



Enter to Win

Kirsten Jany

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Opportunity knocked 'em dead.

Director Rob de Heer's latest publicity stunt to revitalize his failing soap Crystal Falls – a contest giving viewers a chance to have a character shaped after them – seemed brilliant...right until Rob was found murdered on the set. Could the key to Rob's death lie in the four finalists who have been invited to spend two weeks in a mansion in the Hollywood Hills? Now the police recruit Rob's underpaid lackey Jeremy to babysit two liars, an accused wife killer, and a snitch under the guise of shooting a reality show that will crown one of them the winner. Competition has never been this deadly.

Enter to Win Details

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Author : Kirsten Jany

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From Reader Review Enter to Win for online ebook

Chris says

I was most impressed with Enter to Win by Kirsten Jany on a number of levels.

Firstly the idea for this novel is completely different from anything else I have read and that alone was enough to keep me interested and wanting to turn the pages. Combining this with an excellent level of penmanship and presentation in the manor of James Patterson, limiting the chapters to two or three pages, and Kirsten Jany has come up with a thoroughly entertaining novel.

Each featured character I found to be believable right down from their names (which I believe have to have a credibility or the reader will be deterred from continuing) to the stories they presented. Nothing was over complicated but everything was far from simple.

The announcement of the murder and it's denouement are, in a sense, secondary to the stories, as we learn about each entrant's circumstances and why they point to their owner as being a suspect.

I would recommend Enter to Win by Kirsten Jany as an extremely competent, intriguing and totally novel way of setting a plot and resolving it.

James Cardona says

A classic whodunit with a half twist, a jack-knife and a somersault, Enter To Win is sure to please mystery readers out there.

The story is told in the first person and different chapters are told from the perspective of five of the characters in the book. I absolutely enjoyed this aspect of the book. Each of the five characters voices and perspectives were fully realized, fleshy people with desires, motives, wants, likes and dislikes. Each of them only knew things based on what they saw and experienced and their individual slant on events were not always the same which made it so real. Some adjacent chapters described the same event from the perspective of two different characters and each of them thought different things happened or perhaps for differing reasons because the characters all suspected each other. Very cool.

As events went on there was a nice build to the tension and I wanted to keep reading as I found out more and more that each of the characters had something to hide.

Some of the writing here reminds me a lot of Agatha Christie except there is no grand detective to figure things out. The reader must do it on his own.

Kevis Hendrickson says

Enter to Win by Kirsten Jany is one of those books that remind me why it's good to read outside of my usual

genres. This is a book I'd have been disappointed to miss. It has all the elements to make it a classic whodunit with a bit of trendy fare that makes it both contemporary and riveting.

I adore the concept for this book and think it's quite brilliant. In order to boost the ratings of a failing daytime television soap opera show, the producers decide to hold a contest where they will choose 4 finalists to compete for 200 hundred grand. All the contestants have to do is to come up with the most compelling story based off of their real lives to be used in a future episode of the show. The gamble pays off and the contest is a hit.

But as one can expect, the contest doesn't go as planned. Shortly after the finalists are chosen and brought to the producers' mansion, the show's director is murdered and someone steals the prize-money setting off a chain of events that result in the finalists becoming the prime suspects for the crime. What follows is their journey into self-introspection and the horrifying realization that one of them may be the killer.

The plot is, in and of itself, interesting. But the real highlight of this novel is the characters. The more I got to know about them and their motivations, the more compelling the story became. The story is told in first person and switches point-of-view for each character's part of the story. Normally, this approach could be really confusing. But I think it was well done and added richness to the story. In fact, there was a feeling of voyeurism as a result that I think heightens the reader's interest in the unfolding mystery.

Overall, this is a surprisingly fast-paced book and terrific story that I thoroughly enjoyed reading. I would certainly seek out more work by this author.

4 Stars for a compelling mystery that will keep you guessing who the killer is to the very end.

Disclaimer: I received a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Amber Foxx says

Tight, polished and clever. This is a well-crafted mystery, a variation on the classic whodunit with all the suspects in a big mansion—except that mansion is being used for a reality TV shoot, not an English country house gathering.

