



Curse of the Jade Lily

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A stolen gem with a tragic history, a curse and a million dollar ransom is Mac McKenzie's latest case, in David Housewright's *Curse of the Jade Lily*

Several years ago, Rushmore McKenzie became an unexpected millionaire and set about doing not much of anything. Now, showing up at his doorstep is the insurance company that paid the settlement that made him rich—and they want a favor. Someone has stolen a very expensive gem from a local art museum and is willing to ransom it back. The only condition is that McKenzie has to be the go between. And this is no ordinary gem—it is a jade with a history going back to the Qing Dynasty and a reputed curse that stories claim has ruined or killed everyone who has ever owned it. McKenzie agrees to help but what starts out as a simple ransom quickly becomes complicated.

Suddenly other parties—including the State Department and a mysterious woman named Heavenly—start showing up, wanting McKenzie to turn over the gem to them. When the murdered body of one of the thieves turns up in a snow drift, it looks like the cursed Jade Lily has claimed its latest victim. And there may well be more to follow...

Curse of the Jade Lily Details


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Author : David Housewright

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From Reader Review Curse of the Jade Lily for online ebook

Thomas Brusio says

Housewright shines in his ninth McKenzie novel about a missing piece of expensive gem.

McKenzie, semi-retired PI, runs amuck around his hometown of Minneapolis, accepting a favor to track down a missing jade lily, getting into hairy, sometimes perilous, situations. Putting himself in grave danger, interviewing shady characters and people who may be something other than just friends, McKenzie, learns this case may be more than he can handle. The FBI is brought in, and things begin to heat up.

Housewright makes writing look easy. His wonderful storytelling, rich characterizations, and fast-paced plot lines keep this ongoing series lively and worth returning to with each new novel. It is a mystery why this series does not have a wider audience. Highly recommended.

Susan Grace says

Another great mystery adventure by David Housewright! LOVE LOVE LOVE this series!

Vontel says

I have an inkling I read this book a few years ago, probably pre-Goodreads. I was more than halfway through before some of it seemed a bit familiar. Interesting read, always entertaining. How plausible a plot in the art, art museum, and greed world, I don't know.

Dave White says

I really enjoy his writing.

I stumbled on his writing at the library and have been seeking titles since.

Don't know if it great literature but it's an enjoyable way to spend the time.

Ellen Parker says

Minnesota. Money. Murder.

Former police officer Rushmore McKenzie is hired by the insurance company to retrieve a jade carving stolen from a Twin Cities art museum. He's reluctant and becomes more so after he's abducted for a brief time and then the body of only thief to appear on the security video is discovered in a local park.

Bad turns to worse in this classic robbery and murder mystery. Even the Minnesota weather plays a part with a January storm, cold, and ice. The interesting cast includes McKenzie's long time girlfriend, a dirty cop, and a foreign national willing to sacrifice others to obtain the Jade Lily. A scorecard would come in handy in certain chapters.

This is the first of the Rushmore McKenzie books I've read and I found it easy to pick up in the middle of this series. I enjoyed the descriptions of Twin Cities locations and the continuing demarcation between Minneapolis and St. Paul.

Merand says

I always pick up unknown mysteries with a bit of skepticism and worry - will it be entertaining and interesting or will it be too predictable? Will the mystery be too gory and perverse for my sensibilities? I was pleasantly surprised. A little bit of language but the crimes were never graphic. McKenzie is a fun character - ex-cop who keeps solving crimes, rude and obnoxious but has a soft side that lets us be okay with liking him. The mystery wasn't easily given away and there was enough action without the book feeling boring. This is the latest in the series and having just pulled it from random off the library shelf, I find myself with a new series to delve into. And from reading other reviews it looks like the previous books are perhaps even better than this one.

Kate says

Good mystery and good twist at the end. The reader is kept guessing as to the real villains all the way through.

Edward says

Maybe because I took a break in the middle of this book I didn't see the plot lines come together as they were wrapped up by McKenzie at the end of the book. Still, good read.

