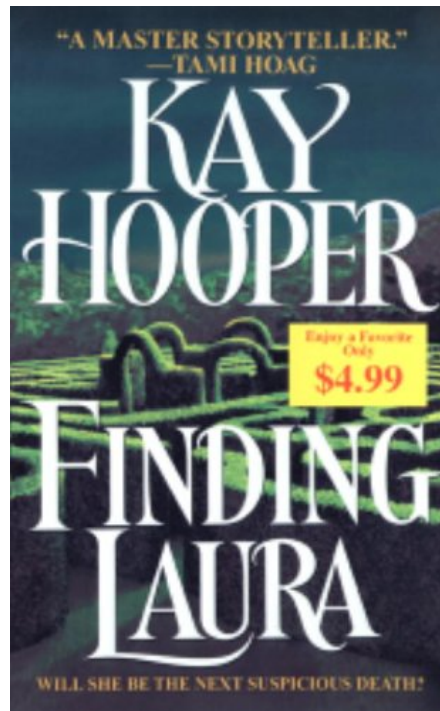




Finding Laura

Kay Hooper

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Finding Laura Kay Hooper

Mirror, mirror on the wall,
who's the deadliest one of all?

It's an antique mirror that can reveal secrets...or tarnish the truth. And for struggling artist Laura Sutherland, buying it is only the first step into a dark maze of lies, manipulation—and murder. It brings Peter Kilbourne into her life and makes her the prime suspect in his fatal stabbing. Determined to clear her name—and uncover Peter's reason for wanting the mirror back—Laura will breach the iron gates of the Kilbourne estate. There she will find that each family member has something to hide. Which one of them looks in the mirror and sees the reflection of a killer? And which one will choose Laura to be the next to die?

Finding Laura Details

Date : Published August 30th 2005 by Bantam (first published October 1997)

ISBN : 9780553588590

Author : Kay Hooper

Format : Mass Market Paperback 370 pages

Genre : Romance, Mystery, Romantic Suspense, Fiction, Suspense, Fantasy, Paranormal

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From Reader Review Finding Laura for online ebook

Diane says

Mirrors, murder, mystery and, of course, romance. It's not until about 1/2 way through the book that one begins to understand the book's title.

Anna Mcfadden says

Ever since she was a child Laura Sutherland has been collecting mirrors. She knows that there is a special one out there. one that is calling her. one that she knows when she looks into that she will see more then her own reflection.

The Kilbourne's is a wealthy important family that members that had suspicious deaths. When Peter Kilbourne turns up dead a mere hours after leaving the apartment of Laura Sutherland the police zero in on Laura as she is one of the last to see him alive. She knows she has to get into the Kilbourbe mansion and close to the family in order to clear or name

C. says

"**Finding Laura**" is an apt title but only makes sense at the tail end. The sole mystical thread at the core of this mystery's complicated maze, regrettably does not permeate the tone. This missed opportunity informed my four-star feedback. A skewed synopsis and some journal pages arouse intrigue with an antique mirror but this fascinating element is solely a vehicle to glue miniscule continuity to an unusual ending. That mirror and crime mystery could split into independent stories. Their fusion melted the magical premise. **Kay Hooper's** imagination is capable of grandeur.

This book's strength is a truly excellent mystery that carries readers all the way along. Following an auction at a famous manor, Laura is asked by one son if she would relinquish a mirror that was unintentionally sold. She declines but a commission to paint their matriarch very smoothly places our protagonist into the fold, after that man was murdered. She is not a suspect for long, the Grandmother is cordial, Laura befriends the wonderfully quirky and diverse members of the household.... There are no clichés on this fantastic mystery ride, except instant attraction. You know you are reading an adult book when there is straightforward, unabashed sex! A gorgeous gazebo within a beautifully-kept maze adds a very special flavour to this story.

All of **Kay's** characters are distinct, flawed personages we can picture. We know how we would take to them personally. Most are highly likeable, which makes the progression of this adventure a pleasure. Even when some are authoritative and secretive; none are crisply, stereotypically curt. We slowly acquaint each as we would in real life, feeling differently about them as we learn new layers. Sympathy and connectivity build. The culprit's unmasking reveals **Kay** as a razor-sharp mystery-plotter! I have never been more shocked by an identity!

Kay says

Skipped a bunch, cause it just went on and on. Read the end which was kind of stupid. The murderer was never a suspect. I hate when someone is tied in at the last second and you could never have figured it out. But the writing was pretty good.

Sarah says

Cheesy but thoroughly enjoyable!

Stine Diamond-owens says

The ending, its lack of explanation in the phenomenon frustrated me.