The four finalists in a contest to have one's soap opera of a life become an actual soap opera script each take turns sharing their stories—the ones that made them finalists, and their take on events after the director of that soap opera is murdered. The fifth narrator is the director's low-ranking assistant, Jeremy. He is the only fully sympathetic character but that is clearly intentional. The competitors each have flaws that make them candidates to have their life belong in the storyline of Crystal Falls.

This unusual structure of five narrators alternating short chapters works well for creating questions as to who the killer is. Although I felt compassion for the characters, the structure didn't create a strong relationship for the reader with any particular "hero." Jeremy is technically the protagonist—he begins and ends the story—but the other four also have their personal plot lines. They are to some extent Jeremy's antagonists, but more so, each other's. The book presented a puzzle for me to try to solve, and I enjoyed it as such. Perhaps because some of the interpersonal conflict faded, I never felt that anyone was ever in danger. Each of the narrators sold me on his or her own innocence. I puzzled over it, but never worried. This wasn't a problem, just an unexpected feature in a murder mystery with a killer on the loose.

The characters evolve believably—they do not become that different, but they do acquire some subtle insights. Realistic. The end is fairly realistic, too, dramatic while avoiding the clichés found at the ends of a

lot of murder mysteries (sudden confessions, convenient disposal of the bad guy).

Free of grammatical or typographical errors.

Minor annoyance: the big asymmetrical dot with tiny line around it that is used as a marker between scenes is puzzling, at least on my device. I began to think of it as the rolling walnut. Maybe it's really a graphic that didn't translate into e-pub. That's trivial, though. This a good, quick, engaging read.

Dorie says

Juvenile and contrived. I couldn't even finish it, and I'm surprised at the high rating everyone gave it. I remember when I was about 10 years old I attempted to write a mystery. It was 4 pages, handwritten, on loose leaf. This book reminds me of my story. But mine was better.

It's implied by the four main characters' fear and actions toward each other that among them is the killer. There's zero explanation as to why everyone else on the planet has been eliminated as a suspect. I just couldn't get past this. Then they start interviewing each other Oprah-style for some bizarre reason and I wondered if even the author knew where she was going with this. It might make an interesting 30-minute episode of something on the Disney channel but past that it's got nothing.

I put the book down and made some tea and never gave it a second thought.

Vardan Partamyan says

I really liked the story that Kirsten crafted. A take on the classic whodunnit genre, her story is set in the world of television with the deeper undercurrent of life being ruthlessly exploited in the quest for higher ratings. It is in this ruthless setting that we meet the characters - participants of this reality TV/soap opera mash-up. All the characters were well realized and I enjoyed hearing their varying voices as they told their bit of the unfolding story that quickly turns into a murder mystery - ripe with twists and turns, which keep one guessing until the very last page. I would like to commend the author on the work well done!

Tiffany Khyla White says

My rating: 3.5/5

Enter to Win is a whodunit novel about a mysterious murder on the set of the seemingly unpopular soap opera, Crystal Falls. With ratings down, director Rob de Heer decides to put together a contest sparked by the idea from his assistant, Jeremy. Contestants will win the opportunity to have a character shaped after them in the show. Not to mention, \$200,000.

When the contestant pool is narrowed to four, Rob digs a little deeper to find out the real secrets behind the lives of the four contestants, and he ends up dead. Jeremy is the only one with a solid alibi, and while anyone on the film crew could have killed Rob, fingers are quickly pointed at the four contestants:

Corinne is the girl who grew up poor. When she was on the way to a job interview, she found a wedding band that she put on and quickly claimed as her own, faking a wealthy life full of love and opportunity. After something tragic happens at her job, her co-workers find out her secrets and are quick to throw her under the bus. When she finds out she's one of the final four contestants, she only has her eye on one thing (or 200,000 things), the prize money.