Jan says

I appreciate and delight in David Housewright's tour of the Twin Cities and his irreverent main character, Rushmore McKenzie. It's pay-back time for McKenzie; the insurance company who paid him \$3 + million reward earlier now wants him to do a favor (NOT paying even 1/2 million reward) and find a precious jade piece of art which they have insured. Luckily, McKenzie is smarter than I because the cast of characters (some familiar ones--the Twin Cities don't have that many bad guys!!) wanting the jade are pretty convoluted with overlapping interests. In addition to being smart, McKenzie's sense of humor allows for some laugh-at-loud moments. The winter weather is another "character" in this tale. One of his stronger plots.

Hapzydeco says

Convoluted but enough intrigue to make forging on to the end worthwhile.

Doris says

Rushmore McKenzie is a former police officer who, through a somewhat shady bit of maneuvering, is now a millionaire. He is at home, enjoying his money and his leisure when an old acquaintance calls on him for a favor. A robbery at a local upstart museum has made an object d'art with a shady past into an item to be ransomed. The 'artnappers' (I do love that term!) have specifically asked for McKenzie to be the go-between for the ransom delivery and return of the stolen art, a jade statue of a shaky provenance.

I enjoyed the humor, though it was sometimes at the expense of others in the cast. I also enjoyed the love affair between the main character and his friend Nina, which although it moved into the bedroom never showed us enough to turn it from sexy to sleazy.

The only thing I didn't like was that the two main black characters both seemed to have a real problem speaking proper English. I would just say 'the black characters', but we are never informed as the race of El Cid, although I suspect he might be black.

Overall, for the storyline, the background, the plotting, and the building of the various characters, this was a really great book. However, the above brought it in my opinion down from a 5 to a 4.5, which will mean it appears as a 4.

There were 2 places in the book where I do wish the editor would pay more attention, and both these together made the book a solid 4. The character Herzy seemed to have undergone a double sex change (he is a bodyguard): he is introduced as a musclemans of considerable size, but later in the book "she" shakes her hand from side to side, then later is again a "he". Then Jon Hemsted becomes Jeremy for a while then switches back to being Jon.

Regardless of the quibbles above, this book resides on my shelf of those to reread at a future point, a rare placing for a mystery novel.

Steve Payne says

Another fun and exciting trip with McKenzie. Lots of twists and turns with a few shootings and even an explosion thrown in for good measure. Lots of interesting characters with questionable morals.

Carole Barrowman says

Like his author, Rushmore McKenzie is a St. Paul native, and as his name implies, he's rock solid and quite remarkable. The insurance company that made McKenzie a millionaire has been keeping an eye on him and so, it seems, have art thieves who've stolen the Jade Lily, a chunk of a gem worth millions, from a Minneapolis art museum. The thieves (artnappers) are holding the Jade Lily for ransom, expecting McKenzie to be the go-between. To me, Housewright has always been one of Minnesota's gems in the genre, a writer whose books may be lighter in tone than John Sandford's, but are just as suspenseful and satisfying. When a body is found in the snow near "Wedding Hill" in Theodore Wirth Park, McKenzie can no longer ignore being dragged into the investigation, one that gets him in trouble with the U.S. State Department and the shaky Bosnian government. "The evil that men do lives after them," thinks McKenzie when bodies begin

piling up. "The good is oft interred with their bones." A critical decision made, McKenzie adds, "Screw that. Bury the evil too." And he does.

Review first appeared in the Minneapolis Star Tribune.

Tyler says

The second of my Minnesota Genre Fiction Book Award books. Despite not having read any other books in the series, it was fairly easy to follow Rushmore McKenzie through this crime novel. As they go, this one ranks on the upper end of the genre with a compelling plot with many complex elements all vying for legitimacy in the crime. It was entertaining to recognize the sites mentioned such as Lake Calhoun, Loring Park, etc. but I felt like it was overdone. There seemed to be a Minnesota reference every other page and I was reminded of some advice on writing I once heard that amounted to "some detail is good but overuse of adjectives is the sign of weak writing." I'm not by any means saying the writing itself was weak, just there was an over-emphasis of an element that didn't directly affect the plot.

Rhonda Gilliland says

This one was hilarious with all kinds of crazy characters This was Mac's smartass at it's best. The end where he's Morris the Explainer in the boardroom is a riot.
