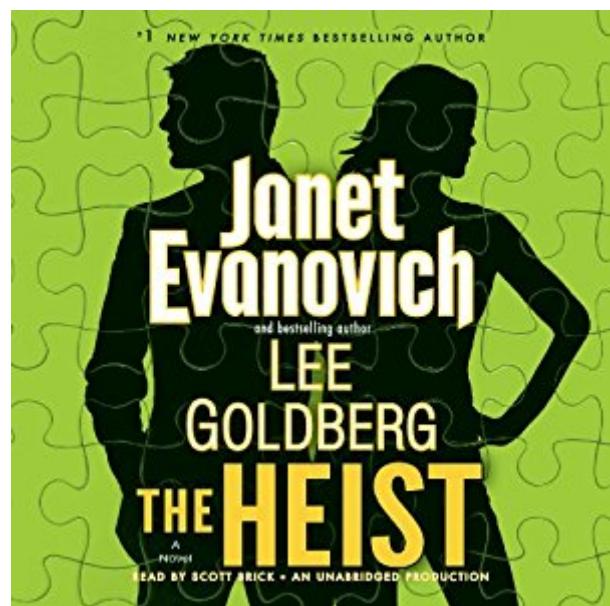


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The Heist: A Novel



Synopsis

From Janet Evanovich, number-one New York Times best-selling author of the Stephanie Plum novels, and Lee Goldberg, best-selling author and television writer for Monk, comes the first adventure in an electrifying new series featuring an FBI agent who always gets her man, and a fearless con artist who lives for the chase. FBI Special Agent Kate O'Hare is known for her fierce dedication and discipline on the job, chasing down the world's most wanted criminals and putting them behind bars. Her boss thinks she is tenacious and ambitious; her friends think she is tough, stubborn, and maybe even a bit obsessed. And while Kate has made quite a name for herself for the past five years the only name she's cared about is Nicolas Fox - an international crook she wants in more ways than one. Audacious, handsome, and dangerously charming, Nicolas Fox is a natural con man, notorious for running elaborate scams on very high-profile people. At first he did it for the money. Now he does it for the thrill. He knows that the FBI has been hot on his trail - particularly Kate O'Hare, who has been watching his every move. For Nick, there's no greater rush than being pursued by a beautiful woman...even one who aims to lock him up. But just when it seems that Nicolas Fox has been captured for good, he pulls off his greatest con of all: He convinces the FBI to offer him a job, working side by side with Special Agent Kate O'Hare. Problem is, teaming up to stop a corrupt investment banker who's hiding on a private island in Indonesia is going to test O'Hare's patience and Fox's skill. Not to mention the skills of their ragtag team made up of flamboyant actors, wanted wheelmen, and Kate's dad. High-speed chases, pirates, and Toblerone bars are all in a day's work...if O'Hare and Fox don't kill each other first.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Why are there so few really funny female detectives? Janet Evanovich seems almost the only one who can master that, be it Stephanie Plum or now Kate O'Hare. One of the few exceptions I have found is Lisa Becker in Heads Off (A Lisa Becker Mystery). The plot has already been described, I don't want to spoil anything for you. Anyway: We have a new dream team here with a female FBI agent and a former con man, both very attractive. Hmm, I wonder where this is leading? I don't know how much of Lee Goldberg is in the novel, but there is clearly an improvement to the last few Plum novels. The writing is light-hearted and charming, albeit without awfully many bright ideas, just what you like to read when the sun is shining. I would really like to see more of this.

I am very surprised at the high stars this book is getting. I am a big fan of the Stephanie books, although the last couple have been a struggle. I thought I would give this a shot because I like Janet Evanovich so much. I barely made it through 50 pages before I had to give up on it. It is a rip off of the show "White Collar" and it's just so incredibly unbelievable that I just couldn't overlook it. I really wanted to like it, was excited that maybe it would be a fun new series. I liked both main characters and enjoyed Kate's father but the parachuting out of the plane bit was just a bit too much for me. I'm all for suspending reality for a bit but I couldn't do it for an entire book. Really disappointed.

This is a classic caper book in the tradition of "Oceans 11," which is a genre I'm fond of. Unfortunately, it's a big letdown. Special agent Kate O'Hara spends her life trying to trap super-thief con artist Nick Fox. After a quick introduction that previews both protagonists' unique talents (she can kill a man 16 different ways with tweezers) -- and also their mutual sexual attraction - the two are thrown together to manufacture an operation that will recover half a billion dollars bilked by a bent banker. The premise is promising but the execution is so, so flat. Big chunks of the book read as if they were lifted from travel guides. So we learn, for example, that the Banoa Bali Regal is a "five-star resort built on the pristine golden sands of the Tanjung Benoa peninsula. Once home to ramshackle fishing villages, the peninsula was now a prime tourist destination with high-end hotels taking advantage of the swaying palms, sugary beaches, bright blue seas and breathtaking vistas." There are, unfortunately, lots of passages like that. The authors build the sexual tension between the two protagonists - and then it deflates like a week-old banana. The climax, if such it could be called, is a very damp squib. I know these writers can do better if they only put their minds

to it. Perhaps the lure of a big check for minimal efforts was too alluring. If this is a book about con artists, readers beware. You are the marks!

I am a huge fan of Janet Evanovich and I am not sure why so many are raving about this book. Frankly, the characters were, for the most part, flat and not well developed. There were males who were part of Kate's team who all sort of blended in together and who became just names to me. In earlier novels, the author does stretch the truth, but, for the most part, the experiences and actions are believable. In this book, there is very little credibility and the experiences of Kate and her team are just too impossible to believe, and this may be due to the story line or how the plot unfolds. One character I did like was Kate's father, who played only a minor role. I wish he could have played a bigger role in the novel. In fact, I agree with one reviewer who stated he could easily be in a series of his own or could better be Kate's partner. Frankly, I think he would be better than Nick was in this book. In later books, he may become like Lulu is to Stephanie Plum, but he just didn't do that here. I see their lack of chemistry and mutual attraction/teasing between Kate and Nick as a serious shortfall in the book. Finally, I wonder whether the author, who has provided her readers so much in the past, has finally reached her apex and is possibly now going beyond her limits.

I am sorry, but I must be reading a different book from the people giving this book a good review. This book is just awful. For the first 10 seconds I thought it might be a good book with a strong female character. Sadly, I was wrong. Kate, who is supposed to be a former Navy Seal and now an FBI agent, acts more like a love struck teenager around Nick (the con-man) instead of a strong female character with a good head on her shoulders. She has no professionalism around him and acts as if she has never been around an attractive male in her entire life. Nick, is too arrogant to be anything but annoying and I really just wanted him to go to jail and stay there. Both characters have cookie cutter personalities and hardly any character development throughout this book. This extends to the rest of the people in the book who were also boring and very one dimensional. Frankly, this will be the only book in this series I am going to read. Unless the characters in this book have some life altering personality shift, I cannot see any reason for me to continue with this series.

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