



Promissory Payback

Laurel Dewey

Download now

Read Online →

Promissory Payback

Laurel Dewey

Promissory Payback Laurel Dewey

Laurel Dewey's Detective Jane Perry is quickly becoming one of the most distinctive, dynamic, and unforgettable characters in suspense fiction today. She's rock hard, but capable of extraordinary tenderness. She's a brilliant cop, but she's capable of making life-altering mistakes. She's uncannily talented, and she's heartbreakingly human.

In this novelette, Jane is called in to investigate the gruesome murder of a woman who profited greatly from the misfortunes of others. The case leaves Jane with little question about motive...and with a seemingly endless number of suspects.

Promissory Payback Details

Date : Published August 2nd 2011 by Story Plant, The (first published August 1st 2011)

ISBN : 9781611880076

Author : Laurel Dewey

Format : Paperback 80 pages

Genre : Mystery, Fiction

 [Download Promissory Payback ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Promissory Payback ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Promissory Payback Laurel Dewey

From Reader Review Promissory Payback for online ebook

Ann says

This was my first “Jane Perry” detective novel. I received a courtesy copy from the publisher to review. While the concept of Promissory Payback is classic detective fiction and the storyline is clever, the book’s many issues with character development keep it from a higher rating. Specifically, the actions and behaviors of many of the characters are inconsistent with the descriptions of their personalities and the dialogue is sometimes forced and unrealistic. I found myself rolling my eyes several times.

As Dewey continues to develop the character of Jane Perry in future novellas, she might consider creating a “softening side-kick” for Perry – one with whom Perry can talk over ideas, strategies, motives, etc., and who can bring out Perry’s softer, more human side. Of course, I understand the challenge of fully developing a set of characters in a novella as short as Promissory Payback, but the extra effort would raise the quality of this book substantially. Still, for \$3.51 in print and \$0.89 on Kindle, it’s a good value for a quick airplane or vacation read.

Rhonda says

This is a short direct to the point case for Detective Jane Perry, is called out on a murder case.

Carolyn Handle age 62 is found tied up and dead on her bed by lifetime friend Laura Abernathy. Turns out she was stealing money 50,000 for people to invest in condos in Mexico that did not exist. Jane interviews Laura and learns about her robbing investors of their money and how there is 3 investors who lost money.

Jane interviews relative that was in LA at time of murder and who benefits from her death. Figures out who the three investors were. and solves the case.

You don't learn much about Jane except she is recovering alcoholic, smokes and swears. She did yoga but got kicked out for having her gun by exercise mat.

I think you might have learned more from a previous book. I wish she had more interactions than just the suspects so we could care about her.

I was given this ebook in exchange for honest review.

Cheryl says

PROMISSORY PAYBACK by Laurel Dewey

Published by The Story Plant

ISBN-10: 1611880076

ISBN-13: 978-1611880076

At the request of The Story Plant, a PDF Ebook Edition of a double novelette, Promissory Payback and Unrevealed were provided, at no cost to me, for my honest opinion.

Synopsis (from publisher): In PROMISSORY PAYBACK Jane is called in to investigate the gruesome murder of a woman who profited greatly from the misfortunes of others. The case leaves Jane with little question about motive...and with a seemingly endless number of suspects.

My Thoughts and Opinion: This was my first introduction to both this author, Laurel Dewey and character, Detective Jane Perry. Although it was only 80 pages, I instantly knew that I had been missing out on a very talented author. Within 80 pages she made the characters come to life and "transported" the reader into the plot. The writing style was fluid and very descriptive, which made it quite easy to create my own vivid visualizations as if I was watching a movie. The novelette was a stand alone read but gave hints of giving the reader to want more and to know more about this tough, street smart, but sensitive detective.

My Rating: 4

Vicki says

I was first attracted to this book because I'd never read anything by author Laurel Dewey. I also liked that it was a mystery/suspense, and it only has 80 pages. I know most readers like books with around 300, but I like shorter books and short stories a lot. I loved this book and I plan on reading the other books in the Jane Perry series as soon as I can.

Promissory Payback is a who dunnit that kept me guessing until the end. All the suspects had motive and could have been guilty, but in the end I was wrong about who it was and was shocked to learn who the killer really was.

