



The Vanishing

Jana Deleon

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Certain death awaits any outsider who enters Cache, a mythical city said to disappear when intruders threaten. But P.I. Max Duhon won't let the Cajun superstition stop him from going there. He'll do anything to help sexy Colette Guidry and close this missing person's case, even admit how attracted he is to his client. But as their investigation deepens, Max finds himself protecting Colette from the inexplicable terrors of the bayou. This includes the specter taunting them with voodoo...and a shotgun. It seems they may have come too close to Cache and its eerie secrets—and dangerously close to each other.

The Vanishing Details

Date : Published November 1st 2012 by Harlequin Intrigue (first published January 1st 2012)

ISBN :

Author : Jana Deleon

Format : Kindle Edition 224 pages

Genre : Romance, Romantic Suspense, Category Romance, Harlequin, Mystery, Contemporary Romance

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From Reader Review The Vanishing for online ebook

Laura AKA Loves 2 Read Romance says

Cache is a mythical city said to disappear when intruders threaten. However Max Duhon wasn't going to let a Cajun superstition stop him from solving his case.

Colette Guidry had no where to turn when her friend disappeared without a trace. Desperate she seeks help with the detective agency Max works for. But as Max and Colette get closer to discovering the location of Cache it's clear someone is willing to do anything to make sure it stays secret.

This is the second book in the Mystere Parish series and Max gets his own story. Again I was transported to the swamps of Louisiana with the descriptiveness of the setting.

Lacy says

This was an intriguing story, though I am not much for Voodoo and such.

Some romantic content was explicit. Romance is fine, I just don't need a biology lesson with it!

The story was easy to read, and the language was clean.

Page says

It was a nice little afternoon mystery - a little romance, a little mystery. Not too much to write home about, but still enjoyable. I love the author's new novels more.

Debbie Heaton says

In DeLeon's romantic suspense novel, P.I. Max Duhon has just taken on a case that will take him deep into the mystical bayou in pursuit of a mythical city that legend insists disappears when threatened. Colette Guidry has just hired him to locate a missing co-worker and Max refuses to let superstition stand in the way of solving this case. As the investigation deepens, so does the attraction he feels toward the attractive nurse and he is determined to protect Colette from dangers lurking in the bayou. With a specter that taunts them with voodoo and violence, the closer they come to finding the mythical city and its secrets, the more determined Max is to protect Colette and bring the case to a successful close.

Fast-paced, well-thought out, action packed—a fantastic addition to the Mystere Parish series.

Sandra Rae says

A mythical city in the swamps? Another intriguing tale set in the Louisiana Bayous and swamps that will taunt you to the end.

Wendy Sparrow says

First of all, you definitely want to read these in order:

1. The Reckoning
2. The Vanishing
3. The Awakening

While I liked the setting a bit more in the previous book, the main characters in this book I thought were more likable. They're back in the bayou again chasing a legend with a different one of the half-brothers. I love how these books all left a little something paranormal unanswered--not everything was explained away and I think that fit with the mysterious setting in all three books. This was only the second book by this author that I'd read, but this cemented her on my "must have ALL the books" list. She can weave a mean story...and I swear...you felt like you were there. She's a fantastic writer.

I always post a favorite section of the books I review and I hope the author/publishing house will forgive me for posting a tiny bit longer one...this really gives you a hint of the creepy factor of Mystere Parish. This is a section of dialogue between Max and Colette:

"Shouldn't there be more noise?" she finally asked, unable to stand the silence any longer.

"In other swamps, there is. You can hear insects and birds all around you. But the swamps in Mystere Parish are always silent."

Like a giant tomb. Her hands tightened on the shotgun. "How is that possible? Surely there are insects and birds here."

"There are, but they don't make noise very often."

"Is it something genetic--a mutation in the swamps of Mystere?"

"That's one theory."

Marcella says

As with the first book in this series, the romance suffers a bit compared with the suspense part, but it is an entertaining and fast read.

One thing I did not like, though, is the fact that their father is murdered 20 odd years ago and miraculously

all of their cases suddenly seem to be connected to this.

Melody says

A book of intrigue. Anna goes missing and is found by her friend, along with a PI in the Mystere bayou. Why was she there? Where does she come from? What does she have to do with old coins? and who wants to kill her and her rescuers?

Mary Lou Webb says

Love the locale

While this book wasn't quite as good as the first in the series, I did enjoy reading about the new characters and the locale. The one thing I miss in this series is the humor that drives the Miss Fortune series. That said, I have purchased the third book and look forward to the new adventure.

Linda Derouen says

Jana DeLeon did not fail my curiosity in the second book of the Mystere Parish trilogy! Wow, I was on the edge of my seat every time I picked up this book. I do recommend that you start with the first in the trilogy though. I am going to read the last one as soon as possible! Enjoy!

Susabelle Kelmer says

This one was a page-turner! The romance was pretty secondary, though, so that is the reason for only four stars. I enjoyed the story. The ending came up a little too fast, though, happening in the last 12 pages or so. And the whodunit was not who I thought (that's a good thing)!

