



Elusive

Sara Rosett

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If you enjoy Elizabeth Peter's Vicky Bliss series or Romancing the Stone, Elusive has the same mix of mystery, international travel, and light romance.

Zoe Hunter loves living on the edge. Free-spirited and spontaneous, she's built a life stringing together various freelance gigs that keep her bank account barely in the black.

But when her ex, Jack, goes missing along with several million dollars from his business and the FBI zeros in on her as a person of interest, Zoe's life goes from delightfully unpredictable to downright frightening.

Plunged into a world of fake identities, deception, and murder, she's afraid to trust anyone. Zoe impulsively skips town in a search for answers that takes her from Las Vegas to Italy, but instead of tracking down answers, she only uncovers more questions.

Who was Jack? Is he dead or did he fake his disappearance? And, what was he mixed up in—art theft, the mafia, espionage, or all three?

SERIES NOTES: On the Run Series

Book #1: Elusive

Book #2: Secretive

Elusive Details

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From Reader Review Elusive for online ebook

Kristen says

In Sara Rosett's *Elusive*, the first installment in the *On the Run* serial cozy mystery series, hold onto your seats into this action-packed novel that would take you onto an adventure. For Zoe Hunter, she worked as a copy-editor for a travel guidebook series, when her life was turned upside down. When the police informed her that her ex-husband Jack was missing during the storm, they believed she was a suspect, when he was in the trouble with the law and the FBI. On her own, she looked for clues behind Jack's life and later learned about his partner, Connor Freeman's death. Now she searched for answers in Las Vegas and bumps into him there, who was on the run for his life. While they were being chased by a speeding car, they've been marked for murder and become the hunted. While they worked together to put the pieces together on Connor's double-crossing life, they head to Italy and unearth some shocking truths there. Little did they know, that it only lead them to danger and mystery, when they would later fight for their lives in the explosive ending...

D. says

A really well written thriller. The story goes from Dallas to Las Vegas to traveling around Italy and completely believable. The heroine faced her ex-husbands disappearance (and possible death) and the murder of his business partner. Very strange business partner as it turns out. You must read the book to find out what happens, I am not a spoiler. But I am sure you will be pleased you took the effort. Thoroughly exciting book. This book will leave you wondering, are things really as they appear?

Betty says

Zoe learns her ex-husband, Jack is missing and might be dead. She finds a body at his place of business. She becomes person of interest. She takes off to learn what is behind all of this. The style of a favorite author, Helen MacInnes, is apparent as Zoe & Jack race across the USA & Italy. It is written with detail descriptions of areas. The development of the story line moves along nicely. I like Ellie Avery books. This series is different. I rarely read spy stories; but this one is interesting. I appreciate the lack of foul words & sex. Fans of Vicky Bliss will recognized the ending.

Margitte says

Zoe Hunter, of Dallas, Texas, did not fit the bill of a modern, professional young lady. No credit cards, no flashy cars nor a poshy job. It was simply not her style. Her house fell apart, her car had more than two hundred thousand miles on the clock and she barely scraped by on her small freelance income, which includes walking the neighbors's dogs.

Her ex-husband, Jack, was one of her renters, both in her house, as well as two offices she owned. He bored her enough to divorce him. She was spontaneous, a grab-the-moment kind of girl, and he was quiet, meticulously planning his life away.

But all was not as she thought it was. Her ex disappeared, his partner was murdered, and somewhere between the two a few million dollars attracted the attention of the FBI and some other guys in black suits and dark sunglasses. Zoe had a lot to learn in a short period of time. She never thought she will ever visit Italy, or Rome, let alone driving at break-neck speed along the Italian coastline in trying to stay alive and find out what happened to her life and aspirations. Imagine taking a swim in the canals of Venice as part of a holiday dream!

I loved this murder mystery. Just an entertaining, well-written, relaxing read. Thrilling enough for me to do nothing else but read read read until the last word kicked me back to reality at noon, this Monday morning, with a strong sense of guilt tormenting my conscience for playing hooky! I started out on Sunday afternoon, whiling away a beautiful sunny winter afternoon out on the lawn, and never stopped reading! I cannot think of better company in which to spend a rare moment of being all alone at home in.

Elusive is the first book in the *On The Run Series*.

I recommend it to readers of authors such as Susan McBride, Stacy Green, Susan Kiernan-Lewis, as well as Elizabeth Peter.

Nancy Johnson says

Zoe lives with her ex-husband in separate areas of one house. They never interact or see each other. After her ex is missing and presumed dead, his business partner is discovered killed and the business' bank account suddenly has millions of dollars. Undoubtedly, Zoe becomes the prime suspect of conspiracy, fraud and murder. What follows is a complete turnaround of this self-employed, single woman's life, who is forced to defend herself, find the truth about the crimes, and learn what really happened to her ex, while being pursued in both the US and Italy.

