



Facials Can Be Fatal

Nancy J. Cohen

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During the frenzy of the December holidays, the last thing salon owner Marla Vail needs is a dead body slathered in a green facial mask at her new day spa. The victim, Valerie Weston, was a major donor for Friends of Old Florida, a historic building preservation society. Marla's stylists are scheduled to work backstage at their upcoming gala fashion show, but Val's demise might put a crimp in their plans. Hoping to salvage her reputation, Marla determines to track down the suspects. As she learns more about Val, she realizes the benefactress might have stumbled onto secrets others would kill to keep. She'd better prepare for a body count that has nothing to do with hot stone massages and everything to do with murder.

“Take a twisty mystery, and add a cast of amiable characters, a dash of family drama, and a pinch of South Florida during the holiday season—they all add up to the recipe for a delightful cozy!” —Lucy Burdette, bestselling author of the Key West Food Critic Mysteries

Facials Can Be Fatal Details

Date : Published March 10th 2017 by Five Star Publishing

ISBN : 9781432832827

Author : Nancy J. Cohen

Format : Hardcover 286 pages

Genre : Mystery, Cozy Mystery

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Jill James says

Again so many twists and turns. They all come together so smoothly to build the story. Always interesting, never disappointing. I can't believe I caught up with the end of the series already, sad. Can't wait for next case. What will happen, who will it involve.

Wonderful twists and turns. Can't believe how they always connect so smoothly to build the story. End of series already, hurry up next adventure.

Sherry says

Great Mystery!

Nancy Cohen weaves an excellent mystery that kept me engaged from beginning to end! I love the relationship Marla has with new hubby Dalton & stepdaughter Brianna. There were lots of twists & turns to the plot leading to a surprising ending with just a bit of a cliff hanger to keep me eager for the next installment.

Yvonne says

This is the 13th book in Nancy J. Cohen's Bad Hair Day Mystery series. I've read the previous three books and still have to make my way through the backlist, but I do enjoy this series. This one is the best of the ones I've read so far. I've enjoyed them all.

Marla Vail comes to life more and more with each passing book. She's now married to her detective husband, Dalton, and settled into family life with his teenage daughter. Her business is booming, but things take a terrible turn when a customer, Valerie Weston, is murdered while having a facial. Valerie had been a high profile customer, which could spell major trouble for Marla's salon business.

To add to Marla's troubles, her entire family is pressuring her to have a child, including her husband. She's not ready and doesn't think she ever will be. She's satisfied being a step-mother and wants to concentrate on her career. For now, that means finding out who killed Weston before Marla's business suffers for the murder.

Marla and Dalton make a wonderful sleuthing team. They, as well as the secondary characters, are realistic, well-written and well-developed. Marla is someone readers can connect with. She'd make a great friend. She's an everyday person who finds herself in not everyday situations.

The storyline is fast-paced and keeps readers guessing to the end. There were several different twists and turns this story could have taken. I was surprised at the outcome. I'm looking forward to reading more of Marla's adventures.

FTC Disclosure: I voluntarily reviewed an Advance Reader Copy of this book. I was not required to write a positive review. All opinions expressed are my own.

Johnna says

**I received a copy of this book from the author in exchange for an honest review.

Marla Vail, of the Bad Hair Day Mystery series, is one tough cookie. The adventures which surround Marla are fun and exciting. This title has to do with a run-in with an historic preservation group known as the Friends of Old Florida. There are old journals, pirates and shipwrecks as well as the Asian mob in this title. The story is very well written and the stories within the story are very well woven. Author Nancy Cohen is always an enjoyable read!!

Laura Reading says

Plan to spend all weekend at the day spa! With all the twists and turns between these covers you will need to plan a relaxation day to recover. The book starts with a scream and the action never slows.

Still in their honeymoon phase, Marla and her hunky detective husband are about to celebrate their first anniversary, along with combined Christmas and Hanukkah. Add in numerous special events and holiday parties as well as meddling in-laws and a teenager learning to drive.

And you thought your holidays were stressful??

We are treated to the inner workings of the beauty industry and more facts about hair than I ever thought I'd need to know. All of the experiences and facts were fascinating.

For a while I suspected a few of the long term friend/employees of the salon. This story is indeed a treasure hunt. I know it will be difficult to wait for the next adventure as I am sure Marla has not given up her snooping.

