



The Lost Key

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The newest entry in the sizzling international thriller series featuring Nicholas Drummond, from #1 New York Times–bestselling author Catherine Coulter.

Freshly minted FBI agent Nicholas Drummond is barely out of his Quantico training when he and his partner, Mike Caine, are called to investigate a stabbing on Wall Street.

Their investigation, however, yields more questions than answers. It quickly becomes clear that the victim, John Pearce, was more than the naval historian and antiques dealer he appeared to be. What Drummond doesn't know is that buying and selling rare books was Pearce's cover, and that he had devoted his life to discovering the whereabouts of a missing World War I U-boat concealing a stash of gold bullion, and an unexpected surprise that only raises more questions. When Drummond and Caine find both of Pearce's adult children have disappeared, the case assumes a new sense of urgency. The FBI agents know their best lead lies in the victim's cryptic final words—"The key is in the lock." But what key? What lock?

The search for Adam and Sophia Pearce takes them on an international manhunt, which threatens to run them afoul of an eccentric billionaire industrialist with his own plans not only for the lost gold, but the creation of a weapon unlike anything the world has ever seen.

The Lost Key Details

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From Reader Review The Lost Key for online ebook

Vintage says

Once again, the narrators rule. In The Final Cut the suspense and story elements were tops, but there was a serious drop in coherent story and suspense elements as a convoluted Ludlum-esque secret society's desire to control and better the world tanked.

This secret society was the absolute worst as the high profile body count rose surely they would know that this is a tipoff to both the FBI, MI5 and anyone else pulled into investigate the number of deaths. But bad publicity doesn't stop the bad guys that have infiltrated every part of the British empire.

PLOT: Half-British Nicholas Drummond is now a full FBI agent and is paired up with Mike Caine (female agent), and their banter, very mild sexual tension and no holds barred attempts to catch the bad guys is engaging. Nicholas' first day doesn't go well as he ends up killing too many bad guys for the FBI's comfort level as well as getting the sense smacked out of him.

No worries, his butler Nigel is there in his 5 story Brownstone to make him and Mike dinner.

From there they run to England for more collateral damage and body count.

The plot and suspense were very mediocre to me, but the banter and relationship between the two protagonists was well done and enhanced by the two narrators.

4 stars for narration, 2 stars for suspense

The evil mastermind...

The 007 type- Nicholas

The FBI chick - Mike Caine

Carol says

I read this book in two days because I had trouble putting it down. There were a lot of characters to keep track of and the plot was quite complicated, but it was riveting. I enjoyed the real WWI history that was intertwined with the fiction. Nicolas Drummond is an excellent character and Mike Caine is a strong female heroine. I look forward to reading many more adventures of a Brit in the FBI.

I received an uncorrected proof of this book for free through Goodreads First Reads.

Carol says

THREE AND A HALF STARS....this is the second in Coulter's Brit in the FBI series, and it was lots of fun and had enjoyable international tension, but was maybe a tad too long. Don't understand why it was written by Coulter AND Ellison; I hope Ms. Coulter is not going the way of Patterson -- books with the author name in huge letters on the front but written by various other people so the main author can make more and more money at the expense of good writing and fresh plots. The ending tied everything up okay, but I am a bit nervous with a phone call in the last paragraph that points to the next book's plot. PLEASE PLEASE don't start leaving the reader stranded with no closure at the end (also like Mr. Patterson). Let's enjoy the book we're reading first, complete with a full ending. The plot here is more of the "crazy scientist threatens the world" type, but it was well done, a fine thriller, and enlarges the characterization of our main characters. I'll look for the next one.

Meghan says

International intrigue with an historical twist that I loved! In the second book of this series we start to get more of the dynamic between Mike and Nicholas which I am loving them together. They are the first set of partners/maybe a couple in the future that I have enjoyed as much as Sherlock and Savich in CC work. We got to revisit with Nicholas dad and butler who have quickly become two of my favorites! Such loyalty, humor and character. I loved the action and quick pace of this story and the play on historical events, secret organizations and several nations as the backdrop!