The main characters are likeable and intelligent, and attempt to allude law enforcement and bad guys. It is well written and easy to follow. Although the plot has a sufficient amount of intrigue, there were a few times when the main character's reaction to her situation did not ring true. There were strong bad guys and gals, and all the ends were neatly tied after some clever twists. Other points in the plot seemed a little unbelievable.

Overall, if you are into international mysteries with intrigue and strong characters, you may enjoy the first book of this On the Run series.

Mad Scientist says

I could hardly put this one down. I am already into book 2!

Book 1 is free for Kindle and Nook at the moment.

Jennifer says

Actual rating: 3.5 stars

Fun and fast-paced. I'm looking forward to continuing on with the series, despite a few minor quibbles.

R J Mckay says

Zoe is an energetic, thrifty copywriter. Jack is her bland, quiet ex-husband. They live in the same house to save money. Sounds rather ordinary doesn't it? ... Wrong answer!

On a normal, quiet day Zoe answers a knock on her door and her world tumbles into murder, mayhem, and craziness! The police tell her that Jack is missing and presumed dead. When she goes to his office to share the bad news with Conner, his business partner, she finds him murdered. The police quickly decide that Jack killed his partner and think Zoe knows much more than she admits.

Desperate for answers, she searches Jack's part of their house and is shocked to find a hidden stash of money and a passport with his picture but a different name! Her life spinning out of control, she escapes to Las Vegas looking for answers from Jack's mysterious cousin Eddie. Instead, she comes face-to-face with a disguised, haggard Jack. It turns out that Jack was a spy before they met and he thinks someone from his past is after him! Zoe and Jack team up to find out who framed him and is now trying to kill them.

Elusive is a wonderful, witty story with lots of twists and a perfect ending. I'm really looking forward to reading the next chapter in the crazy world of Zoe and Jack!

Nikki Martin says

I enjoyed this story. I didn't drag I actually found it entertaining all the way through and it left me wanting to know more about what happens to Zoe. The only unanswered question I had in this book was when will Jack come back. I find that in a lot of books the authors give irrelevant details or leave whole parts of the story out and leave the reader with too much information or not enough. Sara Rosett found the sweet spot of just enough without bogging down the story. It was a nice read during my commute.

Jessica Zielinski says

Easy read...but horribly misinformed

The book isn't bad. I read it in a day. It's not exciting at any point, and I had no real desire to keep reading. The whole book feels like it's getting ready for the good part.

My main issue with this is the writing. First, albeit is one word. But mainly, the book spends a lot of time on a business. The problem is the author has no idea what she's talking about. It's a small startup, with three employees and one of the two owners is living paycheck to paycheck, barely able to make rent. Yet

somehow they have gone public and have stocks and millions of dollars of investments. Yet they only have three clients. Yet they have multiple contacts with large firms in China to provide for those three clients. It doesn't make sense and honestly pulled me out of the book because of how poorly researched it was.

I would not read another book from this author. It's a good way to waste time, and it's a creative concept, but it was poorly executed.

Cynthia Raleigh says

I enjoyed this book from beginning to end. It grabbed my interest right away. I've read many books that started this way and then lost me but this one maintained my attention throughout, always wanting to know what was going to happen next. The movement of the story to different locations, Las Vegas and Italy, was enjoyable and kept it fresh. The story was plausible and the pieces fit together in the end without being forced or contrived. I liked the protagonists; they didn't degenerate into whining or self-induce martyrdom, or become unbelievable, which can so quickly wear out the reader. The main focus of the book was the crime/mystery and they stuck to it. Just enough side story / romantic inferences to give the characters depth and some humanity without becoming a romance trying to be a mystery. Kudos to Sara Rosett. Thank you for a crime mystery done right. I look forward to the next book in the series.

Marika Charalambous says

Full review at <http://mysterysequels.com/elusive-by-...>

The story centers around Zoe Hunter, a rather poor freelancer (proof reads travel books) who also walks neighbors' dogs to earn a bit extra money. This doesn't stop her from enjoying life as much as she can, being content with how things are at the moment.

She is divorced, however as the money is rather tight at the moment, she lets her ex husband Jack stay in the same house (in the upper apartment) and use her offices as long as he pays rent. The two of them hardly see each other, and even when they do, they're usually at each others throats after a few words only.

