



## The Body in the Boudoir

*Katherine Hall Page*

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## **The Body in the Boudoir** Katherine Hall Page

It's 1990, and Faith Sibley is a single young woman leading a glamorous life in New York City. She has good friends, a cozy apartment, and her own flourishing catering business, Have Faith. Then, at a catering event, she meets the handsome, charming Reverend Thomas Fairchild. A daughter and granddaughter of clergymen, Faith has sworn to avoid a parish's fishbowl existence. But it's love at first sight, and before she knows it her life is changing drastically.

To begin with, she's beckoned north to chilly New England to visit her future residence and prospective in-laws, not all of whom welcome her with open arms. Thankfully, back home she has her adoring great-uncle Sky to rely on, even if his much younger wife has always struck Faith as slightly odd. For the ceremony Uncle Sky has offered up the use of his mansion on Long Island, which would be the perfect location if only the brickwork wasn't suspiciously falling off the roof.

Her path to the altar is made even rockier when Faith faces two other baffling mysteries. Her new assistant, Francesca, appears to be hiding a family secret with roots in Italy. Then Faith's sister, Hope, becomes a target. Who could be plotting to derail her high-stakes financial career?

In spite of being overwhelmed by her decision to leave her home in the Big Apple and the multitude of tasks involved in *getting* married, Faith has no doubts about being married to her beloved Tom. But someone out there is dead set on making sure that she doesn't reach the altar. Before it's too late, she needs to figure out who is trying to sabotage the wedding—by eliminating the bride!

## **The Body in the Boudoir Details**

Date : Published May 1st 2012 by William Morrow

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Author : Katherine Hall Page

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## From Reader Review The Body in the Boudoir for online ebook

### Sherry says

#20- oddly less than satisfying retrospective going back to Faith's catering and meeting Tom, their building relationship. All the pre-wedding hassles with wealthy great Uncle Sky and his much younger wife, Tammy hosting the wedding at The Cliffs our on Long Island, someone stealing Faith's sister, Hope's, clients, several attempts on Faith's or someone else's life?, closing down Have Faith, encouraging her assistant Josie in opening her Richmond VA restaurant, hiring secretive Italian student Francesca all add to pre-wedding stress, as looked back on from an anniversary trip to Italy. Too much, too scattered. Best was wedding history info in the Author's note.

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### Ken Honeywell says

Hey, it was the beach, so I thought I should read a mystery, and I chose this one based on a nice writeup in the New York Times Book Review. Page has written 19 books starring Faith Fairchild, who's the daughter of a New York socialite and a high-society minister. Faith loves Manhattan and has sworn that she'll never marry a man of the cloth—which is problematic twice over when she meets her perfect mate, an upstanding minister from Massachusetts. This is the origin story of Faith's marriage to Tom Fairchild, and it's all pleasant enough, though one can't help but wonder whether Tom would have married Faith if he'd known about all the murder in his future. As cozy mysteries go, *The Body in the Boudoir* is fun; it probably helps to know the character, and I found the designer dresses and furnishings and jewelry showy and tedious—but then, I'm not Page's primary target audience. My biggest beef: no body in the boudoir until nearly halfway through the book. I imagine Page's regular readers forgive what is, to me, too long a delay in getting to the murder we've been promised. But I'd be happy to spend another few hours with Faith Fairchild in the future.

Read more: <http://www.punchnels.com/punchlist/pu...>

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### Theresa says

Hall Page's readers are taken back to the time leading up to Faith and Tom's marriage. How they met, fell in love and became the involved in a deadly plot. The marriage of a New Yorker to a small town, New Englander is rich in character appeal. From Manhattan to the suburbs of Boston, the bride and groom discover the necessary melange of cultures and families before they walk down the aisle. One of my favorites in the Faith Fairchild series.

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### Barefoot Danger says

Even worse than the other book of hers I read, this reads like a romance novel. It's supposed to be a murder mystery, but the corpse doesn't even show up until literally halfway through the book. The rest of the book is more about planning a wedding than solving a murder. Garbage.

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## Lorraine says

The newest Faith Fairchild mystery was kind of odd and unsatisfying. I've been a fan of her books. In fact, I just recently read the first one in the series. This one opens with Faith and Tom flying to Italy on a vacation together. They've been married since 1990, and they are taking a sort of second honeymoon together in Italy. Faith starts remembering how she and Tom met.

In 1990, Faith was a caterer with a growing business thanks, in part, to her excellent connections. She comes from a well off family - not rich, but VERY well off. She meets Tom when she is catering a wedding of a friend of his. For him it is love at first sight, and it only takes a month for him to propose. She is astonished, but, of course, she is ALSO in love. OK - let's allow for a little romance here. Somehow I thought their "courtship" would have been a little longer and more involved myself.

Then odd things start to happen. Faith is nearly killed twice plus gets very sick at her shower. Then there is her Italian employee who is looking for the GI who wronged her Grandmother. That part didn't make a whole lot of sense to me. It just seemed as if Page couldn't quite get the story to gel.

