



## Designed For You

*Jo Grafford*

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## Designed For You Jo Grafford

Jillian Lang's interior design company soars to a new level of success after hiring the world's sexiest, most gorgeous office manager. Holland Sparks makes everything spike — her sales, her heartbeat, her temperature...

When a pesky stalker suddenly moves his game from the cyber world to the real world, Holland becomes the one person she trusts implicitly. An anchor in the midst of her chaos. A man whose ruthless business instincts turn to devastating tenderness after hours.

Until his own secrets start to unfold, leaving Jillian to wonder if her beautiful business partner is actually the one spinning the deadly web that's fast closing around her.

## HERE'S WHAT THE 5-STAR REVIEWS ARE SAYING:

- "Heart-pounding suspense mixed with fun, quirky characters, lit by steamy scenes, and riddled with so many twists that you'll be guessing until the last page."
- "One heck of a roller coaster ride"
- "Gutsy heroine, alpha men, heart-pumping drama"
- "Highly entertaining. Not a dull moment. Didn't want to put this book down."
- "5+++ stars!"

## Designed For You Details

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Author : Jo Grafford

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Genre :

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# From Reader Review Designed For You for online ebook

## Linda Walters says

The first chapter clearly shows that a stalker is harassing Jillian through texts. It starts out with Jillian dealing with trying to keep her business alive and a stalker out. When Holland shows up, things get interesting, she feels he just might be overqualified for the job but she sure does need his help in her business. Besides, like wow, she's knows he's quite an attractive man, someone whose appeal she is fighting. Holland really did help her a lot in her business and quickly came to know more about her and just what she needed, most of the time. Don't get too comfortable though, it doesn't take long for the action to ratchet up and continue throughout. Early on I thought I knew who the stalker was. I wasn't even close! And the surprises just kept coming!! I liked both of the M.C.'s and the friends, family and co-workers who surrounded them. This story had HEA and no cliffhangers but I did have question or two that was left unanswered. No real biggie for me though. And I've decided not to post it here because I'm not about to ruin it by giving away too much of the story for others who haven't read it yet.

I gave it 4.5 STARS on Amazon.

I received a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

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## Denise Van plew says

This is my first time in reading this author when I noticed her when looking for some suspense. It also looks as if it is the first time for her in modern day so a treat all the way round. When Jillian is looking for a hand with her company it would seem she made a good choice with Holland. She also seems to have a stalker that has moved in or on her via a source that is harder to pursue. There are also secrets all around so this author really knows how to ensnare us the reader with it also being a sneaky tactic on how she does it to us. After she has done that then things really heat up with it becoming at times white knuckle holding with tension from the drama. She also does this with characters that you forget they are just that characters they have that ability to carry you along. I actually think it was designed to ensnare us into this drama to entertain and keep us. I was very happy with how she wraps this up hoping she will continue on with this type of writing.

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## Becky says

Gifted read by Netgalley for an honest review.

3.5 stars. Romance, mystery, suspense, hot take charge men. Twists and turns you don't see coming. Some suspended belief is needed in many areas of this book.

I was not fully invested in the main characters, for me they just didn't connect. Secondary characters were good, but again with the story I just never felt truly invested in the characters. This wasn't a book I couldn't wait to get back to or went to bed thinking about.

I felt a little cheated at who XX was since the story never allowed you the reader a chance to figure out who he was because he was never introduced as anyone but XX.

In a mystery/romance/suspense, I like to try and figure out who the big baddy is. This book took that option off the table for you the reader.

Not a bad read just kinda ho hum. No cliffhanger, HEA, with epilogue.

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## **Mindy Lou's Book Review says**

Loved it! I loved the main characters, the side characters, and I really hope a book is being done on Cam. I almost liked him more than the main H. Heck, I even want a book on Javonne even though I didn't like him at first but I am sucker for the emotionally stunted men. The book was maturely written and was highly entertaining with a lot more action in the book than what I was expecting. There wasn't a dull moment and I didn't want to put the book down!

