



Hair Brained

Nancy J. Cohen

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When hairstylist Marla Vail's best friend is hurt in a suspicious car accident, Marla assumes guardianship of her infant son. No sooner does Marla say, "Baby want a bottle?" than she's embroiled in another murder investigation. Her husband, Detective Dalton Vail, determines the crash may not have been an accident after all. But then, who would want Tally—or Ken in the car with her—out of the way? As Marla digs deeper into her friends' lives, she realizes she didn't know them as well as she'd thought. Nonetheless, it's her duty as their son's guardian to ensure his safety, even if it means putting her own life at risk. Can she protect the baby and find the culprit before someone else ends up as roadkill?

Hair Brained Details

Date : Published September 12th 2017 by Orange Grove Press

ISBN :

Author : Nancy J. Cohen

Format : Kindle Edition 342 pages

Genre : Mystery, Cozy Mystery, Fiction

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From Reader Review Hair Brained for online ebook

Paula Ratcliffe says

This book follows Marla Vail and her husband Dalton as they are celebrating New Years they hear news that Marla's best friend Tally and Ken are missing. Not sure where they are or what has happened Marla assumes responsibility for Tally's baby Luke. Within 24 hours they find out Tally and Ken were in a car accident and Ken didn't make it as the clock ticks and they await knowing the fate of Tally. Marla digs deeper into finding out what happened to her best friend and her husband. Who wanted Tally or Ken out of the picture and why?

As Marla digs deeper she wonders if the accident was work related or personal? There seems to be tension at work for Ken and his staff which makes Marla wonder what was going? Then finding out Tally was into somethings Marla knew nothing about, makes her wonder if her relationship with Tally was very one sided. Time is running out and Marla needs to get to the bottom before someone else ends up getting into another accident.

This series is so great as Marla struggles to raise Luke, find out what happened with Tally and Ken and pray that Tally wakes up. Tally doesn't offer up much in this book as she is struggling to stay alive so the pressure is on Dalton and Marla to figure it out regardless of where the road turns. It also gives Marla insight into her theory of not having kids.

I really enjoyed this book and anyone who does hair dressing or just loves a great cozy mystery will love this one! This one had me pulled in and I couldn't let it go until I found out like Marla what happened that night and why! Definitely a page turner which kept me turning the pages very late at night!

Kathleen says

“Hair Brained” earns 5/5 Suspects, Secrets, and Diaper Changes!

Marla Vail and her detective husband Dalton are enjoying their New Year's Day gathering with friends and family, when Dalton receives a disturbing phone call. Marla's BFF Tally and husband Ken had not returned home. Ken had a business emergency the night before, and Tally joined him saying they would get dinner, and if late, they'd stay at a hotel. But this morning...nothing, and the sitter is extremely worried; they weren't answering their phones. Dalton has his partner checking into car accidents and hospital admissions, but until they get some news, they knew they were the emergency guardians for Tally's and Ken's new little baby Luke. Picking him up was first on the list, then...they discover Tally and Ken were involved in a major car accident, and law enforcement deems the accident not an accident. What? Why? Who? All questions needing to be answered, but as Marla and Dalton team up to find those answers, more questions appear. This puts everyone at risk.

This is the fourteenth book in Nancy J. Cohen's Bad Hair Day Mystery series and always a favorite of mine, but...wow, exciting just got an upgrade. Less gossip and mayhem out of the salon, this story has Marla with a more personal motivation than just being nosy to uncover the answers which makes Dalton a more willing partner in the investigation than the one trying to curb her energy to get involved. I had to put my book down just to catch my breath...my inner 'Sherlock' was greatly challenged: Accident not an accident? Questions about the real intended victim? Fraud investigations? Another body? All made this a real page turner! Characters are well written and dialogue and descriptions make this intriguing and engaging. Playing out in the background are some contemporary issues like the need for power of attorney, long term health

insurance, and guardianship of minors along with Marla's struggles dealing with her insecurities over the motherhood role with Tally and Ken's little boy Luke. I have read a few of Cohen's books, and newbies need not shy away because this is well into the series. It is a good standalone with enough information into the back story and character connections to keep you, too, on the edge of your seat.