The wedding goes on despite a pretty awful thing that happens at the end which really makes the whole thing kind of silly. Then there is the epilogue where Faith remembers all who have died. Never mind..... This was not at a part with her past books. I hope Ms. Page wasn't under such pressure to get the next book out that she just was out of ideas. It would be too bad because Faith really is such an appealing character.

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## Jacki York says

I love this series and I'm disappointed that it has taken me so long to get to them!

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## Alannah Davis says

A delightfully written cozy mystery that flashes back to 1990. This is the only book I've read in this series, but it works beautifully as a stand-alone (as I feel every entry in any series should).

I can't emphasize enough how much I love the lush descriptions and the clear love that is woven into these characters and their backgrounds. It is so refreshing to be able to see and feel these characters so completely. Too many cozy mysteries right now focus on gimmicks (cupcake bakery, etc.) rather than characterization.

I will definitely be seeking out more of this author's work.

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## **LORI CASWELL says**

This has always been one of my favorite series and it one I plan to use for the Finishing The Series Challenge. I am also excited because Katherine Hall Page is touring with Great Escapes Book Tours in May for The Body in the Birches, the 22nd book in the series being released May 12.

In this installment we are taken back in time to how Faith and Tom started their life together. The book starts out with them on a plane for an anniversary trip to Italy and Faith spends the plane ride remembering their path to the altar hand a few bumps along the way including solving a couple of mysteries.

Another fun read from the author and one I was looking forward to reading. I enjoyed learning their back story and their original meeting of all the people we have come to love in the prior installments.

I have The Body in the Piazza all cued up on my Kindle and will be reviewing The Body in the Birches on May 22 when the Great Escapes Book Tour stops here.

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## **Eliza says**

Faith before Tom, meeting Tom and marrying Tom.

Faith had to avoid being poisoned by Tom's sister, Betsy and murdered by her Uncle Sky for prying into the murder of his beloved Danny.

Cute and cozy mystery

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## **Jen says**

Welcome to the rich New York foodie scene, complete with overly long descriptions of every single thing Faith considers eating. Can't believe she is thin, but that's why it is fiction...

Too much description of New York City and food. The mystery was just barely a subplot, but that is why I picked it up... Also, I think the story was supposed to be the romance, but that too was a subplot. Kind of a weird arrangement.

I didn't understand how Faith's family could be so wealthy was based on a clergyman's income.

I really wanted to like this and was sad that I didn't.

Note: I listened to the audiobook. Finally put it on 2x because it was just way to long (get on the with story and stop describing the food!). Also, the narrator at times sounded like a computer, especially at the beginning. Kind of weird - never had that with an audiobook before.

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## **Patricia says**

Very slow-moving, with none of the intellectual excitement you get from a really good mystery. I don't know if it had something to do with the pseudo-flashback format of the story, but it never had any energy and just

seemed to be dragging itself forward to what ended up being a disappointing climax/solution. But what made the sloth-like pace really strange was the fact that there seemed to be dozens of little mysteries all going on at the same time with no rhyme or reason to any of them. They weren't there to serve as a distraction from the main question, they just were. I often think that there are only so many red herrings a mystery can support before it becomes ludicrous, but such a mass of red herrings that aren't even *really* red herrings is even worse.

Oh, and creepy housekeeper nicknamed "Danny" in a house on the coast that has issues with her employer's new wife? It's been done, and in much better hands.

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## **Kathy Davie says**

Nineteenth chronologically and twentieth in the publication order in the Faith Fairchild cooking mystery series about Faith and Tom Fairchild based outside Boston, Massachusetts.

The events here take place — in a flashback — about a month after *The Body in the Big Apple* (which Page ranks as tenth in the series, but I would put it at the start as it's pre-Tom and I never got the impression that it was a flashback as this story is).

### **My Take**

How very appropriate that the twentieth installment is also a celebration of Faith and Tom's twentieth wedding anniversary! Yeah, as I wrote it, I suspected some of you might think I was being sarcastic. In truth, I thought it was a sweet idea and very appropriate for this cast of characters.

I particularly enjoyed Page's using the flight over as a time for Faith to reminisce over the events between her and Tom's engagement and their wedding day.

Page has created a nice range of characters with all the decorum and tastefulness of their created ancestry. She's managed a faith-based family with a daughter who marries a clergyman which doesn't preach at you. Instead, they display all the family values you could want with generosity that warms the heart. With all the paranormal and historical fiction I read, Faith Fairchild is a nice, homey treat. Now if only her books came with her entrees...

It's a story about beginnings. Josie's chance. Faith's wedding. Francesca's grandparents. Yes, there are some endings as well...which you'll just have to read about. Sad, but insightful.

I just loved reading about Marian's worries about Faith. Getting ready to meet her for the first time. The panic about cooking for a professional chef. The attitudes both sets of parents have about the couple. Page has written a nice blend of mostly happiness with dramatic *and* traumatic incidents interspersed throughout. It's rather odd reading about a Faith who freaks out at dead bodies, though. It's also a tour of New York City restaurants so eat before you read lest you start drooling.

