



Destined for Trouble

Claudia Lefevre

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After getting dumped by her boyfriend, FBI crime analyst Jules Cannon flees to her hometown of Trouble Island, Texas, to nurse her wounds. All she wants to do is unwind, forget about her failed relationship, and work on her tan.

But when the owner of the local crab shack is murdered at Jules's welcome-home party, she is forced to scrap her rest-and-relaxation plans. Now her best friend, Abby Lee, is the prime suspect, and her high school sweetheart, Deputy Chief Justin Harper, is working the case. Even though Jules knows she shouldn't, she just can't keep herself from getting involved in the investigation—and entangled with handsome Assistant District Attorney Hartley Crawford. While an old flame threatens to rekindle and a new one sparks, Jules must find a killer and prove her friend's innocence. But will she put two and two together before trouble catches up with her?

Destined for Trouble Details

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Author : Claudia Lefevre

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From Reader Review Destined for Trouble for online ebook

Lynn Demsky says

This was an interesting, entertaining read ---Julia is a good sound character and her friends and family are well introduced into the story as she moves back home ---- The story was probably kind of typical – a guy gets murdered, best friend (she hasn't seen in 10 years) gets accused of murder –Jules must find murderer before she gets killed also – had dated the Assistant Chief of PD, falls into Assistant DA's hands --- case works out but, it was fast moving, entertaining, and I finished it in a day so GREAT READ – hope the author continues this as a series!

Lynn Kidd says

I won this book through Goodreads giveaway. I enjoyed this book as a relaxing easy read kind of book. Jules is the main character and she came home to get over her boyfriend breaking up with her. Her first night home and she has to solve a murder that takes place at her home. I really enjoyed the twists and turns that develop as Jules became involved in the investigation. I would recommend this book to anybody who really enjoys crime solving but not a lot of violence.

Destined for Trouble by Claudia Lefevre

My rating: 3 of 5 stars

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Kathryn Svendsen says

This was a fun cozy mystery read that's perfect for the summer. When Jules Cannon flees home after being dumped by her boyfriend, her mother insists on doing the socially expected thing and throws her a welcome home party. Unfortunately the small town's crab shack owner is found murdered there and her best friend Abby Lee is the main suspect.

I liked Jules' family which was just as quirky as most of our families are. Her mother feels she has to keep up appearances or "what will the neighbours think!" Her great aunt who runs a local clothing store and ropes Jules into working for her while she's home is a bit of a meddling old lady who's a pretty good shot with a rifle even though she's been tippling.

I liked that Jules grew in her recognition that friendships are important to keep and maintain. She came to realize just how important Abby Lee's friendship was to her and decided to make an effort to stay in contact with her in the future instead of letting that friendship fade away as she had done in the years that she had been away from home. Theirs seemed to be one of those deep friendships where you can just pick right up from where you left off even if you've been separated for quite a while.

I really enjoyed the twists and turns that developed as Jules became involved in the investigation. It seemed to follow her rather than her seeking it out.

Jules' personal life becomes complicated too as she considers what she wants to do with her career as an FBI crime analyst, and her love life takes on a life of its own.

Destined for Trouble was an entertaining read and I would highly recommend it to anyone who likes cozy mysteries. I gave it 5 stars out of 5.

Thank you to the publisher for providing a copy of the book in exchange for a fair and honest review. A positive opinion was not required. All thoughts are my own.

To see my complete review, visit Shelf Full of Books <http://kathrynshelffulofbooks.blogs...>

Nancy says

Recently dumped by her boyfriend of two years, FBI crime analyst Jules Cannon decides to take a much needed vacation and heads to her hometown of Trouble Island, Texas. All Jules wants to do is relax, forget about her failed relationship, and work on her tan.

Her anticipated beach vacation turns out to be anything but, as her mildly eccentric aunt manipulates Jules into working at her clothing boutique, her former high school sweetheart hints at the possibility of rekindling old flames, and if things couldn't get any worse, when a local restaurant owner is found murdered and her best friend becomes the prime suspect, the only thing Jules is destined for is trouble.

