



## The Dark and Deadly Pool

*Joan Lowery Nixon*

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Liz enjoys her summer pool job at the glamorous Ridley Hotel. Until the night, a dark and lonely night, a ghastly shadow surges up from the pool. A face -- eyes wide, mouth gaping -- stares at Liz. A hand clutches at her sneaker. Then it, whatever it is, is gone.

But danger isn't. Strange things are happening at the hotel, and a shaken Liz wants to know why. But whoever is behind the trouble will stop at nothing -- even murder -- to get what he wants...

"From the Paperback edition."

## **The Dark and Deadly Pool Details**

Date : Published September 9th 2003 by Yearling (first published 1987)

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Author : Joan Lowery Nixon

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## **From Reader Review The Dark and Deadly Pool for online ebook**

### **Tessa says**

The characters in this book were so off the cuff and different that it was really kind of amusing. There was suspense, humor, and some pretty well written romance, actually. I really enjoyed this short little thriller/mystery. It's a shame that this young adult thriller series genre has kind of died out, I really think there's still a market for something like this that's a little beyond Nancy Drew, but not quite adult lit, either.

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### **Jayda says**

This book was almost surprisingly good. Sometimes I felt the storyline was dragging on, but the end was a shock, the main character was likeable, and I found that the writing was pretty nice (though calling flip flops "thongs" just seems wrong to me). I recommend this book to anyone looking for clean mystery fiction :)

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### **Michelle says**

I originally read this when I was 11 or so and recently I started thinking about all the books that I liked when I was growing up. I didn't remember the author's name or the title of the book, but I did remember the cover. Luckily I found this book for 2 bucks at a local used book store. I wasn't sure If I would like it 19 years later. It was a cute, fun read, it even made me laugh. When I was reintroduced to Fran (a boy who likes the main character)....I was like o yea I remember you and your cowlick ha. Mary Elizabeth Rafferty (the main character) was very refreshing and sweet but naive. It was a pleasure to meet her acquaintance again.

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### **Camden says**

"The Dark and Deadly Pool" is about a girl named Liz Mary Elizabeth. She just landed a new job at the Ridley Hotel's heath club. Her shift takes place from 3-11 PM. One night, while Liz is by the pool alone after closing, a mysterious figure comes up from the pool and reaches out to Liz. By the time Liz calls security, the man is gone! After the experience Liz starts to notice strange occurrences. When guests start to have their wallets pick-pocketed. Not only that, but roasts and turkeys are being stolen from the kitchen, and two antique sofas are stolen by people posing as cleaners. Later finding a dead guest in the pool. All in all these culminate into the final showdown with the intruder. From Liz's perspective this would be very frightening but, this whole participation really shaped Liz at the end. Overall, I think this story was very good. What strikes it as noteworthy is the plot. It was effective. My understanding of the issues were not enhanced. An audience would appreciate this work.

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### **Catherine says**

This story starts out promising - very spooky, but it becomes predictable. The love story moves too fast, and

the dialogue seems off for teens. The ending is abrupt. I wondered if Nixon felt she was out of pages so she hurried it up too much.

I liked the story line and how Fran and Liz work together to solve the mystery. I think this is a 2 1/2 star book - not a 2 or a 3. I think I need to be more observant as I would not make a good witness. I don't think I could describe someone I just saw with clarity. I enjoyed Liz's descriptions of people - she cracked me up. Her descriptions were very true to the teen voice.

I think my students will enjoy the suspense.

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### **Cassandra says**

Seriously, I don't think there are any books by Joan that aren't suspenseful and make me sit at the edge of my chair and then make me squeal like a school girl when the murderer is finally revealed. Short book, awesome plot. Main character was slightly annoying, but heck, it was a good read. I didn't put it down.

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### **Matt Kelly says**

This book was about a girl that got a summer job working in the health club at a 5 star hotel called the Ridley Hotel and ended up seeing a dark figure in the pool when she was closing up one night and then she solved the murder of Mr. Kamara, one of the hotel's wealthy guests that lived at that hotel.