One day Jack disappears along with the company money, which leads the police and FBI right to her front door. What's worse, however, is that they're pretty much accusing her of helping Jack steal a couple of millions before disappearing. Zoe, of course, has no idea of any such dealings, but realizes that things are far more serious than initially thought, when Jack's partner is found dead in his office.

Her amateur detective work takes her from Dallas and Last Vegas to Rome in Italy and back, while she learns that her life was pretty much a lie – Jack was definitely not the man she thought she married. But who was he and where is he – if he is alive at all?

The book kept my interested while reading, and even though I was not as hooked as I was hoping I would be (for some reason I couldn't feel a connection with the main characters), the many twists and turns more than compensated for anything else the book might be lacking in.

Italo Italophiles says

Two things ring true when reading the book: the emotions of the characters, and the locations. Psychologically the characters are true-to-life. And the locations are depicted very realistically, setting the stage well for the action. The locations in *Elusive* are varied: Dallas, Texas; Las Vegas, Nevada; and Rome, Naples and Venice, Italy.

The plot starts to zing in Las Vegas because Zoe meets up with her ex-husband, Jack. The tension between the one-time lovers is wonderful. Their marriage ended because the two were not open enough with each other, so once their adventures force them to drop their defenses, the underlying attraction that brought them together in the first place comes to the fore.

Read the full and illustrated review at Italoophile Book Reviews
<http://italophilebookreviews.blogspot...>

Bernice says

A regular mystery.

The book is nicely paced and main character is interesting. There are enough twists and turns to keep the reader guessing. I liked the characters jetting off to Italy and hearing a bit about the country. Mysteries often make the location a character. The author did this well. The characters get into serious trouble and the writing made me tense and wondering how they would manage to get out of the situation. All and all I would read another book by this author. But she is not on my favorite author's list.

Christine says

With the exception of her dwindling bank account, Zoe Hunter, is fairly happy with her life as a “Jill of all Trades”, which includes jobs as a freelance copy editor of travel guides, commercial property manager, as well as dog walker. After a severe storm strikes a suburban area of Dallas, Zoe’s ex-husband Jack’s car is found abandoned on the side of a highway near a bridge. Some of his clothing is found floating in a flooded creek, but there is no sign of Jack. There are other strange and scary things going on at Jack’s business, and local police seem to think she is a suspect. Zoe is confused when the FBI begins questioning her as if Jack is still alive. Zoe doesn’t feel she can trust anyone except her best friend, but doesn’t want to put Helen in danger. Zoe impulsively decides to find out what really happened to Jack, but unless she can find some answers quickly, it looks like she may move from suspect to victim.

I really enjoyed this debut book in Sara Rosset’s new “On The Run” series. I also like Rosset’s “Ellie Avery” cozy mystery series, but this book is completely different. “*Elusive*” reminds me more of movies like “*Romancing the Stone*” or “*True Lies*”. It is a romantic suspense story, with a lot of adventure. The book is fast-paced and fun as Zoe’s fight to clear her name leads her to her dream destination of Italy. Unfortunately, Zoe doesn’t have a lot of time for sightseeing! However, the atmosphere and sights described in Italy are very vivid and add to the excitement of the book.

Zoe is an interesting main character. She is funny and smart, and very impulsive. Zoe has unusual living arrangements – she still shares a house with her ex. Although she claims this is only because of the poor real

estate marketing, I enjoyed the detail that she still keeps a drawing on her refrigerator that Jack had doodled. I enjoy the dialogue between Zoe and her best friend, Helen. Helen is a good match for Zoe. She is easy-going and fun, but also practical and stands by Zoe with great advice and a shoulder to cry on. I hope Helen continues to play a role in future books.

There are many other characters introduced in this book, but FBI Agent Mort Vazarri and reporter Jenny Singletarry are my favorites. I can see them playing a large role in future books as well. Mort has undergone tragedy in his life and I liked reading about his friendship with the hard-working and ambitious Jenny. If the book has one flaw it would be the large number of different characters that are introduced at the beginning of the book. Although it is intriguing to see more and more characters introduced into the mix of the mystery and trying to figure out how they are connected to Jack's disappearance, it took me about four or five chapters to figure out who was who. This slowed the pace of story at the beginning while I was catching up trying to keep the characters straight. At one point, I longed for an old-fashioned cast of characters at the beginning to which I could refer! Things picked up after that, I was able to settle in and just enjoy the twists and turns in the story.

Many parts of the mystery are resolved by the end and Zoe's Italian adventure wraps up in this book, but the story is not over and ends with a cliff-hanger. The sequel, "Secretive", is already available, and I am looking forward to reading it and finding out what happens next.

I received this book from NetGalley, through the courtesy of Victory Editing. The book was provided to me in exchange for an honest review.
