



## Double Deceit

*Stephanie Humphreys*

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## **Double Deceit** Stephanie Humphreys

As a young widow, all Elaina Bryant wants is a fresh start. Determined to put ten painful years behind her, she returns to

her hometown and moves in with her sister, Natalie. Elaina soon accepts a job working at a small bookstore owned by the handsome Ryan Hill and his mother. Despite her reluctance to become romantically involved with anyone, she is drawn to Ryan and finds herself falling in love.

But someone isn't happy with Elaina's new life and is watching her every move. Her tormenter seems determined to destroy her sanity and her future, but Elaina can't convince anyone the threat is real. Natalie is preoccupied with her own blossoming romance, and Ryan and Elaina's friend Peter seem to believe the threat has been manufactured in her own mind; a result of her guilt and grief.

Now Elaina's plans for a new start are crashing down around her. She knows she will have to find the answers on her own before she can ever overcome the past and enjoy love and happiness again. But how can she protect those she loves when she doesn't know whom to trust?

## **Double Deceit Details**

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Author : Stephanie Humphreys

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Genre : Lds, Lds Fiction, Mystery, Romance, Thriller, Mystery Thriller, Fiction, Clean Romance

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## **From Reader Review Double Deceit for online ebook**

**Teri says**

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### Double Deceit by Stephanie Humphries

This is the first book by Stephanie that I've read and this is her second. She has done a great job of writing a very suspenseful novel.

The story starts out with Elaina Bryant, a young 26 year old widow, who has come back, after a ten year absence from her childhood home with her mom and younger sister, to start over after a devastating accident that took the lives of her husband and baby daughter.

When she is offered a job at the local bookstore, she feels good. When she begins to fall in love with her boss, Ryan Hill and his mother Sandra is telling her eerie things concerning her dead daughter, she becomes distrustful of everyone, even her best friend Peter, who has loved her sister Natalie for years, but hasn't spoken of his feelings. When Natalie meets a guy at a Single's Conference, she falls hard for him.

When Elaina begins receiving strange letters from her deceased husband, even dated after his death, she thinks she's losing her sanity, but then she receives crank phone calls, even at the bookstore that no one believes. When she also receives a CD with her daughter's crying, she truly believes she's lost it. When Peter is out on a call the night she brings in a photograph as evidence she's not crazy, she decides to go find the answers herself, which puts herself in grave danger.

If you enjoy suspense with a twist, this book is for you.

I received this ARC from Walnut Springs Press.

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295pp

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### Laura says

This was kind of a creepy book. It's about a girl who runs away from home to get married to her boyfriend and ends up being in a controlling marriage full of verbal/emotional abuse. She finally goes home to mend past relationships but she starts getting weird phone calls and letters. I was definitely on the edge of my seat wondering what was going on and what will happen next. Great book!

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### Susan says

Living again with her sister, Natalie, Elaina Bryant is ready to take a leap of faith and get past the death of her husband and daughter. However, someone's idea of a joke will harass and hinder her efforts, especially beginning a relationship with Ryan Hill. Even her sister's budding romance is disturbing. As hard as it is to accept, the truth will strengthen her will.

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### Sheila says

One of the things I really liked about this book was the constant angst that was there. There is the feeling that something is off, but you and Elaina just can't figure it out. Stephanie wrote this part of the novel so well, that you find you are as uptight as the main character...You will love Double Deceit, if you enjoy reading an angst filled mystery, thrown in with a crazy stalker and topped off with a handsome boss, who is also a good

kisser.

If you would like to read the entire review, please go to my blog...  
<http://whynotbecauseisaids.blogspot....>

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### **Melissa says**

I liked this mystery by Stephanie Humphreys. I'd give it 3 1/2 stars. I thought she did a good job with the twists and turns of the mystery. While I guessed who the tormentor was, I didn't get all the twists until the end.

My only criticism was that it jumped quite a bit in places. For instance, at the end of a chapter the author has the main character and her sister go on a double date. There are no details about this date and the next chapter is the next day with no reference to the night before. There were many circumstances where we are told the character went here and then given no details or no emotional reaction especially when these were instances where the main character was present with the villain or the hero. I get that you can't describe every single movement of the main character, but the switch in time seemed to be too abrupt in places. Overall though, the story kept me flipping the pages.

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### **Leslie Lamb says**

It was kind of scary. Some guy is stalking this woman. It's pretty messed up when he harassed her into hearing the cries of her baby Annie, who is dead. Her ex husband died, so it couldn't be him. Then there is this possessive new boyfriend that her sister has. There is something familiar about him.

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### **Amy says**

I picked this book up on the library "New Arrivals" shelf. It is a good book, not well written about LDS characters. It was pretty predictable although the twist could have some people going. The characters aren't well developed, but the story is good. It's about a woman whose estranged husband dies and she goes back home to live with her sister who she hasn't seen in ten years. She tries to start a new life but begins to be harassed by an unknown person. It's a fast and clean read.

