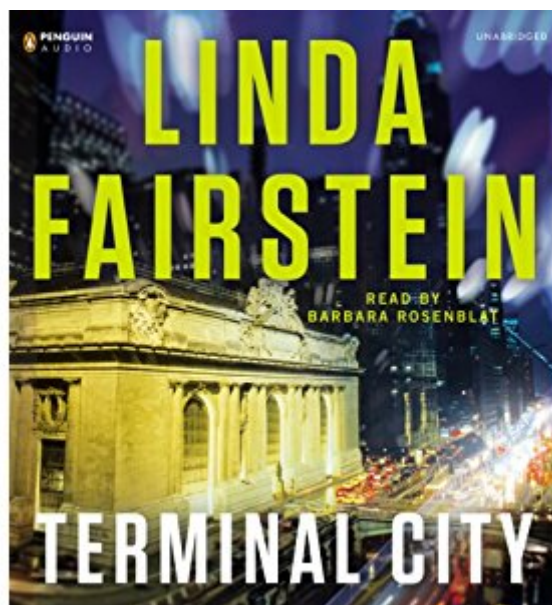


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Terminal City



Synopsis

With her newest Alexandra Cooper novel, *Terminal City*, New York Times best-selling author Linda Fairstein delivers another breakneck thriller that captures the essence of New York City - its glamour, its possibilities, and its endless capacity for darkness. Linda Fairstein is well-known for illuminating the dark histories in many of New York's forgotten corners - and sometimes in the city's most popular landmarks. In *Terminal City*, Fairstein turns her attention to one of New York's most iconic structures - Grand Central Terminal. Grand Central Terminal is the very center of the city. It's also the sixth-most-visited tourist attraction in the world. From the world's largest Tiffany clock decorating the 42nd Street entrance to its use of electric trains since the early 1900s, Grand Central has been a symbol of beauty and innovation in New York City for more than 100 years. But "the world's loveliest station" is hiding more than just an underground train system, and in *Terminal City* Alex Cooper and Mike Chapman must contend with Grand Central's dark secrets as well as their own changing relationship.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I was scared to death where this book might go after *DEATH ANGEL*. But, I fretted over nothing. Linda Fairstein continues writing the Alex/Mike storyline with a deft and restrained hand, just as she has from book one. The bonus, as always, is the NYC history I learn in each of her books, as well as getting to "see" the wonderful old architecture the city has been wise enough to protect and embrace. Already getting impatient for the next in the series

Fairstein's latest thriller is very much the same as her last couple of ones. She entwines her murder mystery with history of a particular slice of NYC. This time it is Grand Central. While it is always fun to learn about the history of these places, the way she incorporates them is becoming increasingly awkward with each book. There were several points where the text sounded more like a lecture or a treatise than a novel, and it distracts from the story. However, that is small beans compared to how badly the character of Alex continues to degrade. When Fairstein started this series, Alex Cooper was strong and smart and a match for any killer. She took matters in to her own hands. In the last several books she has become the person that things are done to. She is always stressed, scared, shaking and swigging so much booze that you wince for her liver. The men in her life lead her around by the nose. Alex is the one being saved. She might come up with some information or get a witness to spill some details, but overall she is largely a victim. That is not the Alex Cooper that we have come to know and love. Another major problem is Fairstein's attempt to put Alex and Mike Chapman together. I've thought the maturation of that relationship was long overdue, but I get the feeling that Fairstein is being pushed into it. The scenes between Alex and Mike are written so poorly that they are painful to read. Mike isn't just fast with a quip these days; he's a total jerk. And Alex is a jerk right back to him. They go from insulting each other to publicly discussing their possible future union. It makes no sense and it is not believable at all. There is another relationship in Alex's life that makes no sense; Battaglia. From the start he has been a real a-hole. He's narcissistic, petty, vain, and power-hungry. He treats Alex, and pretty much everyone else, like crap. Yet in each book, Fairstein makes it a point to have Alex say how much she admires him. Why? He seems to stand for everything that Alexandra Cooper hates. I have never thought her relationship with him made sense and it makes less and less sense as the series goes on. Like some other authors who write long series, Patricia Cornwell comes to mind, Fairstein has started to lose the thread of a much-beloved character. If you go back and read the first five Alex Cooper novels you see a different woman. Fairstein's fascination with history and her own politics are coming to the forefront far too much. (In case you wondered, she obviously hates Mayor Bloomberg with a passion as the mayor of NY in this book is a complete dunce.) If she has run out of stories or is no longer interested in writing about Alex, then it is time to bid the character a fond farewell. She deserves better than to become this mewling, whining victim that Fairstein has given us in the last few books. Let her roar as she once did, or let her go quietly into the night. I will read the next book but if there is no improvement, I will sadly abandon the series.

Once again Ms. Fairstein brings us a brilliant piece of nuanced suspense. Her marvelously developed trio of Mike, Mercer and the indomitable Coop are all here in their full splendor. Exercising their wit, skills and trust in each other and the brave members of our force in Blue. Grand Central Terminal is a wonderful and wondrous part of our city. It is presented here in all its beauty and secrets wrapped in a story of current horror. If you've picked this book up clear your calendar and settle in for another great adventure.

Wow, Alex Cooper used to be this confident, smart, capable heroine, doing the admirable and interesting job of helping victims of sexual abuse. In this book, she somehow turned into this whiny, useless, complainer (oooh, it's so hot, ooh they're rats down here, ooh my shirt is all sweaty and dirty, ooh what should I do... Help me, help me) Yuk!! And I'm supposed to believe that a woman who spends her professional life as an advocate for abused women would be mooning like some little tween over Mike (who somehow turned into a misogynistic jerk - totally unnecessary, why can't a guy be shown as positive?). I have no idea where Alex Cooper went, but don't look for her here.

I am trying to slog through this book to see if anything like suspense happens, so far it is just pages and pages of the history of Grand Central Station. Fairstein likes to incorporate historical facts into her books and usually I don't mind because it's sparsely between real mystery or crime. In this book you get a little action with a whole lot of historical facts. Tough going!

We love staying at the Waldorf and when I heard that the book was set in and around that area I purchased it. I was disappointed. The main character was whiny, and I didn't see her as a member of the team that propelled the solution to its conclusion. She seemed to be more of an add-on to the serious detectives. Her relationship with Michael, the detective from another division assigned to this case, was mentioned and referenced but didn't move beyond flirtatious talk. I learned more about Grand Central Station than I ever would have wanted, but that seemed to pad the story instead of building it up. It was fun to read about an area of New York with which I was familiar, but the story was a letdown.

Well, this was a big disappointment. I have loved Linda Fairstein's books over the years, especially her ability to take her readers on an interactive tour of parts of Manhattan and New York city whilst tying this into the fabric of unusual and bizarre murder mysteries. There have been many an

occasion where I have been taken to parts of this city incorporated within the fabric of her story, but this time, I was left bewildered and disappointed. The story based about the Grand Central Terminal was totally predictable and disappointing. The same moves and counter moves were experienced as a reader, and this left me asking "why"?? Why were there detailed descriptions of certain areas and facets of this building discussed at great length when the "vision" of these failed to materialize for me as a reader. Is it because I am not a New Yorker? Not so, I feel, as with her other novels, I felt a part of the landscape with her other locations. Generally disappointed. But I will keep trying her future novels. Perhaps she has outlived this mode of story telling and needs new characters and new material. We shall see.

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