The murderer is the woman who was jealous of Jules in high school, and thinks Jules is back with the sheriff, her old boyfriend. Shelia, the widow of the man killed, also attacked Jules.

Jules decides to stay in Trouble and has two men interested in her: an attorney and the sheriff.

Heather says

With summer finally in full swing here in Chicago, I'm in the mood for a fun, lighter read to pass the time, and the cozy mystery *Destined for Trouble* by Claudia Lefevre definitely fit the bill. I've read and reviewed Claudia's previous self-published young adult paranormal works (*Travelers series*, *Darkly Beings*), and now she has her first book published by Thomas & Mercer in another genre that I love: cozy mystery!

Jules Cannon is a crime analyst for the FBI nursing a heartache after a breakup with a co-worker, and when she can't take seeing him at work, she takes all of her accrued leave so she can leave the Washington DC area and return home to the tiny Texas island where she grew up. Spending a few summer months soaking up the sun and ocean waves visiting her parents and aunt should be just what she needs to recharge before returning

to the job that she's great at, but she's forgotten how suffocating and nosy the locals can be. Jules certainly didn't expect to find her childhood best friend's boss' dead body, or for that best friend Abby Lee to be one of the people accused of the restaurant owner's murder.

An island full of southern charm, humidity, heat, and family...

Trouble island is a whopping 10 miles across, but news and rumors spread faster than it takes to drive from one side of the island to the other. Jules' mother is the epitome of a southern woman, and she throws the welcome home party (and practically invites the entire island) for Jules where the man is found dead. Of course she neglects to tell anyone why Jules has returned home so the family can save face after Jules hasn't come for a visit in several years. Her great-aunt Lula is a skeet shooting, clothing store owner, and after smooth talking Jules into working at her boutique over the summer, Jules remembers why she moved off the island in the first place. I really enjoyed every scene that Lula was in--she stole the show with her smart, witty observations spoken with sass that only someone of her age can get away with without being irritating!

Pick right back up with old friends...

Besides having to navigate the familial waters, Jules comes to realize that she shouldn't have cut off nearly all contact with her old friends. Abby Lee and Jules' relationship is totally realistic, and the way they were able to pick right up where they left off is the same way that I am with my best friend from high school. Jules is smart and fiercely loyal while Abby Lee is more realistic and down to earth, and they contrast nicely.

Jules' high school boyfriend Justin is now a police officer in Trouble, and he's in charge of the murder investigation. While he tries to steer Jules away from digging into the leads on her own--especially when she's receiving threats to back off from someone--he won't give her an inch of leeway when she steps on his toes. After all, she's just a civilian employee for the FBI, so she might know about crime analysis, but actual investigation--not a chance? But Jules is better at figuring these kinds of things out than he gives her credit for, and soon she's putting the pieces of the puzzle together. But can she fend off his advances, even though she hasn't quite filed her feelings from ten years ago for him away? She's only there for the summer, so it shouldn't be that hard, right?

I give *Destined For Trouble* a 4.5 out of 5. This book was a lot of fun, and with a fast pace that continued nicely throughout the book, Claudia Lefevre did a great job of making me feel like I was baking in the hot, humid sun down there in Trouble, Texas. The characters were quirky and unique, yet totally realistic, and that made this a really enjoyable and fast read for me. Aunt Lula was definitely a scene stealer, and I'd love to shoot skeet and have a few drinks with her any day. The aspects of working as a civilian federal employee were spot on, and all of the Texas-isms were great too. I highly recommend this cozy mystery to everyone who loves a tightly written whodunit that is fun, atmospheric, with a side of the off-beat. I can't wait for the next book in the series!

(Also on Bewitched Bookworms, book received from publisher in exchange for honest review)

Claire says

3.75 stars.

