



Double Whammy

Gretchen Archer

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Davis Way thinks she's hit the jackpot when she lands a job as the fifth wheel on an elite security team at the fabulous Bellissimo Resort and Casino in Biloxi, Mississippi. But once there, she runs straight into her ex-ex husband, a rigged slot machine, her evil twin, and a trail of dead bodies. Davis learns the truth and it does not set her free—in fact, it lands her in the pokey.

Buried under a mistaken identity, unable to seek help from her family, her hot streak runs cold until her landlord Bradley Cole steps in. Make that her landlord, lawyer, and love interest. With his help, Davis must win this high stakes game before her luck runs out.

Part of the Henery Press Mystery Series Collection, if you like one, you'll probably like them all! DOUBLE WHAMMY is the first book in the Davis Way humorous mystery series. Bonus: Includes book club discussion questions.

Double Whammy Details

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Author : Gretchen Archer

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From Reader Review Double Whammy for online ebook

Larissa Reinhart says

Gretchen Archer debuts with a novel that should put her on "emerging authors to watch" list. Her distinct voice brings humor to the pages of a byzantine mystery that puts her heroine through the wringer. The protagonist, Davis Way from Pine Apple, Alabama, is a character you want to adopt and save from herself. Likable, smart, and sassy, I thoroughly loved Davis Way, particularly her numerous faults. The other characters are engaging and the plot is superbly crafted. I literally could not put down this book by the 70 percent mark and have the dark circles under my eyes to prove it.

Susan Boyer says

I was lucky enough to snag an ARC of Double Whammy, and I loved this book! Gretchen Archer has created a character I want to hang out with often. Davis Way is witty and smart, and while she's gotten herself into trouble rather spectacularly, Archer does an excellent job of showing us the layers of the character and what makes her tick.

The casino setting is well drawn and interesting, and Archer weaves it into the story well so that the plot moves along at a fast clip.

I'm eagerly awaiting the next Davis Way mystery.

LORI CASWELL says

Dollycas's Thoughts

With a main character with the name Davis Way (I once lived in a town with a street by that name) I knew this was going to be a very interesting story. What I didn't expect was to be laughing out loud one minute and on the edge of my seat the next. This happened repeatedly throughout the story. But I am getting ahead of myself.

Davis Way is a twice divorced, (from the same man), former police officer (her daddy is the chief) with a degree in criminal justice and information technology, (meaning she has a few hacking skills) woman from the teeny tiny town of Pine Apple, (two words) Alabama. She has been interviewing for a job in Biloxi, Mississippi for weeks and still has not seen or heard the job description. She accepts the job at the Bellissimo Resort and Casino with absolutely no idea what she is going to be doing.

She never imagined running into her ex x 2 husband or her doppelganger but she does.

Nor did she imagine she would find any dead bodies but several appear in her path.

She also didn't imagine ending up behind bars but that is exactly where she lands.

Maybe she should have looked at that employment contract more carefully because she while she didn't expect to hit the jackpot the only luck she seems to have is Very Bad.

I got on my stool and pulled the lever and hit the winning combination when I started reading this story and I had a hard time putting it down. Davis' new job starts out crazy and I loved all the "security" assignments

she was doing for the casino. Little mini mysteries. But then the story takes a dark turn and I was in shock and felt horrible for Davis and didn't know how she was going to get herself out of a huge mess. I can't say more without spoiling the story, so the plot talk stops here. ?

What I can say is Gretchen Archer has written an amazing story. She takes Davis on a wild ride and never takes her foot off the gas. I really liked Davis, she is brassy, smart and persistent but she has her flaws. Her father has her back always, her mother and sister not so much. The rest of the supporting cast is so well written and some are very complex souls. Davis meets a lot of very unique people. Most of them have secrets or are hiding something.

I found the casino/hotel setting very interesting. I am not much of a gambler myself but have played the slots a few times. Nothing as elaborate as what Davis was dealing with though. I loved the two "grandmas" she meets. That may be me someday. The knowledge of what goes on from behind the scenes from the basements to the guest rooms to the office was all very captivating.

To say this book is entertaining is a gross understatement. It is a fabulous debut. Full of twists and turns and is different from other cozy mysteries I have read. You have to read this book!! I can't wait to read the rest of this series. Kudos Ms. Archer! You have hit the jackpot!!

