



## Feint of Art

*Hailey Lind (Pseudonym) , Juliet Blackwell*

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More information to be announced soon on this forthcoming title from Penguin USA

## Feint of Art Details

Date : Published January 3rd 2006 by Signet (first published January 2006)

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Author : Hailey Lind (Pseudonym) , Juliet Blackwell

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Genre : Mystery, Cozy Mystery, Fiction, Art

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# From Reader Review Feint of Art for online ebook

## Gigi says

The first in this art history/theft/forgery mystery series. Somewhere along the line I seem to have developed a soft spot for art thieves... It was a welcome development to find this new series that's so well done.

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## Rachel says

I love this series and I really enjoyed this audio version.

Read from Hoopla.

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## a. says

### Feint of plot and talent

We climbed into the cab, where all was silent but for the sound of heavy breathing. I was drenched in sweat, my nose was running, my hands were shaking, and I had one hell of a stitch in my side. I was trying to decide whether or not to throw up. Several long minutes passed. "I'm thinking faux finishing might be more your speed, Annie," Mary said dryly. I glared at her, unwilling to spare the oxygen for a snide reply. Besides, she had a point. Maybe it was time to return to Plan A: don't quit the day job. Teaching faux-finishing courses for do-it-yourselfers was looking better all the time. I fired up the engine, paid a small ransom to the parking attendant, and swung by Mason's gallery to pick up Mary's bike, which she had left chained to a lamppost in flagrant violation of the posted signs.

Numerous annoying inconsistencies like above. In a cab, then suddenly starting an engine

Poorly written

Vapid main character

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## Shirley says

Loving this so far! My daughter recommended, and besides the plot, so enjoy the humor.

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## Imjussayin says

### Feint of Art: An Art Lover's Mystery 1

**In A Nutshell:** Ernest Pettigrew, ex-beau of Annie Kincaid former art forger extraordinaire asks her

whether Caravaggio's painting *The Magi* at the Brock Gallery is a forgery. Not only is it a forgery, but Annie knows who painted it! And that same night Ernest disappears and a janitor's dead body discovered.

**The Plot:** Who killed the janitor at the Brock Museum and where is Ernest?

**The Protagonists:** Annie spent her teenage years forging Old Masters with her grandfather in Europe. After a spell in a European jail, Annie has returned to America setting herself up as a respectable faux finisher in San Francisco. Inbetween fired by the Brock. There is something naive and yet appealing about Annie. She embodies joie de vivre although she is too trusting, a tad frustrating but feisty and comedic.

I find myself enjoying cosy art mysteries. Annie is the second series of this type that I am reading. In both series the protagonists, first names begin with A. And there the similarities end. Annie is funny and warm and relatable. Is drawn to two different men (J. Frank DeBenton and Michael Xerxes Johnson) who are from opposite ends of the spectrum. The dual man attraction-attention is somewhat hackneyed, but I enjoy it in this story. What is more difficult to swallow is Annie needing to be rescued by one or other love interest. And I wonder if along the line the authors will be brave enough to have a genuinely independent and feisty Annie?

The large supporting cast makes the fascinating but complex plot unnecessarily more complicated. So keep a notebook handy just in case. The author eases the reader's path by giving the cast of a million characters nicknames like 'fender bender' to DeBenton. An explanation of why would be a spoiler.

The book has a diverse cast of characters that lends texture to the story. I like the intergenerational aspect of the work, and the world building is convincing. I had fun with this book and am off to read book two.

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Book Rating

Sexual Content: U

Language: U

Violent: U

Would I read the next one ~~or reread~~?: Absolutely

My rating system (\* = star)

0\* Could not finish this book (waste of time)

1\* Finished the book but didn't like it.

2\* Finished the book it was okay.

3\* A good read worth your time.

4\* An excellent read often with a novel concept or unusual plot.

5\* A great read. A prominent example of the genre.

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## Kitty says

First in the series

My favorite "cozy mystery" series to date. A "reformed" art forger gone legit finds herself embroiled in a world she tried to leave behind. Her art studio in San Francisco would be enough alone to make this book worth reading for me - but it's actually a good story, too! I really enjoy all the characters in this series - and there's a good bit of humor in it, too.

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### **Erin says**

I really enjoyed the beginning of this book. It was an exciting premise and one I could instantly connect to being an artist myself.

However the last 1/3 of the book was totally wasted space.

1. Too many characters to keep track of. I had to re-read several times especially toward the end to keep track of the list.
2. The dialogue was a bit annoying as was the never-ending plot line.
3. The grandfather, why can't he just have a conversation with her? He's constantly avoiding her calls and speaking in cryptic riddles. Just tell her (us) what she needs to know. I hate the cat and mouse game he's playing.

Other than that, I did enjoy the writing style and have already read book number 2. I'll most likely be reading the series to the end and looking into other books by this author.

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### **Vickie says**

MPB, Such a cool cozy series with a fab premise. Definitely look for more!