I received this as a Goodreads First Reads giveaway, and I'm glad I did. It totally hit the spot. I've never read anything by Lefevre, but from what I can tell, this novel seems to be vastly different than her usual offerings, which lean more YA/Fantasy. *Destined for trouble* sounded like it was more up my alley, and that proved true.

While it's not really anything new or different, it makes for a great, lighthearted beach read with a little bit of mystery. The characters (especially Jules' Aunt Lula) are quirky and entertaining. And being from Texas myself, I enjoyed all the little jabs at southern culture/etiquette that totally rang true. There were times when the characters made choices (mainly Jules) that weren't exactly the brightest, and the ending DID feel a bit rushed. It may not be the next great novel or anything, but it was pretty good guilty-pleasure reading, and I'll probably check out the next installment in the Jules Cannon saga when it comes out.

Kristy Gillespie says

I absolutely loved Claudia Lefevre's *Destined for Trouble*. Main character, Jules Cannon, was relatable, witty, and she had just the right mix of chutzpah mixed with southern charm. I also really enjoyed Jules' gun toting, pastel-colored dress selling, aunt Lula and Jules' high school sweetheart, Justin, who is now on the Trouble, Texas police force. I couldn't wait to find out who killed Harvey, which by the way, took me totally by surprise. I'm hoping there's another Jules Cannon Mystery in the works as I'd like to find out what Jules decides to do in her romantic and professional life. Great read!

Jaimie says

I received this book as part of a First Reads Goodreads Giveaway.

I really liked this book so much more than I thought I was going to. I actually loved it right from the start. A really crazy stalker and murderer all in the same mystery novel that is full of endearing southern characters that I fell in love with plus an ending I never expected!

It was such a fun book to read that I could sit and relax and actually enjoy.

Paul Franco says

An FBI analyst—no one believes her when she says she's not an agent and doesn't carry a gun—goes through a breakup and decides to come home to a Texas island to rest and rethink life; good luck with that, considering her mom, an ex, and the requisite crazy girl from high school.

A local restaurateur is poisoned at her welcome-home party, but it isn't till the reading of the will that things go crazy. The man leaves the restaurant to his favorite worker, who happens to be the main character's bestie; the widow is furious, so motive, anyone? Not to these idiot hillbilly cops like the chief, who seems to be descended from a long line of such all the way back to Dogberry in *Much Ado About Nothing*. The deputy chief happens to be the aforementioned ex, the one cop who might be on her side, but as usual he wants her to keep her nose out of it. So of course she never tells him about the other suspects she's uncovered. . . sheesh!

At what I thought was the ending I made a note: "Gotta say I'm a bit disappointed," only to find there was one more twist left, which made things a little better, but it was kinda too little too late.

Doward Wilson says

I hope that this debut mystery is going to be a series. It has wacky characters, an island off Texas location and an engrossing heroine. On vacation from her FBI analyst job, Jules Cannon returns home to Trouble Island to regroup from being dumped by her co-worker boyfriend. Staying with mom and dad, while helping her aunt out by working in her high end boutique is not how she planned this vacation. When she finds a dead body at her welcome home party and her best friend is a main suspect, she has to get involved. With the hindrance of the Deputy Sheriff who was her high school boyfriend and the assistance of her aunt's group of gun toting widowed ladies over sixty, the laughter and investigation are just beginning. This was a fun read involving greed, a stalker's fixation and a dynamic murder plot with very twisted endings. This is a must read for a delightful getaway in a vacation murder. I can't wait to read this writer's next work and really hope this is going to be a series. Give it a try.

Vicky says

i am going to finish this book despite the typos and how terrible it is. the writer claims she was in law enforcement but the main character, Jules, acts like she never made it out of high school. very immature characters, one dimensional. there is no investigating happening, just talk. no cohesive thoughts.

