Fans have been treated to an action-packed, twisty-turnsy, world-wide adventure with new and exciting revelations and characters evolving in their skill and interpersonal relationships. “Fatal Forgeries” does not disappoint, in fact, may be the best one yet! There are some respites from the non-stop action, but even an engagement tea with a college chum isn’t without problems. Along with the ‘goods and bads’ of the art world references to actual artists and their work puts Google on ‘speed dial’...Caravaggio, for example, was an interesting side adventure. Newbies need to know going in there will be a few spoilers. Although there are enough explanations to join in with the adventure, I still highly recommend starting at the beginning with “Counterfeit Conspiracies” to get the necessary background, character development, and engaging experience... But anywhere you start this series, Ritter Ames has created a great series. Perfect for your summer reading!

Disclaimer: “I received an ARCopy of this book from the author, however all thoughts and opinions are my own.”

Andrea Stoeckel says

(I received this book via NetGalley and the author and volunteered to read it)

"Excessive self-confidence was always the greatest danger in this kind of game."

In this, Ritter Ames' fourth Bodies of Art book, we find "our intrepid heroine" once again up to her cat suit in trouble as she and Nico are once again hunting down a stolen painting in hopes that the Beachum Foundation can return it to its owner. However, this Caravaggio is hard to prove as other copies- well made forgeries- are also out there. So, the question becomes "which switch is which?"

From scaling Spanish buildings, to running from the bad guys to finding herself in proximity to family "ghosts", Laurel, Cassie, Nico and Jack find themselves in the middle of another well written story that

teases family truths, half-truths and outright falsehoods as expertly as switching paintings and hiding evidence. This book, set in Spain, gives backstory not only of the art, but of the four main characters, divulges tidbits of personal history that makes the reader want to find the next book soon. BRAVO!!

3 no 7 says

“Fatal Forgeries” by Ritter Ames is the fourth in “A Bodies of Art Mystery” series. It is not necessary to have read the other books in this series to enjoy this one. Each character is briefly introduced, and previous books and relationships fold easily into current scenarios to help “new readers” catch up on previous action.

This book is action-packed right from the first paragraph as Laura jumps in; “My uniform was a Lycra cat suite. A black hood covered my blond hair.” The world of art masterpieces, forgeries, and theft continues at that pace interspersed with pauses for the reader to catch a breath while team members struggle in the “war room” with high-tech computer equipment, security cameras, and no chairs. Danger, forged and stolen art, and illegal guns intersect with invitations to a “fabulous engagement tea,” carry-in food, complicated family history, a possible kidnapping, and even a heavy metal band. The geographic locations are almost characters themselves, with richly done areas and lavish estates.

I was given an advanced copy of Fatal Forgeries” by NetGalley in exchange for my candid review, and I loved this book. I have not read others in the series, but once I find a series or author that I like, I read everything from that author and eagerly anticipate the next in the series. This book was no exception.

As Laurel says, “Much like art, the interpretation of acts depends on who is looking at the pictured events,” and all who look at the events in this book will find them full of unforeseen twists and turns that flow effortlessly from one page to the next.

Jeanie Jackson says

The Bodies of Art Mystery series hooked me from the very first book but Fatal Forgeries tops all the others! Moving from fast paced to supersonic, the action only slows down for those wonderful “getting to know you” moments between Laurel and Jack. I loved the fast paced adventure, the complex mystery, the armchair travel, and the intelligent plot as well as those amazing characters. There are so many bits and pieces to pick up that I read the book twice back to back. I caught everything the first time but I didn’t relate some of the clues to the action until Laurel figured put them together. Between characters that I adore and clues that I barely noticed, I found that I enjoyed it just as much the second time around.

I adore Laurel’s team and so much enjoy getting to spend time with them and seeing them interact with each other and with Jack and Laurel. And then, there is that amazing feeling that I am spending time in Europe discovering amazing art and architecture, a whirlwind trip to be sure but still fantastic. Ms. Ames has extended my bucket list with each book.

I believe that it would be possible to enjoy the book greatly without having read the earlier stories because Ritter Ames weaves in previous encounters enough to keep the series novice in the flow; however, I think most readers would enjoy it even more after having read at least the preceding book, *Abstract Alias*. Each story has self-contained elements but they all work towards one major goal.

I requested and received an advance readers' copy of this book of this book. I doubt that I was much help but I was delighted to get an early look at a book from this series that I love so much. I always review books that I love and love it it do, so much that I have also pre-ordered a personal copy!

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Jenna says

Setting: Racing between London, England, and Barcelona, Spain

Characters:

Laurel Beacham - Smart, daring, beautiful art recovery specialist

Jack Hawkes - Dashing, intelligent, agent of The Crown

Nico - Highly skilled tech wizard on Laurel's team

Cassie - Laurel's assistant/right-hand woman

Plot: *Fatal Forgeries* begins with Laurel doing what she does best - a covert operation to recover a stolen piece of art. She has visions of reuniting the true owners with the priceless treasure - just as soon as she and Nico get the piece safely away, that is. Laurel makes it safely back to Beacham Foundation headquarters in London, but it seems that Nico has been sidetracked. The question, given the events that have recently unfolded in previous books of this series, quickly becomes: did he leave willingly or not?

