



An Island of Illusions

Jennifer L. Jennings

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This third and final installment of the Sarah Woods Mystery Series finds our sleuth immersed in the tropical splendor of Oahu. However, what begins as an island getaway for Sarah quickly morphs into a desperate search for the missing infant of a wealthy Boston family. Just when the detectives believe they've made a breakthrough in the case, a shocking death shakes their investigation to the core. Much to Sarah's surprise, surveillance expert Max Stevens also joins the frantic search. Will the detectives locate the missing child? Will Sarah finally share her true feelings with Max?

Pick up this novel and lose yourself in the mystery, or start with Book One, "An Appointment with Murder." Either choice will keep you guessing 'til the very end.

An Island of Illusions Details

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Author : Jennifer L. Jennings

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From Reader Review An Island of Illusions for online ebook

Henry Simpson says

Sarah Woods is a part-time private detective in a troubled marriage. While vacationing with her husband in Hawaii, she meets up with two investigators who ask her to assist them in a missing person case. Sarah quickly shows so much interest in the case that her hubby takes a flight home. To Sarah's apparent delight, detective Max soon fills the void in her love life. By this act and others, Sarah reveals herself as independent, willing to take on a challenge, and unintimidated by men. The case has several aspects, including a missing grandchild, his troubled young mother and her dominating father; the missing child's father and his lover, who may be involved in the kidnapping; a lawyer, a tattooed man, and an Elvis lookalike. A ransom has been paid but the child has not been returned. All the parties of interest are within local driving distance. Sarah, Max, and others visit various seedy parts of Oahu, conduct interviews and surveillance, ponder the evidence, and develop theories to no avail. Photos of missing children are found, the missing child's father dies mysteriously, the daughter has a miscarriage, and other events occur. The conclusion reveals a certain moral ambiguity. The author leaves it to the reader to judge.

Denise says

'An Island of Illusions' was one great read. This quick read was full of mystery. The story line kept me glued to the pages. I truly love Sarah and her sense of self is getting g better. I will be so happy when she finally walks away from her a\$& of a husband. He really angers me with his action. Every thing about him irritates me. Max on the other hand seems like a very good man. We'll see. I look forward to reading more. A great add to your tbr list.

Gaye Lemm says

Interesting

I enjoyed this book. It had some twists and turns that I liked. I'm looking forward to reading number 2 in the series.

Elaine Bidstrup says

Sarah is an unhappily married 40-something massage therapist who has, unbeknownst to her husband and teen-aged son, has worked as an amateur detective. Now she is in Hawaii, supposedly on a golfing trip her husband has won, but in reality to help find the missing baby of a very rich doctor's neurotic daughter. Most of the book takes place in the parts of Hawaii that tourists never see - the poor, the drugged, the unemployed. Still, Sarah works on the case, rather happily, until her demanding husband falls and hurts his back. He leaves in a huff and for the first time Sarah seriously contemplates divorce. She is attracted to the man she is working with on this case, Max, which makes her wonder if she really wants a divorce or if she is merely looking for the thrill of an affair. The case is further complicated by the murder of the baby's father and the presence of the doctor's lawyer, Richard. Richard and the doctor put obstacles in the way of solving the case, which are seemingly insurmountable.

Ellen White says

Oahu to work with a rich client, and at time babysitting the mother of the missing child. Max comes in to do his specific line of work, and walks with him at night Sarah enjoys. When dismissed from case, doesn't seem right to her, and she digs further, keeps you guessing to the end.

Darla Broadwater says

I have not read a mystery in a very long time and I really liked this one.
I started with this book and now I think I will need to go back and read Parts One and Two!
This story was nicely written and flowed wonderfully. The setting was not in the obvious touristy areas of Hawaii, but showed you a more seedier side to paradise.
This story truly kept me guessing- I was totally surprised when the mystery was solved!

SUE says

The book was good but I had trouble getting into the book. The first half had me going back and forth with wondering. Then all of a sudden the book took off and I could not put it down. It was a surprise ending.