Carla Johnson-Hicks says

This is the first in a series that I have been wanting to read for a while, I am glad I finally did. This was really a humorous, fast-paced, mystery story. Davis Way, our protagonist has quite a background. She was married twice to the same man, was fired from her job as a police officer by her father, is not welcomed by her mother who has tried to evict her a few times and also has a computer programming degree. Without a job, she is finally hired to do security at a casino in Biloxi. She works undercover in many disguises to nab the bad guys. She has to play a slot game, clean rooms in a motel, work as a waitress and pretend to be a high roller. Sounds like fun, but when Davis finds out her ex-ex-husband is somehow involved in all this, she wants to head for the hills. Unfortunately she has a signed contract, which she didn't bother to read, that locks her in for at least 90 days.

There were a lot of interesting characters in this story. George Morgan or maybe Morgan George, was a cabbie that seemed to know more about what was going on than Davis did. The two security guys she was supposed to work with, Teeth and No Hair as Davis called them, thought she was a bumbling fool, but usually did what she asked. The two older women who played the slots beside Davis were also pretty funny. There was a lot of action, some unexpected twists and a totally surprising romance angle that will have you turning pages quickly to get to the satisfying conclusion. I am ready for Double Dip.

Renee says

Funny book....could not put it down. Davis Way gets herself into some funny situations. This book is good for a laugh or two. I received this book from Goodreads.

LynDee says

I was so excited to get an early peek at *Double Whammy*, and Gretchen Archer does not disappoint! I couldn't put this down—I read 90 percent of it in a single day.

I've never been to a casino, but I feel like I've been to several now, thanks to Archer's vivid descriptions of Davis Way's sometimes opulent, sometimes laughable surroundings.

Double Whammy introduces us to Davis Way (great name!), a down-on-her luck former police officer from a teensy Alabama town who's trying to start over after divorcing the same rat fink for the second time. Davis thinks she's hit the jackpot when she lands a job at a luxury casino resort in Biloxi that comes with a beautiful suite, designer wardrobe, and a shoulder bag full of cash.

She learns quickly that everything at the Bellissimo is not what it seems, and the further she pokes into what's going on, the more trouble she gets into, finally landing herself in jail for a crime she didn't commit. Enter the hunky lawyer, and hang on for a rollercoaster of an ending that will keep you guessing until Archer wants you to know whodunit.

Davis is human, flawed, and lovable (and a little crazy, but in a fantastically endearing way) and I can't wait to see what comes next for her. Gretchen Archer is a name to watch for in mystery fiction. A fabulous, fun debut!

Full disclosure: I received an advance copy from the author, who asked for nothing but an honest review.

Maureen DeLuca says

To me , this book had potential.... I liked the idea and was looking for a cozy type book. But, it was a bit too busy for me... xx oh well, better luck next time xx

Ashley says

I want to be Davis Way's friend. Not many books leave me feeling that way about the main character. While reading *Double Whammy*, I felt that Davis' personality was so authentic that she may be a real person instead of a character in a mystery novel. She's smart, sassy, and just the right amount of flawed. I loved her.

Gretchen Archer did a fantastic job. I didn't want to put the book down, even the second time I read it and already knew what happened.

Sign me up to read #2.

Paula Phillips says

Davis Way from Pine Apple , yes it's true has had a knack for getting herself into trouble from evil ex-

boyfriends though technically its just the one as she's married him twice and then she hasn't had much luck in the job department until now. Davis has landed herself a job working undercover security in a Casino. The job starts off easy until she is told to investigate the Double Whammy machine and find out how a significant somebody is constantly winning the big ones. That somebody turns out though to be none other than her ex-husband Eddie and something very strange is going on as his partner looks alot like Davis in every bit way ? Does Davis have a twin she doesn't know about ? What will happen though when Davis is framed for murder and the only person who can help her solve it is her landlord Bradley Cole ? A fun-paced story that will have you feeling in parts quite sorry for Davis especially the second half of the book. Double Whammy is a story that all fans of the Stephanie Plum series , Lisa Lutz Spellman Files and Marianne Dercourt's Tara Sharp series will love.

Ian says

After shooting herself in the foot...well, discharging her firearm in the general direction of her ex-husband anyway, Davis finds herself all but unemployable as a police officer.

Then she lands a job working for a casino investigating scams and people who are cheating the system and she's found her niche. But coworkers who are acting suspiciously and a demanding boss make for a hard field to plough.

Double Whammy is a pretty good little mystery set in the South (Mississippi). There is a little too much going on for it to be great and the narrative is occasionally a little confusing (I mean at one point I thought, '*wait a minute, did they just have sex*' or the Davis would say things like '*three weeks later*' and it would take me a minute to realize she wasn't being literal just saying how she felt).

But overall, despite the imperfections...maybe even because of them, it's a fun read.