ARC received via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

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## **Deb Diem says**

Wow! If you're looking for a book with lots of action and suspense, *Designed For You* by Jo Grafford is one you'll want in your lineup. Jillian and Holland's story is a fast paced story with awesome characters. The characters were my favorite thing in the book, sassy, lovable with a side of humor best describes them. This book is well written and a treat to read. I enjoyed *Designed For You* from cover to cover and look forward to reading more from Jo Grafford in the future. *Designed For You* is book 1 of the *For You Series* and can be read as a standalone. This is a complete book, not a cliff-hanger.

I received a copy of this book for review purposes.

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## **Eileen Dandashi says**

Jillian Lang has trouble trusting men—once she's lied to, it's hard to regain trust. She's fallen into that trap before. Once a fool, not twice. Holland Sparks is one big lie. How can she EVER trust the man? How can she afford NOT to?

Jo Grafford is a marvel! Whether writing historical romance or contemporary suspense her scenes are dynamic, intensely suspenseful and emotional. The protagonists are well drawn and demand your attention!

I've read the *Lost Colony Series* by this author. It is a series exceptionally well written. That's when I fell in love with this author. Her story settings are unique with vibrant characters.

In *Designed For You*, Jillian Lang is a top-notch designer. Talented, gorgeous and way too much work to accomplish in her start-up business. In walks her savior, Holland Sparks.

Excerpt:

"You're, ah...applying to be my office manager?" Her voice rose to a higher pitch than she intended. She cleared her throat. He hadn't simply lost his way to the modeling agency down the street?

"Yes." He offered a smile that crinkled the corners of his eyes. It made her think of frivolous things like

bathing in sunshine and dancing in the rain—sensations her dazed mind was beginning to vaguely identify as his unique brand of magnetism. Administrative duties aside, Holy Batman! With a hunk of burning man-candy like him running her office, women would form a line to sign up for remodeling projects whether they needed them or not.

“So it’s an interview you want.” She wanted to laugh. The idea of hiring him was ludicrous. No, it was insane. She’d be better off mentoring and training a fresh college graduate as opposed to bringing a man on board who looked like some celebrity’s personal trainer. Or an underwear model, for that matter.

Well, you can see why Jullian didn’t turn him down. Holland had all the ability she needed for an office manager. He said all the right things at the job interview, his references checked out, and dog-gone it. She was attracted to what she saw.

Holland did want the job with Jullian, but not for the reasons one would suspect – he needed to get to the bottom of a money laundering scheme, and the FBI engaged his services to see how she was involved. He had her business running smoothly, but there are problems in Jullian’s life and Holland feels his to protect her. Whew! He certainly is up to the job.

Designed for You is the first book of a series promising to be another gripping read. From the first sentence, the writer engages my attention.

"I know who you are. –XX"

These words pop up as text on Jullian’s phone. Videos are sent to her of her in private moments. She begins feeling vulnerable, when even her privacy is invaded. She is being stalked and hasn’t a clue who it is. The author sure knows how to build fear in the reader. The tension is palpable with the story’s twists and turns and grows into full-fledged terror. Great stuff!

Do you like your romance with a gutsy heroine? Alpha men who want to do the right thing? Heart-pumping drama? Jo Grafford will entertain you with this and so much more.

I highly recommend the author. If you haven’t read her, you should. This series promises to be exciting!

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**Pat Harrell says**

**WOW**

This is my first book by this author and I loved it. Great storytelling. Action packed from the beginning until the end. I will be reading more from this author.

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**Karen Fontaine says**

Designed for you by Jo Gafford

Jillian Lang an up and coming interior designer in St. Louis. Holland Sparks does contract work for the FBI and Jillian is currently being watched for money laundering. He applies for a job she has posted looking for an office manager. She knows that he doesn't really need her job, but he convinces her that he had grown bored of his job. He soon determines that she is not part of the money laundering racket.....but she still has ties that make the feds question what she is doing.