Kathleen says

Sarah Woods, a masseuse has found herself at times helping out a PI without her husband and son knowing. On a vacation in Hawaii she is recruited to work on a child abduction case. With a lot of twists and turns the case is resolved not to everyone's knowledge or happiness. It also ended with the end of Sarah's marriage and her telling her soon-to-be ex and her son about her other job. It was a heavy cozy mystery that I enjoyed and looking forward to Sarah's next adventure.

Lynn says

An easy, fun, light mystery. I'd read another.

Julie says

Sadly, this is the final book in the Sarah Woods mystery trilogy. I have really enjoyed it. Sarah is a "mature" woman that is at a crossroads in her life. She has her own business, but is a bit bored with it, but it pays the bills. Her teenage son, Brian, is a year away from college and leaves Sarah with more time on her hands to think about her life and her twenty year marriage. When she becomes involved in a murder case at her own business, Sarah found she has a knack at "detecting". So, since then, she has been working with Carter and

sometimes with Max doing undercover jobs as a part time occupation.

In this installment, Sarah is on vacation in Hawaii trying to see if she and her husband can work things out. It's not long before it becomes clear to her this Hawaiian vacation was planned out by Carter, who has a job for her to do.

So, Sarah once more utilizes her undercover skills to determine if the father of a missing child could somehow be involved.

Once Sarah starts to work she is surprised to find that another familiar face has arrived in Hawaii- Max!

The only complaint I have about this book was that Sarah, who had been so easy to relate to in the first two short stories, seemed to go off script a bit at the beginning of this one. She says a few things that are completely uncharacteristic of Sarah. She makes the suggestion that she is willing to do "ANYTHING" for this job. Maybe she was just over excited, but it seemed a bit off to me.

However, the character "rights" herself and the case takes center stage. This case is so sad, and once again we are treated to a peek inside the lives of the wealthy that seem to get away with just about everything. The conclusion of the case might be a little controversial to some, and while I was satisfied with the ending, I still had a weird feeling about it.

Sarah's personal life had a more solid and uplifting feel to it, as Sarah finally makes a decision about her troubled marriage and faces her feelings for Daniel head on. I will miss Sarah Woods a lot. Overall 3.5 rounded to 4

monica gibbs says

Exciting read

Really good mystery. It kept you guessing as to who the real bad person was. I recommend. It to other readers.

Al Boudreau says

This was a great conclusion to the series. I enjoyed the first two books in the Sarah Woods Mystery Series, "An Appointment with Murder," and "An Act of Deceit," so naturally I had to grab this final story for my Kindle when it became available. Ms. Jennings's writing style is enjoyable in that she has taken the time to develop her characters thoroughly, allowing them to evolve as the series progressed. However, I feel each book also works well as a stand alone story. It takes a certain level of finesse to pull that one off. Jennings's works are well written and properly edited; I'd recommend them all to those who enjoy hard-boiled mysteries.

Sharon says

Easy to read mystery that provides for an entertaining journey with a storyline and characters that will work for most readers. 3.5 stars

Karen says

Good plot and characters. The premise that the husband goes home with little discussion and leaves the wife behind is a little shaky. The book definitely needs a good editor. I really wanted to give it 3.5 stars.

moxieBK says

Sarah Woods Mysteries Book 3: An Island of Illusions (31+ chapters) — Jennifer L. Jennings Sept. 10, 2018

Sarah is on an unexpected trip to Hawaii, but she soon finds out not all is as it seems. A father and child is missing and the grandfather is paying big bucks for Sarah and Carter to find him. When the father of the boy ends up dead, the case turns to finding out if the boy is still alive. On the personal front, Sarah's relationship with her husband comes to a head and by the end of the book, has resolved. An old love makes a decision that will change Sarah's future. The ending is a little different and yet exactly as it should be.

There were several familiar faces in this story, and more is discovered about Carter's background. Ms. Jennings constructs a well paced, skillfully developed cozy that has the right amount of everything in it.

I am enjoying how the author is building the characters and their relationships. I will continue to read this series. There were a few typos in my ebook version.

Solid three stars.
