



Ghost in the Closet: A Nancy Clue and Hardly Boys Mystery

Mabel Maney

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With their fearless crime-fighting, good manners, and manly fashion sense, the Hardly boys are the pride of Feyport, Illinois. In *A Ghost in the Closet*, dark-haired, muscular Frank and his lovable kid brother Joe return from a gay trip to Europe to find that their parents -- world-famous detective Fennel P. Hardly and his wife, Mrs. Hardly -- have been kidnapped! Even worse, so have six poodles from the Lake Merrimen Dog Show! Pals Nancy Clue, Cherry Aimless, R.N., and Police Detective Jackie Jones help the Hardly boys track down the criminals -- and in the meantime, pick up useful tips on fingerprinting, evidence retrieval, and the laundering of sporty twill slacks. Like her beloved camp classics, *The Case of the Not-So-Nice Nurse* and *The Case of the Good-For-Nothing Girlfriend*, Mabel Maney's *A Ghost in the Closet* brilliantly parodies 1950s boys and girls adventure series. Pull on a casual rayon shirt and join the queer caper!

Ghost in the Closet: A Nancy Clue and Hardly Boys Mystery Details

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Author : Mabel Maney

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Kate says

This is the third and last of this particular series. Still as fresh as ever. So glad she quit at her peak.

Megan says

The third book is better than the second, but only when you have waded through more verbiage about dresses and wardrobes, which slow down the book and bore the reader (at least this reader) into zombieland.

In this one, Nancy Clue comes to realize that she has been a jerk to poor Cherry Aimless, whose eye has been wandering to Jackie, the handsome police woman from San Francisco, who has driven to River Depths just to woo her. She asks her friends the Hardly Boys to help her win back Cherry's heart. In the process, they find a plot to kill pretty much everyone in town, ruin the good name of Hardly, and wreck America's fledgling space program.

Joe Hardly's first suggestion—that Nancy become a nun—doesn't meet with her approval because it would mean "wearing the same outfit day after day." Humor like this in moderation works great. And, after the adventure is set up, this is a rousing, rollicking book.

Note: I read the fairly tame Cleis first printing from 1995. There is a later e-book available that may contain some differences.

Another Note: See my full reviews of over 250 other Lesbian Mystery novels at [http://www.goodreads.com/group/show/1... \(less\)](http://www.goodreads.com/group/show/1... (less))

Amy says

Surprising enjoyable queer version of Nancy Drew and the Hardy Boys, in which everyone in 1950s America is gay, Carson Drew is a child abuser, the Hardy Boys' dad is transgender, and Nancy has to work very hard to win the heart of her girlfriend. Despite these radical changes to the premise, the author stays true to the Carolyn Keene style, while adding lots of sex to the plot.

Erin says

highly entertaining

Katie M. says

A Nancy Drew/Hardy Boys crossover in which everyone is gay. I knew it would be ridiculous, but I was caught off-guard by how awesome it actually was. I mean, ridiculous, but awesome. Having read and reread, as a kid, every single Nancy Drew and Hardy Boys book that your small-town public library stocked isn't necessarily a prerequisite to reading this series, but I feel like these books don't have much to offer you if you haven't. Maney NAILS the tone, the turns of phrase are pitch-perfect, and no matter how preposterous the plot twists get, they're never more than a few degrees more absurd than any of the preposterous plot twists in the original series. As good as the parodying is, in some ways that was the fatal flaw for me - it's just sort of exhausting to slog through that much relentless satire, no matter how skillfully and lovingly executed. But I stuck with it, and it was totally worth it.

Max Zumstein says

There's a sweetness to the novel that's hard to deny, and you have to give Maney some kind of points for her flawless replication of the tone and prose of the Nancy Drew/Hardy Boys novels. That being said, this type of wink after wink after wink humor can be supported for maybe a reasonable 150 pages, not the 300+ that this thing weighs in at. Suffice to say by the end of the novel I had not been converted into a fan. I don't feel too bad about that however, as it's clear that Mabel Maney is pleased enough with her novel for the both of us.

Jordan Funke says

I love this queer spoof of Nancy Drew and the Hardy Boys. I got a little tired of the outfit descriptions, but loved the stereotypical characters and somewhat predictable plot. This was a good read aloud with my partner.

Stef Rozitis says

This book is exactly what it claims to be, a parody of a certain titian detective (here called Nancy Clue) and another contemporary detective duo (here the Hardly boys). It contains ridiculous amounts of stupid adjectives, excessive alliteration and whole chapters dwelling on outfits, food and how these are great detectives BECAUSE of the way they accessorise. It's also a queer book, meaning if any couple in it is straight be VERY SUSPICIOUS because some sort of a twist is coming.

The book is ridiculous, excessive and well paced for what it is with short chapters and sex scenes that are of the nudge, nudge, wink, wink variety rather than descriptive or lingering. Nancy is shallow, vain and at times inexplicably vulnerable. The Hardly boys are heroic and manly and good at arranging flowers and swooning when a handsome, muscly scientist comes past. I loved the ridiculousness (never explained) of Midge (a butch lesbian who doesn't care what she wears) being the exact double of Frank (a dapper gay man who would never leave the house with a hair out of place or anything mis-coordinated).

Another pointlessly stupid (and therefore hilarious) episode was when the two girls are in the cool room for too long and their friends knock on the door. Midge answers incoherently (implying she is in the middle of going down on Velma and therefore has her mouth full). Yes it's silly and illogical. It's like written slapstick only with rainbows.

If you want anything serious, don't read this. But if you want the good guys to be good, the bad guys to be bad and the heroes to insist that smoking is good for your health and LSD is a harmless additive to drinking water then read it.

Meen says

I love this series of books, but the language itself is so funny that it almost disrupts the story! Almost every sentence has some wickedly hilarious description or double entendre and is pleasing on its own without relation to the story. I spend the whole time reading these books with a smile on my face and a good portion of the time LOL'ing. I wish she had done more than three!

Rachel says

this was so much fun!!!! p.s. i'll date you, nancy clue

J.C. says

Fun book but sometimes irritating what with the frequent exclamation marks and pulp-styled dialogue that sounds like either a commercial or a porno. Everything in this is a sexual metaphor.

This is a parody of the old pulp novels so a lot of this is to be expected, of course.

If you like this sort of thing you will get a kick out of it, certainly. It's not my cup of tea but in terms of accomplishing what it set out to do, it does it perfectly.

Vi says

Fun fun fun! If you ever read serial fiction as a kid, you'll enjoy the Mabel Maney books.

Red says

fun, silly, sexy, exciting, and utterly immersible. I love the whole series!

Suzanne says

I picked this up at a used book store and couldn't stop laughing at the first few pages, so I had to buy it. This is a hilarious parody of the Nancy Drew/Hardy Boys mysteries, which I loved as a kid. If you didn't inhale those as obsessively as I did, this would probably be less funny, but I loved it and would highly recommend it for other former Nancy Drew fans.

Kate says

My favorite of the Mabel Maney books. Clever and funny.
