



Faux Finished

Peg Marberg

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First in the new Interior Design mystery series-design tips included!

Seville, Indiana, has five traffic lights and one interior design firm-Designer Jeans, cofounded by Jean Hastings and her daughter, Jean Jr. Lately they're finding that the keen eyes needed for plotting color schemes and tracking down flea market treasures also come in handy for interpreting more sinister designs.

Faux Finished Details

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Author : Peg Marberg

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From Reader Review Faux Finished for online ebook

Heather L says

I had trouble getting into this one and keeping characters straight, even with the list of characters at front of the book. The book also needed greater attention to editing. There were a lot of double words such as "it it" or "the the," as well as a few issues with nouns and correct verb tense. The thing that really made me cringe, though, was reference to Agatha Christie's great sleuth "Hercule Perot." CRINGE CRINGE CRINGE!

Marie says

In *Faux Finished*, Jean Hastings is an interior designer and owns Designer Jeans with her daughter, Jean Jr. They have just finished redecorating the dining room at the Sleepy Hollow Country Club and plan to celebrate with a grand reopening. Suddenly, there are two dead bodies and Jean is compelled to investigate.

This book was pretty good. It's a fun cozy mystery with an interesting side story (interior design) and likeable characters. I did have a little trouble keeping some of the characters straight because there was so many of them. Also, a few of them had similar names, which didn't make things easier. Luckily there was a list of "Citizens of Seville, Indiana" at the beginning of the book that helped me keep track. I referred to it often. If it weren't for that, I'm afraid I would have been very lost at times.

The interior design aspect of the book was interesting, but there wasn't enough of it. Jean appeared to spend more time investigating mysteries than doing her full time job. I would have preferred that she do more designing (or talk about designing) while she was solving the mystery. She was a pretty good amateur detective, though, and I enjoyed following her around as she put together the pieces.

I didn't know it as I was reading, but this is the first book in *An Interior Design Mystery* series. It didn't quite feel like one. There was some background information presented, but I believe there were some previous investigations or events that were referenced. I assumed they happened in another book. Imagine my surprise when I learned this was the first in the series. This could have been the author's intention or maybe it was just my impression. It felt a bit odd.

I appreciated the information about the Art Deco style at the end of the book as well as the decorating tips on how to achieve that style. Before reading that section, I wasn't sure what Art Deco was. Now I have a better idea and I'll be sure to keep my eye out for it.

I'd really like to read the second book in the series before I recommend this series to others.

For more information about this book or to browse inside, please visit the Berkley Prime Crime website.

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This review is also available on my blog, Daisy's Book Journal.

VJ says

Yawn.

That's the "short" version. Yawn.

This book was a boring entry into a usually fun genre. I admit, there were pockets of humor, but nothing worth reading the book to laugh at, honestly.

The story jumped around so much, I found myself re-reading passages and pages, wondering if I'd fallen asleep and skipped whole paragraphs. The "villain" was hardly mentioned in the story, so I had no clue it was that person doing the bad stuff. That is as technical as I can get without marking this as a spoiler review.

Needless to say, I was not impressed and won't be back for more Designer Jeans.

Chi Dubinski says

Jean Hastings and her daughter Jean Junior own an interior design firm called Designer Jeans in suburban Seville, Indiana. They've just completed a major design of the country club's dining room. But a local bookseller is found dead, and Jean doesn't believe it was an accidental fall off a ladder. She investigates with her sister-in-law Mary, much to the consternation of her son-in-law Matt, a member of the local police. For those who enjoy American cozies, like Mary Daheim's books.

Dora Okeyo says

I finally finished this book and it's something splendid to read over the weekend as you relax.

Kim says

A few chapters into, I knew I wasn't going any further.

Julie says

This book would have been better with more editing. The story jumped all over and there were many inconsistencies. I was disappointed because it was also clean and could have been an exciting mystery.

Jeannen says

I picked this title up on the recommendation of a web site where owners of bookstores post reviews of mysteries. It got a good review, and consequently I will never trust any recommendation of that particular reviewer. This falls into the “cozy” genre of mysteries; the protagonist is an interior designer in a small southern town, and there is a lot of describing of interiors and the decorating process in the book. In fact, 57 pages into the book, all I’d read was descriptions of interiors and caricatures of people living in the small southern town. The author should be directed to read what Jenny Crusie and Bob Mayer have to say about info-dump. This one ended up going promptly into the used bookstore bag.

Kristal says

Jean Hastings & her daughter own an interior design business, Designer Jeans. When a local bookstore owner falls to his death from a library ladder & then the club manager collapses while giving a toast, Jean decides to do someone is up to no good & sets out to discover the killer herself.

Lisa B says

Jean Hastings fell flat for me. The only real humor to the book were her husband Charlie and her friend Mary. It was so hard keep up with the characters back stories. I was a bit disappointed in the motive.

Truly I picked this up to read on my trip via car from Florida to Texas. I doubt I'll continue the series. It just wasn't a book for me.