Carmen says

"How could something as stupid as a job promotion possibly have outweighed the safety of her and her son?"

"It was all such a waste. She was so impatient. So hard-headed. And in trying to have it all, she lost it all, even her own life. And her son has to live with her choice the rest of her life."

Do you know what is really unattractive in a man? Mommy issues.

Colette is a trauma nurse. One day, her co-worker Anna goes missing. No one will take her "missing person case" seriously because Anna has a bad history with men - running off with them occasionally. But Colette

knows that Anna has been working and studying hard for the last six months, and that if she's missing it's serious.

So she goes to her friends Alex (the psychiatrist from the last book) and Holt (the cop from the last book) for help. Alex and Holt run a P.I. agency now. Don't ask me why on earth Alex would give up being a psychiatrist to run a P.I. firm with her husband. o.O

Holt's half-brother Max is assigned to Colette's case. Together, they begin a search for Anna.

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THE BAD:

- A hero with mommy issues.

She's a hardcore, hardheaded career woman, just like Mother.

Max has a real problem with women who work outside the home in demanding jobs, because his mother did that and he feels that his mother didn't love him. I really wasn't on board with this whole underlying anti-women-who-work-"important"-jobs vibe I was getting here.

Also, men with mommy issues really turn me off.

- When Max hears about the case, he says

"And if it turns out to be nothing but a loose woman taking an unscheduled weekend with her latest passing fancy?"

Wow, did you just call her a 'loose woman?' Really? Not winning any points with me here, Max.

- *He slipped quietly out of bed, not wanting to disturb Colette.*

Are heroes in DeLeon's books INCAPABLE of staying in bed after the heroine's fallen asleep after they've had sex together for the first time? Because that is scumbag behavior. Now, when Max gets back to the room after going to to investigate whatever the hell he was going to investigate, Colette's still asleep. And he wakes her up and tells her XYZ. But he's not off the hook with me - there's no way he'd have known she wasn't going to wake up alone, in a cold bed, wondering where the heck he was. Jerk. I agree with Eric on this one, how hard is it to reach over, nudge her awake, and say, "Honey, I've got to run. I'll call you." or whatever. Jeez. Could you maybe have some more respect for the woman you just had sex with? Thanks.

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THE GOOD:

Um.

Well, it's a kind of "creepy Louisiana bayou" mystery. There's a "disappearing town" called Cache, deep in the swamps. Expect alligators and grumpy men with shotguns dressed in overalls. And cursed pirate treasure.

The two main characters didn't make much of an impression on me.

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How's the sex, Carmen?

Sigh. It's dismal. The whole entire sex scene is two paragraphs.

He kicked off his shoes and removed the rest of his clothes, tossing them on the floor. Unable to wait another second without having his hands on her, he lay on the bed and pulled her down beside him. He explored every inch of her with his hands, his mouth, and she moaned until his own need could wait no longer.

INTERJECTION BY CARMEN: This is so vague. Have we re-entered "vague sex" territory, here? Because this qualifies as vague sex. Okay, carry on.

He moved over her and entered her in one fluid motion. For a moment, he was perfectly still, relishing the way her body felt wrapped around him. Then he began to move. She matched his rhythm, and in no time they both fell over the edge.

That's it. El fin. The only sex scene in the book. I was not impressed.

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Tl;dr - The first book of this series, *The Reckoning*, was better. This book was just rather flat.

ONE REAL STAR, ONE ROMANCE STAR

P.S. I don't really like this cover. :(

Not available in Spanish.

Debra says

Just OK. Hard to get much character development in 172 pages but a pleasant afternoon read.

Belinda Birrer says

I'm biased when it comes to Jana DeLeon books. They tend to be my choice for easy entertainment. "The Vanishing" was not one of the better books though.

DeLeon kept with her pattern of mystery books set in the Louisiana swamp. Usually quirky characters or voodoo elements have a larger presence. These make her books hard to put down and either make you nervous or make you laugh. Without those aspects it was just a typical romance mystery.

The character development was also very abrupt and getting to the bottom of their inner thoughts wasn't subtle at all. Another issue was that she didn't have the typical twists and turns with the villain that normally occur.

If you are looking for quick, easy entertainment and enjoy romance novels this might work for you. I would highly suggest her "Miss Fortune" or "Shake Archer" series or first if you are choosing a DeLeon book.

Sarah says

Great mystery/romance with steady action and some truly chilling moments. Max has just joined big brother Holt's (Holt's story is the Harlequin Intrigue book *The Reckoning*) private investigation agency and his first case is Colette, who is trying to find her young friend Anna who has disappeared. Anna is supposedly a former resident of a legendary bayou town that has never been found, and Max and Colette must try to find the mysterious town in the creepy swamps of Mystere Parish. Their attraction to each other is intensified by the danger they constantly find themselves in, and it was really hard to put this book down - highly recommended!