Holland also finds out she is being stalked by someone, so he helps her move and tries to keep her safe, all while trying to find out what she has to do with the Mafia ...

Nice romantic suspense. Lots of surprises through out the story. The characters were great...looking forward to stories about the other people in the book..

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## **Courtney says**

*Designed for You* by Jo Grafford is a romantic mystery. Jillian Lang is an up and coming interior designer in St. Louis. At the tender age of twenty-five, Jillian is no stranger to struggle. After tragically losing her parents and divorcing her horrible husband, it takes all Jillian has left inside her to keep her design business afloat. Enter: Holland Sparks. Holland is the knight in shining business-suit who comes to her rescue. After responding to an ad that Jillian placed in the paper, Holland is quickly hired on as Office Manager of Lang Interiors. Jillian ignores the fact that Holland is incredibly over-qualified for this position and welcomes his help in her life with open arms. Holland is determined that she not find out the truth about him until the time is right. With the future of Lang Interiors, and Jillian's trust, hanging in the balance, Holland must tread carefully in an increasingly volatile situation.

I love a good romance just as much as the next girl, but there was something about the relationship between Jillian and Holland that wasn't completely believable. It seemed unrealistic that their relationship progressed the way that it did. Overall, reading about their interaction was enjoyable and they both have fun, smart-mouthed, likeable personalities. However, when it came to their romance, I found myself wanting a little bit more depth and authenticity from them.

Luckily, the mystery part of the novel made up for what was lacking in the romance. The secret stalker that escalates as the story progresses is a lot of fun to read and I was pleasantly surprised by the twists and turns that the plot delivered with regards to the FBI's case on Jillian as well as her super creepy stalker situation. The pieces to the puzzle were dropped in perfect succession until the picture was complete at the end.

All-in-all, this was an entertaining read. It would be a great book to sit pool-side with and gossip about with your girlfriends. While I did enjoy all of the characters, I wasn't in love with the love story. The mystery, however, was on-point and attention-grabbing. Would I recommend *Designed for You* to a friend? Sure. Would I read another novel by Jo Grafford? Absolutely.

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## **Annette says**

\*This book was gifted for a fair and honest review\*

When I first started reading I felt this book was going to be dull to read because I felt like the author had pulled out her thesaurus to make the words bigger and harder than they needed to be. (Just like the episode of

Friends where Joey writes a letter for Monica and Chandler for the adoption agency). Think goodness it got better and she lost the thesaurus or someone stole it!  
The characters were great! There are several twist, turns and action.

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## **Isis Ray-sisco says**

Designed For You by Jo Grafford is a good romance thriller. There was a lot that I enjoyed about the story. However there were a few issues I had with it as well. I liked the chemistry between Holland and Jillian. It was hot and hard to deny. I liked that he was willing to do anything to protect her from her stalker. I didn't like that there were secrets between them (even though I understand why there were secrets). I didn't like the deception towards the end of the story. It is hard for me to believe that Jillian would just accept it and get over it so quickly. If some of those things hadn't happened I would have given the book a 4 or 5 star review. I would say it is a 3.5. I have not read this author before but I would read another book by her. I think others would really enjoy Designed For You if they enjoy reading romance thrillers.

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## **Janice says**

A Review of Designed For You by Jo Grafford

What an exciting storyline - 5+++ stars

When we first meet Jillian, she is running herself ragged with her business, and after finally deciding to hire someone to help her, interviewing lots of candidates that don't fit the bill. She's also dealing with what she thinks is a cyber prankster, who keeps emailing her and saying he knows who she is.

Then, in walks Holland Sparks, saying he wants the job. She knows that he doesn't really need her job, but he convinces her that he had grown bored of his job and decided to try something new. However, unbeknownst to Jillian, he does contract work for the FBI and she is part of the job he is currently working. He soon determines that she is not part of the money laundering racket they are looking into, she still has ties that make the feds question what she is doing.