Julie55 says

Mmmmmm,what can I say....
I loved the beginning ,the middle,but not the end.....
Had me engrossed ,they threw me out with the bath water.....lol

Alkyoni says

An old mirror brings a young artist into the home of one of the richest Atlanta families a few days after one of its members gets murdered. Whodunnit?

Finding Laura contains one of my favorite elements in Romantic Suspense; All the suspects are members of an old family with plenty of secrets.

Unfortunately, it also contains something that ruins most Romantic Suspense books for me, and that is inexplicable character behavior. I understand that the author had to come up with a reason for Laura to visit the Kilbourne estate for example, but I wish she had come up with something better than what she settled for.

As for the romance, there is a surprising twist towards the end that I must say that I enjoyed but it felt a bit rushed; we could have gotten so much more out of it. Other than that, it felt kind of flat to me and I never really got to connect with the characters or feel the attraction between them.

All and all it was a nice read for a lazy summer day at the beach.

Brittany says

Kay Hooper has always been one of my fav author as she is able to create a fantastically spellbinding story. She does not disappoint with Finding Laura. Just when you think you have an idea of what is going on, it

takes a different turn.

Carol says

This was a romantic/mystery (1997) back when Hooper wrote romance books. It was one of those books I sort of scan through and hit on a good part then have to go back and reread. I think three stars is, me, being kind.

Laurie D'ghent says

An engaging, interesting read with only mild swearing. Tons of brief sex scenes in the second half, which was obnoxious and even laughable, but I would still read more of Hooper's books.

Stephanie says

This is, literally, one of my favorite books ever. There's mystery, romance, a touch of the supernatural... it's got it all.

Alix says

Whenever people give me that side-eye, you've-gotta-be-kidding me look (*you know the one*) when I say that I proudly and without an ounce of shame love-love-love romance novels, I think back to this one, and (*in my head at least*) stick my nose in the air. I scoff at those shuttered people because I know what they're missing by writing off an entire genre - no matter how sometimes maligned by popular culture it might be.

I love this book. I love it so, so much. And I think it's the one book that I keep coming back to when I get the "what's your favourite romance novel?" question. This particular book is the one that, in my mind, solidly cemented my adoration of the ridiculously vast, and sometimes cheese-worthy, genre that is romance.

Finding Laura is beautiful - and it is romance, plain and simple. It's not smut, in that scaldingly hot, crazy erotic way. It's not chick-lit, in the classic and light-hearted sense. Nor is it a predictable, scripted, me-Tarzan-you-Jane "bodice-ripper" (*and god, how that term makes me cringe all the cringes*). It's a smart, subtle story weaving together so many finely tuned strings, fantastically different characters, and even plot line sub-genres that you **[read: I]** just can't help but fall more in love with it every time I pick it back up for a reread.

At its heart though, it's a love story. A fairy-tale romance that spans the ages, and overcomes adversity, tragedy, death - or in this case, murder. It's the tale of two people and of an eternal, everlasting love... and I could reread it over and over and never ever tire of it.

Five fantastical stars: A brilliant book by a fantastic author. Romance doesn't get any better than this.

Linda says

****On Christmas Eve in 1954, Catherine and her husband had an argument about faith. She gets upset, takes off in her car in the rain and dies in a fiery crash. Her husband tried to save her but there was nothing he could do.****

Fast forward to the present time.

Plain and simple: Laura Sutherland loves mirrors. And not because she is vain. Oh, no. She doesn't understand it herself; when she looks into a mirror she seems to waiting for an unseen force to pull at her. Over the years she has learned to keep her compulsion for mirrors and her confusing feelings to herself. **No one** knows that she has OCD behavior; she can't let a mirror go by without looking into it just once.

Laura's best friend, Cassidy, encourages her to go to an estate sale outside of Atlanta at the Kilbourne home. While there she purchases a hand mirror, not realizing how it will change her life.

Long story short, this is an older contemporary gothic style murder-mystery. Laura is initially accused of murdering Peter Kilbourne. She is eventually able to prove her innocence but not before being drawn into this family's squabbles. There are plenty of twists and turns. I had to admit I didn't know who was the killer until the murderer was revealed. There are also elements of reincarnation but Ms. Hooper wrote it in an acceptable fashion.

I dropped it one star because of some slow reading. I thought the author could have successfully resolved everything about 75 pages sooner than she did. Also, I found the words 'child' and 'sweet' overused and it drove me a little crazy. Still, Ms. Hooper neatly tied up all the unresolved issues and kept me interested until the end. For me, it was a solid four-star romance.

Lisa X says

Favorite Kay Hooper book. Hooper is yet another great writer who started out in romance and ditched her readers to go more mainstream. Finding Laura is a great read. Had me thinking about the book for days after reading.