Cynthia says

This is a book unlike most others that I have read. I enjoyed Double Whammy SO much that I read it twice since I received it as a free book won on Goodreads. This author is such an intelligent writer with describing people, places, situations, events, etc. so clearly that you can just picture them in your mind's eye. I found every character to be described so well that I had a mental picture of each. The story is written very well, with a very unique, unusual and extremely interesting story that hints as to where the story is going, but then takes you to another conclusion soon afterwards and something that I just adored about the book. I do not want to know who the true criminal is until the very end of a book and this book kept me guessing all along the way. There is not only the normal cozy type mystery here, but a lot of bantering, joking, responding to one's self, (which I found very amusing)joking and teasing from one character to another, and making the book a real treat to read as you just never quite new what was around the next corner or the next page. The book is warm, friendly, has compassion, and all these other components to make the central character totally believable in almost an unbelievable way.

I can well imagine this story's main character as a real live person and almost felt as though she was truly alive and living in Pine Apple or Biloxi by the time the story ended. Descriptions were so well done and every story line and incident was tied up nicely somewhere along the line if not at the end of the book. To me, this signifies an intelligent writer who has done her homework and possesses the insight as to what the

reader is looking for throughout the entire book, even if said reader wasn't sure what that was until it was told!!!

I am truly looking forward to reading the next book/books in this series; I have read a LOT of books over the years, and this is one author that I plan on following no matter what she writes. I love cozy mysteries, mystery and thrillers and have been exposed to many authors during my lifetime, but Ms. Archer seemed to write about everything that makes a good cozy mystery/mystery-intrigue/adventure/including a touch of romance (this book is all that and more) and has it all tied up in one book where I laughed out loud many times even in public. But with this main character, you just know that more mystery and adventures will follow with that bit of humor and romance. I liked this book so much that I just may read it again (a third time) to make sure that I didn't miss one single thing that she wrote.

Terri Austin says

After a little misunderstanding with her ex-ex-husband, Davis Way finds herself in need of a new career and a new life. Desperate for work, she takes a complicated undercover job at a casino in Biloxi, Mississippi. But her dream job isn't as fab as advertised. She can't quite trust her boss or his secretive secretary. The cabbie who lives out of his car and gives her occasional advice and reluctant rides seems to know more than he's telling. And somehow, her jerk of an ex-ex-husband is involved in scamming the casino. Davis is determined to sort it all out, but as her life unravels, can she stay out of trouble long enough to catch a killer and solve a whammy of a mystery?

Gretchen Archer has crafted a character in Davis Way that is engaging, smart, and snarky, with a tenacious attitude that gets her into brilliant complications. While Double Whammy was laugh out loud funny (seriously--I was reading at the doctor's office and started cracking up before I remembered where I was), all of the characters showed depth and emotion that made this book a thoroughly pleasurable read. I loved every second of it and can't wait for the next installment.

Kourtney says

Ms. Archer is a debut author to watch. In Davis Way, she has crafted an adorably flawed, completely relatable character that I can't wait to spend another book with!

Double Whammy has a few meanings and it was a fun adventure uncovering each one of them. The entire cast of characters shine in this book and I look forward to many more books with the Davis clan. Ms. Archer's casino setting was a delightful change of pace from the typical mystery and gave a cool peak inside the inner workings of a casino. Fascinating stuff. She gives you just the right amount of information to keep you wanting more. The last 100 pages were lightning fast. And so many twists and turns I couldn't stop reading even as PM became AM.

Every minute I spent with this book was a pleasure! Thank you Ms. Archer.

Wyshona D. Lawson says

I'm mad at myself for finishing this book. My reasoning is that I really wanted to see if the murderer ended up being who I thought it was going to be. It was. **THERE ARE SPOILERS BELOW:**

So, why am I mad at myself for finishing this? Let me count the ways.