During the two month jump from Jillian giving him the job and where the story picks up, Holland has whipped her business into shape and he is trying to help her find a new place to live and her cyber stalker is getting bolder by the day. Jillian soon learns that things and people are not who or what they are supposed to be. What will happen when she finds out Holland has been keeping secrets from her from the beginning. Will he be able to keep her safe?

This is one heck of a roller coaster ride. As soon as you think you know what is going to happen, there are twists and turns that change everything. Great storyline!

**\*\*Complimentary Copy provided by Author for an honest review.\*\***

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## **Amy says**

Designed For You is yet another fabulous read by Jo Grafford. This action packed and thrilling story should not missed. Can't wait to read the next release by this awesome author.  
5 plus stars.

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## **Nadene (Totally Addicted to Reading) says**

I was first introduced to Jo Grafford when I read Trail of Crosses. I enjoyed it, as such when I was asked to read and provide an honest review for Designed for You I did not hesitate to accept. The fact that it fell in the romantic suspense genre sweetened the deal.

My views on this title are mixed. I will try to explain what I mean in the best possible way. I thought the story line was good. Designed for You introduced Jillian Lang and Holland Sparks. Jillian is an interior designer and the owner of Lang Interiors. She has been divorced for two years and is still trying to come to grips with her ex-husband's betrayal. She is looking to hire an office manager to aid with the day to day operations of the business, leaving her time to focus on what she enjoys most, designing.

Holland Sparks chose to answer Jillian's ad for an office manager. Although he appeared to possess all the qualities of her ideal candidate, she could not help but wonder about his reason for applying. Why would some who possessed such excellent qualifications and experience would want to work at a small and unknown business? What she did not know was that Holland's intentions were not as he purported them to be.

### **WHAT I LIKED**

The story started out on a high. I was sucked into it from the first page. I liked the fact that it was discovered that there was someone stalking Jillian prior to Holland entering the movie. This had me wondering if the stalking had any connection to Holland's mission or if it was an isolated situation. I enjoyed the dialogue between Jillian and Holland at their initial meeting and throughout the story. It was funny and entertaining. It was evident from the moment the two met that they had great chemistry.

The suspense was ok. There were events that I never saw coming. I also liked that the stalker's identity was not revealed until near the end of the story.

### **WHAT I DID NOT LIKE**

I had a hard time connecting with the main characters. The secondary characters were fine. I enjoyed reading about them and in fact, I would love to read their stories. The backstories for the main characters were lacking. It would have been good to have information about their past as this would have helped me to have a better understanding of what motivates them, i.e. why they do the things they do? It would have been good if more information was provided about the stalker. I was not impressed with him at all. I wish I was privy to what made him tick.

I thought the romance lacked depth and authenticity. After Jillian and Holland met, the story fast forwarded two months later at which time I saw them acknowledging to themselves how they felt about each other. I wondered to myself at what point did they know how they felt as I was not privy to this information. I am



unable to state explicitly how well they got to know each other. It was implied but there was no evidence to support this implication.

Verdict:

The storyline is what saved this book for me. Although the story was fine, the fact that the characters and the romance were lacking took away some of the enjoyment for me. As a result, I gave this title three stars.

Although this did not go as expected, I would still read more of this author's work.

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## **Rachael Slate says**

You're not going to want to miss this one

This is definitely the kind of read to pick up on a Friday night or Saturday afternoon, and curl up with for several hours, savoring each page. Heart-pounding suspense mixed with fun, quirky characters, lit by steamy scenes, and riddled with so many twists that you'll be guessing until the last page. I adore the smooth, flawless writing in Ms. Grafford's other two series, and this newest one has the same power to draw you in, blow your mind, and spit you back out, with a major book hangover. Well done, now where's the next book?

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