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### **gilbert says**

This book is awesome it wants you keep readin. there are lots of details and great drama

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### **Lizzi Crystal says**

A very light mystery with a few suspenseful moments and a dash of comedic romance, intended for young teenagers. It's not something I'm glad to have read, but I didn't mind reading it, either. I'd recommend only if you have nothing else to read or want something very light to cleanse the reading palate.

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### **Nidah (SleepDreamWrite) says**

Well this one actually pretty good.

Looking for a quick but suspenseful filled read, I keep coming back to these books.

Been reading a lot of the author's books lately. And with most, not all, the ending seemed to either happen early or it makes you want more.

The suspense was good and at times I thought Fran was a little forward. But liked that he was honest at least.

And with Mary's "dilemma," it so reminded me of the manga series Love Com.

Either way, adorable.

At first I was like, wait wasn't there supposed to be a ghost? Then near the end I was like, ohhh okay then, now it makes sense.

Another good read. Looking forward to reading the author's other books. And the sequel sounds fun.

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### **K. Anne says**

The book was really good with a good surprise ending, however, the ending was really rushed, it was like the author wasn't positive how they wanted it to end. It was in the middle of finding clues when suddenly all was revealed, I was about 10 pages from the end and I felt like it could go on for at least another 100.

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### **Angie says**

I went through a pretty good Joan Lowery Nixon phase when I was about twelve or thereabouts. Along with Lois Duncan, Ms. Nixon kept me well supplied with tense, easily digested mysteries about young girls who encountered the horrifying and the deadly on a regular basis. As I was in the process of expanding a bit on my Nancy Drew addiction, I basically ate them up with a spoon. I collected used copies of most of Nixon's books and, at one point, had quite a group of them on my shelf; now they've been whittled down to the most memorable, sentimental few. Of her mysteries I held on to *Secret Silent Screams*, *The Kidnapping of Christina Lattimore*, and *THE DARK AND DEADLY POOL*. And while the first two are probably better crafted, more complicated tales, *THE DARK AND DEADLY POOL* is my favorite because of its offbeat and lovable main characters--Mary Elizabeth Rafferty and her friend Fran or, as I like to call him--ManFran.

Mary Elizabeth takes a summer job at the super ritzy Ridley Hotel health club. Initially she thinks it will be the perfect place to spend those hot summer days. She's tall for her age, something of a klutz, and known to trip over or destroy the various objects in her path. Life has just gone that way for her over the past sixteen years. Secretly she dreams of becoming an orchestra conductor and when she's particularly zoned out she'll practice conducting in her head. Never mind the fact that she can't play an instrument to save her life and, at this point in time, she has all the confidence of an agoraphobic in a shopping mall. To make matters worse, the jittery Mary Elizabeth is closing up one night and sees a body rise up out of the pool, gape at her, and disappear once more under the surface of the water. No one will believe her, of course. Not Lamar the chief of security, not Art Mart the health club director, and not Tina her tough but friendly co-worker. Fortunately, she runs into (literally) another member of the staff who does believe her. A boy named Fran (short for Francis Liverpool III) who is shorter than her but makes up for it with an abundance of charm and determination. Together Liz and Fran attempt to solve the mystery of the dark and deadly pool...

Somehow this cozy little mystery has worn fairly well over the years. I loved it when I was twelve for its quirky main duo and for its slightly campy-creepy feel. And I still love it for those same reasons. There's something about the taller, stronger girl being courted by the smaller, Puckish boy that appeals to me. Throw

in the fact that they run around rather ineptly fighting crime together and you've got yourself a winning combination, my friend. Nothing in the way of surprising or truly deep (except the, uh, pool), but everything in the way of endearing and charming. Every now and then I still pull out my old copy and settle in for a couple hours with Mary Elizabeth and ManFran. And you know what? They're still good company.

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### **RHardy says**

3.5 stars

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### **Madi Vink says**

good

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### **Vani says**

The suspense was killing me in this wonderful book! really enjoyed it and It was one I'd really reccomend to mystery and horror lovers. I finished it in two days because I couldn't resist the suspense! I nearly fell off of my or sofa at times. I was acctally a but dissapointed with the ending because I personally didnt like the character. I didn't like Liz's boyfriend. There was nothing wrong with him, I just didn't like him for some reason. I thought that Liz should have gone out with the tall handsome man at the ending.

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