1. Davis Way is kind of dumb. She supposedly went to school and earned a degree in criminal justice (and another in computer science), and even though she was a police person for a period of time, when No Hair says Teeth is (1) sweeping a room, she has no idea that he means **FOR BUGS**. What person doesn't know what that means if they've ever seen a crime show, read a book about crime, studied crime, etc. (2) She picks up a **GUN** and doesn't bother to see if it's loaded or if the safety is on/off (supposedly the type of gun doesn't even have a safety according to some posts I've read), and then she **PRETENDS TO SHOOT IT AND ACTUALLY SHOOTS IT**. (3) After she shoots the freaking gun, she is not smart enough (even though she was a **COP**) to wipe off her prints! (4) Even though it's against the law of the gaming commission to figure out the games (or something like that according to the book), she does just that, using software and taking apart a machine, and even though she is arrested, that is never really brought up again. Sure, Bianca has to plead guilty to **SOMETHING**--still not exactly sure what--but why doesn't Davis have to pay a fine or something for that? (5) She is **DUMB ENOUGH** to write her ex-ex mother-in-law, **WHO HATES HER GUTS**, to plead for help. Not her sister, who would most assuredly help her, not her father, who even though he has had a heart attack and triple bypass would surely know someone that could help her, and not her boss, but her **EX-EX MOTHER-IN-LAW**, who does not help her at all. (6) She knew Teeth was in on it, but decides to go the casino anyway and mess around in **HIS OFFICE**. Why not just go when No Hair was there or ask him for backup? (7) Even though she supposedly hates her rat bastard ex-ex husband, she doesn't want him to die at the hands of Bianca/whoever is actually stealing the money, so she decides to win it herself. Which lands her in jail for two months. (8) She left her freaking phone in No Hair's desk. What the hell???????? (9) When three members of her family call her, she assumes it's a feud, and instead of texting them back, she **LEAVES HER PHONE IN NO HAIR'S DESK**. ????????????????? (10) When she is hiding under No Hair's desk, she is so afraid of Eddie and Bianca, that she hits her head three times, **ALMOST** giving herself away. For a police officer, she has no stealth. At all. There are a ton of other examples, but I will continue.

2. People are saying that Davis Way is like the next Stephanie Plum. I disagree. First of all, I think Stephanie is much smarter than Davis, but the other thing about Stephanie is that she is likable, I think, because she is not judgmental. Davis Way is extremely judgmental, as referenced in my previous comment when she calls one man **TEETH** and another **NO HAIR**.

3. She is constantly standing there with her mouth wide open because she is shocked/surprised at something, or the "back of her knees" are giving out on her. Basically, even though I know this is hyperbole, she spends about 1/2 the book being a bad combo of the Wizard of Oz's scarecrow and tin man combined, stumbling through life with her mouth stuck so that it needs oiling.

4. Her sister is dumb, too. When they put the home arrest bracelet on her sister, so they can fly to freaking Nevada, her sister is too dumb to realize that **GOING OUTSIDE YOUR HOME TO GET THE PAPER IS WRONG, EVEN THOUGH I WOULD ASSUME THEY EXPLAINED HER PARAMETERS TO HER**. Secondly, how did she sleep through the alarm when napping when it woke her up in the middle of the night? Third, if they check on you every two hours, why take a shower when it's time to check in????????????

5. Other things I don't get about this book. (1) Why does Davis scream aloud when Bianca, on old footage, looks right at the camera, but does not scream when she is on the balcony and a voice speaks from the

dark???????? (2) Can you be arrested as a Jane Doe in Mississippi? Really? They can charge you with a crime when they don't have your real name???????? (3) Why can't her lawyer or the prison system run her damn social to figure out who she really is? (4) Why aren't her prints in the system? That was never explained. Is her dad not a good dude? How was he able to erase her prints from the system or put prints in the system that are not hers with her name? AND WHY? I mean, was it because of what she did to Eddie? I just don't get that. (5) How in the hell can Bradley Cole fall into bed with a woman that has pretty much gone Fatal Attraction on you in your apartment. Sleeping in your clothes? Using your razor to shave with? Pretty much pretending you're already a couple? That's class a psycho stuff right there. (6) Why in the hell is Bradley Cole THE ONLY PERSON ON HER VISTOR LIST???????? (7) WHY DOES HE EVEN BOTHER TO GO????

6. Other bothersome things: (1) The plot jumps around. Present, past, present, past, present, past. Half explanations of the past. It was a very shaky timeline, and I didn't like it. (2) Sure, your'e guilty for giving that kid money that he used to buy a gun to kill his mom and siblings, but WHY MARRY EDDIE? A SECOND TIME. Sleep with him, sure, whatever. But marry the dude you don't like? What the hell? (3) I get you were mad he stole the money, but take the ass to court, don't go ballistic because you were too dumb to check the statements. (4) A teacher? Ewwwww. (5) Mason George is like a freaking Jedi. How? (6) The most unlikeable mother. Ever. (7) Does she ever eat anything but Pop Tarts? (8) Her being so friendly? cute? innocent? that the prison guard lets her take baths every day instead of twice a week. Sure. Totally believable. (9) There were times the story jumped around so much that I thought I had skipped pages, but I really don't think I had.....

That's all I can think of now, but you can see why I am so angry at myself for financing this drivel. Kudos to the lady for writing it and finishing it. I know it was hard work, but the editor should have pushed for a bit more cohesion.

Kendel Lynn says

I was lucky enough to read this book well before publication, and I absolutely loved it. Funny, charming and addicting.