The *batterie de cuisine* at Aleford gave me a giggle. As an English-speaker, it was quite easy to re-interpret Page's description of the "dented aluminum saucepans" as having been through the wars. And Tom's discomfort level with the idea that a cousin of Dad's would have the nerve to toss out a perfectly good bed simply because she got a new one...how very odd of her! The Fairchilds are after my own packrat heart.

I think Page could have done with creating more tension with the questions about Francesca's possible complicity in the subway incident.

I'm looking forward to trying out some of the recipes in the back. Be sure to read the Author's Note at the back. I always find interesting information from Page there.

### The Story

We finally get the details on how Tom and Faith met and it's a whirlwind romance with Faith gaining on the one hand and losing on the other. Josie has had a change in fortune and both Josie and Faith will be leaving Have Faith. Tom cannot move from Aleford while Have Faith... Well, Faith will just have to Have Faith that life up in the wilds of Massachusetts won't be so bad. Something seems to be up with Francesca as well.

It's the bridal shower where the incidents begin. All aimed at Faith. Small, yet irritating even as Faith goes about the joyful chores of planning a wedding.

### The Characters

It took awhile before **Faith Sibley** discovered the path she wanted to take, but once she did, she dove into it wholeheartedly and opened a successful catering company, Have Faith. *I just love this name. It plays so well in so many directions.* Her sister, **Hope**, is a financial manager and her current boyfriend, **Phelps Grant**, does the same for another company. Her parents are the **Reverend Sibley and Jane Lennox Sibley**.

The **Reverend Thomas Fairchild** is a New Englander born and bred with a parish in Aleford, Massachusetts. While Faith is a New Yorker to the bone. Worse, Faith and Hope had sworn never to marry a clergyman---they've already lived that life! Tom's mother is **Marian Fairchild** who is quickly adored by Faith's family and friends. **Dick** is in real estate and Tom's father; he has a decided preference for a rather limited range of foods. They and Tom's brothers **Robert** and **Craig** all love Faith. Sister **Betsey**. Well, the best we can say of her is that she's married to **Dennis Parker** and they have a year-old son, **Scotty**. **Sydney Jerome** is an old family friend having grown up next door to the Fairchilds. It's also obvious that *she's* Betsey's preferred choice of sister-in-law. It certainly helps that the Fairchilds know what Betsey is like. **Uncle Will** is Dick's brother and owns Fairchild's Market. Tom's next door neighbors in Aleford are **Pix and Sam Miller** with their very broadminded approach as well as their three children: **Mark, Sammy, and Danny**.

Have Faith's employees include **Howard**, a brilliant bartender quite adept at concocting new drinks, **Josie Wells** who intends to open her own place one day, and **Francesca Rossi** who is Josie's roommate and works at the health club Josie frequents. **Salvatore Rinaldi** is a private detective with whom the police are rather interested in having a more in-depth chat. **Gus Oliver** has been missing for over sixty years and there are a number of people in Italy interested in his whereabouts.

**Aunt Chat** (Charity Sibley) has recently retired and moved out to New Jersey. On her mother's side, there's her grandmother, **Eleanor Wayfort Lennox** and **Great-aunt Frances Wayfort**. Their brother, **Schulyer "Sky" Wayfort** and his fourth? wife **Tammy** live at The Cliff, a truly palatial estate where Faith has always dreamed of having her wedding with Uncle Sky to give her away. **Mrs. Mabel Danforth** is Uncle Sky's housekeeper. She's been with him forever and tolerates no one else. A fact of which Tammy is heartily aware. **Gertrude Danforth Todd** is Danny's sister; **Herbert** is her husband. Both have "hurry" very much on their minds.

**Jennifer** is Hope's secretary. **Chief Matt Johnson** is in charge of the murder at The Cliff. The musical **Marley Clarke** saves Faith's life. **Max's** desperate need for Faith's help puts her in the right place to solve at least one of the problems in this story.

**Emma Morris** is an old friend of Faith's from Dalton (*Body in the Big Apple*) and her mother, **Poppy**, wants to give her a bridal shower.

### **The Cover and Title**

The cover is appropriate! Well, in a rather gruesome way, anyway. The foreground catches the eye with its white satin pumps with their tasteful bows on the toes standing primly next to a tight little bouquet of red roses, petite white flowers, an orchid, and studded with pearls. A few red petals are sprinkled onto the cloud of white fabric leading the eye to the background with its impression of a veil. Made more visible by the dead body in the background. I'm kind of surprised there weren't a few red feathers...it would have been appropriate.

No kidding! There is *The Body in the Boudoir* and I can't believe no one started connecting the dots earlier!

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### **Denice Hogan says**

I loved this book. I never read any of these and happened upon it by accident.  
I wasn't sure but it caught my interest from the beginning.  
It was a nice combination of mystery and romance.  
Can't wait to read some of the others.  
A nice change from my usual

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### **Julie Trapp says**

This book is a backstory to before Faith and Tom were married. She was a single woman in NYC with a catering business and leading a glamorous life. Her new assistant is hiding a family secret, her sister, Hope is being targeted by someone trying to ruin her financial career and someone else is trying their hardest to make sure Faith and Tom do not get married - by eliminating the bride. Faith is still a snob, but I liked a back story as to how/why they met and got married.

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