Michael was accused of killing his wife, and he hopes Crystal Falls will be his opportunity to finally set the record straight and let the world know that he's innocent.

Stephen lost his wife to cancer. Soon after (some may say too soon), he starts falling for a woman who works at a wig shop specializing in wigs for women battling cancer. He lies to the woman and tells her that he's buying a wig for his dying mother, and when she finds out about his dead wife, she wants nothing to do with him. Stephen goes between feeling guilty about moving on from his wife and lying to this woman he fell for after she died. He wants to make it up to his wife by letting her story be told on her favorite TV show.

Trish knows that her husband is cheating on her, and when she decides to follow him one day, what she witnesses will change her life, her family's life, and the life of a stranger forever. With the world now against her, she wants Crystal Falls to be her means of redemption and her chance tell her side of the story and get everyone back on her side.

For the rest of my review, check out my blog.

Wendy Unsworth says

Many thanks to the author for offering a copy of this book for review

Enter to win is a well written story of life inside and outside a soap opera. Crystal Falls has plummeting ratings and a cast and crew worried for their future. Director, Rob believes he has come up with the perfect solution, a competition to find one viewer whose real life story will be featured in the show in return for a \$200,000 prize.

The story rotates around the multiple viewpoints of the chosen finalists plus the long suffering Jeremy who is brought in to replace the murdered Rob. The author sets up the backstory of each character well. We learn what brought each person to apply to the show as well as the contestant's perception of each other as they speculate on the questions, who killed Rob? Who will win? Are the stories the contestants have told about themselves the absolute truth?

The answers to all- no one is sure!

Although this is a quick read, the speculation and examination of each character was a little too long for my liking and I found myself mentally checking back to what each had done before the time of the contest.

Having said that, it was always well written. And in the end, although I anticipated a more far-reaching twist, it turned out to be a classic who-dun-it with a suitably dramatic end!

A very worthwhile read!

Margaret Lesh says

Enter To Win is as much a commentary on the current regrettable trend towards bare-all, tell-all reality programming as it is a murder mystery. Told using first person multiple point of view, the contestants tell their individual stories, explaining how they came to take part in a reality show contest that ends up being an ongoing murder investigation after the show's director is found murdered on the set of cheesy soap opera "Crystal Falls." The contestants, who are thrown together in a mansion, are vying for a large cash prize-- basically competing with each other over who's got the most compelling life story with the winner's life eventually being written into the soap.

For me, this was a unique premise, and I thought the author did a good job interweaving the individuals' stories while developing their characters. I found myself smiling at some of their insights and incisive commentary while trying to guess the killer's identity. (I didn't.)

Enter To Win overall is an entertaining read that kept me turning the pages. The ending had a nice twist.

Julie Ramsey says

TITLE - ENTER TO WIN

AUTHOR - KIRSTEN JANY

REVIEWER - WENDE SHEETS

STARS - 5

Crystal Falls a soap opera that at one time was popular, everyone watched it. Now its down in ratings and director, Rob De Heer comes up with a plan to make it number one again. Thinking real life stories maybe the answer, Rob holds a contest, they submit their stories, the winner wins not only a character shaped after them BUT, also, two hundred grand! This contest cost Rob's life and was found murdered on the TV set.

Jeremy was Rob's assistant. Rob was not an easy man to work for but a job is a job! Once Rob's contest rolled out many stories started to fly in ! It was Jeremy's job to narrow them down to four finalist. The four finalist was moved into a beautiful mansion to shoot what they believe to be a reality show and to wait till the winner was revealed. All four had different stories, but there was something about one of the stories that had Rob wanting to check further into it. Unfortunately Rob was killed before Jeremy could learn who and what. Jeremy's job now is to find out which of the four killed Rob and why ??

