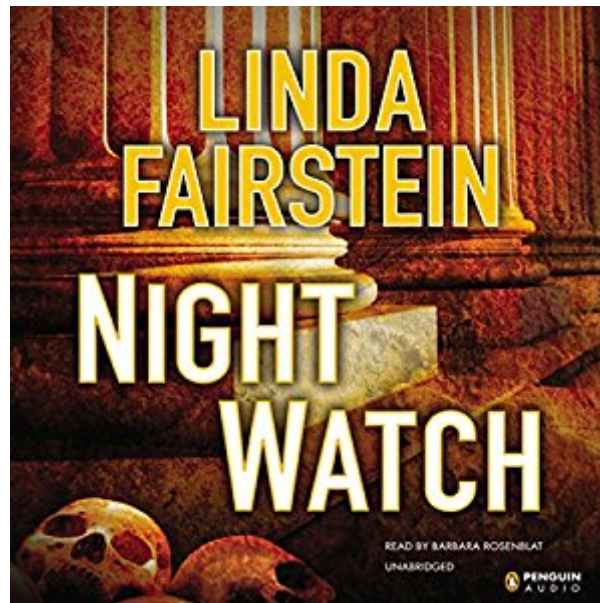




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Night Watch: Alexandra Cooper, Book 14



Synopsis

New York Times best-selling author Linda Fairstein returns with a ripped-from-the-headlines thriller that takes Alexandra Cooper into the dark underside of New York City's most storied restaurants and a murder case spanning continents. In her 13 best sellers, Linda Fairstein has taken millions of fans inside sinister worlds that most of us can't even imagine. Thanks to her extensive experience as a New York City prosecutor, she creates situations that are stunning for both their compulsive readability and their authenticity. Taking Alexandra Cooper into the fascinating world of New York City's most beloved and storied restaurants, *Night Watch* continues her tradition of breathtaking suspense storytelling. Forty-eight hours after Alexandra Cooper arrives in France to visit her boyfriend, the famed restaurateur Luc Rouget, her vacation in paradise is cut short when a young woman from the village is found murdered. The only evidence discovered on the body is one of Luc's matchboxes promoting his new restaurant in New York. But before the investigation begins, Alex is summoned back to New York to handle a high profile case. Mohammed Gil-Darsin, the distinguished and wealthy Head of the World Economic Bureau, has been arrested and accused of attacking a maid in his hotel. As the world watches in fascination to see how the scandal will unfold, Alex finds her attention torn between preparing the alleged victim to testify and a murder case with ties too close to home. A second body is found with Luc's matchbox - this time in Brooklyn - and Alex begins to fear that the two cases may not be as unrelated as she thought, and that uncovering the sordid secrets of the city's most wealthy and powerful could cost her and her loved ones everything they hold dear.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This reader is glad that Alex and Luc have pretty much gone their separate ways. I am ALL ABOUT Alex and Detective Mike Chapman hooking up permanently! Most, if not all of the best marriages begin first with a great friendship. Well, Alex and Mike have been best friends for ten years! Enough already, Ms. Fairstein!

The book has two plots that are very loosely connected to Luc, Alex's current boyfriend. The setting begins in France and then NYC where Alex has to work hard in her job as prosecutor in the rape of a hotel maid by a wealthy Frenchman with an African background. This is based on the real story which gripped the world a year ago and frankly was more exciting. This one ends with a fizzle. Aside from that except for Mercer who is one of the policemen working with Alex, the other characters including Alex are all pretty ugly. The end of the book is good though and is connected to the other plot involving Luc's venture into a great restaurant in NYC. Like other reviewers here, I really hope that our author will drop Luc and move on. Mike also is very unpleasant in this book and Alex doesn't shine either. Big disappointment to read this one. If Luc is in the next episode, I probably won't bother with it.

This is one of my favourite series and I was disappointed. To be honest I found it tedious and Alex seemed to be too easily buffeted by events around her. I love Coop when she is cool calm and collected. Also the endless squabbling with Mike left me cold, usually the dialogue between the 2 characters keeps the books moving along and makes for some large laughs. At times they were like siblings and not work colleagues who have a mutual attraction that may or may not be acted upon. As for Luc what a dreary tedious pretentious overcooked character that boy is. Please Ms Fairstein let's leave him in France with his boys and his south of France lifestyle. Back to the gritty scenes of New York and the genuine interesting cases that occur. I do suspect though that this book was a segue into a new era for Alex, the working relationship she began developing with Pat McKinney was interesting plus the internal dialogue as Coop considers her attraction to Mike. Perhaps Ms Fairstein is reinventing this series and so I will be kind and give 3 stars. For all fans of this series it is a pleasant read and it is worth the money and the time, just not up to the usual terrific standard.

I decided to buy this book based on two data points: first, a brief writeup in the NY Times about the restaurants touched on in the book, and second, I overheard two lawyers who had practiced law

with or against the author discussing her literary career in a locker room. The discussion was not flattering, but it piqued my interest. I have to say, it is a sloppy book. First, without giving away any spoilers, there are chapters of the book that purport to give significant clues but are conceded at the end to have been completely irrelevant to the plot. Second, there are two main plots and neither one has much to do with the other. Third, one of those plots is a barely-edited rewrite of the DSK / hotel maid scandal and I suspect was not even written by the author but by some assistant she hired. The other plot is fairly preposterous. Last, there is a sentence of dialogue in here in which one character literally refers to "the dark underbelly" of the city. I kept waiting to be told it was a dark and stormy night.

This is one of my recent purchases by an author I had never tried before. I am making these purchases because I am trying to find good large print mysteries for a friend of my sister-in-law. The friend has health issues and my sister-in-law asked me to help with finding used books for her to read. The book started out as a solid three star book. The heroine (Alex Cooper) is in the DA's office in NYC. She has a boyfriend who is French (Luc Rouget) and owns and operates a Michelin Guide 3 star restaurant in the countryside near Cannes. The heroine seemed whiny and clingy at first. She also is fairly quick to get angry. But she knows her law, although where her boyfriend is concerned, she does some stupid things in the first half of the book that one would not expect from a top notch prosecutor, when her boyfriend becomes a suspect in a murder in France and another in NYC. She has two long term friends in the NYPD, Mercer Wallace in SVU and Mike Chapman in Homicide. I really liked the characters of both Mercer and Mike. Like the heroine, I was not sure if Luc could be trusted. About halfway through, the book started to move up from a 3 star mystery to a 4 star mystery. There are two plot lines in the book. Both plots became more interesting at the midway point. It started to twist and turn. By the end of the book, I decided I would definitely read another Linda Fairstein and I could confidently pass this book along to my sister-in-law's friend.

I honestly don't think Linda Fairstein wrote this. Alex is NOT true to her character in this latest book in the Alexandra Cooper series. There are two incidents in the book that just fly in the face of how Alex has been portrayed in all the preceding books. 1. There are several characters who, when speaking to Alex, say "young lady". That is extremely disrespectful and condescending. I just don't believe Alex would take that crap from anyone. 2. Alex is standing at the elevator with another attorney, the Lem character I think, and he grabs her by the wrist and won't let her go. She tries to pull away but doesn't put up much of a fuss. Again, I don't see Alex, the head of a special victim

crime unit, putting up with that crap. The Alex I'm used to in this series would have kneed him in the groin or knocked him into the wall. I haven't finished the book yet, but I'm disappointed. I just don't think Fairstein wrote it--perhaps an intern or co-writer.

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