Doward Wilson says

Meet Marla Shore, owner of the Cut 'N Dye hair salon in Palm Haven, Florida. Marla is a savvy business woman who has worked hard to achieve her current success. When a death occurs next door in her newly opened day spa and turns out to be murder, Marla works with her husband of almost one year, Detective Dalton Vail, to find out who did it and why! Valerie Weston was a huge supporter of Friends of Old Florida, a nonprofit historic preservation group. Marla and her stylists are doing the hair of the fashion models working the group's biggest fund raiser of the year, a fund raiser entirely underwritten by Valerie. As Marla and Dalton quietly investigate the members and officers of the group, several suspects come to light. There is the greedy land developer whom Valerie has been butting heads with, the fashion designer whose husband may have ties to the Asian Mob, the local funeral director who is involved in the human hair trade, one of the officers in the preservation group or is it someone else who has ties to her past. When Marla receives a journal written by Valerie's father, she discovers that he was involved in a decades old treasure discovery and murder. Was this another piece of the puzzle? This is another entertaining adventure in this series and it delivers everything I love in a great cozy mystery! Well drawn and developed characters. An entertaining theme that highlights the inner workings at a beauty salon and the wonderful background scenery of

Southern Florida. This is a series that stays fresh and provides a well done murder plot with each new book in the series. I highly recommend every book in this long running series for any cozy fan who wants an adventure and a glimpse of what goes on behind the shampoo sink in their favorite salon!

Joyce says

Newly wed, first holidays as a joint interfaith unit, Marla Vail has a lot on her plate as is. Throw in the pressure to have children and a murder that puts her business in the middle of a scandal, it would be too much for most to handle. But this tough cookie wades herself through red herrings to uncover a treasure that might just be valuable enough to kill for.

LORI CASWELL says

Dollycas's Thoughts

The Friends of Old Florida, a historic building preservation society, have a huge gala planned including a fashion show. Marla Vail was so excited because her shop has been contracted to do the hair styling for the models. It would be great promotion for the Cut 'N Dye. But her planned may be cut.. A major donor for the group actually has died in the Cut 'N Dye while having a facial at the new day spa.

She is also feeling a lot of stress on the home front. She and Dalton have been married less than a year and everyone is asking about a baby/grandchild. Marla is happy with Dalton's teenage daughter and thought everyone understood there was going to be No Baby, but Dalton is even talking about it and her best friend's baby is sooooo cute... but until she gets this murder/s solved she has no time for a baby discussion.

I am so happy that I have caught up on this series. (Hair Brained comes out September 12.) I really do enjoy these characters. They have continued to grow in each story and are genuine. The story takes place during the Christmas and Hanukkah season. I liked how the family worked together to have a combined celebration. Also Dalton's daughter is learning to drive, something every parent looks forward to, ? Both Dalton and Marla may be coloring gray hairs before she gets her license.

The plot is pretty intense as more people get killed and we learn about a man who may be involved with the Asian Mob, another may be selling human hair on the black market, and members of the Friends of Old Florida all seem to be hiding something. Val's murder may even have something to do with a man's disappearance years ago. The suspects are plenty and the motives run the gambit. Cohen pulls us in and doesn't let go. I loved her twists and the way the clues were discovered. I liked that the clues led Marla and Dalton on a day trip to the Florida Keys. A place I would love to visit as well.

With the right amounts of romance and humor Ms. Cohen does this mystery up right. Compelling characters in dicey situations always get my attention. This Bad Hair Day Mystery should not be missed.

All the books in this series stand on their own but for maximum enjoyment check out the earlier books as soon as you can.

Carla Johnson-Hicks says

This is the 13th Bad Hair Day Mystery by Nancy J. Cohen and she still keeps coming up with great ideas for a story. This one drew me in right from the beginning and with all the possible suspects, the twists and turns, I had no idea who was responsible for killing Val Weston in the Spa.