MEET THE FOUR . . . Corinne Prichett is a 24 year old that is looking for a way out of poverty. Being poor all her life is all she has known, this is her chance to start over. Michael Palmer is 45 and accused of killing his wife, when the case was dismissed, he never had a chance to proclaim his innocence. This is his chance to let everyone know his story and that he did not kill his wife. Trish Grady, was a house wife and mother of 2, who discovered her husband cheating. When following him one day, he was involved in a hit and run. Now he is in jail and Trish is trying to manage with 2 kids. Crystal Falls is one of her favorite shows, she tells her story in hopes of starting over. Stephen's wife, Irene dies of cancer, Crystal Falls is also one of her favorite shows. Stephen feels he needs to win this for his late wife Irene. His story is a sad one, he is not in it for the money, just for Irene.

Which story is true ?? Did one of the four kill Rob?? WHY ?? This is a great who do it ! I was hooked from the first page. It will keep you guessing clear up till the last page. The characters are easy to understand and relate to. With no language and sexual content to read made this an even better read ! ! !
complimentary book given for free review. juliesbookreview.blogspot.com

Martha says

I've read my fair share of crime fiction, but this one kept me guessing til the end! Great read, at times very funny, and not one of those gory thrillers. I've recommended this to several folks in my tennis club already. It's one of those rare books you want to finish in one sitting.

Michael says

Unique voice. Smooth, easy flow. Author uses the eternal fight for ratings to weave her story of greed and intrigue. Daytime struggling soap holds contest for \$200,000 to spike ratings. Enter murder and who done it. The show's director is our victim, one of those alpha types that deserves what he gets. The four chosen contestants are put up in a rented mansion and the guessing unfolds as we begin to get to know them. This author has a future. The Complete Mystery of Matthew Alcott

Gale Martin says

Kirsten Jany's 'Enter to Win' offers a trifecta of literary tricks that characterize a solidly suspenseful novel: strong premise, stunning pacing, and an expertly controlled story and reveal.

Here is the logline: A popular Hollywood soap opera holds a viewer contest to ramp up their ratings. Each contestant shares a hard luck story as potential storylines for future episodes on the soap, and the real-life entrant with the strongest, most compelling story wins \$200K. Four finalists are selected and flown to Hollywood. The producer ensconces them in a lavish mansion far afield from their provincial life experiences until a winner is selected. Each contestant is pathetic in his or her own way, but their stakes skyrocket when the producer who brought them to L.A. is found dead.

The author's literary control used to introduce the novel and its central characters are nothing short of masterful. The reader feels as though she is in the hands of a grand champion novelist.

You can try to guess who murders the oily producer, but I guarantee you will be surprised when you find out whodunnit at the end.

Samuel says

Enter to Win by Kirsten Jany is a delightful whodunnit. Jeremy is the assistant to Rob, the producer of a struggling soap opera. To improve the show's ratings, Jeremy decides to have a contest: tell them your personal drama, and your life's story might be added to the storyline of the soap opera. Unfortunately, after they gather the four contestants to determine the winner, Rob is found dead, and the contestants are possible suspects.

The book is written in first person from the point of view of Jeremy and the four contestants, all of whom

dislike each other. I especially enjoyed seeing how Jany juxtaposed the contestants' perception of themselves with how they perceived each other.

The story is fast paced, the characters are all dysfunctional and fun to read, and the narrative cleverly written. I don't give very many 5 star reviews, but this enjoyable read has earned 5 stars from me.

Soobie's scared says

That was so boring!

Four characters jotting down on a journal what they thought about the murder of a Hollywood producers. They were so boring... Like listening in a group of teenagers discussing about rap.

So, a soap opera who's losing viewership organizes a contest for the public: sent us your story, and we'll turn into an arc into our story. Four finalists are chosen right when the producer is killed. The four of them - and the producer's assistant - are put together in a big house, with the police trying to find the killer among them. But why just among them?

There's no real action in this thriller. Just people telling their stories. And it gets boring easily. They talk about their lives, they talk about the other contestants, they make assumptions... And, in the end, (view spoiler). That was disappointing.

I didn't even care for the characters. They were all a bit dull.

Sorry, this wasn't for me. Let's move on.
