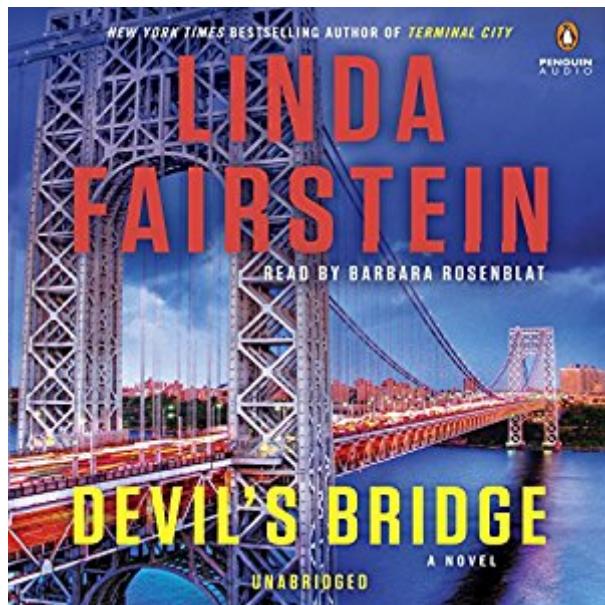


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Devil's Bridge: Alexandra Cooper, Book 17



Synopsis

In her 17th Alexandra Cooper thriller, New York Times best-selling author Linda Fairstein takes listeners where they have never been before: inside the mind of NYPD Detective Mike Chapman. The Manhattan waterfront is one of New York City's most magnificent vistas, boasting both the majestic Statue of Liberty and the George Washington Bridge - the world's busiest span for motor vehicles. But in Devil's Bridge, Detective Mike Chapman will discover the peril that lurks along this seemingly benign expanse as he takes on his most personal case yet: the disappearance of Alex Cooper. Coop's sudden disappearance is fraught with terrifying complications: scores of enemies she has made after a decade of putting criminals behind bars, a recent security breach with dangerous repercussions, and a new intimacy in her relationship with Mike. Now the police commissioner himself is wary of the methods Mike will use to get Coop back...if he even can. Once again Linda Fairstein proves why she is "one of the best crime fiction writers in America today" with her most intense Alexandra Cooper novel yet.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

It's a rare instance when after 16 books in a series, the author takes a risk and delivers the punches. Devil's Bridge may just be the much needed resurrection for the Alex Cooper series. Having been an avid follower of the series over the past couple of years and having seen severe fluctuations in the quality from book to book, I have to say that Devil's Bridge has to be the best in the series. For the first time in a Linda Fairstein book, I have been hooked to the mystery without

turning pages of history. In a lot of the books, including Terminal City, the history portion is more often than not narrated as a conversation between characters. I don't know how many people in real life will stand and keep talking for pages about a place when there is usually some sort of danger lurking around. In Devil's Bridge, the history is fairly compact and weaves very well into the narrative. The story grips you from the very first page, especially when we know that Alex is getting into trouble soon. Incidentally, I felt that the author did a great job of narrating Mike Chapman. Not only did we get to see what lurks beneath the tough exterior, but the desperation and concern that Mike felt with Alex's disappearance was literally jumping out of the pages. This has to be Linda Fairstein's gift to all her fans who have waited a long time for Alex and Mike to get together. Even though the two of them are together in only about 10 pages in the novel, the depth of their relationship really makes itself known through Mike's thoughts and actions. There were a few jarring characterizations - like Vickee Wallace (what is wrong with this lady?) - which struck an odd note.

In this, the 17th entry into the Alexandra Cooper-Mike Chapman-Mercer Wallace series, we find that Mike's and Coop's relationship has progressed to a physical and a much deeper emotional connection since the last book. Alexandra is kidnapped and the book switches from the usual first person viewpoint of Alex to Mike Chapman's as he desperately tries to find her before "it" is too late. To be honest I went back and forth between three and four stars. Fairstein is one of the few authors I eagerly await for her latest release so there is a lot of anticipation building over the year of waiting. I was disappointed in this book for several reasons. The biggest issue I had was I thought it needed more 'back' story with Mike who was narrating most of the book. Although we have caught glimpses of him throughout the series I thought that this was an opportunity to delve deeply into who he was and felt that that didn't really happen for me. My second issue was with Vickee Wallace (Mercer's wife). Wow. First she lays into Alex at the bar and then later on in the book Mike. She has been good friends with these two for what seems like forever and I just didn't get where her hostility was coming from regardless of the reasons the author gave--after all if she didn't know Alex after 19 years (don't want to put a spoiler in) then wow, just wow. I found myself pondering this as I read instead of concentrating on other scenes. Thirdly I thought the resolution/end was unrealistic and a bit forced. There were several options for the kidnappers as to who they were and I thought all of the story lines were a bit short changed within the narrative. And my fourth issue is more personal--I really like the in depth history Fairstein gives us about various aspects of New York City.

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