Savannah Jane says

Destined For Trouble is a cute, quick summer read. Unfortunately, that's all it was to me. I didn't really like the characters and a lot of the plot seemed cliché or unrealistic to me. Luckily, the novel was written well so it was easy to read in just a few hours because of how naturally the book flowed. For me, personally, though, this book was not a hit. The storylines moved very fast in a way that didn't work for the book's development which seemed rushed and forced. It was hard to keep up with what was happening because I wasn't convinced that anything could possibly be happening in such a short amount of time. This is not an issue specifically for the author; timing is obviously a huge hurdle when writing a book and it can be difficult to get it just right.

This book is a super quick read with quirky island characters and a tiny bit of mystery. It would be a great choice for a summer beach read but for me, I needed a little bit more of a mature mystery!

JoAnne McMaster (Any Good Book) says

Jules Cannon is an FBI crime analyst whose boyfriend has just broken up with her, and since she still has to work with him, she's decided to cash in her vacation and take a two-month leave of absence to visit her family in Trouble Island, Texas.

While things should go swimmingly for her, unfortunately, they don't. At the coming home party her mother has planned, there happens to be a guest that didn't leave - Harvey, the owner of the local crab shack. And when the will is read, her best friend Abby Lee receives Harvey's restaurant instead of his wife, which also makes her the main suspect in his murder. So Jules decides that the only thing she can do is solve the crime herself, since she thinks the local police aren't looking any further for another suspect.

But what is complicating things is that her high school boyfriend, Justin Harper, is the Deputy Chief, and isn't sharing information with her; and Harvey's widow Sheila is acting suspicious; and Jules' Aunt Lula has railroaded her into working at Lula's boutique - even though Jules hates having to deal with people.

Then someone is obviously stalking her, sending her messages that are graphic and brutal, and eventually it escalates and Jules is forced into calling the police and telling them what happened, leading her to look harder into what has been there all along.

For the most part, I really enjoyed the book, because the writing was done well and the plot was interesting. But a couple of things just didn't ring true: (And here I am going to give a couple of slight spoilers, because you have a right to know why I rated it less than five stars). For an FBI analyst, she wasn't very smart. She couldn't figure out where the black roses came from. One, it's a small island. There can't be more than one florist if any. Two, florists don't carry black roses (at least none I've known), three, the box would state the name of the florist - it's not like you can buy rose boxes in the local department stores. Why didn't she do research and find out who bought a rose box (or black roses even) from any florists? If she had done that, the next paragraph wouldn't even be included.

But the thing that really got me the most was the animal cruelty. I felt that it wasn't necessary at all to the book, and totally turned me off. To tell the truth, if I had known the author thought violence to animals was alright, I would never have read this book. I can't stress this strongly enough. This is a light mystery, not a thriller, and it shows an insensitivity to pet owners and animals themselves. There were other options to prove the stalker was crazy without resorting to this.

In the end, the murder was solved, of course, and everything was explained satisfactorily, which made for a mystery that's a quick read.

I received a free copy in exchange for an honest review but this in no way influenced my decision.

Sheryl says

I would like to thank Thomas & Mercer Publishing and NetGalley for providing me with a copy of this book for an honest review.

Jules who is a civilian employee for the FBI decides to take some time off and come home to Trouble, TX for some much-needed R & R. She just wants to spend some time soaking up the sun on the beach and relaxing. Everything spirals out of control when her mom decides to throw her a welcome home party.

This cute cozy has a cast of strong likable characters, especially her elderly eccentric aunt. I can tell Ms. Lefave has spent a lot of time in Texas because she has all the little idiosyncrasies down that all of us seem to have. I look forward to reading the next addition to this series, "Barking up Trouble".

Conny says

I was a First Read Winner of this book, and it turned out to be a nice summer read. It had a nice and easy flow, which made for a quick read, but the storyline felt a bit rushed, and I had a hard time believing that Jules was an FBI analyst. There was some mystery, and some very likable characters, but I was disappointed that there was no romance in the book, Jules' interaction with Justin seemed rather juvenile, but perhaps that

will develop with the next installment. I think the Author definitely has a lot of promise and I bet this could develop into a nice series.