"Disclosure: A review copy of this book was sent to me by the author/publisher. All of the above opinions are my own."

Carla Johnson-Hicks says

Marla and Dalton Vail make an awesome husband and wife sleuthing team. Even though Dalton is a cop, he is investigating a crime that is not in his jurisdiction in this story. Marla has a very personal and legitimate reason to get involved in this mystery. Her best friend Tally is injured in a car accident, where she and her husband Ken were forced off the road. Ken was killed, Tally is in a coma. Because Marla is the legal guardian for their son as well as having Power of Attorney, she is not taking care of a baby and trying to make decisions for Tally's business. Of course, Marla puts herself at risk a couple of times while investigating, but with her wits, she is able to escape. This book deals with many situations that families do not always consider. Things like power of attorney, health insurance, long term care insurance, guardianship of minors, executors, and pre-planned funerals. The book isn't preachy, but the story makes you think about things you might not have considered before.

The characters continue to show more of themselves in the story and Marla begins to seriously rethink her stand on having children. I liked getting to know more about some of the secondary characters as well. The relationship between Dalton and Marla is almost too good to be true. They do have their disagreements, but they always get worked out. The story actually has a couple of mysteries within its pages and all is worked out by the end, but there are a lot of plot twists along the way. With so many suspects, I challenge you to see if you can figure out who is to blame for everything that is happening in this story. I would like to thank Nancy for giving me the opportunity to read and review this book.

Linda says

Hair stylist Marla Vail receives some very bad news...their friends, Tally and husband, Ken, have been involved in a serious car crash that the police ultimately determine was not an accident. This sends Marla on a path that will ultimately change her life in ways she cannot imagine. As Dalton and Marla oversee their friends' personal and business affairs, they become involved in an investigation that has many suspects and motives, but nothing that seems solid. From Ken's real estate business to Tally's boutique to the ladies' tea parties that Tally attended...everything seems suspicious as secrets are uncovered that Tally, her supposedly best friend, never shared with Marla. And of course, Marla is also trying to cope with taking care of Tally's baby, Luke...when she herself has been trying to avoid motherhood entirely. The story moved at a nice pace and had enough clues and suspects to keep the reader guessing until the final surprise reveal. I enjoyed the relationship between Marla and Dalton, as well as her interaction with her staff, and of course, Luke. I look forward to reading the next book in this series. Disclosure: I am voluntarily reviewing an ARC of this book.

Jessica Wilhoite says

****THIS CONTAINS SPOILERS****

I was so excited that this series could continue, despite being cancelled earlier in the year. Marla finds herself taking care of young Luke, Tally and Ken's baby after there is a bad car accident claiming one of their lives and putting the other in the hospital unconscious. Marla and Dalton are hard at work trying to solve the case and learning some surprising things about their friends along the way. Marla is enjoying taking care of Luke and is contemplating what life would be like if she were to have a baby of her own - something she has been against since the beginning of this series.

Can't wait for Marla's next adventure!

Nancy J. Cohen

Laura says

This is a great book; this is the fourteenth book in the Bad Hair Day Mystery series and is written by Nancy Cohen. When hairstylist Marla Vail's best friend is hurt in a suspicious car accident, Marla assumes guardianship of her infant son. No sooner does Marla say, "Baby want a bottle?" than she's embroiled in another murder investigation. Her husband, Detective Dalton Vail, determines the crash may not have been an accident after all. As Marla digs deeper into her friends' lives, she realizes she didn't know them as well as she'd thought. Nonetheless, it's her duty as their son's guardian to ensure his safety, even if it means putting her own life at risk. This is a great book with a wonderful story and well developed characters. This book will keep you reading long into the night. If you are looking for a great book, then you need to read this book. I am looking forward to reading the next book by this great author. I voluntarily reviewed an advanced reader's copy of this book. The free book held no determination on my personal review.