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### **Katie W says**

Double Deceit is a very interesting, suspenseful romance. Elaina's abusive husband and young daughter died in a car accident and now she's going back to her childhood home to live with her younger sister. They haven't been in contact since Elaina eloped in high school. She gets a job and soon falls in love with the boss. But...things aren't all perfect. Elaina keeps receiving mysterious phone calls and letters that seem like pranks, but are almost threatening. Can she find out who is behind this? Or is she really going crazy?

I really liked the twists and turns in this story. I love it when I'm always guessing a mystery. I would have liked to see Sandra (the boyfriend's mother) developed a little more--she was fascinating.

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### **Heather says**

4.5 stars- Blog tour and full post at <http://fireandicephoto.blogspot.com>

This one's a page turner! I picked up Double Deceit on vacation and couldn't put it down until I found out how it all ended. You hear stories all the time about creepy stalker situations, but to become immersed in one as a reader was so fascinating.

Elaina has lost everything she loves in life except one younger sister. As a 19 year old she eloped and left home never to return. Then in a tragic turn of events, she loses her husband and infant daughter in a car accident. Alone and jobless, Elaina decides to return to her hometown to look for a fresh start. Her childhood home should be a welcoming place to heal and become a new person, but soon after her arrival things turn scary. She receives weird letters as well as phone calls warning her she needs to be alone. Elaina has isolated herself in the past and trusted no one. So opening up to her best friend Peter and a new man in town Ryan, to tell them what is unfolding proves difficult. Meanwhile things are heating up fast between her younger sister and her new boyfriend Chad giving Elaina bad flashbacks of her own mistakes.

Can Elaina, her sister and the two men get to the bottom of the mystery behind her strange follower before time runs out and they are all in danger?

I loved that the two main characters of Double Deceit meet and work at a book store.

Main love interest Ryan! He is the perfect gentleman and so supportive despite the fact that Elaina's world is falling apart around her. With mysterious prank calls, hearing voices and disappearing evidence he could have easily chalked her up as crazy.

That Elaina comes into who she is as a person and uses therapy and a journal as well as a support system to help her grieve and change. So often in life and literature counseling is not discussed as an open and valuable tool.

I had a hard time with the last three chapters...talk about intense!

With suspension of disbelief about who her stalker was. I can't give anything away but you'll be kept guessing.

Content: domestic violence, kidnapping, no swearing or sexual content. Recommended for readers 17 and up.

In a sentence: Double Deceit was a well crafted suspenseful romance that will keep you on the edge of your seat and checking your locks.

You might also like: Rebound by Heather Justesen, Meg's Melody by Kaylee Baldwin or Chocolate Roses by Joan Sowards.

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### **Wanda Luce says**

Stephanie has masterfully spun a tale of romance, suspense, and drama. From chapter one, she creates questions in the reader's mind and then slowly reveals the answers to keep one turning the pages and wanting more. The dialogue always rang true, both to each character's personality and to the situation. I found myself immersed in the world of Elaina Bryant. The scenes and the overall plot are unique but entirely believable. This is a wonderful read with lots of angst satisfactorily intermingled with love, loyalty, and warmth. You won't regret choosing to read this book!

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### **Alyssa says**

I received this book for free through Goodreads First Reads.

This was a fun book to read; fast-paced and keeps you guessing. I thought I had it all figured out for a while, but the extra twist at the end really surprised me. I would definitely read more from this author, it was very well written.

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### **Susan says**

When her husband and baby are killed in a car crash, Elaina returns to the home she ran away from at the age of 17, to try to build a new life with her sister. But someone is watching her and she is wondering about her sanity. Can she support her sister when she seems to be making some of the same bad choices? Romance, suspense, etc.

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### **Rachele says**

I thought this book was not only suspenseful but a great depiction of what someone is feeling when they are brave enough to move on with life after living in an abusive relationship and dealing with loss. I really felt for her when she kept feeling like something was wrong and not wanting to trust those around her. The story was smooth and fluid and I felt like each event was relevant to shedding light on who the characters were. Definitely a book I could read again and still enjoy the second time around.

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### **Renae Mackley says**

Looking at the book, I first thought it had a great title and intriguing cover and back blurb. I was wary of the too perfect main character with excessive makeup but quickly warmed to her as I started reading. Elaina, the MC, comes with her own set of insecurities and flaws, including a failed marriage. There were interesting supporting characters with their own stories. I liked how Humphreys simultaneously showed Elania's character growth while trying to fight becoming crazy. Contrasting this was a likeable sister, Natalie,

who became insensitive and self-absorbed due to a new boyfriend's attention. I knew not to like Chad though Elaina struggled to lend sisterly support. That was good tension. Friend Peter made me angry when he showed his spineless side, but there were reasons for it. Nearly-perfect love interest, Ryan, played it right most of the time. Ryan's mother possessed a quirkiness that was refreshing. These characters elicited reader emotions that pulled me into the story.

The plot developed nicely. There were places of tension and rest from it, all building to a suspenseful climax. Non-LDS readers should have no trouble understanding content or enjoying this book. Humphreys' managed to hold my interest and keep me guessing.

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### **Heather says**

This story was okay. The main character in this book seemed a bit wishy-washy at times, and the end seemed abrupt--there were some story pieces that didn't get resolved to my satisfaction. (Grade: "B-".)

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