



Cold Hit

Linda Fairstein

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A chilling new Alexandra Cooper thriller from the acclaimed Manhattan Assistant D.A. who lives the gritty and glamorous life she writes.

The raves are in for Linda Fairstein's Alexandra Cooper novels. "Riveting authenticity," says *Vanity Fair*. "Grisham-esque," says *Time*. "There is an anger and a passion in Alex Cooper that is clearly not fictional," says *The London Times*.

From its dramatic opening scene when a silk-clad corpse washes up from the turbulent waters at Manhattan's northern tip to its stunning conclusion when Alexandra runs for her life, *Cold Hit* transports the reader behind the scenes with the cops, the criminals, the victims, and the denizens of the art world. Here is the authenticity, the vision, that only Linda Fairstein can provide.

On a steamy August evening, after an exhausting day in the courtroom, Assistant District Attorney Alexandra Cooper joins her longtime pals and partners-in-investigation, NYPD detectives Mike Chapman and Mercer Wallace, at a somber crime scene. In her ten years as a sex crimes prosecutor, Alex has seen many victims, but few more poignant than this one, pulled from the water with her hands and feet obscenely tied to a ladder.

Sleep comes uneasily after such a vision, but the knowledge that monsters walk the city's streets, preying on the innocent, motivates Alex and her colleagues in their sometimes heartbreakin work. Perhaps this time they will be lucky. A "cold hit" could match DNA from the crime scene with a suspect's DNA profile in the police database. Or is this case a more sinister kind of "cold hit"? Who was this latest victim?

From a luxurious Fifth Avenue apartment to famous midtown auction houses to the avant-garde galleries of Chelsea, Alex, Mike, and Mercer hunt for a killer in a very special world where priceless art meets big money in a lethal mix. Whether it's a missing Rembrandt, a Vermeer in need of authentication, or doors paneled with precious amber and missing since the great Nazi art thefts, the stakes are high, the consequences potentially fatal.

Illuminating and inspiring, *Cold Hit* takes us from the paint-chipped offices of cops and D.A.s to the elegant restaurants of Alex's privileged Upper East Side life. The contrast is striking, but it's all part of the extraordinary world that author Linda Fairstein has brought so vividly to life in this magnificent novel of suspense.

Cold Hit Details

Date : Published February 17th 2002 by Scribner (first published January 1st 1999)

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From Reader Review Cold Hit for online ebook

Pamela Brownlee says

Good

Obsidian says

Ehh. This was just okay. I think that trying to tie together a kidnapping/rape to the art world in New York just didn't work though. There were way too many plot holes. It didn't help either that this is the third book in the row when Alex finds herself in danger. She works for the DA. How the hell is anyone targeting her all of the freaking time? It makes zero sense. Very little character development of Alex, Mercer, or Mike. I liked Mike slightly more in this one just because you get to see how much he loves and cares about Mercer. Other than that, this whole book was a bit of a snooze.

"Cold Hit" has Alex and friends going after the murderer of a wealthy woman with a lot of enemies. The "cold hit" portion comes from the DNA results from a rape kit after it is revealed the dead woman was raped before she died. The DNA comes back to someone that leads us back to the New York City art world. Alex starts to worry when it seems like someone is after her, and then someone close to her gets hurt as well.

I do like the insights that Fairstein brings to sexual assault cases. I just don't like Alex. After book #4 which I also finished recently, I decided to hang up this series for good. I won't get into that for this review though. Alex in this book is dithering back and forth because she is seeing someone new (a tv news announcer) after things didn't work out between her and the last guy that was mentioned in book #2. Alex is alone because it's easier it seems, but is resentful of being alone. I don't know. She seems to want Mike and Mercer to always be there by her side, but doesn't seem to make a lot of room for the supposed men in her life.

The bickering between Alex and her supervisor is also getting old. He's technically her boss and she readily implies in this one that he is sleeping with a subordinate while the woman was sitting right there. Who knows if it's true or not, but the whole thing read as very unprofessional. I was embarrassed for her.

Alex and Mike are toxic as hell and I really want them to leave each other alone. Seriously. He talks down to her to her face and when other people are there. It's not cute or romantic.

The book takes place in New York. Fairstein adds in a lot of history in this one about Hell's Kitchen that didn't really fit in my mind while reading. The events in this one also take place a year after the events in book #2 since there is mention of Alex's age, and she was just having a birthday in the last book that put her at 34.

The ending was a joke and a half. At this point, Alex should have bodyguards with her at all times. She's always being abducted and threatened.

John Toffee says

Firstly let me say I really like Linda Fairstein's books and the Alexandra Cooper series but that doesn't mean I don't have some real issues with the series. I'll start with:-

Firstly and easily the biggest is that Alex Cooper is an Assistant District Attorney NOT AA POLICE OFFICER! But the NYPD don't appear to be able to go out hunting, for clues, interviewing witnesses, solving crime, discuss strategy, hold team meetings, chase suspects around New York without Alexandra Cooper being with them/involved. They can't do a thing without her. TOTALLY UNBELIEVABLE. I know Ms Cooper is a younger version of Ms Fairstein in her day-today career and perhaps she writes in this way to make herself look more exciting/invaluable/needed.