Kathleen says

Wow! This was a really great read! Marla and Dalton make a wonderful team. Most stories do not have a cop being helped by a loved one. Even though this is Marla wanting to investigate Tally's accident Dalton is right there investigating. I like how it shows some realistic dimensions to both of their professional lives; concerns about doing a good job professionally, doing what's right and having a life of their own. This book is believable, well-written and well-developed. The storyline is fast-paced and keeps readers guessing to the end."

Maggie says

A suspicious car accident kills one friend and lands his wife in a coma. Suddenly thrust into the role of caretaker for the couple's infant son, hairdresser Marla Vail nurtures the baby and seeks justice for her friends.

The more she digs into her friends' lives, the more suspects she discovers, and the more secrets come to light. On top of this, Marla and her husband, Detective Dalton Vail, are wrestling with a family decision. Dalton wants them to have a baby, Marla not so much, due to an accidental death years ago. Having a baby

under their roof gives them a look at what it would be like.

The mystery is tightly woven and kept me guessing, but Marla's personal journey was a nail-biter for me. After spending time with her through the series, I feel like she's a dear friend. Her inner turmoil over having a baby of her own struck a chord with me. I've struggled with fears and doubts, so Marla's very human flaws endeared her to me all the more.

I'm a Nancy J Cohen fan, and I always root for her sleuth Marla Vail to get to the bottom of the matter. Hair Brained, number 14 in her Bad Hair Day Mysteries, is another top caper in a series of fun reads. I can't wait to see what Marla gets up to next.

-- Muddy Rose Reviews

Yvonne says

It's a New Year's celebration at Marla and Dalton Vail's house. They are surrounded by family and friends, but two important people are missing. Her best friend Tally and her husband, Ken. The party is interrupted when Marla's husband, detective Dalton Vail, receives a phone call. Tally and Ken have been in a car accident, but it's not looking like an accident at all.

As Tally fights for her life, Marla accepts guardianship of Tally's baby boy and delves into the mystery of her friend's so-called accident. Along with her detective husband Dalton, Marla begins to uncover things about her friends that makes her wonder what is really going on in their lives. From possible insurance fraud to a strange group of ladies Tally recently joined in a tea group.

Regardless of what she uncovers, Marla is determined to protect their son and find out who is behind this. This, also, has Marla considering if motherhood would be something for her in the near future.

There were several twists and turns, plus many red herrings in this book. Just when I thought I knew what was going on, the author threw in a few extra curves to have me scratching my head.

The characters are well-developed and realistic. They have quickly become old friends. I always look forward to another visit to South Florida to spend some time with Marla and her family.

Nancy J. Cohen does it again and brings us another exciting "Bad Hair Day Mystery" story. This is the 14th book in the series. I came into it at #10 and I don't feel as if I've missed a thing. There is plenty of character history given throughout the book. The actual mystery is contained in this book, so you don't really need to read the previous books. However, I always find it fun to start at the beginning of these type of series. Eventually I will have a chance to read books #1-9. Until then, I'm enjoying each of the new books very much.

Overall, this is a fun, enjoyable series filled with lovable characters. It's the perfect way to spend a few hours.

FTC Disclosure: I voluntarily reviewed an Advance Reader Copy of this book from the author. I was not required to write a positive review. All opinions expressed are my own.

Taryn says

When Maria's best friend is involved in an accident she dives right in to find out what happened. The police think it could have been an accident with no foul play involved but that's not how Marla and her detective husband Dalton see it. When did things start popping up about her friend Tally, Marla begins to wonder just how well she really knows her. While taking all this in Marla is also guardian of Tally's baby son and is dealing with the pressure of maybe wanting a child of her own. I was immediately pulled into the story and couldn't put the book down until I had all the answers to my questions. I loved how the author kept me on the edge of my seat wondering what was going to happen next and how many more surprised could Marla take. I look forward to finding out what comes next for Marla.