This book is amazing, I loved every second of reading and didn't want to put it down. I love Jane Perry, she's got a quick mind and not much gets past her. She has a keen sense of intuition and picks up on clues that most people wouldn't give a second thought to.

The only down side to the book was the language. Jane definitely has a potty mouth...um no, it's more like a sewer mouth.

Laurel Dewey is working on a new character named Betty Craven. She says Betty doesn't solve crime or talk like a sailor, but that she's tough. I know for sure that I'll be waiting eagerly to meet Betty.

MarytheBookLover says

My Opinion:

I really enjoyed both of these books, based on the same main character Jane Perry. In Promissory Payback, Jane is on the case of a woman named Carolyn who has been scamming and misleading several people for her own gain. It's up to Jane to find out who killed Carolyn and it seems that all the people that Jane meets could easily be a suspect. This is the first book in this series that I have read and I really enjoyed the way I could identify with Jane being a strong and outspoken woman. She is portrayed as being a "tough as nails" cop and I loved that. So many times we see women in uniform portrayed as being unfit to be an officer just because they are female. The book was a fast read but it was a powerful read. It just begins to give you a peek into Jane's life, but the glimpse you get makes you want to read the next book and find out more about her.

I also enjoyed Unrevealed, although not quite as much as Promissory Payback, but still a very enjoyable read none-the-less. Unrevealed is a novella that contains four tales all starring Jane yet each story is unique and intriguing. My favorite of the four was "You Can't Judge a Book by It's Cover". It is an adventurous tale

that starts with Jane not wanting to speak at a career fair. At the fair she meets a young boy and her gut tells her that something is just not right. Following her instincts, she brings the boy to his home and begins to unravel the mystery of finding out why her gut has led her to this boy. I absolutely loved the way Jane thinks throughout these books. I enjoyed learning about Jane and envied her ability to solve even the most bizarre cases. Her style of mystery solving makes these books unable to put down, so much so that I will be starting this series from the beginning.

I give Promissory Payback and Unrevealed 4.5 of 5 Stars.

Katy says

Please note: Read and reviewed in October, 2011 from an e-galley provided by The Story Plant via NetGalley. Updating review formatting.

About the Story: This novella/novelette is in the Detective Jane Perry series of novels. It is the first one I've read, so it is likely that I didn't catch everything that a long-time reader of the series might have; however, the story is written in such a way that it can be read and stand by itself.

My Synopsis: Perry is called to a murder case – the woman is hog-tied on her own bed, no sign of forced entry or struggle, and has been suffocated with duct tape over her nose and mouth. She was discovered by her long-term friend, Laura Abernathy, who says she was responding to a call from the previous evening requesting that she come over to see Carolyn, the victim. As Perry investigates the murder, she untangles a complex web of lies and plots to discover the reason for the killing, as well as who was involved.

My Thoughts: I really enjoyed this quick read – it is cleverly written and plotted. I am definitely going to be tracking down the series of books – Perry is an interesting and complex character and I'd love to read more about her escapades and exploits. A very satisfying read for fans of mystery and suspense alike!

Janny says

Promissory Payback is actually one of the shortest novels I've ever read. But that's nice, especially after reading *The Lonely Polygamist* and *The Help*. Just perfect for a rainy afternoon.

It's a short crime story about detective Jane Perry. She's investigating the murder of Carolyn Handel, a woman so much hated that almost everyone that knows her could have killed her. Perry finds out that Handel is stealing money from people that trusted her and thought they were investing in real estate. Quite a motivation for murder.

So, less than 100 pages, it's a quick read, also due to the fact that the book is fast and fun to read. Dewey's writing style is fluid, sharp and descriptive, the story develops in a gripping pace, it catches you from the beginning but in the end it really lacks action and suspense. It wasn't that much of a brainteaser to understand who did it. Nevertheless, I did enjoy reading this novel. Three stars (out of five).

Alan Williams says

Jane Perry is the no nonsense detective star of Promissory Payback. She takes her sidearm with her to yoga (or did until the yoga teacher objected, she quit the class). She takes nothing at face value and takes BS from no one.