Secondly Alex has two sidekicks, the detectives she plays Batman, Robin and Batgirl with, Mercer is a bit in the background but seems decent but it's the other half of the double act and almost as big a part of books as Coop, Mike Chapman. He doesn't have one redeeming quality and is totally unlikeable and makes you want to stop reading. He's arrogant, rude and worst of all thinks he's funny; a couple of times there's a line that'll make you smile but the rest of the time the quotes are cringe worthy.

And thirdly, and linked to the third, is the fact that in all of the Alexandra Cooper novels I've read she is captured by the killer who comes after her, as she's the one solving the crime, and it's touch and go whether she's the final victim.

Anyway to Cold Hit. A female body is washed up on the river bank and investigation discovers that she is Denise Lowell, the young(ish) wise, of mega rich Lowell Caxton. Both are involved in the art world and this plus further murders all leads to art, stolen works and even the Nazi treasures from WW2.

It's a woven story that keeps you interested and is a real page turner, even allowing for the gripes listed at the top.

If you can put up with the issues raised it's an exciting book and a good story that keeps you guessing. Give it a go!

Pamela McLaren says

The body is dragged out of the river tied to a ladder and without a name. But soon the police get an ID and Alexandra Cooper is soon on the hunt for whomever killed the beautiful art gallery owner and art collector.

Balancing a new love life and a busy docket of cases, Alex - joined by police detectives Mike Chapman and Mercer Wallace - struggle to find clues to who may have wanted the woman dead: her estranged husband, her business partner, her lovers or is there someone else? And why - was she dealing in stolen artwork?

Fairstein has developed a wonderful set of characters and this is a true action-packed book that keeps you reading all the way through. But like some of these books, I wonder if an assistant district attorney would really find herself in the midst of car chases and shoot outs?

Anne (Booklady) Molinarolo says

3.5 Stars

I didn't quite love my fourth foray into the Alexandra Cooper Series, but I did enjoy Cold Hit. This time I have to admit that a lot was going on in the novel. Open rape cases, a current case being prosecuted by Alex, and a new murder of a wealthy Gallery owner and Art collector. She has been bludgeoned to death. Her body tied to a ladder and found in the water off Manhattan. Evidence collected gets a hit - a cold hit - in the new

DNA database. But the hit is of an unknown perp.

Alex, Mercer Wallace, and Mike Chapman are thrust into the Art World. And that world is not as beautiful as its paintings and sculptures. Denise's very wealthy (and connected) husband has motive to kill her, so do her two lovers, as does her ne'er do well Gallery partner. Another death is suspicious. And there are indications that the elderly renowned art restorer was murdered. Could the deaths be connected? And could they lead back to stolen Nazi Art or back to a great art theft that left those in that world gum-soaked ten years ago? And some people want Alex and Mercer dead. Are the threats to them related to this new major case or to one or more of the cases The Sex Crime Division is currently working on? One thing is for sure is that one of three friends and working partners will be sitting on the sidelines for a while after this case is resolved.

Fairstein is a great story teller. Her prose is easy to read. She has a knack to build suspense one chapter after another. She still uses the final Jeopardy question as a comic relief - and I love that signature trait of her novels. And she knows how to skillfully twist the plot in directions that surprised me. Yet, as I stated earlier, *Cold Hit* has just a tad too much going on in it, but don't let that stop you from reading it. It is quite enjoyable from start to finish.

Janice says

For me, this was the best so far in this series. This one takes Alex into the world of art, of which she is quite knowledgeable. However, she had no idea that there is such a dark side in art dealing and the drive to possess prized pieces. The descriptions of New York City are very good as well, and the focus is on a long abandoned train track.

Alex is The Romance Fox says

Linda Fairstein's 3rd novel in the Alexandra Cooper mystery series, "Cold Hit," a woman's body is washed ashore, whose identity reveals that she's the wife of a wealthy art collector. Alex Cooper, Mike Chapman & Mercer Wallace are thrown into the world of art, art dealers and art galleries as they follow a trail of the most dislikeable art world characters ever, who have links to the dead woman, in tracking in killer before he strikes again.

Set in the gritty and dangerous streets of NYC

we are given an insight into the dark and greedy art world, filled with rapacious collectors, fraud, theft and art forgery.

Twists and turns, lies and danger that almost kill Mercer as he and Alex are faced with dangerous killers who will stop at nothing to stop secrets being revealed.

I enjoy the relationship between the three and I am not sure where Alex's affair with a famous newscaster will lead because I think underneath there's a lot going on between her and Mike Chapman. Oooh I did love the Martha's Vineyard part.....I can just imagine her house on the beach

An absorbing plot which starts a bit slow but soon draws you in with the interesting characters and the procedures that leave you guessing until the very end.