Doward Wilson says

Marla owns her own hair salon and day spa business. She is happily married to police detective, Dalton Vail. She has her hands full with running her many clients and helping raise Dalton's teenage daughter. When Marla's best friend is critically injured and her husband killed in a car crash, Marla and Dalton assume guardianship of their infant son. When Dalton discovers that the car crash was actually not an accident but deliberate, Marla finds herself working hard to find who wanted her friends dead and why. This long running series never fails to deliver another great and unique murder plot with characters that you can really identify with. The author always has enough background information that you can read the books in any order but starting from the first one will take you on a fantastic journey of Marla's murder solving adventures.

LORI CASWELL says

Dollycas's Thoughts

Talk about a whirlwind of emotions, I had to get a box of Kleenex for this amazing cozy story. I read this story while Hurricane Irma was hitting Florida too. I am keeping everyone affected by the storms in my prayers.

The story begins with Dalton and Marla learning that their friends Tally and Ken are missing when they receive a call from the babysitter. They quickly go to pick up the baby and Dalton reports the parents as missing. Then Marla receives a call from the hospital. Ken and Tally were in a car accident. Marla takes over care off their young son, Luke, and Dalton determines the crash may have been intentional. Marla starts to help Dalton with the investigation and finds she may not have know her BFF as well as she thought. But Tally legally designated Marla as the baby's guardian if anything should happen to her so while not wanting a child of her own she will do anything to keep that little boy safe until his mom comes home.

Back in 2001 I was in an automobile accident so similar to the one in this story, but I was by myself. Like Tally my injuries keep me in the hospital, unconscious or sedated for a long time. It was so easy to visualize Tally in that hospital bed with Marla reading and talking to her. Letting her know her son was o.k. It mirrors exactly what happened to me. Tally has been a key character in this series and her being hurt in a situation like mine really rocked my emotions.

The way Marla took on not only the care of Tally's child but trying to handle both Ken and Tally's businesses as well as her own, and helped with the investigation also tugged at my heart. Her entire family

stepped to help and it gave a little picture of what life would be like if she did decide to have a child of her own.

All of this would have made great women's fiction but it's a mystery and the author has plotted out a great one. There are suspects galore and motive for days. It is all about clipping all the clues together while trying not to tip the wrong person off. Cohen has written a very complex mystery that could have ended up several ways. I had a lot of fun following along trying to solve it myself but another murder late in the story really turned the whole thing on its ear for me. There were so many unexpected twists and the final one was excellent.

This is the 14th book in this series. It is the absolute best one so far, and they are all pretty darn good. It is fresh, believable and timely. I enjoyed going beyond the hair salon and seeing Marla's evolution over the story. Nancy J. Cohen has brought together family and friendship and paired it with murder, insurance fraud, and false identities. I stayed up late, well early into the morning, to finish this one. This book is a must read for cozy lovers whether you are already a fan of this series or not. The book can stand on its own, you can catch up on previous titles later ?

I have read so many top notch books the past couple of weeks and Hair Brained will be joining them on my Best Reads list for 2017! I am beyond excited for the next installment in this series!

Debbie says

Another Great Mystery

I love following Marla and her investigations. Dalton and his daughter have definitely added to the mysteries. Easy read but keeps your interest.

Sandy Bartles says

Another exciting book in the A Bad Hair Day Mystery series of books by author Nancy Cohen. The story is engaging, sad, frightening and hopeful as Marla Vail's friends, Ken and Tally, are in a car accident and Marla attains temporary custody of their young son Luke. As Dalton and Marla try to find out what happened, things seem to be way more involved than first thought. The author had me reading as fast as I could so I could find out how everything would evolve. I was kept mesmerized as I kept turning the pages. It totally left me hoping the author was writing the next book as fast as I was reading this one.

I voluntarily reviewed an Advanced Reader Copy of this book.

Nancy says

Hi everyone. This is my book. Hair Brained is the latest title in my Bad Hair Day mystery series, due for release in September. I am excited for you to read it and hope you'll help spread the word by adding it to your to-read shelf. You can start with any book in my series and later go back to earlier titles if you wish. It's not necessary to read them in order. So join Marla on her latest adventure in Hair Brained.