Ms Dewey had me liking Jane Perry from the outset, she's sharp but troubled and cuts straight to the heart of solving the case; she also drives a Mustang (one of the best cars in the world, in my opinion!)

Her other characters are well drawn too, being believable both in terms of personality but also motivation, and with enough detail to make them seem real in the context of a novella, something that is not always easy to achieve.

The crime is all too believable, with the crime scene one that I found being disturbingly realistic and an essential part of the telling of the tale. As Perry investigates and the evidence mounts the reality behind the crime is revealed. There are both cerebral clues which Dewey's writing ensures the readers understands as well as the obvious more physical evidence there for the reader to see.

I admit I had it worked out in my head before the final pages, which is always a little bit of a shame, sometimes a final twist or the "I didn't see that coming" moment are nice, but in this case they didn't detract from the telling of the story at all.

This story is a novella and works well in that format, the killing has shades of Christie and could easily have come from the pages of her mysteries as from the pen of Laurel Dewey, the crime, motivation of the criminals, and deed itself are all very believable and there is also a palpable sympathy towards the perpetrators at the end.

ILoveBooks says

This short detective story relates the mysterious killing of an unsympathetic victim, Carolyn Handel. Through dialogue, the reader learns about the self-centered victim's personality and illegal financial dealings. The suspects are down on their luck - or champions of charity. When the swearing, smoking, observant, on-the-wagon, detective, Jane Perry solves the crime, the reader will not be surprised at the wrap up.

This crime novelette is satisfyingly short. It harks back to the thirty-minute detective radio shows of the 1940's. The detective is hard-boiled but likeable. The characters are caricatures; they are bluntly sweet, obstreperous, irritating etc... Teens and adults who enjoy crime mysteries will be glad they picked up and finished "Promissory Payback" during a break from class or while riding home on the train.

Chrystal says

Being as this is my first Jane Perry book, I absolutely loved her character. She is sarcastic, witty and is a take-no-crap kinda woman. The fact that this was a novelette didn't deter me from actually liking her

character. The story moved along quickly, but gave you all of the information needed to understand our heroine and the supporting characters. The case Jane is investigating is gruesome to say the least and she has many suspects to check out. She has a keen eye, a sixth sense for the unseen and unsaid and a photographic memory. In the end this story is about payback and karma - Carolyn Handel is found in a most compromising position, hog tied, with promissory notes stuffed inside her mouth like an apple in a pig's mouth. The story is about Jane tracking down the murderer and using her skills to sniff out the truth. I'm actually looking forward to reading more Jane Perry novels now that I've had a taste of her character.

Lis Carey says

Jane Perry is a Denver homicide detective, a recovering alcoholic with a painful marriage in her past. When she's called to the scene of a murder early on a Monday morning, it's just part of the job, and in keeping with her low expectations of the human race.

The victim is an attractive woman in her sixties. She was drugged and hogtied, and "Karma is a bitch" is written on her naked back in lipstick. The lipstick tube has been left near the body, and a chair is pulled up by the bed, as if the killer sat there and watched her die in pain and terror. The victim was found by her friend, a woman her own age who looks a decade older who is, she says, responding a little late to an urgent call from her friend the night before.

Jane works her way carefully through the dead woman's life, her relationship with her friend and her nephew; her investment activities, her impact on everyone around her. This is a well-executed little police procedural, and a great way to get a taste of the larger series of which it's a part.

Recommended.

I received a free electronic galley of this book from the publisher via NetGalley.

Mickey Reed says

I was asked to participate in a blog tour for this novel, and this is my first taste of Laurel Dewey's work. It happens to be in the middle of the Jane Perry series, but that didn't stop me from enjoying this chapter of her story. And in it we find the brutal death of sixty-ish woman who thrived on others' misfortunes. She swindled some people from their money, and it caused someone to get so angry that he/she murdered her. In comes Jane to investigate the murder and bring justice.

I'd like to know more about Jane's past now. She's a tough, honest, smart, foul-mouthed police woman, and I love her personality. It was a little over the top sometimes, but it didn't stop me from reading it. I did think that everything was a bit convenient with how it all worked out. Granted, this novella wasn't very long, but it certainly could have been longer.

This was a good, entertaining novella if you're looking for a murder mystery. I definitely am interested in more of Jane's story so I'll be looking for the first novels of the series.