Jackie says

Frankly, I had forgotten I had read the first issue of this series. (Not the result the authors were hoping for, I'm sure.) At some point in time I must have heard about this book coming out and put it on hold at the library. When I looked at the cover I was a teensy bit crestfallen: yes, another-Catherine-Coulter-book-what-was-I-thinking-she's-been-a-disappointment-recently.

Then, I realized J.T. Ellison was listed as co-author. Oh, yay! The addition of Ms. Ellison has only enhanced the end product.

So, was this book over the top? Yes. Ridiculous? Yes. Borderline science-fiction? Yes. Plot (rather than character) driven? Again, yes. Worth the few hours it took to read? Absolutely. I was needing something just like that to read - my need was completely fulfilled. (Although I still wonder if the authors aren't getting paid by the page - I really don't think the book needed to be that long - the hardbacks are too hard (and heavy) to hold.)

Is this great literature? No. Not even. Great escapism and entertainment? For sure. Would I recommend it? You bet. Be prepared for something totally unrealistic and it will be an enjoyable read.

And it should be noted here - although there are a few references to sadism (which, really, aren't at all necessary) the book is clean. I don't remember any objectionable language.

Mike French says

The second in the "A Brit in the FBI" series. The 2 main characters in Catherine Coulter's FBI series- Sherlock and Savich are just mentioned in this book,so a new reader of hers can enjoy this book!

FASTEN YOUR SEATBELTS AND HOLD ON TIGHT! This book has non stop ACTION from start to finish! I highly recommend this book to all my THRILLER GR friends!

Barbara ★ says

I really, really like the combination of Mike Caine and Nicholas Drummond. They have amazing chemistry and have compatible cognitive skills allowing them to hit problems from two different directions which make for a stimulating read.

This is the second adventure in the series and it's as exciting as the first. This is more an adventure than a mystery novel. More along the lines of Cotton Malone or Dirk Pitt than any boring old FBI book. So far this series is get-up-and-go adventure from the first page until the final word.

I love this collaboration between J.T. Ellison and Catherine Coulter. Excellent pairing!

Julie says

The Lost Key by Catherine Coulter and J.T. Ellison is a 2015 Jove publication.

Another action-packed thriller in the "Brit in the FBI" series!

The first book in this series was a very clever caper style thriller, but this second book is a globe-trotting adventure tale, and is every bit as entertaining!!

It's Nicholas's first official day of work for the FBI and he makes quite an impression after a man is killed on Wall Street. The story takes off from there, when several puzzling leads direct Nicholas and his partner, Mike, towards a high level organization, a cache of gold, and a very dangerous weapon, but the key they need to unlock the treasure is lost.

With the bodies piling up, Nicholas and Mike must race against the clock to prevent the weapon from falling into very dangerous hands.

The pacing here is a bit slower, but the plot is much more intricate, with a large cast of characters to keep up with.

We learn more about Nicholas' past, but Mike's personal life is not as fleshed out, again- as of yet, anyway, but I hope we get a little more of her backstory soon.

This story has a 'James Bond' feel to in a way and is purely for fun and entertainment. This story is just what the doctor ordered for me this week, offering an escape from some hefty issues. I can't wait to find out what Nicholas and Mike will be working on next!!

4 stars

Mark Rubinstein says

If you want an action-packed FBI thriller with a fascinating protagonist--Nicholas Drummond--then this is the novel for you. A man is stabbed to death on Wall Street and Drummond along with his sidekick, Mike, is assigned to the case. But it's much more than it at first seems, as the hunt takes them to Paris, Scotland and other remote places. The stakes are high, actually, they could not be higher because the fate of the world hangs in the balance. This collaborative novel, written with J.T. Ellison, is as good as it gets, and deserves five solid gold stars!

Mark Rubinstein

Author of Mad Dog Justice, Love Gone Mad and Mad Dog House

Alex is The Romance Fox says

This is the 2nd book of Britt in the FBI, with ex Detective Chief Inspector Sir Nicholas Drummond of the London Metropolitan Police, now with NY FBI and teamed up with Michaela aka Mike Caine.

On his first day at work after completing his training, they are assigned to a murder case which immediately takes them on a non-stop action journey that spans back to WW2, megalomaniac villains, crazed scientists and shadowy and secret groups.