What happened with Nico weighs on Laurel's mind, especially since it seems like the work of art they just recovered might not be the real thing. More questions hang over the heads of Laurel and her team, which makes everything even more complicated. Three separate enemies come to mind - and one of them might just be Laurel's father. With Nico out of the picture, Laurel is left on her own when Jack is called to service and Cassie is needed elsewhere. She relies on her wits and backbone to elude a kidnapper and a mugger, escaping to a quiet country house until reuniting with Jack. As much as they would love to enjoy the peace and down time, Laurel and Jack are on the run. Whether they end up one step ahead or one step behind remains to be seen.

Pacing: Fast and furious!

Predictability: Low

Wild Card: The Bodies of Art mysteries are consistently some of my favorite books. Each installment of the story is full of rich references to works of art and detailed descriptions of sights, sounds, and scenes from locations around the world. As the story unfolds, I'm always pushing around the pieces of the plot puzzle, trying to keep up with the action playing out on the page. Ritter Ames creates complex and challenging characters who carry out her plots and reel readers in. My only complaint is that once I start reading, I don't want to stop! It's hard to set the story aside when it's time to get to work or sleep. This book (and the series as a whole) is exciting, enticing, and engaging - not to be missed.

Lynne Moody says

Wow ! The storyline was so intriguing and full of turns and twists . I really didn't wanted to put it down. The characters were so very colorful and interesting that will pull you into every chapter waiting to see what will happen next.you will not be disappointed. A must read for all mystery readers. I received this book for a honest review.

Dawn Holbrook says

I happened upon the Bodies of Art Mystery Series and was immediately hooked. Fatal Forgeries, the fourth in the series, didn't disappoint.

The book begins with Laurel and Nico liberating a masterpiece that set off a chain of events. There's a kidnapping, trip to Spain, murder, and a shipment of guns involved. Laurel finds out a bit more about the mysterious Jack Hawkes in an unlikely place as well. Moran, Rollie, and the Amazon appear when least expected!

The ending has me dying for the next book! If only, Ms. Ames could write as fast as I could read!

I was given a copy of this book for an honest review.

Joanne says

Fatal Forgeries is the fourth book in Ritter Ames' A Bodies of Art Mystery series and delivers a fast paced, action packed adventure. Ms. Ames brings the reader on a vicarious vacation to London, Yorkshire and Barcelona as Laurel Beachman chases art thefts and continues to search for the truth about her mother's death. As I read this series I have memories of the Remington Steele television series filled with international intrigue and an atypical art history education. This book is well written and can be read as a stand-alone. Yet, I believe readers would find the book more enjoyable if they read the earlier books in the series. Ms. Ames skillfully intertwines enough information specific to the characters and plots portrayed in the earlier books so those new to the Bodies of Art series will not feel lost.

Laurel Beacham is an Art recovery expert who is tasked with retrieving stolen or missing masterpieces for the Beacham Foundation. Incorporate a spy and then whom can Laurel trust? What happened to Nick after the team recovered one stolen painting? Time to include her partner Jack and the suspenseful adventure takes off at a fast-paced clip. Will Laurel and Jack discover who is behind the forgeries and thefts? This book provides more details of the personal history of the four main characters, Laurel, Cassie, Nico and Jack that

leaves the reader wanting the next book soon!! Filled with twists and turns, gun fights, kidnapping attempts, spies and physical combat; this book has mystery, suspense, part thriller, some humor and romance to be appreciated by readers of many genres. I highly recommend the book and series for all mystery readers. You will not be disappointed.

Gale says

What an incredible series and Book 4, Fatal Forgeries, did not disappoint. I've been invested in these stories since the very first book, sometimes even yelling at them while I'm reading. Book 4 can stand alone however the characters and capers cross all the stories. Love reading about 'em!

Laurel Beachem and Jack Hawkes have an off-the-pages relationship that really keeps you guessing. Are they together? Are they just using one another? Aren't they the perfect couple?? Ms. Ames knows how to keep me invested in these two. The author also takes me on a journey around the world where I don't have to pack a bag or leave home. Trust that there are such details in the surroundings that you will feel like you could reach out and touch an object or building. Truly great fun.

The story is really fast-paced and fun, with enough intrigue to make me crazy! Some of the things that happen in the book [no spoilers from me] had me shouting that no! That can't be true! And the "bad guys" keep changing, or do they, and it is a bumpy and winding journey. Laurel and Jack are terrific together, and when they remember that, there is no stopping them. I can only hope that there will be more and more "capers" and adventures with these two, AND their friends and associates! Laurel's assistant, Niko, is a favorite character of mine as well and I'm always ready to see what he comes up with to pull Laurel's....back out of the fire.