Laura says

Promissory Payback is a short crime story following Detective Jane Perry's investigation into the murder of the much-hated Carolyn Handel. It is difficult to find someone who wouldn't want to kill the self-obsessed money-grabbing sixty year old who made her living out of other people's suffering. Though absent from the action, Carolyn Handel still twists and manipulates emotions from beyond the grave.

“Evil requires the sanction of the victim” is Jane Perry's motto. In her life victims are in a situation of their own doing. If someone wants to kill you it's because you have done something so terrible you deserve it or because you are too weak to fight them off. Be strong. If not carry a gun.

Dewey paints Jane Perry with all the colours of feminism. A strong woman who loves her gun and who takes yoga only to keep herself flexible in order to catch the 'perps'. Perry despises other women, predominantly for their 'cattiness' and doesn't seem to respond well when they try to bond with her. Forming friendships with women seems to Perry to leave oneself vulnerable:

“Jane deduced this was how the trap was set between all women – cradle you in the disingenuous arms of familiarity and then hover until you become vulnerable.”

Perry remains suspicious and detached from every character in the novel as one would expect from a murder investigator. However during their first interview each potential suspect falls foul of verbal diarrhoea and spews incessant facts about themselves. This seems unusual for a first conversation with a stranger, especially when that stranger is a detective.

Snappy dialogue exchanges propel the story forwards with a gripping pace. A lot is revealed about each character from what they say; any gaps are filled in with Perry's impeccable intuition. Her skills at reading people do border on omniscience at times which is distracting. Long descriptions and the occasional runaway sentence make for awkward reading at the beginning of the story and the abundance of clues does dilute the suspense at times. However the ending is powerful and packed with the emotional vengeance of Carolyn's greatest victim.

Viviane Crystal says

Detective Jane Perry is a no-nonsense, gritty investigator who believes a loaded gun is what keeps you both flexible and safe. However, the victim she is about to witness will make her come close to losing her latest meal. Carolyn Handel is a 62 year-old woman found with the word "karma is a b--ch" across her back and her mouth stuffed with a strip of paper in her mouth with the words "Promissory Note" on it, along with a chair clearly placed to be facing the unfortunate but obviously fearful victim. Not pretty at all!

It seems that Carolyn was in the habit of losing people's money, in the recent past several well-meaning friends who had no idea they were being taken in by a scam. But who could it be among the people Detective Perry begins and continues to interrogate as potential perpetrators of this horrific murder? Usually one can predict "who done it" within a relatively short period of time, but this is not the case at all.

Laurel Dewey has spun a short but potent mystery thriller that gradually reveals startling and unsuspected clues evolving into quite a surprising solution that will amaze readers. The perfect crime rarely exists. Here, however, it comes close only because of the links missed behind the planned end of Ms. Handel but quickly ascertained by the sharp, quick-thinking detective.

Very nicely and cleverly done, Ms. Dewey!!!

Kristi (Books and Needlepoint) says

At 80 and 96 pages, I read both the novelette and the collection of stories in one sitting. It was a great way to become immersed in the life of Jane Perry and make me hungry to read the series about her. Though Jane comes across as a tough as nails police detective, I believe that she has a softer side that allows her, through her "observations" to see more than other people. I probably saw this most in the short story - You Can't Judge a Book By It's Cover. This is a good adage for Jane as well as the woman and boy in the story.

I have to laugh as I did a cut and paste on the above descriptions from the press package that I received, and as I just went back and read the Promissory Payback one, I realize that I wrote the same thought about Jane expressed there!

In Promissary Payback, I like the way that Jane looked beyond the obvious and took her time putting together the clues to solve the homicide. She noticed peoples behavior and their "tells" to figure out what they weren't saying. It was fast paced and didn't string you along before coming to a quick conclusion.

Each of the short stories either took place in hours or days, but you still get some of Jane's backstory to help you know a little more about her. I also liked that each of the stories were very different from each other. They weren't so much about the crimes as they were about the people who committed them and what led them to their behavior.

On a side note - these read well as stand alones - you do not need to have read the series to enjoy them, but as a stated before, beware if it makes you hungry for more!