Miriam says

When a murder victim is found tied to a ladder on the shores of Manhattan, Cooper, Chapman, and Wallace investigate her murder. It takes them to art galleries on Manhattan's East Side, in Chelsea and the Meatpacking district long before the High Line park replaced the abandoned tracks. Learn about the High Line, the warehouses, and contemporary art.

A merry chase through this now expensive neighborhood will remind readers that NYC is constantly remaking itself into a place to discover.

Chris says

This was my first book from Linda Fairstein and I enjoyed the pace and twists and turns in this murder mystery. DA Cooper and her two detectives, Chapman and Mercer, are on the hunt for murderer who is killing people in the glitz fine art world. As the district attorney questions suspects, she learns about a possible "shady" involvement into some expense art works that might even connect to the lost treasure of the Amber Room. It was a well written novel and I enjoyed the bantering back and forth between the detectives and the DA and the chemistry between them. The only thing that was missing for me was the spark that makes this story different from all the other mystery novels that readers have to choose from.

Bev Taylor says

a woman is pulled from the river tied to a step ladder, beaten to death. she appears affluent but just how well she is connected surprises alex

together with mike and mercer they r thrust into the world of art where forgeries, thefts, shady dealings r all the norm. here they hunt for a killer in a world where priceless art meets big money in a lethal mix

once again superbly plotted and the author also adds in asides of other cases alex is asked or advice on or is working on personally. the characterisation of the three is spot on so u fell as if u know them personally and the use of prose, repartee and dialogue cannot be surpassed

enjoy

bev

p.s. the title is explained in the novel

Astrid Johnson says

I really love the Alexandra Cooper series of books. I have been listening to the audiobooks in my car. I have to say that I simply could not get past Alison Janney's reading of this book. The reading pace was off. She seemed to be rushing to get through it and not let the listener enjoy the story. I will have to see if the future readings are by someone else more suited to my taste. Otherwise, this was a good book, albeit a short one.

Steven Z. says

In her third installment of her Alex Cooper mysteries Linda Fairstein continues to take the reader through the inner workings of the Manhattan District Attorney's office. We witness the jealousies and cooperation in the office which lends itself as to how crimes are solved. In COLD HIT the reader is exposed to the seamy and corrupt aspects of professional art dealers. Through auctions, art restoration, theft, personal relationships and how the art world conducts itself as it creates its own rules in order to take possession of major works of art the reader is drawn in. In this case a series of murders results along with personal rivalries, hit men, rape investigations and the inner workings of Cooper's team made up of detectives Mike Chapman and Mercer Wallace. Fairstein lets the reader travel to the landscapes of Italy, her own favorite, Martha's Vineyard, and areas of Manhattan than I, as a native New Yorker did not know existed. The plot twists and turns and the reader is in for a fun ride. In the journey interspersed are "final jeopardy" questions as Cooper and Chapman their "intellectual" competition. If you enjoyed Fairstein's first two Cooper mysteries, this one will not disappoint.

Patricia says

I really shouldn't say I've read this, because I couldn't struggle through it long enough to finish it. The author's annoying habit of adding extraneous detail detracts so much from the story that it's impossible to focus on the story. I honestly don't care how many floors the character has to walk up to her office, what she's wearing, when her building was constructed, how many banks of elevators there are, or any unnecessary details about the history of the New York City judicial system!! Just tell the story, for crying out loud!!

Logan says

First impressions: I adore this series, so I settled right in to the narrative. The book opens with a crime scene, which always makes for interesting reading.

Lasting impressions: This was definitely not one of the most memorable crime novels I've read. The book was incredibly slow through the middle, and the ending seemed anti-climactic, despite a lot of action.

Conflicting impressions: The plot revolves around the art world, which seemed to be a really exciting premise, but somehow it didn't quite create a compelling enough story. I found the discovery phase of the investigation quite boring.

Overall impressions: Alexandra Cooper is a great character. She's a wealthy New Yorker, heads the sex crimes division of the District Attorney's office in Manhattan, and relaxes with ballet on the weekends. Her cop friends that help her investigate the crimes are playful, yet tough, and they have a good working relationship accompanied with some old-fashioned ribbing.

Though the book unfurls at a snail's pace, the glimpse into the cut-throat nature of the art bidding process and how rich people build up their collections is quite interesting. I'm not convinced that it was tied in well enough to the actual crimes, however. When the big reveal came at the end, the motivation just didn't quite gel enough to the severity of the crime.

Still, this was a satisfying way to quench my mystery thirst. I enjoy the characters enough to let a little plot fizzle slide, and I'll pick up another Cooper mystery when I get the chance.

Kasa Cotugno says

Read this due to piece by Leslie Stahl on the author, and was intrigued by her history and her use of NYC landmarks in her series. I like this well enough to continue the series more for the visits to familiar locations (Chelsea, the High Line, the Empire Diner) than plot. Also liked the audio by Allison Janney.