Highly recommend Fatal Forgeries and the entire series. You will enjoy this newest adventure as well as the characters and the scenery.

Betty says

This mystery is set mainly in London and Europe and is about art and their forgeries. The descriptions of people and places and art will hold your attention as they put in the scene. Laurel Beachman is employed by a foundation whose mission is to recover stolen art and return it to the rightful owner. First, needs to locate the present location of the art. Next, is have a plan to recover the art.

The tale opens with Laurel and Nick working together to recover a stolen painting. They succeed taking the painting but on the return, things go wrong and Nick disappeared. Laurel finds herself alone in London with no backup. Several attempts are made to kidnap or kill Laurel are made. As the story continues we learn more about Laurel and Jack pasts. Before long Laurel and Jack realize that there are three criminals after the stolen masterpiece and one of them wants to kill Laurel. I highly recommend the book and series.

Disclosure: I received a free copy from Henery Press through NetGalley for an honest review. I would like to thank them for this opportunity to read and review the book. The opinions expressed are my own.

Book Him Danno says

Ritter Ames once again surpasses my expectation with Fatal Forgeries book 4 of the Bodies of Art series. The story starts off with a bang, slows down just enough for afternoon tea than takes off again bring readers into the world of art forgeries leaving reader dying for more.

I have always found that with series they start off with a bang but die down towards book 4 leaving readers disappointed. Not with the Bodies of Art series. The characters, story, art and locations and next adventure only seem to build on top of each other each.

From book one to now book 4 each book bringing a new excitement, a new story and a new love for the characters readers have met and new ones they will meet.

What the author is able to do so well is bring readers up to date without slowing down the story. Readers new to the Bodies of Art series they will not necessarily need to start with book one to understand what is going on completely in book 4.

The bodies series remind me of the style of Ocean movies where the readers are reading one things but what might be happening is completely different and readers will not be disappointed.

Readers will feel they are running a race but with moments of being able to slow down and dig into the characters back stories and why act, why they feel and why each one has a passion for art recovery.

Ritter Ames is able to bring part of the world alive. To the point readers will feel like they are walking the streets of London and so much more.

Ritter is able to take a write a story bringing the characters and locations to life almost with out any effort.

Thank to you to Henry Press and Netgalley for this Advance Copy.

Eleanor Jones says

International hijinks and art heists and suspense! Nothing is what it seems--or is it? Clever, clever plotting and great storytelling in the continuing adventures of Laurel and her crew.

Once again, I find myself saying, "Self, this is the best Jack and Laurel story so far." I can see at this point how the author is tying together loose ends that were set up in the first three books, while at the same time leaving the plot open for another book, which, frankly, I cannot wait to read.

I think to get maximum enjoyment of this series it is best read in order (start with Counterfeit Conspiracies). These stories are fast-paced romps with an intricate, ongoing plot. I love the international intrigue and settings and accidental art education I have discovered in all of them, and one of the things I particularly enjoyed in this new book four is how Laurel's loosely knit team is growing tighter and working together. The continuing development of Cassie and Nico as characters stands out here, and the tenuous relationship between the still-mysterious Jack and Laurel creates some underlying and enjoyable tension. Some really jawdropping storytelling revolving around Laurel adds a new dimension, and lot of new information about who Jack is comes to light. I enjoyed all of that tremendously as well as the sense that the larger plot elements of the ongoing story are really coming together. And did I mention art heists? Kudos all around!

Barbara Tobey says

Exciting, fast-paced adventure. Many twists and turns. I am not especially interested in art, but this series has captured me from the beginning. The romance has been fun. The characters are intriguing. I look forward to reading the next one. The publisher provided a copy via NetGalley for my voluntary review.

DelAnne Frazee says

Title: Fatal Forgeries - Bodies of Art Mystery Book 4

Author: Ritter Ames

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Published: 6-6-2017

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Sub-Genre: Amateur Sleuths; Cozy; Women Sleuths; International Mystery & Crime

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Reviewed For NetGalley and Henery Press

Reviewer: DelAnne

Rating: 4.75 Stars

When art recovery expert Laurel Beacham's personal and professional worlds collide, she learns no good theft goes unpunished. Incomplete intel and a missing source compel her to make a huge mistake, and she's left with a divided team. Every retrieved masterpiece has a price—and the cost of forgeries can be deadly. This time Laurel could lose not only her best lead, but also her most trusted ally.

The stakes have never been higher, forcing her and her partner, Jack, to go on the run, crisscrossing Europe to evade the criminals. Except instead of two masterminds working against them, they realize there might be three. With no time to lose, Laurel and her team must pool their resources and work to set aside their differences before they become the next fatalities.

The series takes you all over in search of the answers needed. With clues and red herrings abound to keep readers glued to the story and guessing till the end. Balanced characters that come across as believable.

My rating of Fatal Forgeries is 4.75 out of 5 stars.

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