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### **Tyrannosaurus regina says**

Now that was a fun romp. Don't get me wrong, there were still genre cliches that pissed me off and the main character could make some truly, deeply stupid decisions, and the love interests were sketched in at best, but it was fun and it was all about art and it was what I was looking for tonight.

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### **Kristen says**

In the first installment of the Art Lovers cozy series by Hailey Lind aka Juliet Maxwell, Feint of Art, we were introduced to Annie Kincaid and the art world. The Brock Museum's 15 million new Caravaggio painting was a fake. On the night she made her appraisal, the security guard was found dead during the line of duty. When a well-known art dealer had absconded with the real paintings and swapped them for the forgeries, it was enough to help pay Annie's rent and get her landlord off her back. But Annie had to deal with her past, when she left the underworld of the art world behind as it had caught up to her to figure who

was the art thief out.

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### **Patty says**

Well, it should really have been 2.5 stars for the rating. I am sucker for art-related mysteries so I was keen for a new series. However, there were a number of, shall we say, annoyances with this book. It tried way too hard to be cute (Stephanie Plum style wise-assery); the female protagonist attracts so much trouble because she makes truly stupid decisions (ALL the time); she is wildly attracted to two polar opposites males (again with the S. Plum) who are always rescuing her from her own stupidity (I cannot tell you how much this offends me- rescue yourself; and the plot was WAY too complicated. Also, for a poor, desperate artist she is always ignoring jobs for her paying clients in order to swan about dark ateliers looking for trouble.

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### **Holly Doyal says**

Probably on the lower end of 3 stars. Maybe even 2.5 stars. I love all books related to art so I really wanted to like his one. But I just couldn't get into it. It seemed very shallow and not well written and I found it hard to follow at times. The general overview is Annie has been recognized as a wonderful art forger since childhood. She uses that talent to authenticate paintings and she discovered that a museum spent quite a bit of money on a fake. She is trying to get the reward money to help her financially since she lives by scraping by. I just found it too tedious to follow and it really didn't peak my interest.

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### **Ruth says**

Annie Kincaid has an artist's lifestyle running her Faux/True finishing business. She is trying to forget that her grandfather is writing a book on forging classical art. She lived with her "grandpere" from the age of 10 long enough to find herself in a Parisian prison for art forgery at 17 years of age. Even though she is now in a legitimate art centered business she happens upon art forgery. This leads to lots of crime centered action. There are only 4 books in this series and they are going out of print. I happened upon them through a book sale and possess all 4. They are a wonderfully exciting read.

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### **Book of Secrets says**

Rating: 3½ stars

I'm a big fan of Juliet Blackwell (*Witchcraft Mystery* and *Haunted Home Renovation Mystery* series), so when I found out she was half of the Hailey Lind writing team, I had to read FEINT OF ART. Hailey Lind's other half is Juliet's sister Carolyn J. Lawes, a professor of history.

FEINT OF ART kicks off the *Art Lover's Mystery* series, and introduces readers to main character Annie Kincaid. Annie spent her teenage years forging artistic masterpieces with her grandfather in Europe. But after a run in with the law, Annie decided to give up that life. Now, she runs a struggling yet respectable faux finishing company in San Francisco. However, her extensive knowledge of the forgery business is about to

get her in trouble again.

Annie gets wrapped up in a murder mystery when her ex-boyfriend, the curator at the Brock Museum, asks her to determine if the new Caravaggio painting is a fake. Yep, it is, and Annie knows who painted the forgery. That same night, a museum janitor is murdered and her ex disappears. In addition to that, an art dealer approaches Annie about tracking down some priceless Old Master drawings that were stolen and forged, leading to more murder and mayhem.

I had mixed feelings about this book. It was quite interesting, yet kind of confusing at the same time. There were a lot of players in this book and a lot going on. It was hard to keep everyone straight. The cast of characters was intriguing, but there were just too many involved in some way. I liked Annie's character pretty well, though she was a little flighty at times and made some silly moves.

On the other hand, I loved taking a look at the underworld of art forgery. Fascinating! It's clear the authors did their research. Some of the tidbits presented - well, I had no idea!

Though somewhat chaotic, FEINT OF ART was an entertaining cozy mystery, and I will continue with the next book. I'm pleased that my local library carries the series. I think the paperbacks are out-of-print at this point.

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## **Andrea says**

I really wanted to like this one as I like this author's other series. For this one, she teams up with her sister. We are introduced to Annie – once a protégé of her art forging grandfather and now the owner of an interior design business specializing in faux finishes. When an ex calls and asks her opinion on a recent purchase of the museum where she used to work (and he still does), she gets sucked into murder and danger and art forging a'plenty. I really tried to go with the plot twists and just enjoy the story but I found myself frequently annoyed with Annie for doing completely stupid things (like continuing to trust someone who is repeatedly dishonest, destroys her property, and endangers her life...more than once). I just couldn't get into this one and ended it not really liking anyone involved.

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