The two main characters are likeable and easy to engage with and I liked their interaction and chemistry. Nicholas Drummond is like a sexy James Bond...complete with right English accent, a butler, a gorgeous stately English home and an English title. There's no way Mike Caine can resist this alpha male.

A good suspenseful thriller that is entertaining and easy to read.

comfort says

One of the problems with listening to books, is that-THAT is the voice you associate with the characters. Whilst not awful, I found the mans voice a bit "affected", some and I say, only SOME of the words he pronounces are just so wrong, it is jarring and I became fixated on how much they annoyed me. I am not sure if it is an American trying to do British and was pronouncing the words the way he thinks they should be

said. I should look him up but can't be arsed just now.

I didn't love this story, I know most people give it 5 out of 5 but I guess I was expecting more of a crime story not a thriller. I now realise I do not like political/war thrillers too much.

Some of the story line is interesting, Marie Curie's discoveries, the ancient secret organisation The Order, membership being handed down from parent to child, hidden gold in a submarine in a Scottish loch.

I don't know it had just too much action in too short a time-for me.

Tina says

Really enjoyed this one. The best from Coulter that I've read in awhile. I also was bored of the Savich series. Thumbs up on this one

Nicholas Drummond has just left his job in London and come to New York as a new FBI agent. His new partner is Mike Caine and on his first day they are called out to a stabbing on Wall Street. They track down the murderer only to have him commit suicide as soon as they have him in their custody. As they start investigating the victim, John Pearce, they find connections to a very old and secretive group called the Highest Order that dates back to the early 1900's. Pearce's dying words 'the key is in the lock' sends Drummond and Caine on a race around the world to try to solve the riddle of what the key is and where to find the lock. Up against a madman, Manfred Havelock, they must solve the puzzle before Havelock gets to it first. Havelock will do anything, including murder, to find the lock and key because he knows what it contains and he will use it to rule the world. Pearce's son, Adam, is the only other person who has figured out the riddle, but he has disappeared along with his sister Sophie. If Drummond and Caine, with Sophie's and Adam's help, don't stop Havelock the world will be forever changed.

This was one of the best Catherine Coulter books I have read. It was a very fast paced thriller with non-stop action.

MissSusie says

This book started out a bit slow for me and it took me a little while to warm up to the narrators but I ended up really liking this story and the narration once I got used to it.

This book had a conspiracy theory, a historical artifact that may be the key to the worst weapon ever, a large amount of gold bars and a secret society trying to make the world a better place. However when you have powerful people after something very important there is always a chance for someone to be subverted and when members of this secret society start to die you have to wonder if the threat is coming from the inside of the group or the outside.

I must admit to taking to MacLeod Andrews narration faster than Renée Raudman's I thought his narrations were fabulous and all his accents seemed real and well done. Raudman though it took me a little while to enjoy her voice although by the end I was enjoying her narration. I would listen to more by both of these

narrators.

This was my first book by this author and I think I will go back and listen to the first book in this series and follow this series as it progresses.

3 ½ Stars

Carolyn says

Every single time I read a book from Catherine Coulter's FBI series (I have read them all, twice), I am always amazed at her ability to keep the storylines fresh, so very clever and exciting. Each book is literally an "edge of your seat" read. I particularly love her main characters, FBI Special Agents Savich and Sherlock. Now, Ms. Coulter has started a mirror FBI series with two new FBI characters, one of which is a former New Scotland Yard, aristocrat Brit Nicholas Drummond (who was introduced in Ms. Coulter's "The Final Cut"). Just out of Quantico, Nicholas is paired with FBI Special Agent Mike Caine. Nicholas and Mike have the same charisma and chemistry as Savich and Sherlock. Wonderful!

I reiterate, where does Ms. Coulter come up with these storylines? Brilliant! I absolutely loved it.

I cannot wait for the next book in this new series.

Diane says

Pulse pounding continuation of "A Brit in the FBI" series - gotta love "Drummond, Nicholas Drummond"!

Newly graduated from Quantico, Nicholas is paired with "Mike Caine" to investigate a stabbing that happened on Wall Street in New York City. Before you know it the pair are deep into a very complicated investigation on a few different fronts. What exactly is "the lost key"? and what "lock" does it fit? Read the book!

Loving this series, 4.5 stars and 2 thumbs up!