Marla Vail, business owner, has recently opened a day spa attached to her salon. When one of their clients dies from a latex reaction, she is on the hot seat as well as her stylist. Due to the vacation time period the police are short handed so Marla's husband and his partner are on the case. Marla can not sit idly by, it is her reputation and business at stake. As well, the dead client, Val Weston, is the driving force behind the upcoming gala and fashion show where Marla has been hired to do the hair for the models. As Val begins her investigation, people open up to her and approach her with information that even the police do not have. As more victims appear, the case becomes more dangerous for Marla. Dalton urges her to be careful and stop her investigation, but then takes her along while he is questioning people and following new leads. As this case gets more and more complicated you have to wonder if they will ever solve this one. Is it due to greed? Is it to hide family secrets? Does someone just want to keep their reputation intact? Where do the pirates come in? Lots of questions get answered as this story comes to a surprising ending. A fun cozy read with mystery, family drama and some romance. Check this one out. The author generously provided me with a copy of this book which I chose to review.

Missi Stockwell says

Pirates, hidden treasures, secret identities, murder..... Book 13 in Nancy J. Cohen's Bad Hair Day Mystery series has that and a whole lot more !!

As this is the 13th book in the series and the first one that I have read, I was worried that I may have a difficult time following the story.... But I worried for nothing. As soon as I started reading and getting to know Marla I felt like I have known her forever. This is the first cozy mystery that I've read where the main character is married to the sexy detective on the case and I love that !! Now I realize that the series didn't start off that way and Cohen orchestrated that through her story telling and I love the path that she takes the reader on. I only wish I had time to go back and read the first 12 books.

Marla, who owns a hair salon and day spa, has a customer die while receiving a facial. The customer, they learn has a allergy to latex and therefore was murdered !! Marla wants to solve the case and insure that the salon doesn't lose business over this. Unfortunately when more deaths occur, the suspect list grows and grows. There are too many possibilities and leads to follow. And as the holidays are fast approaching Marla is determined to have the case solved so they can all enjoy the holidays and start the new year off murder/crime free !! Is Marla hoping for too much ?

If you've read any or all of the previous books in this series, you know that the Bad Hair Day Mystery series books are captivating and exciting. If you haven't read any, what are you waiting for..... It only took reading one book for me to become a fan. What about you ?

Cheryl says

I didn't enjoy this book as much as others in the series. It started off good with Salon Owner Marla finding a dead body in her spa. The customer had a latex allergy and somehow latex had gotten in the facial mask. Marla is trying to get ready for Christmas, decide if she wants to try out for a new job that involves travel and resist the pressure to have a baby. It went downhill in the last half where there was too many people and different things made it confusing.

Melissa Lenahan says

Another great Bad Hair Day Mystery! I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book. If you haven't read this series I would highly recommend it!

Barbara Tobey says

Marla has her hands full over the holidays. There is more than one dead body and several mysteries to solve. The trip to Key West provided a pleasant diversion. Florida and its unique features add interest. The fashion show was an intriguing backstage treat. An advance reader copy was provided for my voluntary review. I do so enjoy this series.

Mason Canyon says

Author Nancy J. Cohen once again takes readers on a tantalizing ride of mystery, murder, mayhem, and humor in *FACIALS CAN BE FATAL*.

This delightful story centers around a day spa facility, one place you might think of as being stress-free. Through rich details and vivid descriptions readers get the feel of the facility and the protagonist's beauty salon, as well as the South Florida setting.

Cohen's characters are quirky and well-developed, the type of friends you wish lived down the street. The setting quickly draws you in and the twists and turns hold you spellbound until the end. The author blends the murder mystery with family life and drama for a well-balanced story with touches of romance and humor.

New readers to the series aren't left in the dark when reading this 13th installment to the Bad Hair Day Mystery collection. At the same time, Cohen doesn't overdo the background so much returning fans are inundated with repetitive information.

FACIALS CAN BE FATAL is entertaining, intriguing, and captivating. You'll never look at a cream facial mask quite the same ever again.

FTC Full Disclosure – A copy of this book was sent to me by the author. However, receiving the complimentary copy did not influence my review. The thoughts are completely my own and given honestly and freely.

Taryn says

Fatally Fantastic

Death comes knocking at Marla's new spa when a well known socialite dies during a procedure. Accompany Marla as she tries to clear a treasured employees name, while also dealing with work and personal issues. Who could the killer be? A new hire that has quit coming to work, a bitter brother-in-law, or a fellow committee member? Get started so you can find out!!! Nancy has done such a brilliant job in growing Marla's character from book to book. You get such a sense of who she was in the beginning and how she has changed throughout each read. I look forward to what will come next!!!
